
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 30 June 2021 6:18 PM
To: Buderim Electorate Office
Cc: Community Support and Services Committee; Minister for Communities and Housing
Subject: To Community Support and Services Committee (CC my local MP): Submission on the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 and the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (Tenants' Rights) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021

Dear Brent Mickelberg MP,

Dear the Community Support and Services Committee, cc my local MP -

I'd like to comment on both the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 and the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (Tenants' Rights) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to share something with you: a snapshot of what it's like to rent in Queensland.

I have been renting in Sippy Downs with my 2 daughters since 2008. I have been at my current address for 3 years but was informed my landlord would not be renewing my lease as the owner wants to renovate and possibly sell - which I feel is to put the rent up substantially. I have been trying for 6 weeks to find suitable, affordable accommodation but there is nothing as all too expensive. I am also sure I'm the bottom of a landlords list being a single mum on disability with 2 teenage daughters and emotional support animals. It is devastating that on July 18 2021 we will be homeless - I have put pleas to the public on all sunshine coast Facebook group pages I can think so. I have lived on the Sunshine Coast since 1988 in the Minyama, Warana, Tanawha and Sippy Downs area and sadly I will have to move away from all my family and friends to find somewhere affordable to live. I work part-time at [REDACTED] and have been there 9 years - my youngest attends [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and my eldest goes to [REDACTED] at Caloundra. I don't know what else to do at I'm devastated by the situation I find myself in.

In its current form, the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 will do little to improve my situation as one of the 1.8 million renters in Queensland. While this bill may be palatable to the real estate lobby, it completely disregards my experience as a renter.

While I'm pleased that the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill includes positive provisions for renters experiencing domestic and family violence, it contains little other reforms of substance for renters.

I urge the Queensland Government to take this opportunity to amend this bill and to implement real rental reforms that will make renting in Queensland affordable, secure and fair.

It's crucial that rental reforms in Queensland include:

- A genuine end to 'no grounds' evictions – providing tenants with long-term security in their homes without the risk of an unfair eviction at the end of their lease
- Allowing tenants to make minor modifications, like hanging picture frames or installing furniture safety anchors
- A real ban on rent bidding – banning agents and property owners from accepting amount above the advertised rent for a property
- Expanding minimum standards to include ventilation, cleanliness and insulation
- Stopping unreasonable rent increases by tying rent increases to general inflation (CPI)
- Ensuring prospective tenants have fair and honest information about the property
- Banning inappropriate or discriminatory questions by lessors
- Make it easier for tenants to have pets – by flipping the onus on property owners/agents to demonstrate why it's unreasonable for a tenant to have pet

These provisions are included in the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (Tenants' Rights) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. I urge the government to either support the Tenants' Rights Bill, or amend its own bill to provide real protections for renters.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]