
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 7 July 2021 7:46 PM
To: Nanango Electorate Office
Cc: Community Support and Services Committee; thepremier@premiers.qld.gov.au; communitiesandhousing@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Subject: Submission on the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 and the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (Tenants' Rights) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021

Dear Deborah Frecklington MP,

Dear Committee

Please find my submission the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 (The Bill).

The Bill fails to meet its key stated objectives. In particular it fails to ensure that vulnerable community members are supported to sustain tenancies. It also fails to remove the ability of lessors to end tenancies without grounds.

I want to see the following changes in the Bill.

NO UNFAIR EVICTIONS. The grounds to end a tenancy, for 'end of a fixed term', must be removed as a matter of priority before the legislation is passed. As it is, the Bill will increase the reasons why renters can be evicted at no fault.

ALLOW MINOR MODIFICATIONS. Being able to personalise and make safe my home is an important reform which should be included. The Bill must allow renters to undertake minor health, safety, accessibility and security modifications without prior approval, and minor amenity and personalisation changes with a short notification.

MAKE IT EASIER FOR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE. I support the government's proposals around domestic and family violence but they must also include the ability to install security measures without prior consent. This is a vital safety protection for people experiencing DFV.

LET RENTERS CHOOSE TO KEEP PETS. The Bill will go some way to support pets but they will still see renters with pets vetted out at application time, and allow conditions where the average dog or cat must live outside. The Bill must be changed to start with an assumption that renters can keep pets if they choose; require the lessor to seek orders to restrict pets if there is a dispute, and declare any previous pet conditions upfront.

Currently, many people in Kingaroy and surrounds are at risk of homelessness due to rents going up by more than \$100-\$150 a week, partly due to the end of NRAS agreements and partly due to demand as companies in town are renting for their employees and pricing long-term residents out of their homes.

The Department of Housing is unable to do anything until a Notice To Leave is served or the residents are actual homeless. Many are not aware of their rights and some property managers are not playing fair and giving the residents time to find suitable accommodation.

Some are having to give up pets, children, jobs and to even leave. Others are moving on to live in their cars or camping, or couch-surfing with friends and family. This is not what we expected when we moved to the South Burnett for a 'tree change' and a better life.

We need real change for renters that brings stability and the ability to make a place our home.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]