




Speech by

Liz Cunningham

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Hansard Thursday, 16 February 2012

BUILDING BOOST GRANT AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs CUNNINGHAM** (Gladstone—Ind) (12.09 pm): I rise to support the Building Boost Grant Amendment Bill and to comment on the assistance that that \$10,000 has been for qualifying applicants. Particularly for young people, it is certainly an opportunity for them to be able to enter the homeownership market. The extension of it is certainly welcome. For many people, the opportunity to buy a new home rather than a preloved home is something that they work up to rather than it being an entry point into the market. My electorate has a number of areas where new homes are available, particularly in the more affordable ULDA purchase area, and I am sure that those people who are contemplating purchasing homes there will access the scheme. However, the scheme only being available for new homes and for purchasing homes does not assist those people who are desperately suffering as a result of the exorbitant rental market in my electorate.

I again say that there has to be attention given to assistance for those in the rental market and an increase in the number of Queensland government housing rental stocks being built in ULDA areas. That would certainly be a prime opportunity for this government and successive governments to be involved in to give relief to those people who are struggling so much. In those ULDA areas where new houses are being built some people are purchasing houses. A small number have an NRAS agreement and that ameliorates the rental impact on a person's living costs, but it is not the answer to the problem. The answer to the problem is a greater number of Queensland government housing units being built in the electorate to allow for that rental market to be accommodated.

Stamp duty is an issue of concern. The introduction of stamp duty on preloved homes is something that has taken quite a number of people in my electorate out of the market. It is an extra number of thousands of dollars that they have to find in an economy where there is a lot of pressure on the cost of living such as the increase in, as I said, rentals and fluctuation in market rentals. And haven't the banks done such a lot for homeownership with their increase in borrowing rates! There is no commendation for the four major banks in terms of their contribution to the housing ownership market, that is for sure.

This Building Boost will help those people who are in a position where they can actually afford to buy into the market. It is a welcome initiative. The extension is certainly welcome. I commend the government for that and the opposition for its support. However, I again bring to this parliament the parlous need in my electorate for affordable accommodation in the rental market for many people who cannot even begin to aspire to purchasing their own home with all of the attendant costs and responsibilities. They desperately need attention in terms of the construction of greater numbers of Queensland government housing stock to allow them the dignity and the opportunity to live well and to live securely in a home.