

**Question on Notice  
No. 862  
Asked on Wednesday 6 June 2007**

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

**QUESTION:**

Will he outline what improvements to public housing stock is planned for 2007–08?

**ANSWER:**

In 2007–08, the State Government's housing assistance budget of \$719 million, including a massive \$479 million capital program, will assist more than 250,000 Queenslanders with a housing solution that best meets their needs, for the duration of that need.

The budget provides for a \$500 million five-year funding injection from the Queensland Future Growth Fund for social housing. This injection will support a total State funding commitment of \$1.1 billion over four years.

**Public Rental Housing**

Capital Works

In 2007–08, the Department of Housing will expand the supply of long-term department-managed housing at a cost of \$142.6 million, which incorporates \$56.8 million from the Queensland Future Growth fund.

This will see the construction or purchase of 414 dwellings, completion of 336 dwellings and acquisition and improvement of land for the future construction of 180 units of accommodation.

The Public Rental Housing upgrade budget for 2007–08 is \$86.9 million to provide for the upgrade of around 395 houses under the Urban Renewal Program as well as other upgrade work on existing social housing stock.

Two other key capital works initiatives under Public Rental Housing are to:

- deliver social housing services to people referred through the Council of Australian Governments' Mental Health initiative through an additional \$10 million to purchase 35 dwellings and work in partnership with key agencies to support these tenancies; and
- provide accommodation to assist patients with spinal injuries to leave hospital when they no longer require hospital care, by providing an additional \$12.8 million to commence 20 and complete 23 dwellings.

Maintenance Program

The department will deliver a \$98.4 million maintenance program in 2007–08. Installation of water saving devices in approximately 13,900 departmentally-managed dwellings are included in this work program.

## **Community and Local Government-managed Housing**

### Capital Works

The Department of Housing will expand the supply and improve the amenity of social housing dwellings through community-managed Studio Units by investing \$40.4 million incorporating \$20.4 million from the Queensland Future Growth Fund.

These funds will be used to construct or purchase 202 units of accommodation, complete 126 units, enhance existing properties through general upgrades and acquire and improve land for the future construction of around 100 units of accommodation.

Under this program the department will also expand the supply of housing available under the Crisis Accommodation Program investing \$15.5 million to construct or purchase two shelters, two hostels and nine other dwellings, complete construction of five shelters and one dwelling and secure land for a further two dwellings.

Two other key points to note are the department's plans to:

- progress building works on the redevelopment of the Lady Bowen Complex to produce 55 studio apartments, at a cost of \$10.5 million; and
- expand the supply of social housing under the Long Term Community Housing Program by purchasing 12 dwellings and completing construction of seven dwellings, at a cost of \$6.8 million.

### Capital Grants

A range of capital grants will be allocated by the department for community and local-government managed housing:

- \$2.6 million to complete construction of up to 38 Studio Units
- \$9.3 million to further expand supply under the Crisis Accommodation Program
- \$9 million under the Long Term Community Housing program to complete construction of 40 dwellings and purchase properties to progress consolidation activities of providers
- \$16 million to complete 99 dwellings of affordable housing on the Gold and Sunshine Coasts
- \$5 million to complete 300 addition dwellings for the Brisbane Housing Company, on top of grant allocations from previous years.

## **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing**

### Capital Works

In 2007–08, the Department of Housing will also expand the supply and improve the amenity of long-term social housing accommodation through capital investment in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Rental Program at a cost of \$20.4 million which incorporates \$6.7 million from the Queensland Future Growth Fund.

This will facilitate the construction commencements or purchase of 63 dwellings, of which 12 are planned to be designed to adaptable housing standards; completion of four dwellings; and purchase and improvement of land to facilitate future construction of approximately 10 dwellings.

### Maintenance Program

The department's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander general maintenance upgrades budget for 2007–08 totals \$11 million including funding for the installation of water-saving devices.

### Capital Grants

An amount of \$86.3 million has been allocated to the Department of Housing to expand and improve the amenity of long-term social housing through responsive and planned maintenance, upgrades of existing properties, and replacement and new constructions in Queensland's 34 Indigenous communities as part of the Housing Improvement Program.

### **Keeping the Australian Dream Alive Initiative**

The Department of Housing will continue to support the Queensland Government's 'Keeping the Australian Dream Alive' initiative through funding of \$21.2 million to:

- acquire low cost forms of accommodation to prevent the loss of affordable housing; and
- acquire suitable land for housing development.

In 2007-08 the Department of Housing will spend more than \$9.8 million in the Waterford Electorate, this include a \$3.2 million Capital Works program for nine additional dwellings and general upgrades to existing stock.