



Premier of Queensland

For reply please quote: *SP/SK – TF/24/9983 – DOC/24/106606*

29 AUG 2024

Ms Penny Carr
Chief Executive Officer
Tenants Queensland Ltd
ceo@tenantsqld.org.au

1 William Street Brisbane
PO Box 15185 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7000
Email ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au
Website www.thepremier.qld.gov.au

Dear Ms Carr

Thank you for your letters of 10 May and 24 July 2024 on behalf of both Tenants Queensland and the Make Renting Fair in Queensland Alliance regarding the Queensland Government's support for programs targeting Queensland renters.

I appreciate receiving your policy suggestions for the 2024 Queensland Election.

The Queensland Government is appreciative of the valuable support that the Queensland Statewide Tenant Advice and Referral Service (QSTARS) has provided to Queensland renters since it commenced in 2015. I understand that the current contract between the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works and Tenants Queensland to deliver QSTARS runs from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2028, and can confirm that the Queensland Government is committed to maintaining QSTARS for the duration of the contract, in line with the contract terms.

I can also confirm that the Queensland Government remains committed to delivering the Renters Relief Package in full, as outlined in *Homes for Queenslanders*. As part of the Renters Relief Package, extra funding will be provided for a range of private market products and services, with eligibility for assistance already expanded on 11 March 2024, to help more renters find, get and keep a home in the private rental market. The Renters Relief Package will also see the establishment of a new portable bond loan scheme to allow renters to transfer their bond when relocating from one rental property to another. Additionally, *Homes for Queenslanders* is supporting the hiring of an additional 42 RentConnect officers in our 21 Housing Service Centres around the state.

The Renters Relief Package is one element of our comprehensive *Homes for Queenslanders* plan, which is backed by a \$3.1 billion initial investment and will work across the entire housing system. The Queensland Government is committed to deliver on this comprehensive package in full and, in doing so, supporting the housing needs of all Queenslanders, including renters.

On 23 May 2024, Queensland Parliament passed two pieces of legislation that will improve the rights and regulatory framework for renters and manufactured homeowners – the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 and the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill 2024.

The Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 will enhance renters' rights through a ban on rent bidding, a fairer rental bonds process, limits on reletting costs, and other measures. The Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill 2024 will increase certainty and transparency for owners of manufactured homes in residential parks, including through the removal of market rent reviews for manufactured homes, as well as reforms to improve sales processes and establish a buyback and site rent reduction scheme for unsold manufacture homes.

As these matters fall within the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works, the Honourable Meaghan Scanlon MP, a copy of your letters and this response have been forwarded to Minister Scanlon for her information.

The Queensland Government will continue to work to support the housing needs of all Queenslanders and we are grateful to the Make Renting Fair in Queensland Alliance and Tenants Queensland for the vital role you play in this shared endeavour.

Your submissions will be considered as policies are developed in the lead up to the election and we will provide a more detailed response in due course.

Again, thank you again for taking the time to write to me.

Yours sincerely



STEVEN MILES MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND