



Speech by

# Mr BRUCE LAMING

## MEMBER FOR MOOLOOLAH

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Hansard 7 September 2000

### PUBLIC HOUSING

**Mr LAMING** (Mooloolah—LP) (10.19 a.m.): From information provided through questions on notice, the Minister for Housing has acknowledged that he has carried over nearly \$88.5m of Housing capital works from the 1999-2000 financial year into the 2000-01 financial year. This is particularly disturbing when one considers that this figure does not even include the cost of the 200 public houses that the Minister deferred from last year's capital works program, which are conservatively estimated at over \$23m.

However, if one forgets this \$23m worth of housing and just focuses on the published \$88.5m carryover, one finds that it represents more than the entire public housing construction budget for this financial year, which was estimated at only \$87.9m. If this lack of achievement by the Minister was not bad enough, the method used to hide this poor performance is downright deplorable.

In a cynical exercise of appearing to do the right thing by those Queenslanders who are on the public housing waiting list, the Minister claimed that he had met his revised target of 500 public housing commencements. However, under sustained questioning during the Estimates hearing, the Minister revealed that of these 500 commencements he had signed the contracts on over half of them—or, more precisely, 264—in the last three months of the financial year. But in an act of complete duplicity the Minister revealed further that of those 264 commencements signed off in the final quarter of the financial year, 221—yes, 221—of these contracts were signed off in the month of June. So that means that 221 of the 500 commencements, or 44% of the commencements for the 1999-2000 financial year, had their final approval signed in only June 2000. I would be surprised if the successful builder even visited the building site in that time let alone started construction of any houses.

This is clear evidence that the Minister is cooking the books and failing to deliver on his promises to those Queenslanders who require public housing.

Time expired.

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