



**Hon. Robert Swarten MP**  
Member for Rockhampton



**Queensland  
Government**

Ref: H04333/08

**Minister for Public Works, Housing  
and Information and Communication  
Technology**

**4 NOV 2008**

Senator the Honourable R Siewert  
Acting Committee Chair  
Senate Community Affairs Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Senator Siewert

I refer to your letter of 14 October 2008 inviting the Queensland Government to provide a written submission to the Senate Community Affairs Committee's inquiry into the National Rental Affordability Scheme Bill 2008 and National Rental Affordability Scheme (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008.

The Queensland Government is very supportive of the National Rental Affordability Scheme (the Scheme) and its objectives. I believe that the National Rental Affordability Scheme Bill 2008 and National Rental Affordability Scheme (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008 are consistent with the Scheme's guidelines as outlined by the Australian Government.

A scheme of this nature which aims to increase the supply of affordable housing, reduce rental costs for low to moderate households and encourage large scale investment and innovative delivery of affordable housing has long been sought by Queensland.

For some time, I have called for measures that seek to promote private sector investment in affordable housing. I developed the Homelink proposal for that purpose in 2006. I am therefore supportive of the Scheme and believe that it provides a promising opportunity to stimulate much needed investment in more affordable housing.

In supporting the Scheme I want to ensure clients who are assisted in Queensland are treated in a manner consistent with those households that the Queensland Government regards as having priority for housing assistance. Therefore, I have made the Queensland Government's contribution to the Scheme conditional on referrals to the Scheme being made solely from the Housing Register operated by the Queensland Department of Housing.

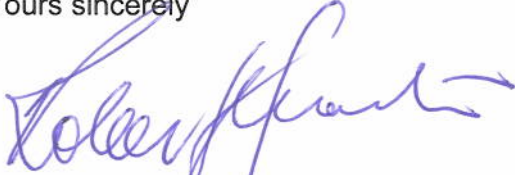
The Queensland Government will contribute at least \$2,000 per dwelling per annum and will do so using cash grants, land contribution or other in-kind support as required. The contribution will be indexed using the rental component of the Consumer Price Index.

Level 7 80 George Street Brisbane  
GPO Box 2457 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
**Telephone +61 7 3237 1832**  
**Facsimile +61 7 3210 2189**  
**Email PWHICT@ministerial.qld.gov.au**  
**Website www.qld.gov.au**

Officers of the Queensland Department of Housing are putting tremendous effort into having systems and mechanisms in place to support the implementation of the Scheme in Queensland.

For further assistance, please contact Ms Jennifer Clark, Acting General Manager, Housing Policy and Strategy, on (07) 3235 4853.

Yours sincerely



Robert Swarten MP  
**Minister for Public Works, Housing and  
Information and Communication Technology**