



The Hon. Cameron Dick MP
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Our Ref: 01096-2024
Your Ref: A1251281

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Services
Parliament House
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Email: ClerksOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 13 March 2024 about the petition *2023-24 Implement a Vacancy Tax: Homelessness amidst thousands of empty homes*.

I note the petitioners' concerns about housing affordability challenges and homelessness, and their comments about consideration of a vacant property tax.

I recognise the unprecedented pressure on the housing market, which the Queensland Government is taking substantial action to address.

On 6 February 2024, the Queensland Government released *Homes for Queenslanders*, an ambitious, long-term plan to meet the housing needs of Queenslanders, now and into the future.

Backed by an investment of over \$3 billion, *Homes for Queenslanders* sets out a vision of delivering one million new homes by 2046, including 53,500 new social homes.

Homes for Queenslanders is supported by new planning and delivery initiatives, to facilitate more residential supply, faster. It provides an uplift to emergency housing and homelessness responses, to support our most vulnerable.

The Government is also implementing a Renters Relief Package to help Queenslanders find and keep homes in the private rental market.

Homes for Queenslanders represents a significant uplift on top of the already record investment into social and affordable housing that the Queensland Government has previously announced. The 2023-24 Budget provided increased funding of \$1.1 billion for social housing infrastructure across Queensland, including funding to meet higher construction costs and to boost the QuickStarts Queensland program target by 500 homes.

The 2023-24 Budget also committed \$150 million for key support initiatives including the First Nations Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2024-27, enhanced and expanded youth housing and homelessness services, and emergency supported accommodation.

Previously, as part of the Queensland Housing Summit, we announced the doubling of the Housing Investment Fund (HIF), bringing it to \$2 billion.

In addition, the Queensland Government has recently doubled the Queensland First Home Owner Grant from \$15,000 to \$30,000 until 30 June 2025, which will provide support to eligible first home buyers buying or building their new home valued at up to \$750,000.

The Queensland Government is also actioning reforms, including limiting rent increases to once a year, to give a fairer go to Queenslanders who rent.

Tax concessions are also available for eligible build-to-rent developments that provide at least 10 per cent of homes at discounted rents. These concessions commenced on 1 July 2023 and are designed to unlock more investment into this evolving sector.

I note the petitioners' request to consider a vacant property tax. There are a range of legitimate reasons why properties may be vacant for periods of time, such as requiring or under ongoing construction, repairs, alterations, or due to personal circumstances. As such, we have no plans to introduce a vacant property tax.

Importantly, as outlined above, the Queensland Government's new whole-of-system housing plan, *Homes for Queenslanders*, is responding to key housing pressures, including supply, affordability, and homelessness, and enhances the focus on planning and development outcomes.

If you require any further information, please contact my office on (07) 3719 7100 or email deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



CAMERON DICK MP
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04 / 04 / 2024