



Speech by

Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

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HAPPY VALLEY UNITS

Mr HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (11.57 am): Access to affordable housing is a key priority for me and the Bligh government. That is why last month I was very pleased to join housing minister Robert Swarten to officially open the Happy Valley Units in Ogden Street, Stafford. This \$2.7 million complex includes 10 two-bedroom units and demonstrates the Bligh government's commitment to providing government subsidised housing for Queensland battlers. From conversations with my community I know that northsiders have embraced the Bligh government's Toward Q2 vision, particularly the commitment to a fair Queensland. At the opening of the Happy Valley Units the minister highlighted the government's commitment to providing social housing. That commitment certainly aligns with the objective of a fair Queensland.

Despite Queensland experiencing the highest levels of economic prosperity in a generation, even in these troubled global economic times, record low housing affordability in the private rental market is impacting on many and, indeed, could get worse. That is why northsiders welcome the Bligh government's spend of more than \$1 billion on housing this financial year, including a massive \$510 million to build more high quality unit complexes like the Happy Valley Units at Stafford.

This new housing complex was named Happy Valley Units after the original name given to Stafford by the European settlers in the 1850s. Located close to public transport, schools and medical facilities and including two adaptable units, these high-quality new units are greatly appreciated by new residents such as Bob and Delwyn Gardiner and long-term residents such as David Kropp who has lived in Ogden Street for well over half a century. I thank the minister for his commitment to social housing on Brisbane's north side and I wish that it will long continue.