




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2022

MOTION

Federal Morrison Government

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (4.55 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. notes that for 3,158 days Queensland has not received its fair share of funding under successive Liberal National Party coalition federal governments;
2. notes that Scott Morrison has failed Queensland by, but not limited to:
 - (a) failing on the NDIS and aged care;
 - (b) failing to give Queensland our fair share of healthcare funding;
 - (c) abandoning nearly 10,000 Queenslanders who rely on the National Rental Affordability Scheme;
 - (d) failing to hear the calls of Queensland for a national housing summit;
 - (e) providing New South Wales flood victims \$3,000 in assistance, while Queensland flood victims received \$1,000;
 - (f) delivering major infrastructure funding to the southern states while Queensland has missed out; and
3. encourages Queenslanders to support a federal government which will give Queensland our fair share.

The Morrison government has abandoned Queenslanders when it comes to social and affordable housing. Scott Morrison and the LNP are also stripping nearly \$100 million of funding to Queensland for housing and homelessness by 2023. The federal government only funds just over one-quarter of the \$1.25 billion the Palaszczuk government invests in social and affordable housing each year. They cannot even meet us halfway. Queensland is playing its part while the Morrison government have turned their back on Queenslanders. They have walked away from the national partnership for remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing to Queensland and the funding attached to it. They are ceasing the National Rental Affordability Scheme, leaving over 10,000 Queenslanders paying more rent or having to find alternative housing. They have refused to forgive Queensland's historic housing debt, even though they have done exactly that for other states. If this debt were forgiven, starting tomorrow we could build an extra 950 social and affordable homes. Scott Morrison and the LNP do not even have a national housing strategy.

Since 2020 I have written to federal housing minister Michael Sukkar numerous times, including most recently imploring the Morrison government to reinstate NRAS and deliver housing relief for Queensland flood victims. I wrote to him in October last year, calling on the federal minister to convene a national housing summit—something the LGAQ and peak housing bodies have also called for. His response was crickets.

To add insult to injury, in the most recent federal budget the Morrison LNP government announced no new funding for remote Indigenous housing, no replacement for the expiring National Rental Affordability Scheme and no new funding for social and affordable housing—in fact, no plan at all regarding social housing. Scott Morrison and the LNP need to deliver for Queenslanders—not cut funding to programs aimed at supporting the most vulnerable in our communities.

The stress on housing and rental markets across Australia is very real. It is also symptomatic of broader market pressures, and these are long-standing national issues. Who has been at the helm at the federal level for the better part of the past decade? The federal Liberal National Party.

We have seen no leadership or vision from the Morrison government. We know that when Scott Morrison is confronted with a challenge his natural response is, 'It's not my job, mate.' Scott Morrison's leadership failures have been on full display as he has repeatedly undermined Queenslanders experiencing housing stress. What is he doing for the hundreds and thousands of federal government tenants who are supported through rent assistance? What did he say to low-income renters hit hard by cost-of-living pressures? 'Go buy a house.' The Prime Minister is just so out of touch.

I want to take a moment to explain the real-life impacts of the LNP abandoning NRAS and the impact this will have on the lives of vulnerable Queenslanders. The termination of NRAS subsidies will see some 10,000 Queensland households forced to compete for a home in a historically tight private rental market. That is 264 families in the member for Buderim's electorate paying more rent or at risk of losing their home. That is 422 families in the member for Coomera's electorate paying more rent or at risk of losing their home. That is 298 families in the member for Kawana's electorate paying more rent or at risk of losing their home. For the member for Everton's electorate, that is 32 homes that will be impacted by this decision by his mates in Canberra. This is unacceptable.

At every turn Queenslanders have been undermined by Scott Morrison. Queensland is doing the heavy lifting, but those opposite have not stood with the Palaszczuk government in advocating for a fair deal and a fair share. Just like Scott Morrison, they have failed Queenslanders. They have not gone in to bat for Queenslanders under housing stress. They have not fought for Queensland's fair share on a single thing. It is only the Palaszczuk government that fights for Queensland and its fair share. We will continue to do that every day that the Palaszczuk government is in office in Queensland. Queensland deserves a government at the federal level that fights for them and fixes these housing issues.

(Time expired)