



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

Your Ref: MN15011-2023

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petition 3947-23 titled Solar Panels and Batteries for Government Housing tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 28 November 2024. I note the views of the petitioners and appreciate the interest in this matter.

The Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works (department) is committed to improving access to safe, secure and sustainable homes, and supporting growth and development in regional and remote communities.

The Queensland Government understands the cost of living pressures that are affecting communities across Queensland and acknowledge the role that the State plays in supporting vulnerable Queenslanders and those on the lowest incomes through the social housing portfolio.

The Queensland Government has committed a record investment of \$6 billion in social and affordable housing since 2015, with a rolling forward program of infrastructure delivery. This includes supporting 5600 social and affordable home commencements across Queensland by 30 June 2027 through the Housing Investment Fund, and 3265 social housing commencements under the QuickStarts Qld program by 30 June 2025.

The department actively pursues best practice passive design features in all new builds. Favourable orientation, appropriate shading and optimal material selection are all key factors, together with the inclusion of energy saving features. The department ensures new social housing construction projects meet or exceed all requirements, including energy and efficiency requirements outlined in the National Construction Code (NCC) and the Queensland Development Code (QDC).

The department's longstanding approach to sustainable design puts the State in a great position to meet the new NCC requirement to achieve a Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS) rating of 7 stars for new developments. More information on the NatHERS rating scheme can be found at [Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme \(NatHERS\)](#).

As the largest residential property portfolio owner in Queensland, the department applies a proactive, lifecycle approach to the strategic asset management of the social housing property portfolio.

As you may appreciate, the State's social housing portfolio varies greatly in terms of dwelling types, sizes, location and age. This means that not all properties in the portfolio may be suitable for the installation of solar power systems due to matters such as roof types and sizes, solar orientation, and the extent shading from surrounding buildings and trees would impact solar based solutions.

The department is continuing to work with relevant agencies to explore options and emerging technology for the provision of solar PV to the social housing portfolio with a view to understand capital outlay, installation and ongoing maintenance, end of life replacement costs and the options for solar sharing solutions in multi-unit developments. This is being considered alongside other options to support energy efficiency and sustainable design outcomes.

Further, the department provides solar PV in supported accommodation projects such as domestic and family violence shelters, to reduce operational costs for service providers. The department is also supporting innovative energy-saving solutions where these are brought forward by the community housing sector as part of their new construction projects.

I thank the petitioners for taking the time to raise their concerns and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Ryan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Ryan MP

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