




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Social Housing

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.48 am): The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is all about a future of cheaper, cleaner and secure energy for Queenslanders, powering good jobs in new regional industries. This ambitious vision to power Queensland's future features in the design of new social housing and our neighbourhood centres, ensuring the cost of energy is cheaper for those doing it tough.

It is this government that recognises well-designed buildings, built to suit Queensland's climate and great lifestyle, which not only deliver environmental outcomes but also improve livability for vulnerable Queenslanders. We are getting on with the job of delivering new and innovative ways to improve the design and energy efficiency of social homes in Queensland. For example, a range of smart design elements supporting energy efficiency are incorporated and adopted as livable design standards for social housing.

New social housing design considers the orientation of dwellings on site, ceiling heights and building materials, energy efficient light fittings, as well as ceiling fans and light coloured roofing. Outside, landscaping is created to provide not only shading but social and communal spaces in multi-unit developments.

New projects are also located near public transport and services, reducing reliance on cars and ensuring our social housing tenants are close to amenities. This smart approach to energy efficiency minimises heating, cooling and building costs, alleviating cost pressures and improving livability for social housing residents. My department has also been testing the viability of new solar business models in various locations across the state. There are now more than 800 social housing households in Cairns and Rockhampton generating solar power with more to come.

We are powering Queensland's housing future, and our energy efficient approach is not just confined to social housing: it also includes our neighbourhood and community centre network and other facilities through the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy. The soon-to-be-opened new Bowen Neighbourhood Centre, the Cairns Diversionary Centre and the Oasis in Townsville all have solar panels. Going forward, all new neighbourhood centres planned for construction as well as refurbishments and rebuilds will have solar energy. Our approach reduces running costs and leads to better environmental outcomes, freeing up more time and energy to provide even better services for Queenslanders in need.