




Speech By
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ADJOURNMENT

Social Housing

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (6.17 pm): Last week QCROSS, along with 12 other organisations, launched a campaign urging the Queensland government to act on the social housing crisis. They are calling for an investment of \$4.1 billion to build 14,700 homes for Queenslanders most in need. Everyone in this chamber should be familiar with the devastation of Queensland's housing crisis. Some 47,000 people are waiting on the social housing register—that includes 26,000 families—and the list has increased by 68 per cent since 2017.

This week we have learned that government has sold off almost 2,000 public homes since 2015. This after promising that it would never sell off public assets again. Selling off thousands of public homes represents thousands of broken promises and is an insult to the 47,000 people Labor has left to wait on the social housing waiting list. The excuse that public housing is being sold off to fund new social homes is the same excuse used by the LNP Newman government.

The Minister for Housing claimed this week that the government is delivering the biggest investment in housing since the Second World War. Let us look at the history. Between 1945 and the late 1950s, almost 100,000 public homes were built across Australia. The Queensland commission built 22,000 homes over this time. Queensland's population then was 1.5 million, so this roughly equates to one home for every 65 people. With today's population, a comparable number would be 79,000 homes over a decade. Compare this with the government's strategy to build just 5,500 homes over a decade.

Do members know what else we did during World War II? We introduced rent caps. Right now our rental system is being stretched to its absolute capacity. In Brisbane vacancy rates are at 1.5 per cent for people on JobSeeker or the DSP. There are next to zero affordable rental properties and rents are increasing three times faster than wages. We know what we need to do in Queensland to ensure that every Queenslanders has a home, and this is why I fully support QCROSS's calls for more public homes. We could afford to build 100,000 public homes over the next four years with a modest bank levy, a value gains tax for developers and increasing mining royalties. Long-awaited rental reform in Queensland has to include caps on rent increases. This is a crucial part of ensuring every Queenslanders has a home. The only reason that we in a wealthy state like Queensland have a housing crisis is a lack of political will.