



Minister for Housing and Public Works  
Minister for Digital Technology  
Minister for Sport

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Our Ref: HS 00458-2019

1 APR 2019

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to E-Petition number 3070-19 titled 'Mortgagee sale of the rental properties of the Downs Housing Company, Toowoomba' that was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 28 February 2019. I note the views of the petitioners and appreciate their interest in this matter.

Downs Housing Company Pty Ltd, a privately owned Aboriginal Housing Company operating from Toowoomba, owned 37 properties, including one duplex, 33 of which were tenanted and 5 were vacant when advice of the mortgage default was made known. Success Realty was instructed to prepare the properties for sale by auction and this occurred on 2 February 2019.

The Queensland Government has not had any oversight responsibilities for Downs Housing Company as it is a private company regulated by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. Acquisition of the properties by the Department of Housing and Public Works was not supported.

Immediately following advice of the mortgage default by Downs Housing Company, the Queensland Government began working with tenants to identify alternative housing arrangements. The department committed to assisting all Downs Housing tenants to secure long-term sustainable housing.

A group of agencies led by the Toowoomba and South West Housing Service Centre, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships were brought together to coordinate a cross-agency response aimed at ensuring all affected households were supported into stable and sustainable housing solutions. The Toowoomba and South West Housing Service Centre visited every household to offer assistance to secure long-term housing options, including social housing and private rental accommodation. Tenants Queensland and The Advocacy Support Centre Toowoomba also indicated their willingness to assist affected tenants, should they need advice or support around their legal rights.

I am advised that as at 19 March 2019, 34 of the properties under contract have now settled. Of the three properties which remain unsold, one is under contract by the tenant who is working with Indigenous Business Australia to secure a mortgage.

Thirty households now have alternative accommodation and the department continues to work closely with the Toowoomba Housing Hub to ensure that remaining tenants and their household members are offered individual support to find appropriate housing solutions.

Yours sincerely



Mick de Brenni MP  
**Minister for Housing and Public Works**  
**Minister for Digital Technology**  
**Minister for Sport**