

## Response to question on notice

### Questions on Notice Paper No 16

3 March 2026

### Question No. 883

**MR THOMAS EMERSON MLA:** To ask the Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs

1. In relation to the fire that broke out in the basement of an ACT Housing complex in De Burgh Street, Lyneham on the evening of 5 December 2025,
  - (a) how have the residents of the complex been accommodated since the fire,
  - (b) what is the weekly cost to the Government of that accommodation,
  - (c) has the building been condemned, as has been reported; if so,
    - (i) on what basis was that decision made,
    - (ii) did the fire affect the structural integrity of the building and
    - (iii) who made the assessment,
  - (d) will the Government be rebuilding public housing on the site, will it be repaired, or will the site be sold,
  - (e) what has been done to repair damage to the building in the months since the fire and
  - (f) what is the timetable for completion of repairs and return of the residents?

**MS YVETTE BERRY MLA** - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1.

- (a) On 5 December 2025, impacted tenants were offered and placed into emergency hotel accommodation, with several choosing to stay with family and friends.

As of 12 March 2026, 7 have been relocated to permanent alternative public housing accommodation, 3 are staying with family and friends, 3 are in hotel accommodation and 2 are in other accommodation.

- (b) As of 12 March 2026, 3 tenants remain in hotel accommodation at a cost of approximately \$4,700 per week. Hotel costs incurred as a result of the incident will be sought under insurance.

As soon as a suitable property becomes available, they will be offered alternative public housing accommodation.

- (c) No, the building has not been condemned. Housing ACT has initiated an insurance claim with the ACT Insurance Authority (ACTIA) to remediate the damages sustained during the incident.

Programmed Facility Management (PFM) deemed the site uninhabitable due to loss of amenities, fire systems being disconnected, and all services (power, water and sewer systems) being impacted and unusable.

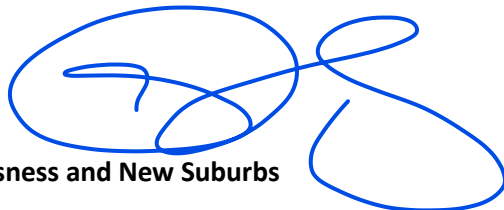
- (d) ACTIA has appointed an assessor to complete a full structural assessment to determine a Scope of Work (SOW) to remediate all damages sustained. Upon receipt of the SOW, Housing ACT will complete all required procurement processes to appoint a contractor to complete the required works.

- (e) Works to make the area safe were completed immediately following the fire. This included engaging a security guard until the individual units and property boundary were secured, installing fencing around the property perimeter, pumping water out of the basement, boarding up the doors to individual units and boarding up the garage door.

- (f) Housing ACT is unable to provide timeframes for completion of works until all required assessments are completed by the ACTIA-appointed assessors, and subsequent procurement processes are completed.

**Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.**

**Yvette Berry MLA**  
**Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs**



Date: 31/03/26

This response required 55 minutes to complete, at an approximate cost of \$114.92