

Public Housing Demolition and Privatisation Inquiry

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING

Thursday 6 June, 3.30-5pm



Because everyone should have a safe, secure and affordable place to call home.



BACKGROUND

Last year, Labor announced they were going to demolish and privatise the 44 towers, a plan that will displace 10,000 residents.

There is no plan for public housing to be rebuilt on this sites.

Residents, advocates and the Greens have been working tirelessly to get more information and stop this disastrous plan.

Together, in March, we had a huge win by landing a parliamentary inquiry into Labor's plans for public housing.



The screenshot shows a news article from Australia Today. The header includes the VICE logo and navigation links for Local Access, Music, Food, World News, and LGBTQ. The article title is "Inquiry Into Victoria's Public Housing Tower Demolition Plan Launched". The sub-headline reads: "The reasoning behind the Victorian government's plan to demolish, privatise and rebuild all 44 of its public housing towers will be the subject of a new parliamentary inquiry." Below the text is an audio player with a play button, a progress bar, and a "Listen to this article now" label. The author is identified as Aleksandra Bliszczyk. The article is dated 21 March 2024, 2:28pm. At the bottom, there is an aerial photograph of several high-rise public housing towers in Melbourne. A caption below the photo states: "MELBOURNE'S PUBLIC HOUSING TOWERS WILL BE DEMOLISHED AND REBUILT. PHOTO: DANIEL POCKETT/GETTY IMAGES."

PRIVATISATION MODEL

The Labor Government should be fulfilling its responsibility to provide and maintain public housing for Victorians, the same way it provides and maintains public health and education.

You don't solve the housing crisis by enabling privatisation and property developer greed.

We need a better model, one that avoids the distress of forced relocation, and still meets, if not surpasses, sustainability and access requirements.



ALTERNATIVE MODELS

When government's make decisions that impact community they should be able to produce documents to justify these decisions.

There are alternatives to demolition – but has this government considered them?

Example alternatives:

- Refurbishment
- Renovation

The Greens are advocating for:

- Building 100,000 new public homes
- The repair, upgrade and maintenance of all existing public housing
- Keeping public land in public hands
- Keeping communities together, close to their services, their religious organisations, kids in school etc

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

An inquiry is an in-depth investigation into an issue, managed by a parliamentary committee (in this case the Legal and Social Issues Committee), where the public, stakeholders organisations and experts can have a say on that issue.

It involves submissions, public hearings, and the production of a final report with findings and recommendations. These

are presented to government and the government has 6 months to consider the findings and respond with whether or not they support them.

This Inquiry will consider the impact of Labor's plan, relocation plans, the future of these public housing sites and the future of public housing in Victoria.

WHAT WILL THIS INQUIRY REPORT ON?

The rationale & cost modelling behind the decision
including alternatives e.g. refurb, renovation

The impact of the plan
on public housing residents and net availability
of public housing

The consultation process
with residents, stakeholders, government
departments

The efficacy of the model being used
to improve and increase public & community
housing in Victoria

**Building standards for proposed
developments**

**How different models will be used
to enhance community integration**

The impacts of the plan on

- number of bedrooms (now vs proposed)
- number of public & community housing at each location and how remaining land will be used
- Victorian Housing Register and homelessness
- future of public housing in Victoria
- any other related matters

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

An Inquiry is a powerful tool to get more information on Labor's plans to demolish and privatise the public housing towers.

Parliamentary Inquiries have a proven track record of getting results, not only at the end but also during the process. Recent examples include the Recycling Inquiry, Rental Crisis Inquiry, Dying with Dignity Inquiry etc.

Already this Inquiry is having an effect.

We are hopeful that this Inquiry will result in better outcomes for the community as it puts the government under pressure to improve their plans.

POSSIBLE TIMELINE

Later this year

submissions open

Start 2025

hearings begin

Mid 2025

report released

Throughout this process the Greens will hold events and send regular emails to keep the community updated and informed.

MAKING A SUBMISSION

Submissions are a really important step in the process that will help shape the final recommendations from the Inquiry.

This Inquiry is an important opportunity for your organisation to tell the Labor Government how their plan to demolish and privatise public housing is impacting you and your community.

Community organisations have a powerful voice and if many stand in coalition against this plan, it will be extremely effective.

You can make a submission in writing and then provide submissions orally at a hearing before the Committee.

TOPICS TO CONSIDER IN SUBMISSIONS

When it comes to an organisation or advocacy group making a submission, here are some things you could consider:

- Sticking to strong, consistent themes
- Case study experiences of clients who are residents:
 - What impact is this having?
- What do you foresee as the long term and short term outcomes of this plan?
- Be clear with your asks
- What are your proposed solutions and alternatives to the governments plan? Include details around these alternatives
- Literature or evidence against demolition as a first resort
- Case studies or evidence from places where alternatives to demolition are taken up

OUR GOALS & WHAT NEXT?

Submission writing can and should start now.

It is critical that we have as many voices as possible sharing their experiences and advocating for a better approach.

If your team have specific concerns or want to have a meeting with our offices about the Inquiry process, please get in touch with us. We're here to help!

We want to demonstrate to Labor that A HUGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONS are not going to accept that the government wants to demolish and privatise public housing in Victoria.

Questions?

+ GENERAL DISCUSSION



Thank you!

