

Ministerial Housing Council Monday, 25 September 2017 COMMUNIQUE

The Honourable Mick de Brenni, Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport reconvened the Ministerial Housing Council (the Council) on Monday 25 September 2017 to discuss the significant activity that has been undertaken since the release of the *Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027*.

The Council was advised of the intention for the Ministerial Housing Council to be included in the upcoming consultation on the Regulations and Approved Forms to be developed as part of the implementation of the Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Bill after Parliamentary approval. A range of activities will be undertaken to assist in implementing the changes to improve resident and home owner outcomes while encouraging the growth and viability of these industries.

Members welcomed the Palaszczuk Government's approach to increasing the supply of social and affordable housing through the Housing Construction Jobs Program and the Better Neighbourhoods initiative.

To kick-start the Housing Construction Jobs Program, over \$1 billion has been invested into the first five years to deliver around 4,000 homes and 600 jobs per year. By partnering with the private sector, community housing providers and local government additional development over and above this contribution can be leveraged to increase the supply of social and affordable homes. Members noted that construction has commenced on 51 dwellings.

Minister de Brenni was pleased to announce construction has begun on the first Better Neighbourhoods Logan development at Main Street, Beenleigh. Further development initiatives are now underway and the department is on track to deliver on the commitment of an additional 70 new dwellings by 2019. The committee noted progress on Youth Foyer and Brisbane Housing Company projects, and commencement of work on the ground at Main Street, Beenleigh.

A core commitment in the Housing Strategy is the establishment of a Housing and Homelessness Research Alliance. Members agreed to the proposed core membership consisting of experts from academic, non-government, and government backgrounds with an in-depth understanding of housing and homelessness issues and incorporating a practice-based focus as part of the Alliance's Terms of Reference.

The lack of an agreed definition of affordable housing was previously identified by the Council as a challenge to activate the supply of affordable housing properties in Queensland. Members agreed to commission the Housing and Homelessness Research Alliance to explore research options to ensure housing is affordable in Queensland, having regard for people's income and the market conditions in specific locations (major centres).

Members welcomed Minister de Brenni's efforts through the national Building Ministers' Forum calling for a Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement on minimum accessible standards for private dwellings. Members heard about a range of potential voluntary and mandatory measures being considered, and ongoing work through national processes with the Australian Government to increase accessible housing.

The Council noted the status of inter-governmental discussions on the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement and the National Partnership on Remote Housing (NPRH). In particular, members noted ongoing uncertainty of funding under NPRH. The Council calls on the Australian Government to provide certainty for funding for remote housing in Queensland to ensure we continue to meet housing needs and to ensure continuation of the construction program and the positive economic and employment benefits for these remote communities, noting existing commitments expire 30 June 2018.

The Council will reconvene early in 2018.