



Speech By  
**Hon. Leeanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2023

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Far North Queensland, Social Housing

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.10 am): The Palaszczuk government is making a significant investment in social and affordable housing in Cairns and Far North Queensland. Right across Australia housing affordability is a significant issue and regional Queensland is not immune from the challenges that are being faced so our government is taking decisive action. Every day we are adding more homes to Queensland's social housing stock and with a \$3.9 billion investment in social and affordable housing, the largest concentrated investment in Queensland's history, we are making sure Far North Queensland benefits through a pipeline of work in the region. This includes projects like the 23-unit complex in Earlville that the member for Cairns and I recently announced, which is a \$9.5 million development of one- and two-bedroom apartments to be delivered in early 2025 in partnership with community housing provider Access Community Housing.

Projects like this are building on our government's existing investment in social and affordable housing for the region. For example, last week I joined the member for Cairns in Westcourt to visit seven new social housing units which are nearing completion. Our government is investing \$2.7 million in that complex which has been designed to a Livable Housing Design gold standard, meaning it is suitable for people with disability and for seniors. We are also investing in remote Indigenous housing in Far North Queensland and are working alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils to deliver local housing action plans and we have been building. For example, in Yarrabah, since July 2015 our government has invested \$12.8 million in housing, building 30 new homes, and we will continue to invest in delivering new housing outcomes in partnership with the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council.

Our support for vulnerable people living in the Far North also extends beyond housing. Last week the member for Cairns and I were able to announce the delivery of our government's election commitment to expand and refurbish the Lyons Street Diversionary Centre. That \$4.35 million project increases the centre's capacity from 36 to 50 beds and means the centre now includes a new women's wellbeing space as well as upgrades to facilities. In addition, we have committed an additional \$6 million to increase the delivery of public intoxication support services in Cairns, including the expansion of night patrols. The Palaszczuk government has also allocated \$800,000 to commence scoping upgrade works to reopen the former crisis accommodation centre on Quigley Street. The property will be upgraded to provide up to six units of supported accommodation for some of the most vulnerable people in our community. Last weekend the member for Cairns and I also announced that a former Department of Transport and Main Roads property at Manoora will be upgraded to become a 24/7 temporary accommodation site with a specialist homelessness service supporting tenants around the clock.

We are committed to supporting vulnerable Queenslanders through this work and, of course, by boosting social housing supply with 13,000 new social and affordable housing commencements by mid-2027 here in Cairns and right across the state.