




Speech By  
**Hon. Tim Mander**

**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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**APPROPRIATION BILLS: TRANSPORT, HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
COMMITTEE**

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (12.11 am): It is with great pleasure that I speak on the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee's report on the estimates hearing. I appreciate the support of my director-general, Neil Castles, and all the staff of the department who assisted me in my first estimates hearing. I also thank the committee, particularly the chairman, the member for Warrego, and all the hardworking members of the committee who made the process so much better.

I express my disappointment at the statement of reservation that was tabled by the members of the opposition. Quite bluntly, the statement of reservation was full of nonsense arguments and nonsense premises, which was typified tonight by the statements made by the member for Bundamba. The member for Bundamba talks about instilling fear in people. I do not know about my colleagues, but when I wake up in the morning the first thing I think about is how I will serve the people of Queensland. I am sure that when the member for Bundamba wakes up in the morning she thinks, 'Who will I scare today? What fear campaign will I begin today?'

Let us go through the list of fear campaigns that the member for Bundamba has been responsible for in the past 12 months. We start with the tenants of government owned caravan parks. She started a fear campaign that they would be kicked out of their caravan parks. That was absolute nonsense. We have secured the tenure for the caravan park tenants. Their future is secure. They have no need to worry, despite the fear campaign of the member for Bundamba. Who was the next group of vulnerable people the member for Bundamba decided to scare? It was the nursing home residents. Eventide was going to close down. The whole place was going to close down according to the member for Bundamba. That was absolute nonsense. Despite that, she continued with her fear campaign. Who was the next group of vulnerable Queenslanders she decided to scare? Public housing tenants. She told them that they are going to be managed by real estate agents in the future. That is absolute nonsense. Again, she is scaring people for no reason at all. The final group of people she is trying to scare are those in the private rental market. Again, she is instilling fear in those people whom she claims to represent. It is total and absolute hypocrisy.

I am honoured to be part of a government that is committed to overhauling the social housing sector. We have a plan. We have a blueprint for the future. I would love to talk to members of the House a little more about what that will look like over the next six or seven years. The Housing 2020 Strategy states that we will build 12,000 additional dwellings over the next six or seven years, totally revitalising the sector. We recognise that community housing organisations are the best organisations to manage social housing. They are local, they are more responsive and they are more holistic. We are committed to transferring the management of 90 per cent of our tenancies by 2020.

We are also committed to removing the thought that people have in their heads that public housing means access for life. We will divert 250,000 people away from the social housing sector, providing pathways for them to be able to survive in the private rental market and helping them to

become more reliant and more resilient in the future. Those are the types of things that we are committed to.

As well as that, we are committed to the homeless, the vulnerable people in our community who need help. We will build more supported accommodation facilities: a 40-bed facility in Cairns, a 40-bed facility in Townsville and a 20-bed facility in Redcliffe. We will partner with the non-government organisations in 10 projects to provide more supported facilities. We will extend the number of homes available through the Street to Home program for homeless people. Those are practical solutions. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd says that he is committed to the homeless sector. He talks the talk, but he does not back it up with action. The current federal government will not commit to homelessness funding beyond the middle of next year, putting the vulnerable at risk. Community organisations in the homelessness space are wondering whether they have a future. Kevin Rudd, put your money where your mouth is.