




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 20 April 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Housing Affordability

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (9.58 am): Housing affordability is a significant issue right across Australia, and Queensland is not immune from the challenges being faced. In response, the Palaszczuk government through my department continues to address those challenges head-on as part of our commitment to improving housing affordability and supply here in Queensland. We are pressing full steam ahead with the largest concentrated investment in social and affordable housing in Queensland's history, backed by almost \$4 billion in funding. In less than two years, we have added 827 new social homes to our state's stock, with another 647 currently under construction and more on the way. That is more than 38 new homes added to our social housing stock every month since our second action plan.

We are delivering new social housing the length and breadth of the state with a string of recent handovers including, as an example: 42 new bedroom units in Windsor; 38 new social housing units in Lutwyche; in Slacks Creek we have handed over Edwards Place, an 18-unit complex; two three-bedroom units in the Townsville suburb of Currajong; in Cairns we have handed over eight refurbished cottages; and in Southport we have handed over seven new social housing units. We have also secured vacant retirement villages in Clayfield, Redlands and Toowoomba to help house over 100 vulnerable Queenslanders sooner.

We have also taken action to limit rent increases in residential tenancies from 1 July 2023 to just once a year to help ease pressures for the more than one-third of Queenslanders who rent. Public consultation is now open on stage 2 rental law reforms, giving everyone the chance to have their say on how to make renting fairer in Queensland. This seeks to build on our stage 1 rental reforms which is already making a difference to the lives of many Queenslanders.

I have seen firsthand how our social and affordable housing construction program is transforming communities. Earlier this month, along with the member for Thuringowa, I visited a new social housing project in Townsville, delivered in partnership with community housing provider Yumba-Meta, with 16 new households. In South-East Queensland, I saw 18 households opened in new social housing complexes at Slacks Creek, built in partnership between the Queensland Government and the YMCA. Through our youth foyers in Logan and the Gold Coast, and another being built in Townsville, we are also working with stakeholders to provide stable, supported housing with wraparound services to help young people achieve independence. It is this continued investment from this government that will ensure Queenslanders, including young people, have homes not just today but for many decades to come.