



Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 1 September 2021


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Community Support and Services Committee, Report

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.36 pm): What a stroke of good fortune to speak straight after the minister and to correct the record as well! There is one key performance indicator that matters with regard to social housing and that is the social housing waiting list. It is very clear. I remember that when I was minister we knew those figures month by month, because they were the greatest KPI. That was the most effective KPI there was: how many people are on the social housing waiting list. This minister refuses to provide those latest figures.

If there was a mistake made in the estimates hearing, why did the minister have to come back later and correct and clarify what the figure was and the date it was effective from? The minister knew quite clearly the information that we wanted and that the public deserved to know. They will not provide those figures because they are bad. Actually, they are really bad! What we want to know, and what the people of Queensland want to know, is how bad they are. How bad are they?

The figures that we do have, from October last year, are atrocious, with 26,000 households on the social housing waiting list. That has increased dramatically. Those in very high need are around about 16,000, an increase of 82 per cent in 18 months. It is no wonder this minister does not want to provide those figures, the most basic key performance indicator of the department.

This minister gets up and crows about how great this government is in social housing. Let's look at their record. After six years in government, the increase in social housing has been less than one per cent. Population has increased by 10 per cent over the last six years. Had they kept up with that, we would have 5,000 extra houses in social housing. They talk the talk; they do not walk the walk. They cannot answer questions. A \$1.9 billion package—

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Pause the clock. The minister is continually interjecting and using the word 'you', not putting her comments through the chair. Minister, I ask you to cease your interjections and put your comments through the chair.

Mr MANDER: I will just correct that statistic. There has been a three per cent growth in social housing with a 10 per cent growth in population. There would be hundreds and hundreds of extra social houses if they had kept up with their rhetoric.

The figure of \$1.9 billion—that is the great headline. They could not answer the question about how much of that \$1.9 billion 10-year program announced four years ago has already been spent. Do members know why? I think it is a significant amount. All they have done is repackaged and re-announced things that they have announced in the past. That is always their practice and something they think they do so well.

The final galling thing is that we are lagging so far behind with regard to getting money from the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation—a body backed by the federal government to loan money to the community housing sector. South Australia has accessed \$125 million. Victoria has accessed \$662 million. New South Wales has accessed \$1.3 billion. This is to put towards the creation of community housing. What has happened in Queensland? Our figure is \$5 million. That is nothing.

Why is that? That is because our community housing sector is not valued by this government and it has not been provided with the opportunity to access that money. This is unlike all the other states, even Labor states, which have realised that the best way to see social housing results is to transfer the management—not sell—of social housing to the community housing sector that can provide a much more efficient and holistic service. This government is stuck with its philosophy and will not do it. Who suffers from that? It is vulnerable Queenslanders who suffer.

Give us the figures for the social housing waiting list as at the end of last financial year. We will see that the numbers have skyrocketed. They do not want us to know the truth.