




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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ADJOURNMENT

Waterford Electorate, Social and Affordable Housing

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (7.04 pm): The people of Waterford and the Logan community are among the most resilient, hardworking and kind-hearted people I have ever met. I am proud to represent them in this chamber because they inspire me to work harder and to deliver even better outcomes. The Miles Labor government is absolutely committed to supporting them, whether it be through extreme weather, rising cost-of-living pressures or housing.

Last month, the housing minister announced that the government has purchased the former Tanah Merah retirement village, in my electorate of Waterford, to turn it into social housing. This incredible announcement will mean 124 homes for vulnerable Queenslanders in need, including older Queenslanders, couples and small families. The 85 one-bedroom and 39 two-bedroom units will ensure stable, secure and affordable homes for people who need them as soon as possible. This is the fifth and largest purchase that our government has made of former retirement villages so far, and it complements a range of investments that we have made in social and affordable housing across Logan.

Last October we opened an almost \$6 million complex of 15 brand new social homes in partnership with Community Housing Queensland. The month before that, I was proud to join the housing minister to view the construction progress of 18 brand new social housing units in Loganlea. In fact, since 2015, our government has already delivered over 5,000 new homes across Queensland, including almost 500 new homes in Logan.

Together with our government's recently released housing plan, with a target of 53,000 social homes by 2046, our government is helping to deliver the housing and infrastructure that our growing community needs to thrive in the coming years. Our housing plan, importantly, introduces bold new measures to support those who are renting and who are being hit hard by increasing costs. We are cracking down on rental bidding, which is unfair and needs to end as soon as possible. We are establishing a portable bond scheme to allow tenants to transfer their bond when they are relocating from one rental property to the other, and we are investing \$160 million in rental assistance to help people receive the support they need and to keep a rental home.

I take this opportunity to thank our housing minister for everything that she and her hardworking staff and department have done to achieve these wonderful results for the Waterford community, and for Queensland more broadly. In the face of rising costs and housing pressures, our government will continue to fight to deliver for our Logan region and for the Waterford community by providing the support and resources they need to secure a home and to keep some of those rising cost-of-living pressures at bay.