



4 FEB 2014

## Premier of Western Australia

Our Ref: 24-184337/JH

Senator Mark Bishop  
Chair  
Senate Economics References Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator <sup>Mark,</sup> Bishop

Thank you for your letter regarding the 'Inquiry into Affordable Housing in Australia'.

Western Australia was the first State in the Federation to develop a comprehensive and specific strategic policy framework that encompasses much more than just public housing. Our Liberal National State Government's *Affordable Housing Strategy 2010-2020* is being adopted at a whole of government level, in close collaboration with major industry stakeholders, and has a diverse and integrated set of strategies across the housing continuum - from homelessness to home ownership.

We have already delivered more than 10,000 new affordable homes and are well ahead of our target of 20,000 new affordable housing opportunities by 2020. Much of this has involved leveraging Commonwealth and State funding, along with State land and capital. There are many initiatives that target the supply side of the housing market which would benefit from Commonwealth involvement and potentially could be leveraged into broader application in other jurisdictions.

You may also be interested to note that the Department of Housing has a more comprehensive remit than public housing agencies in most other jurisdictions. Through joint venture arrangements with the private sector, it is the largest developer of residential land in Western Australia, as well as providing shared equity and general home loans to thousands of people on low incomes through Keystart Home loans.

I wish your committee well with its inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Colin Barnett MLA  
**PREMIER**

30 JAN 2014

1 Parliament Place, West Perth, Western Australia 6005

Telephone: +61 8 6552 5000 Facsimile: +61 8 6552 5001 Email: WA-Government@dpc.wa.gov.au

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