

## Question on Notice

No. 702

Asked on 15 October 2013

**MR HOBBS** asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (MR SEENEY) –

### QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline what measures are currently being taken to lower the cost of developing residential housing in the Warrego Electorate?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Warrego for his question.

In Roma, the delivery of 350 homes at Clearview Rise, a residential community undertaken by Economic Development Queensland, will not only contribute to housing availability and affordability, but will deliver critical sewer and stormwater infrastructure allowing future residential expansion. Along with nearly 100 new land parcels delivered over the last two years, 13 new homes were built and gifted to Maranoa Regional Council. Their nominated property manager is renting these properties at a market discount to aid retention of key service workers within the local community.

In addition, the Queensland Government is facilitating the transfer of 113 hectares of flood-free land off Dargal Road, Roma from the Queensland Police Service to Maranoa Regional Council for the express purpose of providing more affordable housing and land. This will provide council with sufficient land to deliver over 350 residential and rural residential lots.

The government is committed to having the best land-use planning and development assessment system in the country. The delivery of initiatives such as the establishment and implementation of the State Assessment and Referral Agency, the elimination of 14 planning policies into a single State Planning Policy, and a new generation of regional plans will have a positive impact on the development industry across the state, including the electorate of Warrego.

These initiatives all aim to streamline assessment and approval processes, reduce red tape and empower councils to better plan for their communities. A planning system that is faster, more consistent and certain has the potential to contribute to lower holding costs and in turn lower housing costs.

The new single State Planning Policy, expected to be operational by the end of 2013, will encourage flexible, innovative and locally appropriate approaches to planning and empower and support local governments to make the best planning decisions for their communities. Clear and concise local government planning schemes, with a focus on facilitating development, will stimulate and encourage competition.

The government is also reviewing the local planning and charging framework to provide a more certain and equitable infrastructure charges framework. One of the key benchmarks to this new framework is supporting development feasibility.

The government is also implementing the Regional and Resource Town Action Plan to assist Queensland regional towns impacted by the mining boom. The plan identifies short-term initiatives and 'on the ground' projects to address local issues, such as housing availability and affordability. Within the Warrego Electorate, the Regional and Resource Town Action Plan includes specific actions to assist the Maranoa Regional Council and Western Downs Regional Council improve the availability of land for housing in these communities, and reduce the red tape associated with gaining approvals for residential development.

The Honourable Member for Warrego's electorate will benefit significantly from these reforms and can expect to see better local planning, faster development approvals, adequate supply of zoned land, and a diversity of housing.