



Speech By  
**Patrick Weir**


**MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE**

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## **PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

### **Toowoomba, Housing**

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.30 pm): We just heard the member for Everton talk about the land and housing shortage that we in this state are suffering. I rise to contribute to that topic. It is no surprise that since being elected the Palaszczuk government has done nothing but wage war against the property developers of this state. The government has excluded property developers from the democratic process. They are the ones we need to provide the housing, but this government is no friend of the property developer. The government has proven that.

Members in this House have heard me talk about this many times, because there is significant growth in Condamine. In the area of Condamine we have projects such as inland rail, a proposed powdered milk factory, medicinal cannabis, Wagners' sports precinct, Gardners' gas/solar project, the interlink freight hub, and a proposed new hospital in the Toowoomba area. For those projects to go ahead, we will need housing.

When one looks at Toowoomba's housing situation, at the moment there is a 0.5 per cent vacancy rate in the Toowoomba postcode. This is not something that has come on overnight; this has been coming for a long time. Late last year, real estate agents arranged for independent analyst Michael Matusik to deliver a report into Toowoomba's housing market. He found that Toowoomba is facing a major future land use supply issue as the number of approved land based housing projects has declined by two-thirds over the past four years.

I have been very supportive of the Fernleigh development at Westbrook. As part of that development project, as the Minister for Education knows very well, a high school was proposed. I note that that has stalled because of the headworks charges by council as it is an urban footprint and not a PIA. I note that Mayor Paul Antonio recognised this as an issue in today's paper. He said that he wants to see more subdivisions across the Toowoomba area being approved. That is very good, but it was disappointing to hear planning officer Stuart Summers say that there are no issues with current land supply. Given that the chair of the planning committee, Megan O'Hara Sullivan, is a former Labor candidate, it is very disappointing to see this inaction.

*(Time expired)*