

POLICY STATEMENT No. 17

HOUSING POLICY

1. OBJECTIVES

This policy:

To ensure that CALM employees can access housing in the country at reasonable cost and suitable standard.

2. BACKGROUND

This policy replaces the previous housing policy (Housing Policy No. 17 - 1987), which related to the reduction of CALM's housing estate and CALM's withdrawal from the function of managing the housing estate.

Since then the number of houses has been reduced and the Government Employees Housing Authority (GEHA) has taken over the responsibility of managing the houses.

Now that these changes have been implemented the emphasis in setting of policy is on deciding on positions to be provided with housing assistance, and the funding of any subsidy. Rationalisation of the numbers and locations of houses provided to employees remains an ongoing objective of the policy.

In May 2001 CALM provided 186 houses. The cost of doing so was \$1.605 million per annum, including a Fringe Benefits Tax payment of \$36,000 per annum. Tenants paid rental of \$608,000 per annum. The net cost to CALM was \$997,000.

3. LEGISLATIVE BASE

The GEHA has a mandate under the *Government Employees Housing Authority Act* to provide employee housing for CALM.

4. POLICY

4.1 CALM will provide housing assistance for its employees where it is in the nature of CALM's business to transfer the employee at relatively frequent intervals and at locations where there is insufficient suitable housing available from the private market at or below Perth market prices.

4.2 The Department will subsidise the housing of employees who are offered housing assistance in accordance with government policy for employee housing.

- 4.3 The private housing market will be monitored and positions will be removed from eligibility at locations where adequate private housing is available at or below Perth prices.
- 4.4 The Department will aim to ensure that the standard of housing provided to its employees will be on a par with other housing provided to employees by other government agencies and by private sector employers.

5. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

The Director Corporate Services is responsible for coordinating all aspects of housing. The Departmental Housing Officer will assist the Director as required.

Regional, District and Branch managers are responsible for maintaining an overview of housing in their area of responsibility including the allocation of housing and providing advice to the Director Corporate Services on changes in housing requirements, and in the situation where additional housing is required, advising of funding arrangements.

Liaison with GEHA on policy matters and provision of housing is the responsibility of Director Corporate Services. Liaison on matters relating to maintenance of individual houses is the responsibility of the relevant Regional, District or Branch Manager.

6. ASSOCIATED POLICIES / STRATEGIES

CALMpeople Manual, Policy 1.3.17 'Transfer and Job Rotation Policy', December 2000.

7. CUSTODIAN

The Director Corporate Services is custodian for this policy

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPROVAL

Approved on

by
Dr Wally Cox
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR