




Speech By  
**Ann Leahy**

**MEMBER FOR WARREGO**

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### **HOUSING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (4.51 pm): I rise to contribute to the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill. The bill deals with two issues, the first being the establishment of the Homes for Homes donation deed model in Queensland and the second being changes to the Retirement Villages Act 1999 to strengthen the financial reporting requirements. As mentioned earlier by the shadow minister, the LNP will not be opposing this bill.

By the government's own admission, this legislation is in response to the Housing Summit which the government was backed into convening on 20 October last year. The Labor government has dropped the ball in the last eight years and they had to have the Housing Summit because there is a critical shortage of housing right across this state, not just in the metropolitan areas but also in the regions.

Local governments have been doing a lot of heavy lifting to address the housing shortage. In fact, they have been doing a lot of the work that the state government should do to quantify the issues and responses to the needs, particularly in the regions. Six Western Queensland alliance councils—Murweh, Paroo, Flinders, Boulia, Carpentaria and Blackall Tambo regional councils—have developed their local housing action plans. They are action plans. They have a clear path forward and what they are looking for is action from the state government in the housing space. They have done the work and they deserve to have some reward for that effort. They have done a lot of the state government's work in doing those action plans.

I asked a question of the Labor government in relation to how many additional public housing dwellings would be available for accommodation in the Warrego electorate by 30 June 2022 as a result of the capital expenditure in the 2021-22 financial year. The answer from the government was that no additional social housing dwellings would be made available in my electorate by June 2022 as result of capital expenditure in the 2021-22 financial year.

**Mrs Frecklington:** So none at all?

**Ms LEAHY:** Zero; absolutely none. That was the answer to a question on notice. This is despite the average wait on the social housing waiting list at 30 June 2022 was 19 months—more than a year and a half was the average waiting time. It is not good enough. The number of people waiting is 285 and 275 of those waiting are categorised as very high need. These are statistics straight off the government website. The government does not care about social housing in my electorate.

I doubt the Homes for Homes donation deed model being implemented in this legislation will address the number of people waiting on the social housing waiting list in my electorate. However, we have a housing crisis in this state so anything that will deliver more housing is better than nothing.

We know there is a housing crisis when we see the housing chaos of the last few days. Last Monday we had the Premier announcing caps on rental prices which were described in a major newspaper of this state, the *Courier-Mail*, as a 'thought bubble' under the headline 'Dunce's cap'. It was resoundingly trumped by stakeholders as a policy that would make the housing crisis worse. This was

followed by the Deputy Premier trying to hose down the rent cap push amid fears of a property bloodbath. Then we had the Premier saying she was misunderstood. This week we have the proposal to have rental hikes capped—all before the housing forum being held today. This is chaotic. When the government is in crisis, these chaotic responses cause them to give up on service delivery.

We are now coming up to 130 days since the summit and other than the Homes for Homes initiative, what has the government got to show for it? Is it the promise for QBuild to build and open a facility by the end of 2022 to build 80 prefabricated homes this financial year? We do not even know when that facility is to be open. Is it the promise to urgently open the crisis accommodation at Griffith University which was meant to be open by now, but will not be ready until later this year? Is it the promise to increase rental supply through granny flats? Even the Deputy Premier has admitted, 'We haven't seen that yet.' I have granny flats in my electorate and people would love to rent those out, but they are still waiting to do that.

We have the talking up of the Housing Investment Fund, which, nearly two years after being announced, is still yet to deliver a single home. There is a state government land and building audit which nobody knows the results of yet. Those opposite should stop peddling false hope and get on with delivering because people who are living in cars and tents and couch surfing need a roof over their heads. These people deserve better from the Palaszczuk Labor government.