



Speech By  
**Hon. Curtis Pitt**


**MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE**

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **First Home Owners' Grant**

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (2.15 pm): Our housing sector is a significant component of our national, state and regional economies. The supply chain for housing construction stretches across a range of sectors and supports jobs throughout the state. More importantly, housing affordability is a major issue for Queenslanders. That is, of course, what the Palaszczuk government has done something about.

In the 2016-17 budget I was pleased to introduce a \$20,000 First Home Owners' Grant boost. This was a \$5,000 boost to the existing grant of \$15,000. The boosted grant was continued in the 2017-18 budget and is available until the end of December. Anyone wanting to take advantage should act now. The \$20,000 grant is available for people buying a newly constructed house, unit or townhouse valued at up to \$750,000. It not only helps people into the housing market; it also supports jobs in our building industry and related sectors.

Since July 2016, when the \$20,000 boosted grant became available, almost 8,100 grants, worth more than \$162 million, have been approved. If every one of those grants was applied to a dwelling worth \$750,000, those grants could have leveraged new dwelling construction worth more than \$6 billion. Whilst not all grants are used for dwellings of the maximum value, it does give some idea of the significant potential boost the grant delivers to construction activity and to jobs.

In many of our regional centres the average cost of a newly built dwelling can be much lower than the \$750,000 ceiling for the grant. That means that first home buyers in regional communities can secure even greater value for money. We are seeing more grants in regional centres than in Brisbane. Of more than 8,000 grants approved, 80 per cent have been in regional centres.

Recently I joined the member for Kallangur to officially mark the start of the new Amity residential development at Narangba. The project is being developed in a joint venture between local company Pointcorp and global developer the Dahua Group. Dahua was granted relief from our additional foreign acquirer duty because the Amity project represents such a significant addition to the supply of housing stock in the region. We welcome mutually beneficial foreign investment, which is why we maintain sufficient flexibility when it comes to the additional duty charge to foreign entities. I am sure that members of the House will remember the debate that said the world would end if that duty were included in the budget. We can stimulate development and boost building jobs while making it easier for Queenslanders to buy their own home. The Amity project's first stage includes 93 house-and-land packages ranging in price from \$398,000 to \$600,000. The Queensland First Home Owners' Grant is ideal for anyone considering that price range.

Housing affordability is a motivating factor in many people's decision to move to Queensland from southern states. We have heard the Premier update the House on the Move Up in the World campaign, which is all about attracting new residents and business operators to our state. With more than 15,000 moving into the state in the 12 months to March, mainly from New South Wales—it is

probably because they want a better football team—the government is acting to support those seeking to buy their first home while backing jobs in our building industry. We see no similar commitment from the Turnbull government at the federal level. The federal Labor Party has proposed changes to negative gearing and capital gains tax arrangements which would help address affordability, but these have been rejected outright by the Turnbull government, despite its own policy vacuum.