



Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

HOUSING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (3.40 pm), in reply: I would like to thank the honourable members for their contribution to the debate on the Housing and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012. I will now address some of the comments made by members. I thank the member for Bundamba for her strong support of the bill and her recognition of its value to the social housing system. I thank her for her entertaining presentation, as it always is. However, I think it is a bit rich for the member for Bundamba to accuse the government of putting fear into social housing tenants given that she has spent the past six months trying to convince them that they are about to be made homeless. I also remind the member that the three government owned caravan parks are not public housing, which is why they are being sold to not-for-profits, and that we will build more social housing from the profits of those sales.

I agree with the assessment of the member for Bundamba of the staff at the housing service centres. Over the past four months I have had the pleasure to visit many of these centres and I am constantly impressed by the passion and compassion of Housing staff for the people whom they are dealing with and the work that they do. We need to remember that in the future, no matter who is providing the service—whether that be the state or the community housing sector—these services will be required and people will be looked after.

I also note the support of the bill by the member for Warrego. I thank him for his understanding of the positive changes that this bill will bring to the social housing system in Queensland. The member for Springwood has a strong passion for housing. It is inspiring to work with him on the Logan Renewal Initiative as well. I thank him for his tireless work and the contribution that he made today in the debate on this bill.

I note the recognition by the member for Gaven of the need to have appropriate wraparound services to support social housing tenants. Too often people with high needs find themselves in accommodation that does not lend itself to the type of support services that they need. One of the key benefits of engaging the expertise of the community housing sector is the added emphasis on wraparound services.

I was delighted to hear the contribution to this debate of the member for Moggill and former minister. At this stage it is very appropriate to acknowledge the contribution that he made to this portfolio. He introduced this bill. He is the brains behind this bill. I acknowledge that and thank him for the contribution that he made. People in this sector continue to make reference to the fantastic relationship they had with the member and the contribution that he made. So I thank him for that and 'hear, hear' to him.

I thank the member for Morayfield for his well-considered contribution to the debate. I note his comments about the need to remove the jurisdictional barriers that impede the growth of the community housing sector. It is great to see his passion as well for social housing. The member for Algester in his contribution to the debate focused on notifiable works making it easier for business and

cutting red tape. I thank the member for that acknowledgement. As he noted, this bill is about government getting out of the way of private enterprise.

I note in particular the comments by the member for Gladstone about the housing situation in her electorate and the high rents that are faced by her local residents. She is a tireless advocate for her community and I look forward to working with her to address those issues. The member also made reference to the outstanding work that is done by Housing staff in her local area. As I have mentioned already, they do an incredibly tough job and I am proud to be associated with them. I thank the member for her comments about the changes to the Building Act and note the concerns that she has raised in relation to the role of building certifiers. Her comments highlight the crucial role that building certifiers play to ensure that buildings meet the requirements of the National Construction Code and the Queensland Development Code. I am happy to take the member's concerns on board and note that these issues will be considered as part of the review of the Building Services Authority, which is currently underway.

I thank the member for Logan for his contribution to this debate and in particular for his interest in the Logan Renewal Initiative. He is a great advocate for his community and he fully understands the need to tackle these issues caused by the failure of the last government. I thank the member for Waterford for the interest that he showed in his contribution to the debate. I particularly note his recognition of the need for clarity of purpose. I thank him again for his contribution. The member for Chatsworth, who is always an enthusiastic contributor to parliamentary debates, noted correctly that the Newman government will deliver results that will provide safe and secure housing that is needs appropriate. I thank the member for Nanango for her contribution and her support of this bill.

Finally, I would also like to thank all the members of this House who have indicated their support for the technical amendments to the Building Act and the Plumbing and Drainage Act. In particular, I would like to make special mention of the member for Warrego for his work as chair of the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee. Committees play an important role which can be overlooked from time to time. I thank him for his great leadership. Once again, I would like to put on record my appreciation to the member for Moggill for his work on this legislation. I am delighted that he is here this afternoon to contribute to this debate.

As I said earlier, this is vital reform. If we are to provide a home for tens of thousands of people, who in some cases do not know where they are going to sleep tonight, something needs to change. This bill is the necessary first step to bring about that change. We are building a modern, flexible, supportive public housing system that better meets the needs of our tenants. Finally, I would like to thank the departmental staff who have worked hard over an extended period in putting this legislation together. On that note, I commend the bill to the House.