

**Question on Notice
No. 751
Asked on Tuesday, 24 May 2005**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the lecture he provided (for which I thank him) in response to my Question on Notice No. 511 of 2005-
Will he now provide for 2003-04 and 2004-05 [year to date] (reported separately) the total number of (a) dwellings within the portfolio, (b) dwellings sold/disposed of, (c) commencements of new dwellings and (d) completions of new dwellings or is he too embarrassed to provide these simple figures?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for thanking me for providing him with a more holistic view of the housing system in Queensland.

It is important that he understands that meeting today's housing demand is a complex matter requiring a multi-faceted response. I am pleased the Honourable Member understands that and I look forward to the Member's support in highlighting the short comings of the current reliance upon rent assistance which as the Member knows, is failing large sectors of the community particularly in high demand areas like the Gold Coast where rent assistance has not kept pace with rent increases.

The Howard Government's rent assistance policy has also resulted in a reduction of Commonwealth funding under the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement to sustain the public housing portfolio. This comes at a time when this government has had to make a significant investment – around \$1 billion — to ensure that public housing meets modern needs and community standards. I know the Honourable Member would rather leave existing dwellings to fall apart as practiced by his predecessors but this is not a proper and acceptable use of public money as it leaves a significant financial burden on future generations.

With reference to your question, please refer to the table below.

	ATSIH		CH		PH		BHC	
	2003-04	2004-05 (End of June – MPS Targets)	2003-04	2004-05 (End of June – MPS Targets)	2003-04	2004-05 (End of June – MPS Targets)	2003-04	2004-05
(a) Total Dwellings	2,806	2,850*	4,065	4,143	48,743	48,660*	***120	184
(b) Sales including Sales to Tenants	11	9**	14	9	558	385**	Nil	Nil

(c)	Construction commenced	35	20	54	27	245	240	31	186
	Purchase of existing	5	20	60	54	35	124	8	33
(d)	Construction completion	30	38	14	83	309	285	42	31

**Total Dwellings as at 31 May 2005*

***Estimated Sales to end of June 2005*

**** Total stock of 120 includes:*

- 70 dwellings completed in 02-03
- 42 completed in 03-04
- 8 purchased in 03-04