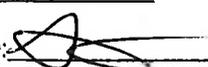


Queensland Legislative Assembly	
Number: 5619TS44	
 4 APR 2019	Tabled <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MP: M Hart	By Leave <input type="checkbox"/>
Clerk's Signature: 	

Question on Notice
No. 211
Asked on Wednesday, 27 February 2019

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

With reference to the government's commitment of up to \$1.08b over the next 10 years to deliver its housing responsibilities to remote communities—

Will the Minister advise (a) how this funding will be allocated (reported separately by year), (b) where it will be invested (per community or region) and (c) whether or not it will be used to support any direct investment in housing?

ANSWER

Funding for remote Indigenous housing is a longstanding Commonwealth responsibility. Queensland continues to advocate strongly for continued federal funding for remote Indigenous housing following the expiry of the National Partnership on Remote Housing on 30 June 2018.

Queensland has made a commitment of up to \$1.08 billion over 10 years (\$108 million per annum) towards a new agreement to support social and economic outcomes in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and achieving Closing the Gap targets.

The funding of up to \$1.08 billion will be used for repairs, maintenance, upgrades, new construction, tenancy management and ongoing operational costs of social housing in remote communities.

Allocation of the Queensland funding commitment by year, where it will be invested, and what investment in housing it would be used for, remains subject to the parameters and quantum of a Commonwealth funding offer, as well as consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Queensland allocated \$145.7 million in the 2018-19 Budget for maintenance, upgrades, tenancy management and new construction in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This is a direct investment in remote housing and significantly exceeds Queensland's commitment to provide \$108 million per annum to remote Indigenous housing.

In the absence of an agreement with the Commonwealth, Queensland committed a further \$40 million to sustain a modest remote capital works program comprising of new houses, extensions to add bedrooms, and lot development to continue efforts to address overcrowding in remote communities. This funding is not a substitute for new Commonwealth investment or an invitation for the Commonwealth to walk away.

Queensland's funding for this program will be invested across all communities that received funding under the National Partnership on Remote Housing, as well as Cherbourg, Yarrabah and the Torres Shire as they experience similar challenges. The development of an allocation methodology for the \$40 million capital program, is being led by First Nations Advisor, Mr Mick Gooda, in consultation with the Mayors of these communities.

Despite repeated requests from the Queensland Government, neither Minister Scullion or Commonwealth officials have been able to confirm in writing the Commonwealth's future remote housing funding commitment to Queensland. Nevertheless, Queensland and Commonwealth officials continue to progress discussions towards a funding agreement.