



Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning
Minister for Public Works

Our Ref: WR24/26681
Your Ref: A1335708

1 William Street
Brisbane Queensland
GPO Box 806 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
T: +617 3719 7170
E: housing@ministerial.qld.gov.au

19 SEP 2024

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
ClerksOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 22 August 2024 about a petition submitted to the Queensland Legislative Assembly No. 4093-24 on 20 August 2024.

While I acknowledge petitioner concerns regarding high-density developments in suburban areas, it is essential for me to emphasize the pressing need for social and affordable housing in Queensland. In Toowoomba, many low- to moderate-income individuals and families are experiencing housing insecurity, and without sufficient options, they may struggle to find a home.

The Miles Government is committed to ensuring every Queenslanders has a safe, secure and affordable place to call home. To address housing challenges, the Miles Government launched the Homes for Queenslanders plan, which includes a \$3.1 billion investment in housing and homelessness initiatives. This comprehensive strategy aims to build more homes faster, targeting one million new homes by 2046, including 53,500 social homes.

In October 2022, the Planning Regulation 2017 was amended to allow the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) pathway for social or affordable housing provided by registered housing providers or State-funded programs. This process offers an alternative to local government development applications.

A MID proposal for social and affordable housing at 1-11 Princess Street, Newtown has been lodged with the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning, and Public Works (the department). Before making a decision on this, departmental officers will provide me with a thorough evaluation of the local impacts, taking into account the Toowoomba Regional Planning Scheme and feedback from the community consultation that occurred between 12 August and 16 September 2024.

If you require further information my Chief of Staff, Ms Clare Manton can be contacted on (07) 3719 7170 or by email at clare.manton@ministerial.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Meaghan Scanlon MP
Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning
Minister for Public Works