

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 580**  
**Asked on 6 August 2014**

**MR COSTIGAN** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS (MR MANDER ) —

Will the Minister advise the House how the department has worked to reduce waiting lists for public housing in the Mackay-Whitsunday region and how that compares to that of the former Labor Government?

**ANSWER:**

As at 30 June 2014, there were 18,597 applications for long term social housing on the Housing Register. This has decreased by more than 39% since March 2012. Across the Mackay and Whitsunday state electorates there were 468 applications as at 30 June 2014. This represents a reduction of almost 19% since March 2012.

The Housing 2020 strategy contains a number of initiatives and projects aimed at supporting as many people as possible to access appropriate housing. This includes delivering an additional 12,000 social and affordable housing dwellings across the state and implementing an integrated triage system for those with multiple needs, including disabilities who are entering the housing system to ensure services are used more efficiently and effectively.

There are 265 incentives approved under the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) in the Mackay and Whitsunday electorates. 169 have been delivered to date, 145 of which have been under the current government since March 2012. In addition, funding was provided to Mackay Regional council to deliver 10, two bedroom apartments in Mirani under the Nation Building and Jobs Plan initiative, delivered in late 2012.

My department has also been working on streamlining assessment processes to ensure applicants are offered housing products that best suit their needs. In particular clients who are able to access other housing alternatives such as the private rental market rather than long term social housing are being supported with private rental products such as RentConnect and bond loans. Since 1 April 2012, 1591 households have been assisted through RentConnect, and 1443 households have been assisted through bond loans in the Mackay-Whitsunday region.