



Speech by

Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR CHARTERS TOWERS

Hansard Tuesday, 4 October 2005

HOUSING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr KNUTH (Charters Towers—NPA) (6.26 pm): The Housing Legislation Amendment Bill will give current tenants with residential perpetual leases the option to purchase their properties. While supporting the bill, I have grave concerns about the distinct lack of public housing currently available to the people in the Charters Towers electorate. There have been a few significant gains in the public housing that is available. However, many public properties have been sold. The consequence of this has been a lack of suitable housing for single parents, the elderly, the victims of domestic violence, apprentices, workers and people in the low-income brackets. The obvious example of this is in Moranbah, where the minister has recently called in a housing development that could have potentially assisted many workers to keep their families intact. Currently workers are seeking accommodation outside the town and are commuting to work. Following a 12-hour shift, who feels like driving more than 100 kilometres home only to turn around to drive back the following day?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Jarratt): Order! Member for Charters Towers, I do ask you to try to confine your speech to something about the bill.

Mr KNUTH: Okay, Madam Deputy Speaker. Public housing waiting lists are also a grave concern. Selling public land may be a winner for the government; the losers are those who can least afford to sit and linger on waiting lists with little hope of being offered public housing unless the government commits the funds to future public houses in rural and regional areas, where the majority of perpetual leases currently exist.

There must be assurances that the money gained from the sale of public property will be reinvested in further properties to help those who are most in need of public assistance. I am pleased to be able to lend that support to this bill because it will assist more Queenslanders to realise the great Australian dream of owning their own home and the chance of becoming a proprietor, as the original legislation intended.

As you are aware, Madam Deputy Speaker, owning your own home is the greatest investment. It is not just a financial investment; it is an investment in the future of families as well. It would be wonderful if the funds gained could be used to assist struggling families who are desperately seeking the chance to establish themselves by access to public housing.