




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 2 May 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Housing

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.27 am): Since 2018, our population has grown from five million to 5.581 million. The Miles government's Homes for Queenslanders plan forecasts the need for a million new homes in our state by 2046, including 53,500 social and affordable homes. We need more homes, we need places for Queenslanders to go to work and we need our communities to be part of the conversation.

Today we are releasing the proposed development scheme for the Woolloongabba Priority Development Area—PDA—for public consultation. The proposed Woolloongabba plan is a 40-year vision intended to enable more housing, including social and affordable housing, more jobs and more urban public spaces. The plan proposes a revitalisation of the Woolloongabba precinct and its connections to South Bank, the Brisbane River and the CBD, with a key focus on our government's new Woolloongabba Cross River Rail station.

Affordable housing is a top priority for this government, and that is why the plan includes the provision for 20 per cent of new homes as affordable or social housing. This accords with the Miles government's commitment to providing more social and affordable housing. We are calling for public submissions on the draft plan which will deliver around 14,000 additional homes. This would support a population of around 24,000, up from 4,300 today.

It is also envisaged that the precinct would provide workplace and business opportunities for around 36,000 workers—almost three times what is currently provided for in the area. These mixed-use precincts will provide the potential for economic activity for sectors such as health, education, hospitality and entertainment.

The plan would also deliver the Miles government's commitment to 50 per cent open space within the Cross River Rail precinct, including a new central park. There would also be a network of new active transport corridors including a creek to cliffs green corridor linking Kingfisher Creek with the Kangaroo Point cliffs and the Green Bridge. The plan represents a significant change to the precinct, and that is why we want people to have their say. From today, community members are encouraged to have their say about Economic Development Queensland's proposed development scheme named the Woolloongabba Plan. Consultation will remain open until 14 June 2024.

Priority development areas play a critical role in managing the growth of our state. PDA development schemes are designed to strike the balance between unlocking the economic and development potential for an area with the delivery of high-quality, environmentally sustainable and affordable housing and employment opportunities. Queensland has 35 PDAs declared which have already delivered over 36,000 dwellings and development lots. The Miles government is determined to plan a coordinated, balanced and innovative future for our fast-growing state that creates the homes, workplaces and open spaces Queenslanders deserve.