




Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 16 October 2014

**QUEENSLAND BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (12.15 pm), in reply: I thank honourable members for their interest and contribution to the debate last night and today. I once again thank the members of the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee for their diligence and hard work in examining this legislation. I again acknowledge all those who have made a submission on the bill. I also acknowledge and thank the staff of the QBCC and the Department of Housing and Public Works who have put a lot of work into these changes. Of course I also thank my own ministerial staff.

I want to refer to a number of points made by some members. I turn to the member for Rockhampton first. He said that while the opposition supports the transfer of tenancy and property management to the community housing sector it does not want us to do it en bloc. The opposition wants us to be methodical. It wants us to take our time. I remind the member for Rockhampton that this strategy is called Housing 2020, not 'Housing 2015' or 'Housing 2016' but Housing 2020. When we came into government, 25 per cent of our houses were managed by the community housing sector. By the end of this year that figure will go to around 35 per cent. So we still have a heck of a long way to go to get to 90 per cent. That is why we have another six years to roll out this strategy.

There will not be a more controlled and methodical method than that which we are adopting. We will have regional plans across every part of Queensland where we will be consulting with community housing providers and special housing providers in those areas to try to work out what the capability is, what our need is, mapping those and consulting, consulting, consulting. We cannot be accused of not talking to those who know best. It is part of the style of this government and particularly mine in this department. The member for Rockhampton can rest assured that we have taken great measures to undertake that consultation. Do not forget that a lot of the changes to the QBCC were a result of a parliamentary inquiry. Many people made submissions. Many people came and gave their opinion, and we have responded to that through our 10-point action plan with the QBCC.

I turn to the contribution by the member for Redcliffe, which was quite astonishing. If it was not so serious, it would be funny. She said that she has not seen anywhere where we have publicly announced the successful proponent for the Logan Renewal Initiative—the model for the way that we are going to deal with community housing in the future. Her and the 22 staff who support the opposition have not noticed—

Ms Palaszczuk: Her?

Mr MANDER: I take that point. The member for Redcliffe and her staff have not noticed what is probably one of the major announcements in community housing in the history of social housing in Queensland. Let me just remind her of some of the ways that we made those announcements. I held a media conference on 13 September to announce the successful proponent, the story was on the

evening news that night and it was reported in two local papers. I will table one of those newspaper stories and also one of the media releases that were given to all of the media announcing who the successful proponent was.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Reporter, Brisbane*, dated 19 September 2014, titled 'Affordability key to housing plans' [6279].

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 13 September 2014, by the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Hon. Tim Mander MP, titled 'New era for Logan housing' [6280].

If you google the phrase 'Logan Renewal Initiative', the first result is a link to my department's website and the very second sentence on that page reveals the identity of the successful proponent. Let me read from that website—

As part of this initiative, Logan City Community Housing (LCCH) will take over the management of public housing tenancies in Logan by mid next year.

LCCH is a newly created entity, established solely for the Logan Renewal Initiative.

It comprises Compass Housing Services, an experienced social housing service provider and BlueCHP, a not-for-profit company specialising in developing affordable housing.

I table that document as well.

Tabled paper: Department of Housing and Public Works: Logan Renewal Initiative—Information for tenants and applicants [6281].

Details of the new proponent are also on the department's website. Not only have we done that but I have written personally to every social housing tenant in the Logan area advising them of the new proponent. We have written to the community housing providers in the area. We have written to the support providers in the area. I table all of those documents.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 13 September 2014, from Mr Neil Castles, Director-General, Department of Housing and Public Works, to an applicant [6282].

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 13 September 2014, from Mr Neil Castles, Director-General, Department of Housing and Public Works [6283].

Tabled paper: Webpage, dated 16 October 2014, titled 'Issue 10, September 2014, Department of Housing and Public Works' [6284].

Tabled paper: Letter, undated, from Mr Neil Castles, Director-General, Department of Housing and Public Works, to Ms Deborah Aldridge, Manager, Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc [6285].

The only people we did not communicate directly to were the Labor advisers. I am very happy to put them on the email list in the future so that they can be kept up to date with something that the whole world knows about, but the 22 advisers from the best resourced—

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Lockyer. They are the best resourced opposition in the history of the Queensland parliament and they have missed this simple announcement. I acknowledge the member for Yeerongpilly, who also has said that he supports these amendments we are making to both of these acts. It is amazing how he has become far more amenable since he left the PUP party. That is good to see and I hope that continues in the future. I acknowledge the ranting of the member for Nicklin and I acknowledge the fact that he said these changes we are making bring improvements to the way the QBCC is managed and the way community housing is managed as well.

I thank all of the government members for their contributions. They recognise the great changes that have happened in housing where we have now brought the housing waiting list down below 18,000. That is an incredible figure; it is an improvement of around 42 per cent compared to when we came to government. That has not happened through trickery or through changing eligibility; it has happened through better management of the system and by using innovative ways of getting people into housing to make sure that those who are most needy are actually provided with our houses.

I also want to acknowledge the members who can see the great changes that are happening in the QBCC. The rapid dispute adjudication that is taking place is incredibly exciting. There are trials happening at the moment and I believe they are being resolved on average every 15 days—whereas, prior to this, cases going to QCAT would take an average of 28 weeks to resolve. What a massive change, what a massive difference. Imagine the amount of money that is being saved because of this rapid dispute adjudication—not to mention the incredible angst that is involved with the biggest investment in your life, which is your house, when you have got a dispute that drags on and on and on.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of those who made a contribution. I thank once again the officials from the Department of Housing and Public Works, the officials from the Queensland Building and Construction Commission and my personal staff for all of the hard work they have put into these amendments.