



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 May 2019

## ADJOURNMENT

### Kawana Electorate, Public Housing

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (6.15 pm): All Queenslanders deserve a roof over their heads. Public housing plays an important role for the most vulnerable in our society. There is nothing more satisfying in this job than helping a struggling family, a single mother or father with kids or those who are disadvantaged to secure public housing and put a roof over their heads. However, we must always remember that taxpayer funded public housing is a privilege, not a right. Unfortunately, we have a minority in our community who continue to play the system, engage in criminal activity and demonstrate utter contempt for their neighbours whilst vulnerable families who are homeless, or near homeless, are missing out.

When in government the LNP introduced a three-strikes policy, giving strikes for tenants who misbehaved before being evicted from their taxpayer funded homes if they did not change their behaviour. We also cut the time tenants could spend away from public housing without reason, restricting it to four weeks without permission. Both of these measures have now been scrapped by the Labor government. As a result, tenancy management plans have gone through the roof and taxpayers continue to be slugged with a clean-up and repair bill of tens of millions of dollars.

In my electorate in Boorook Street, Buddina, one particular public housing tenant has been engaging in criminal activity and terrorising neighbours for well in excess of 12 months, so much so that he was sent to prison for five months in late 2018. I have lost count at the number of complaints from neighbours who will not let their children play outside and have witnessed disgusting and abusive behaviour from this tenant. Yet, despite sitting in a jail cell for a number of months, the department of housing held his tenancy and let his taxpayer funded unit sit vacant. Meanwhile, we have domestic violence victims with nowhere to go. We have mums and dads with kids living in their cars with nowhere to go and all the while, this tenant—who committed very serious offences, who terrorised his neighbours and who spent months in jail—got to walk back into his vacant public housing unit upon release from jail. The system is so broken under Labor that even the most serious breaches go unpunished.

Neighbours of a different public housing unit complex in Robe Street, Currimundi, have advised me that a drug lab was discovered by police only a couple of weeks ago. This should not have come as any surprise to the department of housing as I am informed that in 2018 police attended this particular unit 49 times and, to date in 2019, police have already attended the unit on 16 occasions. Such is the ineptitude of the Labor government that, under current laws, tenants like this who are found with drug labs can simply reapply for their housing. Neighbours have reported to me that this once quiet street in Currimundi is now rife with criminal activity. The community is living in fear. Kids cannot play in the street. Neighbours are now themselves taking the extreme step of purchasing CCTV cameras to ensure the safety of their children.

This Labor government has seemingly forgotten that taxpayer funded housing is a privilege, not a right. Vulnerable families remain homeless because this Labor government gives a slap on the wrist to those tenants who repeatedly cause damage, disrespect taxpayers and break the law. Criminals sitting in jail cells should not have public housing reserved. These people who cause distress to neighbours should be immediately evicted and lose their privilege of taxpayer funded housing permanently.