




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 21 June 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Social and Affordable Housing

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.00 am): Last year this government announced the largest concentrated investment in social and affordable housing in Queensland's history as part of our Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2025. This \$2.9 billion investment will see the commencement of 7,400 new social and affordable homes by 2025, and we have a proven track record with 4,153 new social and affordable homes already commenced across the state since the Palaszczuk government came to office in 2015.

Over the last 12 months this government has been working tirelessly to improve housing outcomes for Queenslanders. I can confirm that we are on track to meet our target of commencing 727 social homes alone in the first year of the action plan. That means we are hitting the milestones we set out to achieve and are building more homes for the most vulnerable in our community.

I have been out and about across Queensland to see firsthand the hard work of my department to deliver more social housing stock. I have turned sods, inspected building sites, opened new complexes and met with social housing tenants in Bundaberg, Townsville, Cairns, Ipswich, Gold Coast, Rockhampton, and the list goes on. I was recently in Gympie, where I announced our \$10.5 million investment to fast-track Gympie's Local Housing Action Plan, and we are working with other local councils, including remote Indigenous councils, to finalise their local housing action plans.

Last week we launched our Help to Home initiative. This program is designed to encourage investors sitting on vacant properties to sign up to a government headlease. It incentivises private investors to sign up with a guaranteed lease for two years and three months rent in advance paid each quarter. Help to Home will mean 1,000 more housing solutions for vulnerable Queenslanders. We know that pressures on the rental market and the housing sector are having an impact on young people. That is why we have delivered a new 40-unit youth foyer on the Gold Coast after the success of the Logan Youth Foyer. We are building another one in Townsville which will provide 40 new homes for our young people who need it most.

We also know older women are the fastest growing group of people to experience homelessness in Queensland. That is why earlier this year I announced a \$14 million housing older women strategy to co-design new homes and deliver specialised support services for older women, including a new housing support hub and advisory group. We continue to work with specialist homelessness services with a \$122 million investment to support those most at risk.

Our work extends beyond my department's responsibilities. In partnership with the private sector, the Treasurer has overseen Queensland's Build-to-Rent initiative, which in partnership with the private sector is delivering 750 new dwellings specifically for the rental market. Our \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund, the first of its kind, is already delivering for Queensland. Recently the Treasurer,

Minister D'Ath and I announced 118 new social and affordable homes to be built on Brisbane's north side. Just this week the Treasurer announced a further 1,200 new social and affordable homes will be delivered through a partnership with Brisbane Housing Company. This is just the beginning for our \$1 billion investment through our Housing Investment Fund.

A few weeks ago the Deputy Premier announced \$200 million to unlock land supply and make housing more affordable. This new funding will boost land supply and deliver more affordable housing outcomes for Queenslanders. We are not just building more homes; we are helping Queenslanders right across the system to find housing solutions. In fact, just last year my department helped Queenslanders with over 205,000 forms of housing assistance. We are strengthening the rental sector through the delivery of strong rental reform laws. Last year we made a record investment in social and affordable housing. We are delivering on our housing action plan, and we are only just getting started.