



Speech By  
**Michael Hart**


**MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2020

**MOTION**

**Coronavirus, Economic Response**

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (3.07 pm): This is a Clayton's motion if ever I heard one. The government came out with this plan this morning to spend money on building products to increase social housing, yet they have slammed social housing for the last seven years they have been in government.

When we first came to government in 2012 there were 23,000 people on the social housing waiting list. That is actual applications. There may be dozens of people on each of those applications, so we could be talking about 100,000 people. When we left government in 2015 those numbers had decreased to about 16,000. We reduced them by about 7,000 in the three years we were in government. What have we seen in the five years that this Labor government has been in power? They have blown back out to over 25,000 people on the waiting list. They are so embarrassed by this. Now they are going to change the way they categorise public housing. They cannot admit that they are making a complete blunder of public housing so they will just change the way they categorise it.

I put up a billboard on the Gold Coast last week asking for an opening of the borders. I did that because a number of people on the Gold Coast contacted me who had applied for the \$10,000 small business grant but it closed within 72 hours of opening. Those people had put in the effort to submit an application and they got no result, and they were devastated. I spoke to a guy who ran a golfing tour company. He had laid off all his staff and he was spending his time refunding people. That is how desperate he was. He applied for a \$10,000 grant but could not get it. Surprisingly, I saw the member for Gaven posted on her Facebook page last week that she had written to the minister. I wrote to the minister three weeks ago but it did not do any good. Apparently she has had success in a week, and now there is another \$100 million.

It is interesting that this government are putting forward \$17 million for a renewable energy project that is run by Electrogrouop, which is owned by the ETU. Last week they announced an amount of money for a hydrogen training scheme which is run by the Plumbers Union. That is what this government does. They are completely controlled by the unions. They have no idea how to run finances. They are robbing Peter to pay Paul and, quite frankly, Peter has now run out of money.