




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 29 March 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Housing

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (9.53 am): To meet the pressing housing challenges that Queensland faces we need to leverage expertise from across the housing system. Yesterday's housing round table brought together representatives from the building sector, homelessness services, local government, the private rental market, planning experts and others to continue our collaboration on key housing challenges. Round table participants expressed strong support for the positive announcements around social and affordable housing that we have made this week and for the many achievements that have made an impact since the Housing Summit. There was recognition of the importance of the \$28 million the Premier announced to continue the Immediate Housing Response Package for another year. That initiative has already assisted over 4,000 families and supported over 44,300 nights of accommodation. The extra \$3.9 million earmarked to extend and expand food and emergency relief throughout Queensland in 2023-24 was also warmly welcomed to help ease the cost-of-living pressures many households are experiencing.

The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, AHURI, the leading expert in this area, was also represented. AHURI has been commissioned by the Queensland government to undertake housing modelling in what has become an incredibly dynamic environment. The modelling will look at the housing system in Queensland as a whole, including social housing, emergency accommodation and the private housing market, and that will be used to guide our collective efforts.

The Palaszczuk government's work to promote a healthy housing system is reflected in a series of other key housing announcements made this week, including: \$5.91 million to help unlock 5,600 lots in Ripley Valley and deliver road infrastructure for the Ripley Valley Priority Development Area; \$6,000 to work with the Local Government Association of Queensland to develop 38 local housing action plans with Queensland local governments; and land tax concessions for build-to-rent developments, which was very well received. These new initiatives complement our commitment to deliver more social and affordable housing through our \$3.9 billion investment, which is the largest concentrated investment in Queensland's history.

Since July 2021, when we announced our second housing action plan, we have completed 816 new social housing builds under our QuickStarts program, with a further 588 currently under construction and more in the pipeline. That is on top of what is happening with regard to our Housing Investment Fund. That means that every single day, as a result of our QuickStarts program, since July 2021 we have added another home to our social housing stock and housed more people. With so many people doing it tough we will continue our efforts in growing supply, but with pressures in the building industry expected to continue for many months to come we will also ensure supports are in place to help house vulnerable Queenslanders sooner.

In relation to a question the member for Currumbin asked the Premier yesterday regarding rent increases, I can update the House that, while the Residential Tenancy Authority is not informed every time rent is increased in a private rental agreement, I am advised that in 2022 the amount of tenancy agreements that saw more than one increase was likely to have been over 24,000. In addition, in 2022 the RTA received almost 9,000 calls about rent increases, which clearly demonstrates the size of this issue in the community.