

**Question on Notice
No. 76
Asked on 07 February 2007**

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

QUESTION:

- (1) What is the Department of Housing doing to improve Department of Housing properties in Kingston and Loganlea?

ANSWER:

(1) The Department of Housing is improving the following properties in Kingston and Loganlea by way of upgrades under the Urban Renewal program:

Kingston: The department has completed the upgrade of 264 properties under the Kingston Urban Renewal program, which commenced in 2000 and was completed in 2004. In 2006–07, a multi-residential unit complex of 31 units of accommodation is being upgraded.

Loganlea: The department owns 386 properties in Loganlea. The Loganlea Urban Renewal program to upgrade commenced in 2003 and, subject to funding each year, is expected to be completed in 2010. To date, 115 properties have been upgraded. In 2006–07, approximately 50 properties are targeted for upgrades.

Through the Urban Renewal program, the department is revitalising large estates that have high concentrations of social housing by transforming these areas into attractive neighbourhoods for current and future residents. The department seeks to provide residents with safe, secure and affordable housing solutions appropriate to household needs and contribute to the physical character of the neighbourhood while reducing the long-term maintenance on the department's asset base.

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.