



Speech by

Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Wednesday, 19 May 2010

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Affordable Housing

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.05 am): The Bligh government is committed to delivering affordable housing for Queenslanders. This year alone the government has declared three urban development areas to provide diverse and reasonably priced housing in the fast growing regions of Gladstone, Townsville and Mackay. Those urban development areas, which were announced in April and are to be overseen by the Urban Land Development Authority, will provide much needed affordable rental properties and homes for purchase, with between 40 and 50 per cent of all lots for sale to be delivered at or below the median house price.

On 4 May in Gladstone I hosted one of the Bligh government's eight regionalisation forums to promote and address growth. In Gladstone, the Clinton urban development area will deliver a residential area of up to 250 lots. Sixty per cent of those homes, six kilometres south-west of the CBD, will be on sale at or below \$365,000. In Mackay, two-thirds of homes within the 180-lot development planned for Andergrove, which is five kilometres north of the CBD, will be available at or below the median price of \$380,000. In Townsville, the urban development area in Oonoonba, three kilometres south of the CBD, is a residential development of up to 900 lots and it is proposed that 50 per cent of the homes will be sold at or below the \$365,000 median house price.

The Urban Land Development Authority, which was established as part of the Bligh government's 2007 commitment to affordable housing, will continue to work with the local and state authorities, the community, local landholders and development industry representatives to progress those areas. The need for additional, diverse and affordable housing was one of the key issues raised at the Gladstone regionalisation forum. I am sure it was raised at many other regionalisation forums held around the state. The forum addressed the need for infrastructure to match the population growth, which is forecast to rise from 58,000 residents recorded in 2008 to between 90,000 and 115,000 residents by 2031. Those at the forum, including the member for Gladstone, identified the need to protect the region's great lifestyle in the face of this expansion. Those projects highlight the Bligh government's commitment to preparing for growth, providing affordable housing and building tomorrow's Queensland.