

Question on Notice

No. 2070

Asked on 26 October 2010

MRS SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Community Services and Housing and Minister for Women (MS STRUTHERS)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister provide an update of the federal Labour and state Labour Governments' social housing initiatives in Caboolture in the electorate of Pumicestone?

ANSWER

We know Queenslanders are doing it tough. That's why federal and state Labor Governments' are committed to doing what we can to help.

We're in the middle of the biggest social housing rollout this State has ever seen.

That's good news for people looking for a safe and secure home and good news for jobs in the construction industry.

All this work is possible thanks to funding from the Federal Government's stimulus package. That's the same stimulus package that saved Australia from recession and the same stimulus package opposed by the federal and state oppositions.

In 2010–11 in the Pumicestone electorate, plans are underway to complete construction of 52 units of social housing accommodation for a total approved construction budget of \$10.89 million. These projects will support approximately 73 FTE jobs. Projects in Caboolture include—

- 18 studio apartments for an approved construction budget of \$2.416 million funded under the Community-managed Studio Units program
- 16 two-bedroom and 12 one-bedroom apartments for an approved construction budget of \$6.867 million funded under the Nation Building—Economic Stimulus Package initiative
- Six three-bedroom attached houses for an approved budget of \$1.607 million funded under the Public Housing construction program.

In 2010–11, funding of over \$700,000 has also been committed to support the provision of crisis and transitional housing through social housing providers.

Through the Community Rent Scheme, a minimum of 62 properties have been allocated for transitional housing accommodation, which is accompanied by intensive tenancy support, to assist households to stabilise their circumstances and move towards longer-term living arrangements.

A further 24 units of accommodation provide crisis accommodation, in conjunction with the specialist homelessness support service, to individuals and families in the area.

Also in 2010–11, the electorate of Pumicestone will benefit from funding of over \$430,000 to be expended on the upgrading of existing social housing properties. These activities may include upgrading amenities such as kitchens, bathrooms, laundries and floor coverings as well as roof upgrades. Additional upgrades to enhance liveability may include the installation of ceiling insulation and fans and the provision of disability modifications for people with a disability.

Additionally, approximately \$2.280 million will be spent maintaining existing social housing properties including responses to tenant requests, internal and external repainting and other planned maintenance activities such as vacant housing restoration and installation of water saving devices.

During 2008–09 and 2009–10, \$1.535 million was expended on maintenance and upgrade works such as ceiling insulation, fans and bathroom upgrades in the Pumicestone electorate under the Repairs and Maintenance component of the Australian Government's Nation Building—Economic Stimulus Package initiative. The Queensland Government's component of this initiative has now been completed.

I thank the member for her support for social housing to help people in housing need.