



Media Release

Hon Leeanne Enoch MP
Minister for Communities and Housing,
Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts

Works for Tradies boost Rockhampton construction jobs.

The Palaszczuk Government's \$100 million Works for Tradies stimulus is creating jobs for local tradies and homes for vulnerable Queenslanders, at social housing construction sites across the state, including Frenchville in Rockhampton.

Minister for Communities and Housing Leeanne Enoch announced today that the state's positive health response means the Palaszczuk Government is supporting Queensland's plan for economic recovery and providing housing assistance for Queenslanders in need.

"Our \$1.6 billion Housing Construction Jobs Program will deliver over 5,500 social housing and affordable homes by 2027 and is the largest investment in social housing since WWII," Minister Enoch said.

"This program has already exceeded its first three-year target with 2,190 projects commenced, of which more than a thousand have already been completed.

"In addition, we are investing a further \$100 million into the Works for Tradies Program which will deliver a further 215 homes across the state by the end of 2021, directly supporting over 240 fulltime industry jobs.

Member for Rockhampton Barry O'Rourke said that by building new social housing in Frenchville, we will provide safe, secure and affordable housing for Queenslanders in need.

"The Palaszczuk Government is investing \$2.2 million in this building project, which will create more than seven FTE jobs, boosting the local construction industry in Rockhampton," Mr O'Rourke said.

"This Works for Tradies project will include five 1 x bedroom apartments and two x 2- bedroom apartments, with works commenced here on site at Frenchville on January 29 this year.

"This project is great news for the Rockhampton community. It means more local jobs for tradies which is a key part of our plan for economic recovery," Mr O'Rourke said.

Member for Keppel and assistant Minister for Education Brittany Lauga said these are just seven of 25 new homes planned under our Works for Tradies initiative to be built in Central Queensland.

"Contracts have been awarded for a further five new homes in the Rockhampton region, including two, two-bedroom duplexes due to commence construction next month.

"A four-bedroom house in Emu Park is due to commence construction in April.

"Throughout the course of the year, further projects are also planned across the Central Queensland region," Ms Lauga said

Hutchinson Builders Project Manager Dan McKenna said the Frenchville build was a \$2.17 million project.

"Over 90% of this value will be directly spent in the local community with only a small portion being spent elsewhere due to specialty supply items," he said.



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“It is being run from Hutchies local office of 11 years, which has 14 permanent local employees, four being directly involved in this project.

“Up to 15 local trades will be involved in the construction, with a build time of about six months.”

Hutchinson Builders Team Leader Nick Colthup said there would be broader industry benefits.

“It helps create training opportunities for apprentices with the State Government mandatory training hours needing to be met which improves the industry’s future,” he said.

“With 2020 being a difficult year for a lot of smaller businesses, projects like this have been welcomed by the construction industry and wider community alike.”

For more information on Works for Tradies, visit

<https://www.hpw.qld.gov.au/about/initiatives/housing-construction-works-for-tradies>

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Media Contact: Debbie Turner 0437 859 987