



Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 17 August 2022


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Community Support and Services Committee, Report

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (3.31 pm): I start by thanking the members of the Community Support and Services Committee, the parliamentary staff and officers from the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy who supported the estimates process this year. I acknowledge the ongoing leadership of the committee chair, the member for Mansfield, who is an outstanding committee chair. I welcome the committee's report and recommendation that the proposed expenditure be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

On this side of the House, we work every day to enrich the lives of all Queenslanders. That is why I am incredibly proud of what this budget delivers for Queensland communities. This budget delivers a record investment of \$115.8 million to build capacity and expand our network of 127 state government funded neighbourhood and community centres. This includes an investment of \$51.8 million in operational funding for neighbourhood and community centres—the largest boost in operational funding ever. This is part of a wider \$125.6 million investment over four years in the 2022-23 state budget to strengthen the community and social services sector.

This year's state budget also makes a landmark \$115.5 million investment over four years into Queensland's arts sector and cultural infrastructure. This includes \$50 million in new investment over four years to support the delivery of Grow 2022-26, the second action plan of the whole-of-government Creative Together 10-year road map.

When it comes to housing, we are, as we all know, faced with the compounding challenges of the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, mass migration into our state, shortages of skilled trades and building supply chain constraints. These challenges have also been impacted by consecutive flooding events. The convergence of these challenges has meant more and more people are turning to government for support.

Despite this, the Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of delivering housing outcomes for vulnerable Queenslanders. Since coming to office in 2015, we have commenced 4,891 new social and affordable homes and completed 3,939 homes across Queensland. We continue to roll out our four-year \$1.8 billion investment in social and affordable housing under the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-25. The action plan is supported by the \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund, managed

by Treasury, to drive new supply to support current and future social and affordable housing needs. We are delivering our \$40 million Help to Home initiative to support 1,000 additional housing solutions for vulnerable Queenslanders. Our budget also delivers for young people—investing \$29.8 million over four years to support initiatives to assist young people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

We are also delivering housing outcomes for Queenslanders right across the housing system. In 2021-22 we delivered almost 200,000 forms of housing assistance to households to support them to gain and sustain a home in the private rental market. We also recently announced an investment of \$16 million through the immediate housing response package to support families experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness in these challenging times.

When speaking to the committee about the social housing register, the director-general made clear that the number of households on the register as at 30 June 2022 was 27,437—a reduction of applications from last year. We also heard some whacky ‘Mander maths’ from the member for Everton on this issue—blustering his way through, misrepresenting the fact that there has been a net decrease of households on the register as compared to last year.

Let me share some of the ‘Mander math’ that he oversaw when he was housing minister. We had the wholesale giveaway of 90 per cent of Queensland’s social housing. The LNP’s failed housing policies saw a 90 per cent cut to the social housing construction program, leading to an overall reduction in the number of social homes in Queensland. In fact, during the three long years they were in government they left that portfolio with 428 fewer social homes in Queensland. Queenslanders know what they got from the whacky ‘Mander math’—428 fewer social housing dwellings. Further, in 2013-14—

Mr LANGBROEK: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. Can I ask you to refer the member to standing order 244?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member, can I ask you to use correct titles.

Ms ENOCH: We saw whacky math from the member for Everton. We saw 428 fewer social housing dwellings. Further, in 2013-14 there were zero commencements in Logan, on the Gold Coast, on the Sunshine Coast, in Mackay/Whitsunday, in Ipswich, in the Redlands and in remote Indigenous communities. That is the legacy of the LNP on social and affordable housing.

At the heart of everything we do is providing Queenslanders with good, secure jobs and delivering better services so that the great Queensland lifestyle can be enjoyed by all Queenslanders. That is what this budget delivers. Every day we work hard to ensure that we are meeting the needs of Queenslanders. I commend the report to the House.