



Garth HAMILTON MP

Federal Member for **Groom**

Listening. Working for you!



Hon Julie Collins MP
Minister for Housing
Minister for Homelessness
Minister for Small Business
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister Collins

RE: SEQ City Deal & National Housing Accord

I write in relation to the SEQ City Deal and specifically, the Railway Parklands project in my electorate of Groom. The Toowoomba Railway Parklands PDA covers an area of approximately 50 hectares and is designed to be a focus for investment, development and regeneration through an accelerated PDA process driving economic growth and job creation. The ultimate goal of this project is to deliver more housing supply, affordable housing options and drive investment in the CBD – across residential and commercial spaces.

As you are aware Australia is confronting a housing supply crisis. Increasingly Australians are struggling to find an affordable place to call home, regardless of their circumstances and more needs to be done to deliver greater supply. The Railway Parklands project is catalyst infrastructure that will deliver investment from all levels of government and unlock further investment from the private sector.

The project aligns with the objectives of the National Housing Accord 2022 and provides all levels of government with an opportunity to deliver real housing solutions, in partnership with private sector investment. On 9 January 2024, I met with Mayor Geoff McDonald of Toowoomba Regional Council, and was advised that his Council has received insufficient detail to begin allocating funds for the deal in their budget. In addition, Council has received no information from the relevant authority regarding project milestones, deliverables or received funding guidelines.

Minister, in your capacity as the Minister responsible for fixing the national housing crisis I urge you to implore your Cabinet colleges, State counterparts and SEQ City Deal partners to rapidly engage in ensuring the Railway Parklands project is expedited. It is critical we all work together to unlock further supply in the current housing crisis.

Yours sincerely

GARTH HAMILTON MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR GROOM
9 January 2024