

Question on Notice

No. 740

Asked on Tuesday, 16 August 2022

MRS D FRECKLINGTON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITIES AND HOUSING, MINISTER FOR DIGITAL ECONOMY AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to public housing dwellings in the South Burnett—

Will the Minister provide (a) the number of homes sold since 2015, (b) how many homes have been built or purchased to replace those that have been sold and (c) how the funds from the sales of these homes have been utilised by the State Government?

ANSWER:

From 1 January 2015 to 31 August 2022, there have been five public housing dwellings divested in the South Burnett Local Government Area (LGA). In comparison, five public housing dwellings in the South Burnett LGA were divested in the period from 30 June 2012 to 31 December 2014.

Following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic from March 2020, the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy has significantly reduced the number of divested surplus dwellings. This reduction was a direct response to COVID-19 and increasing housing pressures to maximise the number of homes available for Queenslanders in need.

In addition, a decision was taken in March 2022 to pause the divestment programs in South East Queensland. This was in direct response to the flooding event and increased demand for social housing, to further maximise the number of homes available for Queenslanders in need.

From 1 January 2015 to 31 August 2022, the department has commenced eight new homes in the South Burnett LGA, of which five have been delivered. In comparison, there were zero commencements or completions in the period 30 June 2012 to 31 December 2014.

It is a requirement under section 10 of the *Housing Act 2003* that proceeds of the sale of portfolio property be retained within the Housing Fund for the provision of housing services including grants to registered providers, loans to individuals, the acquisition of property or the administration of the Act.

QuickStarts Qld will see 175 new social homes commenced in the Wide Bay Burnett region (which includes the South Burnett LGA) by 30 June 2025, through a planned investment of \$53.8 million, supporting more than 169 full-time equivalent jobs. This is in addition to the 75 new social homes that are already commenced under the First Action Plan of the *Queensland Housing Strategy 2017–2027*.

As at 31 August 2022, under QuickStarts Qld, contracts have been awarded for the commencement of 920 new homes. Of these, 42 are in the Wide Bay Burnett Region

with seven in the South Burnett LGA, this includes two being delivered in partnership with a community housing provider.

As more opportunities to deliver new social housing in the South Burnett LGA are identified, they will be assessed and included in the program where appropriate.