



## Improving the Urban Environment

Many of our urban residential buildings will need renewal. This will be a massive and complicated exercise involving private owners, tenants, Government, and quasi-government agencies. We must also take action to upgrade the living environment of those households which still live in inadequate housing.

### To speed up urban redevelopment

Initiatives	Benefits
We aim to set up a new Urban Renewal Authority (URA) by 1999 to replace the Land Development Corporation.	✓ The URA will be provided with statutory powers to expedite urban redevelopment on a larger scale and in a more comprehensive manner.
We will complete the Urban Renewal Strategy Study in 1998-99 and identify priority urban renewal areas.	✓ This will enable the proposed URA to immediately embark on urban renewal projects upon its establishment.
We will expedite land assembly and the processing of urban renewal projects, and will explore ways to improve financial viability of URA projects.	✓ This will enable us to increase the speed and scale of urban renewal projects.
For aging buildings, we will set up a loan fund to help owners maintain safety and upgrade the quality of their buildings.	✓ This will extend the life of existing buildings.



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## To clear all Temporary Housing Areas and Cottage Areas, and reduce dwellers of bedspace apartments

### Initiatives

We will clear all remaining old-style Temporary Housing Areas by 2000, and rehouse the residents to public housing, including interim housing, depending on eligibility.

We will clear all remaining Cottage Areas by 2001.

By 2001, we will offer public housing, including interim housing, to eligible persons who may be displaced from bedspace apartments which do not meet safety standards for licensing.

We will draw up a programme for clearance of areas affected by new development for a public purpose.

### Benefits

✓ This will improve the living conditions of 600 families.

✓ About 900 families will be rehoused, either to public housing, including interim housing, depending on eligibility.

✓ Up to 2 100 lodgers will be rehoused, either in public housing, including interim housing, depending on eligibility.

✓ About 12 000 families will be rehoused, over the next five years, either in public housing, including interim housing, depending on eligibility.