

Question on Notice
No. 472
Asked on 20 April 2023

Mr J Bleijie asked Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Hon. A Palaszczuk)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland Housing Summit Outcomes Report and the government's commitment to 'conduct an audit of state government-owned land and buildings for opportunities for residential use and partner with local governments and Non-Government Organisations to identify similar opportunities for land and buildings owned by local governments and NGOs'—

Will the Premier advise (a) how many (reported separately by local government area (LGA)) (i) state government-owned parcels of land (ii) state government-owned buildings (iii) local government and NGO parcels of land and (iv) local government and NGO buildings, have been identified for residential use; and (b) how many Queenslanders have been housed in any of the accommodation identified as part of the audit?

ANSWER:

The audit of land and buildings is one of more than 50 actions included in the Housing Summit Outcomes report to support the housing needs of Queenslanders across the housing spectrum in the short, medium and long term.

I am advised by my department, the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP), and the Department of Housing, as follows.

(a)(i) A land audit has been completed with more than 2000 parcels of government-owned freehold land reviewed. A shortlist of 27 large sites on which housing could be delivered in a timely way has been identified and sites are undergoing more detailed investigations. A process of shortlisting smaller sites, particularly in regional centres, is also now underway.

Those state government-owned land parcels identified by local government areas are, Brisbane City Council 14, Bundaberg Regional Council 1, Fraser Coast Regional Council 3, Gold Coast City Council 4, Logan City Council 1, Maranoa Regional Council 1, Moreton Bay Regional Council 1, Noosa Shire Council 1, and Townsville City Council 1.

In addition, 887 trustee holders of government land were invited to identify possible housing opportunities on their trust land. Seventeen responses were received and reviewed. Five of these proposals were considered suitable for further investigation and these investigations are continuing.

(a)(ii) A review of government-owned buildings has been undertaken. There are currently no state government-owned buildings identified as available and suitable for immediate residential use or in the short term without significant work and expenditure being needed to bring them to a standard suitable for residential use.

(a)(iii) & (iv) with respect to local government land and buildings – In October 2022, DSDILGP wrote to local governments requesting they undertake an assessment of their surplus and underutilised land and building portfolios to identify land which may be suitable for meeting the demand for housing supply. Responses were received from 31 local governments, and they have identified approximately 870 sites. A review of these sites and discussions with the relevant local governments are in progress.

(a)(iii) & (iv) with respect to NGO land and buildings – 13 sites have been self-identified by a faith-based NGO for consideration for residential use. The organisation is currently undertaking their own due diligence on each site prior to further submission to the Queensland Government. The land sites are located in the Gold Coast, Noosa, Ipswich, Fraser Coast, South Burnett, Sunshine Coast, Somerset and Brisbane local government areas. In addition, two properties with houses have been headleased by the State. Another NGO building in the Brisbane Local Government Area has been identified and is being utilised, and is discussed below.

(b) No state government-owned buildings were identified as available and suitable for immediate residential use or in the short term. While vacant government land has been identified as potentially suitable, proper site investigations and planning is required to confirm suitability. Detailed site due diligence and investigations of the best housing mix and delivery model for shortlisted sites has commenced and is ongoing.