




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Housing and Homelessness Action Plan

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerster—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.17 am): In June this year the Palaszczuk government launched the Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2025, backed by a \$2.9 billion investment to help more vulnerable Queenslanders into homes sooner. This is the largest concentrated investment in social housing in Queensland's history and includes a new \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund to boost housing supply across Queensland. We are already making good progress on our commitment to fast-track projects and initiatives that will increase the supply of social housing.

I am pleased to announce to the House today that we are on track to go to market in October for expressions of interest for new social housing supply. We will be inviting the market to make project proposals that respond to any of the three elements of the Queensland Housing Investment Growth Initiative, those being Help to Home, QuickStarts or Housing Investment Fund. These projects will complement the work already underway by my department to increase the supply of social and affordable housing by almost 10,000 over the life of our Housing Strategy, contributing to Queensland's plan for economic recovery by creating jobs and supporting vulnerable Queenslanders.

In the first month of this financial year alone, we awarded contracts for the commencement of 65 new homes across Queensland in suburbs such as Zillmere, Varsity Lakes, Nerang, Redcliffe, North Toowoomba and Aurukun. This is on top of the 2,480 projects that are already commenced under the previous action plan. Our partnerships with community housing providers are supporting the construction of new social and affordable housing in Far North Queensland, Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast, the Gold Coast, Wide Bay, Townsville, Logan and Ipswich.

It is important to remember at this point that in 2013-14 those opposite commenced zero new social homes in Logan, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast or Ipswich. In contrast, the Palaszczuk government is growing our social and affordable housing stock. One example of this work is a partnership with Churches of Christ Care Housing Services to support the completion of 83 new homes on Bribie Island in June 2021. Last week I joined Churches of Christ housing to turn the first sod on a new development on the Sunshine Coast that will see 40 affordable homes built in Little Mountain. We also recently celebrated the completion of 16 new homes in partnership with Regional Housing Ltd in Bundaberg. Through these and other projects, we will continue to deliver more social and affordable housing in Queensland.