

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

The 2017-18 State Budget contains no specific provision for new investment in public and community housing. This is despite its recognition that affordable housing is still out of reach for many Western Australians on low incomes, as well as sustained demand and need for social housing with an overall waiting list of 16,516 and a priority waitlist of 1,590 households as at 30 June 2017.

METRONET may provide the opportunity for the development of new affordable and social housing along transport nodes, should the appropriate planning be undertaken by the government.

COMMONWEALTH AND STATE RELATIONS

- The Commonwealth is seeking to replace both the National Affordable Housing Agreement and NPA on Homelessness with a new National Housing and Homelessness Agreement, to take effect from 1 July 2018.
- There is a risk that the State may not receive the same amount of funding as currently over the forward estimates period if specific targets are not agreed to and met by Western Australia and/or if there is a delay in negotiating the bilateral agreement with the Commonwealth.
- There is no further Commonwealth funding commitment beyond 2017-18 in relation to housing in remote communities after the current National Partnership on Remote Housing concludes on 30 June 2018.
- The Commonwealth's proposed National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation, which will look to increase private sector investment into social and affordable rental housing, has potential to alleviate some of the demand pressures for rental housing in the long-term.

HOMELESSNES SERVICES

Homelessness and Other Support Services increase in 2017-18 by \$7 million to \$85.7 million, but expenditure is to decrease to \$53.4 million in 2020-21

LEGISLATIVE REFORM

- Amendments to the Residential Parks (Long-stay Tenants) Act 2006 will be made to implement recommendations relating to certainty of contract, cost transparency, and balance, to ensure the viability of the sector. An amendment Bill will be drafted for introduction into Parliament in 2017-18.
- At the end of January 2017 consultation closed on possible options to reform the Residential Tenancies Act 1987 to deliver better outcomes for victims of family and domestic violence. Following analysis of submissions and further consultation where required, a report will be prepared for the Government making recommendations to amend the Act.