




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 15 March 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Housing

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.04 am): As the Premier mentioned yesterday, later this month the Premier's Housing Roundtable will be held as we continue our effort to address the housing pressures facing Queenslanders. The roundtable will further build on the successful outcomes already achieved through our Housing Summit held late last year. Since the Housing Summit, we have already provided an extra \$5.8 million to help Queenslanders sustain their tenancies. Through the immediate housing response for families package, we have supported more than 3,500 families with over 35,000 nights of accommodation. As a result of the summit, we have earmarked an extra \$5 million for this vital initiative, bringing our total investment in the package to \$26 million. Make no mistake, these additional funds are helping many Queenslanders keep a roof over their head.

The housing pressures we face are not unique to Queensland. They are occurring in all parts of Australia. Rising house prices and ultralow rental vacancy rates have been impacting all jurisdictions. What is unique is Queensland's innovative approach to tackling these pressures. As a government, we are continuing our work with the private sector, community housing organisations and the housing and homelessness sector to find real solutions and deliver on the actions of our 10-year housing and homelessness strategy. Our strategy and action plans are being implemented following close consultation with the sector, including peak bodies, who have played an important role in developing and delivering the Queensland government's comprehensive plan to meet these challenges.

We are now implementing the second action plan arising from the strategy, as well as delivering important outcomes from the Premier's Housing Summit, and this is delivering results, including: \$10 million to expand private rental assistance to help households in rental stress stay in their home; over \$11 million to expand tenancy support to sustain current tenancies of vulnerable Queenslanders; more temporary emergency accommodation with onsite support faster by using underutilised accommodation; additional support of \$8.5 million for after-hours outreach in five priority locations; and the doubling of emergency relief for vulnerable Queenslanders in partnership with a network of 86 NGO providers statewide.

We have a strong record on social housing. Since 2015 the Palaszczuk government has commenced more than 5,200 social housing dwellings, and that number will increase to more than 13,000 by 2027 because of our record investment. It is because of our strong economic management that we can invest a record \$3.9 billion in social and affordable housing through the state budget. I look forward to unlocking further opportunities for social housing investment at the Premier's Housing Roundtable later this month.