



Speech By
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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Housing Summit

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.44 pm): In this state at the moment we do not have enough affordable housing, we do not have enough social housing, we do not have enough properties for rent and we do not have enough properties being built for those who want to invest in their first home. We just do not have enough houses. That is why in this state at the moment, we have a housing crisis. This problem falls squarely at the feet of the state Labor government because over the last seven years they have failed to plan. There has been no projections; there has been no targets; there has been no strategy. They brag about the number of people who are coming into Queensland, but they have not got enough houses to put a roof over their heads.

Last week, the Premier hosted a housing summit—a summit that she was dragged kicking and screaming to host.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection from the member for Clayfield. The Premier said that there was no need to have that summit because there was no crisis. There are others in the Labor Party who disagree with that. I see that a notice went out by the Labor Unity faction a fortnight before the conference asking: can you come to the Queensland housing crisis meeting because we have a crisis? It was a meeting for Labor Party members. They did not trust the Premier. They did not trust that a summit would fix the problems, so they called their own. Who were the guest speakers? Kate Jones and 'Schwarto'. Old 'Schwarto' was there again giving his expert advice on housing. This shows the disunity of the Labor Party. Their own factions do not agree with the left factions and with Minister de Brenni and Minister Enoch who have led this disaster over the last seven years in housing.

The summit held some promise, considering the number of people who attended. However, less than a third of the time was dedicated to stakeholders coming together and giving the government the wisdom and insight that they have from being in this sector for so long. They were desperate for solutions, and it would appear that the Premier and her ministers were not listening. Let me give members an example. What were the announcements made after the summit?

Before I get to that, let me say that the participants in the summit said that one of the great things we do in this state is that we respond to emergency natural disasters very well. We do do that well. It does not matter who is in government, we do that well. They said, 'The housing crisis we have at the moment is similar to a natural disaster—we need to respond quickly.' They said, 'We respond quickly to natural disasters so let's treat the housing crisis like we would a state emergency and respond quickly.' Were they listening? No, they were not.

What was the announcement that came out after they heard that? They said, 'Our big announcement is that the next time we have a natural disaster, we are going to make sure that we fast-track the establishment of housing'. That was not the point.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr MANDER: Exactly right. The point was to treat the current housing crisis like the crises that we have every year—whether it is bushfires, floods or drought. We manage that well. Let us do the same thing with housing, but this government does not get it.

The other thing that this government does not get is that their policies directly contribute to the private rental crisis that we have at the moment. In this state there is currently a vacancy rate in private rentals of less than one per cent. What does this government do? This government implements and suggests policies that will make it even worse. We have had the brilliant announcement by the Treasurer of the land tax. One of the most humiliating backflips I have seen in this parliament was when he had to backtrack that policy. They have put more impositions on landlords which results in disincentives for people to invest. If your rent goes up, do not blame the landlord, do not blame the property owner—blame this state government for a lack of housing supply.