




Speech By  
**Rob Molhoek**

**MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT**

---

Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2021

### **HOUSING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (12.43 pm): Don't you just love it when members of this House seek to rewrite history? The amendments in respect of the Retirement Villages Act 1999 are sensible, but it was a Labor policy and a Labor initiative back in 2017 that brought in the provision that created that impost on retirement villages and mobile home parks. Now they want to say, 'We're listening.' They were not listening in 2017. Thank goodness they finally decided to listen. We tried to tell them in 2017 that this was a bad decision, that this was not the right policy, that it was going to create incredible hardship and loss of money and force operators into intolerable positions, but they would not listen. That is a sad thing, but I am pleased to rise in the House today and speak in support of this amendment, because this is how it should have been. They should have left it alone in 2017 when they had the opportunity.

We will be supporting the broad intent of this bill. I certainly commend the government and the committee for the work they have done in considering the needs of people who are subject to the intolerable circumstance of domestic and family violence. I think this bill contains some sensible and meaningful provisions in respect of families in that circumstance. It is difficult. I can recall on many occasions my wife and I helping families who were in that circumstance to relocate—sometimes two or three times because of the difficulties of hostile partners and partners who could oftentimes be very divisive in seeking to track them down and find them. While it is a less than satisfactory outcome to a large degree for property owners and it will cause some inconvenience, I think this is one area of the legislation that we should support because it is the right thing to do.

I also support the recommendations around minimum housing standards. I absolutely agree that no tenant should be expected to live somewhere that is not safe or that is not functional, as it should be. We have heard some fairly extreme examples of balconies collapsing, resulting in death and injury. It is appropriate that we have standards.

I think we need to look more broadly in terms of housing options. One of the interesting statistics I like to quote is around average dwelling size. Please do not hold me to the figures, because they are a few years old. In Australia, the average dwelling size is purported to be 280 square metres. In the US and Canada it is 220 square metres. In Great Britain it is 180 square metres. Across most of Europe it is 90 square metres. Of course, in most Third World countries people live in less than 50 square metres.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Gerber): Member for Southport, I am sorry for interrupting you, but under the provisions of the business program motion agreed to by the House, the time limit for debate of this bill has expired.