

**Question on Notice
No. 24
Asked on 6 February 2007**

Mrs STUCKEY asked the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Information and Communication Technology (MR SCHWARTEN)–

QUESTION:

With reference to the proposed public housing at the site at 1092–1096 Gold Coast Highway–

- (1) How much did the site cost?
- (2) How many units will be built on this site?
- (3) What is the estimated building cost?
- (4) When will tenancy commence and what selection process will be used to determine tenant suitability?

ANSWER:

I am well aware of the Honourable Member's opposition to providing housing for the poor in her electorate.

In response to the demand for affordable housing, the Department of Housing purchased the site at 1092–1096 Gold Coast Highway, Palm Beach in June 2006 to provide singles accommodation for social housing. Many communities throughout Queensland are facing housing affordability issues and in particular, there is unprecedented demand for affordable housing on the Gold Coast. As a result more and more people are listing for social housing as they are unable to find accommodation on the private market. There is simply no way that the current supply of public housing can satisfy growing demand with some applicants already waiting up to 8 years to be housed. Details of the project at 1092-1096 Gold Coast Highway are as follows:

- (1) The department purchased the site for \$1.4 million.
- (2) The project is in the early design stage and the final number of units to be constructed has not been determined as this is dependent on the final design.
- (3) The total project cost will depend on the final design of the project.
- (4) A forecast completion date is not available at this stage. Applicants will be allocated accommodation from the department's register of need. It is intended that this property will be community managed and therefore the community organisation will have a key role in the allocation of the units.