

**Question on Notice
No. 935
Asked on 7 June 2007**

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

QUESTION:

Will he outline to the people of the Cleveland Electorate what benefits there will be in that area for public housing?

ANSWER:

This year sees another record State Government housing assistance budget of \$719 million, including a massive \$479 million capital program, that will assist more than 250,000 Queenslanders with a housing solution that best meets their needs, for the duration of that need.

With the wider housing market experiencing increasing costs and decreasing affordability, and despite the Australian Government's continuing neglect in this regard, the Department of Housing is boosting the supply of social housing and ensuring the long-term viability of social housing assets.

As part of the 2007–08 capital works program, the Department of Housing has a budget of \$3.68 million to commence the construction of nine dwellings and complete construction of 14 dwellings in the Cleveland Electorate.

This will bring the number of general rental social housing stock managed by the Department of Housing in the Cleveland Electorate to around 600.

The department also has a budget of \$0.38 million for general upgrade works on existing stock in the Electorate of Cleveland.

This means that since 1998, the State Government will have invested more than \$22 million in social housing capital works and over \$5.5 million in maintenance and upgrade works of social housing stock in the Cleveland Electorate.

The 2007–08 Budget is also designed to expand the supply of housing available across the State under the Crisis Accommodation Program by investing \$15.5 million in capital works and land acquisition and a further \$9.3 million in grant funding.

Assisting people to remain in their own homes remains another priority for the Department of Housing and in 2007–08, the State Government has made \$14.1 million in grant funds available to assist 60,000 households across Queensland through Home Assist Secure.

In the Cleveland Electorate, the Redland Shire Council delivers this important initiative and will receive \$465,486 in the 2007–08 funding allocation to ensure Home Assist Secure services can continue. This will bring the total funding made available to the Redland Shire Council for Home Assist Secure since 1998 to more than \$3.362 million.

In addition, the Redland Youth Accommodation Service—In-Sync will receive \$18,304 in 2007–08 to headlease crisis accommodation to continue delivery of this important housing response in the Cleveland Electorate. That means that since 1998, the Youth Accommodation Service will have received almost \$290,000 in funding through crisis accommodation headlease grants.

I thank the Member for his support for the on-going work of the Department of Housing to deliver the State's housing portfolio response.