



Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2023

MOTION

Far North Queensland, Service Delivery

Hon. LM ENOCH (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (4.17 pm): My ears are ringing right now, let me tell you! When you think about how many people were sacked as a result of the policies of those opposite, it is astonishing.

I turn to the amendment moved by the member for Barron River. The Palaszczuk government is investing in social and affordable housing in Cairns and Far North Queensland. We are investing \$3.9 billion in social and affordable housing across the state. This is the largest concentrated investment in Queensland's history, and we are making sure Far North Queensland benefits from that investment.

Since 2015 we have added 4,321 homes to our social housing stock across the state, and we have delivered over 300 social homes in Far North Queensland, including over 200 in the Cairns local government area. We have built homes from Mooroolooloo, Edmonton, Manunda and Gordonvale to Earlville, Woree, Mount Sheridan and more, but we are not stopping there. Our infrastructure big build will see 255 new social homes commenced in the Far North Queensland region by June 2025 through a planned investment of over \$100 million, supporting more than 320 full-time-equivalent jobs.

I have been very pleased to be here this week with the hardworking Far North Queensland MPs. I particularly mention the member for Cairns, whom I have joined on several occasions over the last week. We saw seven new social housing units nearing completion in Westcourt. We are delivering on our government's election commitment to expand and refurbish the Lyons Street Diversionary Centre which sees an increase in beds there. It means the centre now includes a new women's wellbeing space, as well as upgrades to facilities. We have made an announcement with regard to a Department of Transport and Main Roads property at Manoora which will be upgraded to become a 24/7 temporary accommodation site for specialist homelessness services—

Mr Sullivan interjected.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Ms ENOCH:—supporting tenants around the clock.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Minister, I am sorry to interrupt you, but I have paused the clock. Member for Stafford and member for Clayfield, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms ENOCH: We are not only building more social and affordable homes but also investing in our neighbourhood and community centres. We have seen the biggest increase in base funding for state government funded NCCs in our state's history. Of course, that includes neighbourhood and community centres across Cairns and Far North Queensland through our investment in the current budget to increase operational funding. Here in Cairns our record investment is delivering more than \$103,000 in additional funding to the Manoora and Mooroolooloo centres. In Barron River we delivered a \$70,000

uplift for the Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre and a funding uplift of more than \$103,000 for the Marlin Coast Neighbourhood Centre. In Mulgrave we delivered more than \$126,000 in additional funding for Hambledon House and more than \$721,000 in additional base operating funding and \$120,000 in rental supplements across the seven neighbourhood and community centres in Cook.

We are investing in infrastructure where it is needed most. Last year I joined the Premier, the member for Cook and colleagues to open Buai Mudh, a \$5.28 million purpose-built centre on Thursday Island. The member for Cairns recently announced an almost \$3 million rebuild of Moorool Community Support Services' centre on Birch Street, Manunda.

Those opposite should not come in here and talk about service delivery when we consider their absolutely appalling record. They are still stuck in the same old, tired mindset of the Campbell Newman years. In fact, I was scrolling through Facebook recently and I stumbled across the LNP Cairns Facebook page. This Facebook page, believe it or not, has not had anything posted to it for 10 years.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member, you will not use that as a prop.

Ms ENOCH: I had a bit of a look. The most recent post was from the former member for Cairns, Gavin King. The last time the LNP Cairns page posted anything about their local member at the time was in 2013. They gave up two years before he even lost his seat!

I clicked on one of the links on that page that talked about the achievements of the first 18 months of Gavin King, but what I found was a page that said 'nothing here'. That is pretty much what we see from those opposite. I thought the member for Leichhardt, Warren Entsch, might have been in this space a little bit more, but he continues to vote 'no' to the Housing Australia Future Fund at the national level—still not ensuring there is adequate social and affordable housing in this state. My colleagues on this side of the House are working hard all the time. What we see from those opposite is nothing new.

(Time expired)