

**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2008-2009  
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE TAKEN AT HEARING  
HOUSING and WESTERN SYDNEY**

**QUESTION:**

**Ms Sylvia Hale MLC to the Hon David Borger MP, Minister for Housing (Page 8 – Estimates Committee Transcript)**

What is the net loss of public housing stock estimated to be within the Minto postcode of 2566?

**ANSWER:**

There will be a reduction in public housing dwellings within the Minto postcode, however, public housing unit numbers will be increased in other Western Sydney and NSW locations where current and future client demand is highest. Further details are contained in Housing NSW's Annual Report.

**QUESTION:**

**The Hon David Clarke MLC to Mr Mike Allen, Director-General, Housing NSW (Page 12 – Estimates Committee Transcript)**

**The Hon. DAVID CLARKE:** How long have you been rolling out this process that still has several months to go?

**Mr ALLEN:** I indicated that we are expected to have it resolved before the end of the calendar year. We are talking of another couple of months in that process.

**The Hon. DAVID CLARKE:** No, you misunderstood my question. When did you start this process that you say it will finish in a few months time?

**Mr ALLEN:** I cannot recall the specific date when we started this process, but we certainly have been working on these arrangements for much of this year.

**The Hon. DAVID CLARKE:** Will you take that question on notice?

**Mr ALLEN:** Yes, I can take that question on notice.

**ANSWER:**

The Housing Amendment (Tenant Fraud) Bill 2008 was assented to in April 2008.

**QUESTION:**

**Ms Sylvia Hale MLC to Mr Mike Allen, Director-General, Housing NSW (Page 16 – Estimates Committee Transcript)**

**Ms SYLVIA HALE:** Just returning to Bonnyrigg, how many of the 134 dwellings referred to have actually been acquired or built as at 30 June 2008?

**Mr DAVID BORGER:** My understanding is that those 134 public housing dwellings will be provided through Becton. That will take place through the various stages of the project. I will ask the Director General for a specific response.

**Mr ALLEN:** I am sorry I do not have that specific information to hand. I will take it as a question on notice.

**ANSWER:**

The 134 dwellings to be built or acquired will be sourced from various Western Sydney local government areas. These dwellings are part of the total package of facilities and services being provided by Bonnyrigg Partnerships under the Bonnyrigg PPP. They are planned to be provided from 2013 to 2020.

**QUESTION:**

**Ms Sylvia Hale MLC to the Hon David Borger MP, Minister for Housing (Page 16 – Estimates Committee Transcript)**

**Ms SYLVIA HALE:** I refer to the new Federal National Rental Affordability Scheme [NRAS] and the participation of the New South Wales Government through Housing New South Wales. Housing NSW has indicated support for the two-year establishment phase of the scheme to a maximum of 3,000 NRAS incentives of \$2,000 each, which is to be indexed. Was the State contribution of approximately \$6 million over two years included in the consolidated fund appropriation for the Housing NSW budget in 2008-09 and the forward estimates for 2009-10? If not, what is the source of financing for this contribution? My second question is: Does the Government intend to make a consolidated fund appropriation for Housing New South Wales for the State's NRAS incentives in 2009-10?

**ANSWER:**

- (1) The State's contribution to the establishment phase of NRAS will be funded by Housing NSW drawing on surplus equity accumulated in the Home Purchase Assistance Fund.
- (2) No.

**QUESTION:**

**The Hon Trevor Khan MLC to Mr Mike Allen, Director-General, Housing NSW (Page 17 – Estimates Committee Transcript)**

**Mr ALLEN:** We can take that question on notice and provide you with the number of properties that are valued at over \$1 million.

**The Hon. TREVOR KHAN:** If you have properties valued at over \$600,000, I would like statistics for those valued over \$600,000, \$800,000 and \$1 million.

**Mr ALLEN:** I can provide you with specific details for properties over \$600,000. There are 2,005. We can provide you with details for those valued at \$800,000 and \$1 million on notice.

**The Hon. TREVOR KHAN:** How many properties valued at over \$800,000 has the department acquired in the past two years?

**Mr ALLEN:** I would have to take that question on notice. In general terms, we would not be paying \$800,000 for an individual property unless it was substantial—for example, a facility for a refuge or something more significant than that.

**ANSWER:**

There are 17 properties valued at over \$1 million.

Housing NSW has purchased 6 properties purchased in the last two years that are valued over \$800,000. These properties are in high need locations for social housing. These properties include Crisis Accommodation refuges and vacant land for development.

**QUESTION:**

**Ms Sylvia Hale MLC to the Hon David Borger MP, Minister for Housing (Page 17 – Estimates Committee Transcript)**

**Ms SYLVIA HALE:** Minister, I am sure you recognise the important role that State and affordable housing plays in overcoming Aboriginal disadvantage and, in particular, the critical role that such housing will play in achieving the New South Wales State Plan objective of improving the health and education of Aboriginal people. Does the Government and your department intend to support local Aboriginal land council social housing with fair and reasonable subsidies to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act.

**ANSWER:**

The Aboriginal Land Rights Act falls within the responsibilities of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Under the Aboriginal Housing Act, the Aboriginal Housing Office has a role in funding and supporting Local Aboriginal Land Councils that are registered as Aboriginal community housing providers.

The NSW Government, through the Aboriginal Housing Office, provides funding to registered Aboriginal Community housing providers through the Housing Aboriginal Communities Program (HACP).

**QUESTION:**

**Ms Sylvia Hale MLC to the Hon David Borger MP, Minister for Housing (Page 17 – Estimates Committee Transcript)**

**Ms SYLVIA HALE:** Minister, will you guarantee that the Aboriginal Housing Office will provide training and other forms of support envisaged by the Aboriginal Land Rights Act to ensure that local land councils have every opportunity to continue to operate their social housing schemes in accordance with the legislation?

**ANSWER:**

The Aboriginal Land Rights Act falls within the responsibilities of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Under the Aboriginal Housing Act, the Aboriginal Housing Office has a role in funding and supporting Local Aboriginal Land Councils that are registered as Aboriginal community housing providers.

The Aboriginal Housing Office has a Sector Strengthening Strategy for the Aboriginal community housing sector, which aims to improve the sustainability of the sector. The Aboriginal Housing Office is supportive of Aboriginal community housing providers including Land Councils accessing training provided by registered training providers such as the Federation of Housing Associations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Borger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large loop at the end.

**David Borger MP**  
Minister for Housing  
Minister for Western Sydney