




Speech By
Stephen Bennett

MEMBER FOR BURNETT

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Logan Renewal Initiative

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (3.16 pm): One thing is for sure: in relation to delivering infrastructure, the people of Logan would challenge those statements. I rise to highlight the dangerous policy platform of the current Minister for Public Works and the Premier. After two years of ducking and weaving on any policy development, we have seen a devastating announcement for the people of Logan. There is no infrastructure development for those hardworking, long-suffering people of the Logan community. What we have seen over the last week is that it could be another six years before anything happens in Logan, with more renewals, more reviews and more dithering. We have seen a commitment of \$17 million for 70 new-build social housing over the next three years. The tenants of Logan are rightly tired of broken promises. The local contracting community is ready to go and will now lose out as a result of the termination of this project.

Many important stakeholders, including the council and tenants, were not consulted prior to the minister's announcement of the termination of the project. Only suitable precinct based areas in Logan would be renewed by large development companies, which are unlikely to be based in Logan. The Logan Renewal Initiative was a comprehensive renewable program across the entire DHPW portfolio of social housing stock in Logan. The new precinct based plan likely means those areas that are not near railway stations or medium-density land areas will not be financially feasible to be renewed without the integrated model of the Logan Renewal Initiative. Large areas of Logan will be left to languish. This is a policy platform of this Labor government.

Rejecting \$300 million in federal Commonwealth Rent Assistance is a staggeringly incompetent financial management decision that is difficult to believe. The Logan Renewal Initiative should be reinstated in Logan to ensure the benefits are delivered now; not after several more years of waiting and wondering what this government is up to. I welcome the chamber, who could take a lead role with the council. Of course, they do not even know what the minister's platform is on this issue.

There is consensus amongst housing and homelessness services that this government's centric approach to the provision of social housing is unsustainable, as we have known for over a decade. In a desperate tactic over the weekend, it was clearly inappropriate to describe the Cornerstone Living project as a public-private partnership and the Logan Renewal Initiative as privatisation. It was clearly misleading and clearly disingenuous to those people of the Logan area.

Privatisation versus public-private partnerships is an important issue. It is clear that this minister is lacking the innovation or the desire to do things differently to deal with the crisis of public housing shortage. Involving the private sector must be a key component of any long-term solution. This government has forgotten about the people of Logan and Queensland, ignoring the many demographics that rely on complete housing solutions and wraparound support. It appears that the government lacks

the vision to provide new directions for social housing or dependency for the people of Queensland. More importantly, a number of people continue to engage with this side of the House about the clear neglect of the Labor government.