



Speech By  
**Tim Mander**


**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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## **PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

### **Queensland Floods, Housing**

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.11 pm): In the last two parliamentary sittings we have had the housing minister trumpet this so-called great response by the government for those who have been displaced through the floods. Unfortunately, there are other stakeholders who do not agree with that assessment by the housing minister. This has come from the REIQ—

The Government's proposed solution to the immediate and long-term housing crisis resulting from the floods is impractical and immoral.

That is not what I have said; that is from the REIQ and Q Shelter which have had to do alternative programs to fill the gaps that the government does not provide. Why have they said that? They have said—

The Government's proposed solution to the immediate and long-term housing crisis is to utilise COVID-19 quarantine hotels and send displaced residents to Toowoomba's Wellcamp quarantine facility. This is a short-term solution to a long-term problem. Cutting people's financial and social ties to their schools, jobs and social networks, or cramming families into hotel rooms is impractical and immoral.

We have a housing crisis in this state at the moment—a housing crisis that has 50,000 people on the public housing waiting list. We have the lowest private rental vacancies in the history of this state. Despite a 70 per cent increase in the social housing waiting list, over the last five years there has been a one per cent increase in the number of social housing bedrooms. We have a crisis by the making of this government and we have no wiggle room when a natural disaster happens because there is no spare room at the inn. The REIQ and Q Shelter have decided to do something for themselves because this government dithers. In a press release the government says that it is—

... exploring offers from the private sector, including commercial, holiday, mobile or other short-term rentals.

The government is 'exploring'—and will probably do a study as well—whereas Q Shelter and REIQ have, under their own initiative, launched Help House a Queensland program, appealing to the private rental market and to the holiday accommodation market to provide some accommodation for these people. Here is the coup de grâce: the government has also offered rental grants and bond loans to get into properties that do not exist. There are no vacancies out there, so as usual it is smoke and mirrors and trumpet announcements which do nothing practically when it comes to housing vulnerable Queenslanders—ramming families into hotel rooms when they are in desperate need because it has not planned but has failed at every turn.

*(Time expired)*