

Ministerial Housing Council

Wednesday, 5 June 2019

COMMUNIQUE

On Wednesday 5 June 2019, the Honourable Mick de Brenni MP, Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport, reconvened the Ministerial Housing Council (the Council) for the second meeting of 2019.

The Council agreed to take a new approach to the Ministerial Housing Council meeting format to create an opportunity for member-led discussion on key housing priorities in Queensland. Queensland Shelter and the Queensland Council of Social Services were the first to lead a joint discussion. Priorities focussed on the pressure that the housing system is under in being able to provide stable, affordable and accessible housing. Members discussed the benefits that could be achieved through a national approach to housing priorities as well as a range of initiatives to increase the supply of affordable and accessible housing.

The Council noted the importance of dealing with affordable housing supply at all levels of government. Local Government planning instruments were identified as an area of examination for the Council with a sub-committee to engage across agencies in the Queensland Government and Local Government Association of Queensland.

Ms Paige Armstrong, Chief Executive Officer, Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN) presented the findings of the Sub-committee on housing for people with disability, established following the last Ministerial Housing Council meeting. Recommendations focused on improving housing outcomes for people with disability across a range of settings, including social housing, the private market, and residential services. The Minister committed to establish a partnership with the disability sector to develop a way forward.

As the *Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027* approaches the completion of its second year of operation, members were advised of the significant progress that has been achieved. For example, since commencement in June 2017, the Housing Construction Jobs Program has awarded contracts to commence 1100 new social housing dwellings, 387 of which have already been completed. By 30 June 2019, \$129.5 million is expected to have been invested through the program. It is estimated that over 900 full time equivalent construction industry jobs will be supported through the program.

The Minister announced that he will soon be launching the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan 2019-2023: A Better Housing Future*. Recognising that housing is fundamental to Closing the Gap, \$67.5 million will be committed to respond to the unique housing experiences and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

The Council reiterated its preference to secure a new remote housing funding deal with the Federal Government. The Council calls on the newly formed Australian Government to provide certainty for funding for remote housing in Queensland to ensure the State can continue to meet housing needs and deliver the positive economic and employment benefits for these remote communities. The Council welcomes the appointment of Mr Ken Wyatt as Indigenous Affairs Minister and endorsed the Minister approaching Minister Wyatt in partnership with First Nations leaders.

The Ministerial Housing Council will reconvene in the third quarter of 2019.