

Construction starts on inner-city social housing high-rise project

A social housing project delivering 32 affordable units to housing stock in the inner southeast suburbs is underway.

Brian Bennion, South-East Advertiser
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Housing Minister Mick de Brenni, Brisbane Housing Company CEO Rebecca Oelkers, Deputy Premier Jackie Trad, affordable housing resident Denise, independent Chairwoman of BHC Eloise Atkinson and CEO of Brisbane Youth Service Annemaree Callander turn the sod on an affordable housing project at Woolloongabba.

A SOCIAL housing project delivering 32 apartments in a nine-storey development at Woolloongabba is underway.

Construction starts next week on the high-rise development, which will offer studio and one and two-bedroom units.

The State Government provided the property at 126 Cornwall St and the Department of Housing and Public Works has entered into a capital funding agreement with not-for-profit Brisbane Housing Company (BHC) and will contribute \$5.5 million in capital grant funding for the project.

The development was approved by Brisbane City Council in October and features an open-air communal area, rooftop seating and barbecues for residents, gardens and

trees around the building and will have 13 residential car parks and five visitor spaces.

Housing and Public Works Minister Mick de Brenni said the partnership with BHC was one of the first projects in the State Government's Partnering for Growth development initiative and was part of a broader plan to increase the number of affordable homes in Queensland.

"While the Palaszczuk Government sets high targets for housing construction across the state, helping organisations like Brisbane Housing Company unlock capital to build even more homes means we can double our efforts to increase the availability of social and affordable housing," he said.

"You can't focus on holding down a job if you don't have a secure roof over your head, and this project will help 32 families focus on what matters."

Member for South Brisbane Jackie Trad said five of the units were designated for young people at risk of homelessness.

"This building, designed by Brisbane architect Karen Ognibene, will be something our whole community can take pride in from start to finish," Ms Trad said.

"We know that our community does best when we work together to support our most vulnerable.

"By providing affordable housing for those who may struggle to break into the rental market we are giving them the opportunity to stay connected to their local community and their local support systems."



An artists' impression of the development at 126 Cornwall St, Woolloongabba.

BHC's Chief Executive Officer Rebecca Oelkers said the Cornwall St development would make an important contribution to growing the supply of affordable housing in Brisbane's inner southern suburbs and help support neighbourhood renewal in the precinct.

"We are thrilled to be working with the Queensland Government to deliver these new homes

for Queenslanders in need of an affordable home," she said.

Mr de Brenni said through the Housing Construction Jobs Program, the Queensland Government was investing more than \$1 billion to build 2972 social housing dwellings and 1034 affordable homes over the five years to 2022.

"This investment will see work for small, medium and large construction businesses, supporting the equivalent of 600 full time local jobs across each year over five years," he said.

"Our continued investment in social and affordable housing construction provides people with a safe, secure place to live, as well as an income for thousands of workers."