

**Question on Notice
No. 614
Asked on Wednesday 18 April 2007**

MRS SCOTT asked the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Information and Communication Technology (MR SCHWARTEN)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Urban Renewal program in the Woodridge Electorate—

- (1) How many homes were upgraded under the program in the previous term of Government?
- (2) What monetary value was involved?
- (3) What amount was spent on the regular home maintenance program in the previous term in the Woodridge Electorate?

ANSWER:

The Urban Renewal program commenced in 1993–94 with an aim to improve the quality of life of residents living in selected stigmatised housing estates. These estates were characterised by a high concentration of public housing, a lack of social and physical infrastructure to support a well-functioning community, and generally having poor and/or substandard housing amenity.

In summary, the department's Urban Renewal program:

- positively impacts on the visual appearance of the suburb, and creates an aesthetically pleasant and desirable residential environment
- contributes to the improvement of the amenity of the housing stock commensurate with modern community standards
- reduces the department's long-term liability in maintenance costs
- enhances the physical quality and liveability of housing by undertaking appropriate improvement works
- introduces principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design in the upgrade process
- creates employment opportunities for local unemployed people through involvement in the 'Capital Works on Existing' program.

The Woodridge Electorate has undergone an improvement of social and physical infrastructure with the main objective being to improve the quality of life of residents.

- (1) The Department of Housing upgraded 143 homes in the Woodridge Electorate under the Urban Renewal program in Term 3 of the Beattie Government.
- (2) These homes were upgraded for a total expenditure of \$7.9 million.
- (3) A total expenditure of \$11.1 million was incurred on the regular home maintenance program in the Woodridge Electorate in the same period.

Furthermore, since 1998 the State Government has spent more than \$51 million on the Urban Renewal program in the Woodridge, Kingston, Loganlea and Eagleby areas.