

Petition #518

Stop the destruction and privatisation of public housing

Council

Sponsored by: Samantha Ratnam
Presented on: 29 October 2024

Question

The Petition of certain citizens of the State of Victoria draws to the attention of the Legislative Council that the Victorian Labor Government's proposed destruction and privatisation of Victoria's remaining 44 public housing towers will displace over 10,000 people during a housing crisis. Across Melbourne, 6,660 public homes are planned to be destroyed. The majority of the land will be used to build private, market-rate apartments. There is no public housing guaranteed on this land into the future. The average increase in social housing proposed over the next 28 years is just 15 homes per year. There are currently 125,000 people on the public housing waiting list. This plan will make it harder for everyone to find a secure, affordable home and will worsen the housing crisis.

The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Council call on the Government to immediately stop the wholesale destruction and privatisation of public housing and instead maintain existing public housing and build new public housing on public land.

[Tabled petition 8570 - Stop the destruction and privatisation of public housing - Parliament of Victoria](#)

Response

I thank the Member for Northern Metropolitan Region and certain citizens of the State of Victoria for their Petition of 29 October 2024, regarding the redevelopment of public housing.

We want to give our renters better homes and we want to deliver more homes where they are needed close to services, transport and jobs.

Our unprecedented investment of \$6.3 billion in building over 13,300 new social and affordable homes is delivering record amounts of safe, secure, and appropriate housing for Victorians in need.

The High-rise Redevelopment Program will boost the overall number of social homes across the 44 sites by 10 percent and increase the number of people living across the sites from around 10,000 to 30,000. This means existing renters, as well as people on

the social housing wait list - including people with a disability, older Victorians, and First Peoples - will have a great place to call home.

Households will move into new homes that meet every modern building standard relating to noise, sustainability, waste and recycling, bedroom area dimensions, room depth, ventilation, private open space, accessibility and minimum amenity standards.

We're already getting on with building new public housing in Carlton, redeveloping the old Carlton Red Bricks. All residents have been settled into new homes in the surrounding area and we have worked with them and the wider Carlton community to help shape plans for new buildings, community spaces and homes in the new high-rises.

The new build will replace the 196 apartments with at least 231 new public housing homes – a 16 per cent increase in social housing on the site.

Renter relocations will be managed in careful stages, to limit the impact on the Victorian Housing Register. Current data on the Victorian Housing Register is available at <https://www.homes.vic.gov.au/applications-victorian-housing-register-vhr>. The data shows that the number of households who have applied and been assessed as meeting eligibility for social housing was 51,602 in June 2024.



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Hon Harriet Shing MP
Minister for Housing