

Question on Notice
No. 803
Asked on 31 October 2013

MS BARTON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS (MR MANDER) —

QUESTION:

Will the Minister detail how the Department of Housing and Public Works plans to use its vacant land assets, particularly in delivering accommodation and support to Queenslanders in need?

ANSWER

There are more than 20,000 households registered for housing assistance in Queensland and because of this unmet need, we are implementing our Housing 2020 and Homelessness to Housing Strategies. These strategies are our blueprint to build a modern sustainable and efficient housing system and revitalise frontline housing services.

A key objective of our strategies is to deliver 12,000 additional social and affordable housing dwellings and new homelessness support centres to help Queensland families in need. Regional plans will be developed to determine local housing needs which will assist in finding suitable land in the best location to deliver these additional dwellings. The Queensland Government is looking at several ways to use our vacant land assets including joint ventures with the non-government sector by leveraging these assets to deliver additional dwellings.

Partnerships with the non-government sector will seek to both deliver new social housing and revitalise a number of major urban areas including the Gold Coast which has been identified as a priority housing renewal area. Pursuing this objective will also contribute to increased activity in construction which is one of the four pillars of the Queensland economy that the Government is focusing on.

For example, the department is providing vacant land to Youngcare to develop new apartments in Brisbane's north, targeted at improving the quality of life of Queensland's young adults with disabilities. The department is working with a range of other community organisations including Lady Musgrave Trust, Brisbane Housing Company and Churches of Christ Care to increase the supply of social housing. The department is also working with Defence Housing Australia to deliver social housing on redevelopment sites.

The Queensland Government invited proposals for developments on identified land owned by the department in many areas of Queensland, including the priority housing renewal areas of the Gold Coast, Gladstone, Townsville, Mount Isa and the greater Brisbane region.

Applicants were also able to identify other parcels of government-owned land of interest and submit proposals for nominated Economic Development Queensland, Priority Development Areas in Mackay, Fitzgibbon, Roma, Gladstone and Townsville.