

HOUSING — AVAILABILITY

**390. Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI to the Minister for Housing:**

I refer to the reforms initiated by this government to encourage urban infill and regional land supply to increase housing supply. Can the minister outline how the \$80 million infrastructure development fund is removing barriers to development and boosting housing delivery?

**Mr J.N. CAREY replied:**

I thank the member for her question. As I have said on the public record many times, COVID has radically reshaped housing markets across Australia. Part of that reshaping has been significant impacts on the apartment building sector. Global supply chain issues and skilled labour and worker shortages have resulted in cost escalations, which mean that we are seeing barriers to apartments and infills. In fact, advice from the property sector is that around 60 per cent of approved apartment dwellings are not proceeding because of cost escalations and barriers.

Contrary to the member for Cottesloe's claims, our government is driving a reform agenda to encourage density and infill across Perth and Western Australia. We have introduced a number of reforms, including critical planning reforms. Again, the opposition is out of step on this issue. Around the country, there is a national focus and debate on planning reform. Every state is accelerating planning reform for much-needed apartment approvals. That is in every state and at a national level; it is in national cabinet. The opposition is completely out of step with that and reality. I go through the initiatives. We have a \$55 million infill sewerage fund; we have made changes to Keystart, including an apartment product; we are streamlining the planning system; and we have lifted the stamp duty concession on apartments to 100 per cent for \$650 000 apartments. Now, we have created an infrastructure fund for headworks for sewerage, water and power to remove those barriers so we can get those developments across the line. There is \$40 million for regional workers' accommodation and \$40 million for infill. It was brilliant yesterday to join the Deputy Premier in announcing the first round of funding, with \$6.53 million for 653 apartments. I will read in the areas: Burswood, Cannington, Como, Maylands, Mt Pleasant, Nedlands, North Fremantle, West Leederville, West Perth and Woodlands. We can see that is a range of areas across Perth. This initiative has been welcomed by the Urban Development Institute of Australia, the property sector and Shelter WA. It is again disappointing that the shadow Minister for Housing asked whether it would make any difference at all to apartment start-ups in Perth. We have all elements of the sector embracing these reforms. Yet again, the opposition is not supportive. My questions are simply this: What does the opposition stand for? What are its housing policies? I cannot tell members at all. I look forward to debating the shadow minister on multiple times in the lead-up to the next election because the opposition has no policies, and, worse still, it criticises every reform initiative that we are delivering and that is endorsed by the wider sector.