



Speech By
Hon. Samuel O'Connor
MEMBER FOR BONNEY

Record of Proceedings, 15 October 2026

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Social and Affordable Housing

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (9.50 am): The Crisafulli government is getting on with the job of turning around the housing crisis we inherited from Labor. Before the election we committed to delivering 10,000 community homes on church and charity owned land by 2044, including 500 homes in our first two years. Today I can confirm we have smashed that two-year target. Since we were elected in November 2024 we have delivered 1,511 community homes on church and charity owned land. That is three times our election promise—and it is only just the start. Right now we have work underway on almost 5,000 more homes on church and charity owned land across our state.

Queenslanders felt the impact of the former Labor government's housing crisis which saw home approvals fall by 36 per cent across our state, which saw 77,000 fewer homes built because of stagnant construction productivity, which saw rents rise by almost 60 per cent and the social housing register grow by about 80 per cent. The Crisafulli government is delivering the largest ever investment into building new social and community housing through our record \$5.725 billion budget and planning reforms that are making it easier to build and deliver more Queenslanders a place to call home. After Labor added an annual average of just 509 social and community homes across our state, our LNP government is on track to deliver 2,000 social and community homes a year from 2028. These are homes that will provide security and stability for our most vulnerable Queenslanders and help ease pressure on our entire housing system.

Churches and charities have long been at the heart of supporting those Queenslanders in need. They have land, they have established community connections and they have a genuine commitment to helping more people have a place to call home. Our job has been to make it easier for them to deliver. That is why we moved quickly to streamline the process, removing unnecessary planning barriers to help charities progress social and affordable housing projects. Through our record funding and our always-open Queensland Community Housing Investment Pipeline, Q-CHIP, we have fundamentally changed the way that government works with the community housing sector. We have opened the door for providers to bring us their land and their ideas to build homes.

The results are clear: as at 30 September this year, more than 7,000 social and affordable homes are underway across Queensland. Around 70 per cent of those homes are being delivered in partnership with registered community housing providers. This includes two fantastic projects that we are delivering with Jacaranda Housing in New Farm and Newmarket: 30 new community homes across those two sites. They are, in fact, the first housing projects to be added to Jacaranda Housing's portfolio since the late 1990s. I want to acknowledge their CEO Lizz Bott and their entire team and thank them for having me at their Newmarket project on Monday with one of their residents, Sheila. Julie Saunders, the CEO of the Community Housing Industry Association, also said on Monday—

The community housing sector struggles to access land.

It's one of the hardest parts of the pipeline process, and unlocking underutilised land through faith and charity-based organisations is a great mechanism and a great opportunity that the government has enabled.

I want to call out this mechanism, but also the \$5.7 billion investment pipeline, and the QCHIP process, the combination of those three things together, are nation leading.

My colleagues in other states ring me up all the time and go, 'How do we get that in our state?' And it is a testament to the current government.

We inherited a housing crisis that simply was not delivering enough supply. We are changing that by unlocking land, cutting red tape, making it easier to build, investing in infrastructure and giving our community housing partners the pathways they have long called for to bring forward more projects. We are delivering more places to call home for more Queenslanders and we are only just getting started.