

Question on Notice
No. 884
Asked on 19 August 2004

Mr MCNAMARA asked the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing (MR SCHWARTEN) –

QUESTION:

Will he provide details of how the Government intends to tackle waiting lists for public housing across the Wide Bay?

ANSWER:

While I share your concern regarding the increasing demand for public housing in the Wide Bay area my concern relates to the whole of Queensland and ensuring the assistance provided by the Department of Housing is targeting the communities most in need.

Given the current environment of increasing demand as rent hikes continue to squeeze low-income earners out of the private rental market and reduced Federal Government funding for public housing, the Beattie Government has increased overall spending on housing assistance to help alleviate pressure on public housing.

Attached is breakdown of current and planned Department of Housing construction projects in Hervey Bay. This year the state government will spend more than \$3.4 million on new public housing and housing related assistance.

This brings to \$23 million the total amount of funding allocated to the Hervey Bay electorate under the Beattie Government. This significant investment reflects the Beattie Government's commitment to increase housing funding.

Since the Beattie Government was elected the housing budget has increased every year rising from \$330 million in 1998 to a record \$564 million this financial year.

In this year's Budget \$1 million has been allocated to start constructing singles accommodation in Hervey Bay through the Community Housing Boarding House Program. Land has already been purchased at Totness Street, Scarness for the project.

Consultations have been held with stakeholders from the community and government sectors and preliminary sketch design plans have been prepared for a 25 studio apartment complex.

As you would be aware, ever since the Howard Government was first elected, they have been trying to privatise the public housing system by stealth. They have redirected taxpayer's dollars away from new public housing construction to fund individual rental assistance payments.

This policy has resulted in Queensland losing around **\$400 million** through the **Commonwealth State Housing Agreement** — money that would have been spent on new public housing construction. It has also resulted in more than \$3.8 billion in

tax-payers dollars been pumped into the private rental market fuelling spiralling rent prices.

As a result the Department of Housing is actively pursuing alternative products and services to influence the broader housing system and improve access to private housing for people on low incomes beyond our housing construction program. The Affordable Housing Strategy, the Public Housing Strategy and the development of a State Planning Policy are all examples of new initiatives to maximise outcomes with diminishing Federal funding.

ATTACHMENT A

Current & Planned Construction Projects - Wide Bay AO						
Year	Location	Yield	Approved Budget	Commenced	Completed	State Electorate
2003/2004	Pialba	6x2B SU	\$1,624,587.00	21/05/2004	Pending	Hervey Bay
2003/2004	Kawangan	1x4B DH	\$274,755.00	22/12/2003	09/07/2004	Hervey Bay
2003/2004	Urangan	2x4B DH	TBA	10/02/2004	Pending	Hervey Bay
2003/2004	Urangan	2x4B DH	\$537,801.00	10/02/2004	Pending	Hervey Bay
2003/2004	Tinana	1x5B DH	\$329,296.00	02/04/2004	Pending	Maryborough
2003/2004	Point Vernon	1x5B DH	\$331,341.00	10/02/2004	28/07/2004	Hervey Bay
2003/2004	Bell Hilltop	1x4B DH	\$291,638.44	06/11/2003	06/11/2003	Maryborough
2003/2004	Bell Hilltop	1x4B DH	\$262,693.81	08/12/2003	08/12/2003	Maryborough
2003/2004	Point Vernon	1x4B DH	\$284,665.43	26/03/2004	26/03/2004	Hervey Bay
2004/2005	Maryborough	5x2B SU	\$50,000.00			Maryborough
2004/2005	Millbank	3x2B DU ; 1x3B DU	\$50,000.00			Bundaberg
2004/2005	Millbank	3x2B DU ; 1x3B DU	TBA			Bundaberg
2004/2005	Granville	2x4B DH	TBA			Maryborough
2004/2005	Tinana	2x4B DH	\$50,000.00			Maryborough
2005/2006	Bundaberg	6x2B SU	TBA			Bundaberg
2005/2006	Scarness	8x1B AP	TBA			Hervey Bay
2005/2006	Maryborough	5x2B SU	TBA			Maryborough
2005/2006	North Bundaberg	5x2B CL	TBA			Bundaberg
2005/2006	Urraween	1x4B DH	TBA			Hervey Bay
2005/2006	West Bundaberg	4x2B SU	TBA			Bundaberg