




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Housing Summit

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.39 pm): Last Thursday I had the privilege of attending the Queensland Housing Summit. I want to thank the Premier for bringing together this event and encouraging everyone to contribute ideas. More and more Queenslanders are facing housing stress and homelessness. They urgently need this kind of leadership to quickly deliver housing solutions. Housing is an essential human right. Secure long-term housing is a basic starting block that enables us to lead fulfilling lives and pursue meaningful goals such as education or starting a family, a career or a small business.

In Ipswich, the housing problem is very bad. Families are living out of their cars, bunking in with relatives in overcrowded dwellings or pitching tents in people's backyards. It is not just a problem affecting those on the lowest incomes. Even average wage-earners with excellent tenant histories are applying for dozens of rental homes only to be knocked back time and time again.

The pressure on Ipswich housing and homelessness services is immense and they are facing a growing caseload of clients. I take this time to acknowledge the extraordinary work being done by our housing services, including the Ipswich Housing Service Centre, inCommunity Inc., STARH Wesley Mission and all the other housing agencies at the coalface of this housing crisis in Ipswich that I work with. I know it is not easy but I do greatly appreciate their commitment, their hard work and their advocacy. They need to know that it is making a big difference to people's lives.

The Queensland Housing Summit aimed to deliver tangible housing solutions. We have already made some major decisions including an additional \$1 billion investment boost to our Housing Investment Fund. This will help build 5,600 new social and affordable homes by 2027. It will fast-track approvals for emergency housing for people impacted by natural disasters, which will be essential as we head into another wet summer. We are doing an audit stocktake of state owned land to see what can be unlocked for housing and faith-based organisations are undertaking a stocktake of their own land holdings to see what they can provide.

The Commonwealth budget, handed down by the Albanese government on Tuesday night, sees more relief on the horizon. I was delighted to learn that, after almost a decade of shameful neglect under the Morrison government, this government will commit to delivering one million homes over five years from 2024 under the new National Housing Accord as well as a number of other investments that will increase affordable housing supply.

Since the 2015 Palaszczuk government election, we have ramped up investment in social housing across Queensland. In the Ipswich electorate we have built 117 new social housing dwellings and I know that another 166 will be built by 30 June 2025. The Housing Summit recognised that the state and federal governments cannot solve the housing crisis on their own. There is an opportunity for a range of other players, including local governments, community housing providers and private investors, to play a role in boosting housing supply and helping Queenslanders to get into secure housing. I look forward to the results.