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Press statement - SA Housing Trust Report

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PRESS STATEMENT: 20. 20. 70.

FROM: THE PREMIER AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT (MR. DUNSTAN).

SUBJECT: SA HOUSING TRUST REPORT.

The Premier and Minister of Development (Mr. Dunstan) today said the annual report of the SA Housing Trust, for the year ended June 30, 1970, showed that for the first time in its history, the Trust had received more than 10,000 applications for rental.

TABLED IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

The Report ^{JA} said the increase was a result of high interest rates discouraging or preventing people from purchasing their own homes, and instead, turning to the Trust for mainly rental accommodation.

MR. DUNSTAN

~~Mr. Dunstan said that the~~ said that the total number of rental and rental/purchase applications received by the Trust in the 1969-70 year had been 12,534, an increase of 19 p. c. on the previous year's figures.

"During the quarter ended June 30, 1970, applications for these types of accommodation numbered 3,456 compared with 2,711 for the same quarter in 1969.

"This represents an increase of 27 p. c.," he said.

Mr. Dunstan pointed out that because rents were such an important element in the national wage structure, it was hope the Commonwealth would keep in mind the great importance of a fixed and reasonably low interest rate for housing authorities.

"This would give great stimulus to the industrially expanding country, and to the flow of migrants so necessary to maintain this expansion.

"During the year under review the Trust completed 1,712 houses and flats throughout the State, compared with 1,898 in the previous year.

"Difficulty was again experienced by its contractors in obtaining building operatives, however it is most encouraging to note that at the end of the financial year 454 more houses were under construction than at the same time last year.

"Because of the increased demand for flats accommodation the Trust has increased its flat building programme.

"Flats were built at Henley Beach, Gilberton and Findon, and it is expected that the Gilberton flats, comprising 84, will be finished by December, while the Findon group will eventually comprise 72 3-storey flats."

Mr. Dunstan said housing development south of Adelaide had continued to expand, with Christies Beach becoming a popular residential area.

"The Trust's building programme there has continued strongly, and it is making an attempt to provide a wide range of accommodation in the area at reasonable prices.

"During the past 12 months 151 additional houses were completed, bringing the total constructed there to 1,472.

"Steps have also been taken to increase the building rate at Elizabeth, where the Trust has already built 11,955 houses.

"At Ingle farm, one of the Trust's major developments, 1,335 have been built, with 480 being completed during the past 12 months.

"Eventually Trust development in the area will consist of 3,200 homes."

Mr. Dunstan said another important area of development had been at Whyalla, where the Trust first began building rental houses in 1940.

"It has now completed 5,296 houses there, with 352 being finished in the period covered by the Report."

He said the Trust had 184 cottage flats for the aged under construction in the metropolitan area of Adelaide at June 30, and approval had been given to develop about one acre of land for single-person accommodation at Gawler.

"The Trust has built 1660 cottage flats during the last 16 years, and is currently studying the demand for single pensioner accommodation in a number of country towns."

Mr. Dunstan added that the Trust was also involved in extensive industrial development at Elizabeth, where two new industries had been completed at June 30, while another was still under construction.