

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

4 – 6 June 2013

**Question: BET 1403**

**Topic: Housing Supply and Affordability Reform Working Party Report**

**Written: Transferred from FaHCSIA – 25 June 2013**

**Senator PAYNE asked:**

1403. On 19-20 April 2010, COAG asked the Housing Supply and Affordability Reform Working Party to report back on an examination of the housing supply pipeline and government policies that may act as barriers to supply or that stimulate demand for housing. Has the government responded to the findings and recommendations of that report, or taken up any of those recommendations?

**Answer:**

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) publicly released the Final Housing Supply and Affordability Reform (HSAR) Report on 30 August 2012. The report was authored by the HSAR Working Party and presented by the Standing Council on Federal Financial Relations, with an aim to enhance housing supply. COAG agreed to all of the HSAR recommendations ([http://www.coag.gov.au/housing\\_and\\_homelessness](http://www.coag.gov.au/housing_and_homelessness)).

The Select Council on Housing and Homelessness will update COAG on progress in housing supply reforms.

The Australian Government is progressing its HSAR commitments. This includes:

- Trial of the HSAR principles for assessing land holdings: The trial applied to 10 CSIRO properties in NSW.
- Review of Commonwealth housing programs: The Commonwealth in agreement with State and Territory Housing Ministers released the Social Housing Initiative (SHI) Review report on 5 January 2013. The report, provided by KPMG, identifies that SHI was well-administered and has achieved excellent outcomes for vulnerable Australians, the social housing sector, the construction industry and the wider economy.
- Taking account of the HSAR Working Party's analysis in its work with the States on the First Home Owners Scheme (FHOS): The Australian Government is supportive of the proposal by several States to apply FHOS to new dwellings only in order to boost housing construction.