

Question on Notice
No. 367
Asked on Wednesday, 27 March 2019

MR A POWELL ASKED MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS; MINISTER FOR DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER FOR SPORT (HON M DE BRENNI)

With reference to the Townsville Youth Foyer development—

Will the Minister advise (a) when the site was selected, (b) when the land was acquired and (c) what community consultation was undertaken before the site was purchased?

ANSWER

A key deliverable of the *Queensland Housing Strategy 2017–2027* is to create a pathway to independence for vulnerable young people struggling to find and sustain long-term housing through the Youth Foyer model.

Youth Foyers are an internationally recognised pathway for young tenants to develop the skills they need to achieve independence. They provide secure and affordable housing while delivering social and economic benefits for young people and the community.

- (a) On 24 August 2017, the Department of Housing and Public Works released the Request for Proposal on QTenders, seeking proposals from proponents with the capability to deliver land, design, construction and establishment inclusions. Evaluation on the proposals were completed in November 2017.

The recommended shortlist of preferred proponents was approved on 18 December 2017. The site at 31-33 Elizabeth Street, Aitkenvale was part of the recommended proposal submitted by proponent, Paynters Pty Ltd.

- (b) The land was acquired and settled on 19 December 2018.

- (c) The development of a Townsville Youth Foyer in Aitkenvale was announced by the Queensland Government on 3 August 2018.

Departmental staff consulted with Townsville City Council officers about the site and design on several occasions in 2018 and conducted Townsville Youth Foyer design workshops.

On 13 February 2019, departmental staff conducted a door knock and letter box drop to neighbouring properties and surrounding streets to provide information about the proposed development and advise of an upcoming community information session. The information session was held on 19 February 2019 and was well attended by local residents. The information session provided residents with an opportunity to speak with representatives of the State, departmental staff and Mission Australia about the proposed development.

The department also sought feedback on the project scope through a public engagement process. During the consultation period the project engagement site received 220 visits. The department received 16 direct contacts via phone, email or letter from Aitkenvale residents through the project contact points. The department also wrote to petitioners and near neighbours of the proposed development encouraging them to contact the project team to discuss any concerns. Twelve face-to-face meetings were held with neighbours on 1 and 2 April 2019.

The consultation period closed on 12 April 2019 and feedback is now being considered.