




Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2022

MOTION

Federal Morrison Government

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (5.40 pm): Isn't that just what we would expect on the eve of a sitting week: another opportunity to blame someone else for their own shortcomings and failures? Let me remind the House it is the Queensland state government's job to build and provide public housing. That is their job. It is their job to encourage and manage supply through good planning controls and through strategic planning. What we saw in the Queensland state government budget last year under housing was a rough amount. At the time of estimates there was not even the detail of the capital works plans—the comprehensive plans—for more public housing and supported housing across the state.

Do honourable members know what the role of the federal government is? They provide thousands of Queenslanders with rental assistance. They provide that funding through welfare payments, NDIS packages and aged-care packages. It is the role of the Queensland state government to build and plan. What did the previous housing minister of this government do a couple of years ago when first elected? The first thing he did was cancel renewal projects in Logan and on the Gold Coast at Keebra Park and down at Andrews, adjacent to the member for Mudgeeraba's electorate. He cancelled innovative plans to see a significant increase in public housing and affordable housing for the people of South-East Queensland. What else did he do? He made a big shiny announcement about a \$1.8 billion plan to increase public housing across Queensland over 10 years. That is the thing we have to do with this Labor government; we always have to check the fine print. It was over 10 years. What did that mean at the time? In real terms it actually meant a decrease in spending on capital works for public housing.

In the recent hearings that I have participated in for the health inquiry and more recently the Mental Health Select Committee, what we have heard time and time again from health service providers across the state is that one of the greatest challenges is finding somewhere for people to live. Providing people with security and a roof over their head is the first and most fundamental need of Queenslanders. What we have seen with this government is an absolute failure to deliver significant public housing. We have seen the super funds raided. We have seen massive dividends from energy sales to New South Wales and Victoria, but we have not seen a significant lift in investment in public housing in this state.

(Time expired)