




Speech By  
**Hon. Tim Mander**

**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Public Housing**

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (2.22 pm): In a great state like Queensland it is important that everybody has access to safe and affordable housing. Sadly, under the former Labor government tens of thousands of Queensland's most vulnerable were left languishing on the public housing waiting list, with no reprieve in sight. This problem just did not happen overnight; this has taken decades of neglect from those opposite. The social and economic changes of the past 20 years or so have left the housing system struggling to accommodate a demographic completely different from the one that it was set up for. Whereas in days gone by public tenants tended to be low-income working families, these days more than 50 per cent of applicants are single, the majority are reliant on some form of government pension and more than half will have at least one household member with a disability. While the needs of our tenants have evolved, the housing system has not. In complete defiance of the changing circumstances, previous Labor governments continued to provide detached dwellings in suburban enclaves with little regard to their suitability for the new tenants or the social consequences for the broader community.

Last month I was proud to launch the Newman government's new Housing 2020 Strategy. Housing 2020 is a complete rethink of the way that we deliver housing assistance in this state and will deliver bricks and mortar solutions as well as a vastly expanding array of alternative types of housing assistance to help people find or sustain a tenancy in the private rental market. Between now and 2020 we will deliver an additional 12,000 social affordable housing dwellings. We will also see up to 90 per cent of social housing tenancies managed by the community housing sector. This is an added boon for tenants because community housing organisations are better equipped to offer a personalised, holistic service and better able to engage the sort of wraparound services that many of our high-needs tenants require. For too long social housing has been seen as a destination in itself. This is unhealthy and counterproductive. Taxpayer subsidised housing should be there for the duration of your need, not necessarily the duration of your life. Of course, there are those who will always need our assistance and to whom we have an enduring responsibility. There are many others, however, whose barriers to the private market could be overcome with the right support. Housing 2020 is about recognising those barriers and helping people work through them rather than just saying, 'Here's your public housing property. You're set for the rest of your life.' Those opposite like to pat themselves on the back about how compassionate they are. The truth is they have had a shameful record when it comes to looking after and housing the vulnerable, and it is the Newman government that will put it right.