

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 574**  
**Asked on 12 May 2021**

**Mr J Bleijie** asked Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. A Palaszczuk)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the rental and housing affordability crisis the Sunshine Coast is experiencing, causing homelessness and given media reports the State Government has failed to meet its own targets on delivering public housing dwellings—

Will the Premier advise what the State Government is doing to immediately address the rental and housing crisis on the Sunshine Coast?

ANSWER:

I refer the Member for Kawana to my answer to Question on Notice No. 354-2021 regarding the Government's plan to ensure housing is affordable for all Queenslanders.

A key initiative under the *Queensland Housing Strategy 2017–2027* is the investment of \$1.6 billion through the *Housing Construction Jobs Program* (HCJP) to deliver more than 5500 new social and affordable homes over a 10-year period in priority regions across the State. The program focuses on providing more housing in key population and economic growth areas to help address the State's long-term housing needs by supporting and accelerating new construction and precinct development.

To date, the Queensland Government has exceeded its commitment of more than 1700 commencements in the first three years to 30 June 2020 and contracts have now been awarded for the commencement of 2238 new social homes with 1423 of those homes already completed, with 666 new affordable homes also being delivered.

Over the first five years (2017–2022) of the Strategy, the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (DCHDE) has committed to invest \$71 million to deliver 243 new social housing homes in the Sunshine Coast Region, prioritised for the region's anticipated population growth over 10 years. This investment is expected to support approximately 40 full-time industry jobs each year.

Since the commencement of the Strategy, contracts have been awarded for the commencement of 177 new social housing homes in the Sunshine Coast Region. Of the 177 commencements, 87 are completed.

Building on our HCJP, the Queensland Government launched the \$100 million Works for Tradies initiative in June 2020 as a vital part of Queensland's Economic Recovery Strategy: Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs, to help the State recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

This investment will see construction commence on more than 215 new social homes across Queensland, supporting approximately 240 jobs in the construction sector, including 70 new homes across South East Queensland, noting that the Sunshine Coast is included in South East Queensland.

Since the commencement of the Works for Tradies initiative, contracts have been awarded for the commencement of 38 new social housing dwelling across South East Queensland which includes three in the Sunshine Coast Region. A further 26 are programmed to commence across South East Queensland including two on the Sunshine Coast.

Through the *Partnering for Growth with the Community Housing Sector* initiative (funded through HCJP) the Queensland Government is also working in partnership with the community housing sector to deliver new affordable housing across Queensland. Through this initiative, 1121 new social and affordable homes have been approved, supported by more than \$136 million of government investment. Of these, 124 new homes are already completed.

The Queensland Government recognises that social housing is not the only solution and not always the right solution for those that just need extra help to access or sustain a private rental. DHCDE continues to provide a broad range of products and services, through its network of Housing Service Centres and specialist homelessness services partners, to assist people to obtain and sustain private market rental and home ownership. This assistance includes overcoming upfront financial barriers through products such as low interest loans, as well as initiatives, like brokerage funding, bond loans, rental grants and RentConnect to help Queenslanders to access, or remain in, the private rental market. In the Sunshine Coast in the 2020–21 financial year (as at 30 April 2021), the Maroochydore Housing Service Centre has provided 541 bond loans and 142 rental grants to help people secure a rental home in the region.

The Housing Pathways Hub at Kawana was also established by DCHDE in April 2020 in collaboration with the Integrated Family and Youth Service and the Sunshine Coast Council to acquire and repurpose the Sunshine Coast Sports Hub to assist people who were rough sleeping during COVID-19. The Hub has continued to be utilised to provide temporary accommodation for up to 40 people at a time on the Sunshine Coast.

The Queensland Government will continue to invest in our own construction and to support our industry partners to build more social and affordable housing across Queensland and deliver more choice for Queenslanders.