

**Question on Notice
No. 914
Asked on Thursday 07 June 2007**

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

QUESTION:

Will he list all available land owned by the Department of Housing in Queensland that is vacant and detail when these will be built on and developed and the timeframe before they will be ready for occupancies?

ANSWER:

The Department of Housing is responsible for managing one of the largest property portfolios in the State worth in excess of \$11.3 billion. Included in this portfolio are approximately 1,840 parcels of vacant land. The department continually reviews its land holdings to ensure there is sufficient land available for future construction programs. It also disposes of surplus land so that resources can be reallocated to other priorities such as construction and the purchase of more dwellings.

In recent times, issues related to the environment and local government requirements have impacted on the timing of, and revenue arising from, disposal of larger parcels of land. These have included land parcels at Rode Road, Stafford Heights and Richmond Road, Carina.

As at 22 May 2007, approximately 385 vacant sites were scheduled for the construction of social housing pending further site-specific investigations. It is anticipated that such development could yield up to approximately 1,650 units of accommodation over the next four financial years.

A further 549 properties are considered suitable for construction, in the medium to long term. Some of these land parcels require site amalgamation before they can be developed. The Department of Housing is actively pursuing those opportunities.

There are approximately 300 parcels of land which are Crown Land¹ and, as such, are subject to native title issues. The remaining land parcels have been historically owned by the department and have site specific issues that make it difficult for development or disposal. These parcels of land are predominantly in rural or remote parts of the State where there is little demand and are of relatively little value.

¹ The Department of Housing had the power to set apart land for social housing under the *State Housing Act 1945*. Land set apart using these provisions cannot be sold as there is no freehold title to transfer. Such land may be the subject of current or future Native Title claims. Until such time as the Native Title issues are resolved, freehold title cannot be issued.