



Speech by

# Mr BRUCE LAMING

## MEMBER FOR MOOLOOLAH

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Hansard 12 April 2000

### FIRST HOME OWNER GRANT SCHEME

**Mr LAMING** (Mooloolah—LP) (10.26 a.m.): This Government has been doing little else but wail and whinge about what it perceives to be the negatives of the Federal coalition's new tax system, trying to score cheap political points instead of looking after the interests of home buyers and job seekers in Queensland. There has been not a word from one of them about the obvious advantages and benefits to Queensland of the new tax system.

One example is the First Home Owners Scheme, which all States signed off on. Some States claimed that they signed off without approving the new tax system in principle just so they could take the cash and continue to whinge and moan. Meanwhile thousands of young Queenslanders risk missing out on the first home owners grant and thousands of building workers and apprentices will have valuable work opportunities delayed, if not squandered altogether, because this Government prefers to politic instead of providing homes for young couples and jobs, jobs, jobs.

There are only 10 weeks to go before the scheme commences. Where is the publicity from the Treasurer advising prospective first home purchasers of the details? Where is the legislation? Where is the promotion from the Minister for Housing that first home purchasers should start talking to builders, real estate agents and bank managers right now so that the housing industry will be able to pick up any post 1 July slack straightaway? They are both missing in action. No wonder Queensland has the highest mainland unemployment levels and rising. This Government should take a leaf out of Western Australia's book and immediately launch advertising material such as the brochure I am holding, which I table. This Government should print and distribute great brochures such as that from the Housing Ministry in Western Australia. The ad reads "Finally some good mail". However, this Government simply cannot deliver.

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