




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Infrastructure Projects

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation) (10.35 am): Creating jobs for Queenslanders to drive the economy is a key commitment of the Palaszczuk government, and is evidenced in the Draft State Infrastructure Plan. Through the Department of Housing and Public Works we are delivering on this commitment by investing in infrastructure to the tune of \$435.6 million this financial year. That represents a \$136.7 million increase on the actual expenditure on housing services infrastructure in 2014-15.

While creating jobs in construction and related industries, this investment is providing social housing, temporary accommodation and domestic violence shelters for those who need it most. More than \$396 million will be spent building, buying and upgrading housing for our most vulnerable Queenslanders. Spending in the housing capital grants program will be approximately \$67.3 million, with a focus on social housing and infrastructure works in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

My department will spend \$135 million to construct new homes under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, NPARIH, which we deliver in partnership with the Commonwealth. Another \$63.2 million will be spent on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing outside of the NPARIH partnership.

We are also investing \$21.3 million this financial year to ensure that Queensland government staff in places with no viable rental market have somewhere safe and appropriate to live. These are the people who deliver essential services in our regional and remote communities. They are our teachers, doctors, nurses and police.

To maximise the benefit of this investment in infrastructure, we are consulting with communities to determine how these projects should be undertaken. That is why we are working closely with a large number of Indigenous councils that will deliver 88 infrastructure projects in social housing, collectively worth approximately \$41 million.

My department is looking at how it engages with businesses to make it easier for them to work with us to deliver these important projects. Local contractors are well placed to assist with and benefit from local property improvement projects and housing construction initiatives. The Palaszczuk government's investment in housing infrastructure is first and foremost about providing people with shelter and dignity, but it also provides jobs in regional communities throughout our state. This is yet another way this government is supporting local economies.