




Speech By  
**David Crisafulli**

**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

---

Record of Proceedings, 15 November 2023

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (COUNCILLOR CONDUCT) AND OTHER LEGISLATION  
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): I rise to make a few brief remarks about the Local Government (Councillor Conduct) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and put on the record that the LNP will not be opposing this bill. I want to make some comments about the hard work of the shadow minister and the way that she has been listening to mayors, councillors and those people who work in local government and the way that she has heard the cries for help from elected officials. No contribution on this bill would be complete without explaining what life has been like for people serving their communities at the front line. It has been a torrid period, and I will tell members why: the way the legislation has been drafted, the way the Office of the Independent Assessor has operated and the way every lens of this government has not been about focusing on the bad apples has made it almost impossible for elected officials to do their job.

When I listen to those mayors and councillors tell me what life is like living under a constant stream of vexatious complaints and no-one has listened to them, it has destroyed careers, it has destroyed relationships, it has cost thousands of dollars in people's personal money and lost opportunities for communities. That is why the LNP will not be opposing this bill, but for the government to suggest that the changes it has made when it comes to local government have done anything other than make it more difficult for elected people to be able to do their job in serving the community shows how out of touch the government is.

I want to explain why it is so important to have a vibrant and empowered local government sector. In this chamber we speak a lot about the housing crisis. The level of government that holds the key to assisting us is local government and we have a vision and a passion to partner with local government to deliver infrastructure, and I will tell members why that is important: young people have lost hope of home ownership in this state and the figures show that Queensland has the lowest home ownership rate in the country. Tasmania has 71 per cent—

**Mr KELLY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): The opposition leader had only just embarked on that particular theme. I am happy to give him a little latitude to explore that before we decide whether or not it is relevant.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Without an empowered local government sector and with local government being bogged down by vexatious complaints, its ability to be able to get on with the job of delivering planning outcomes is not there. This is completely and utterly relevant and Queenslanders are living out of their cars because of it. Queenslanders have lost hope of home ownership and Queensland is ground zero when it comes to the lowest percentage of home ownership in the nation: Tasmania, 71 per cent; Western Australia, 70 per cent; South Australia, 61 per cent; Victoria, 69 per cent; New South Wales, 65 per cent; and Queensland, 64 per cent.

**Mr KELLY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, I appreciate your earlier ruling in relation to this matter and I have been listening carefully to the Leader of the Opposition's contribution. While I accept his point in relation to the importance of local governments and their impact on housing, he is simply continuing through his arguments to pursue matters that have completely no relevance to this bill. I have listened to that contribution and he has strayed far from the long title of the bill. I seek your guidance.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Greenslopes. Leader of the Opposition, I ask you to be mindful of the contents of the bill and confine your comments to the long title.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** The LNP supports integrity and transparency in government. In order to have an empowered local government sector, it needs to be able to do its job. I would propose to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that there is no more important job at the moment for councils than to be able to unlock land supply. If they are unable to make planning decisions because the big arm of state government is breathing over their shoulder, this is the most relevant bit of legislation you could possibly find.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I do not mind members not sitting in their seats, but they should not be interjecting and I would suggest that if they want to interject they should go back to their seat.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I take that point of order, Acting Leader of the House. Members should be in their own seat if they are interjecting and I give a general warning on that point.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** The LNP seeks to work with local councils. The LNP wants to see local councils able to do their job without the threat of regulation. The LNP has an ambitious plan within 10 years to go from last to first place in the percentage of Queenslanders who own their own home. We want to offer young people hope. We want them to believe that they can own their own home. We want the vulnerable to have a roof over their head and young people to be able to own their home in this state.

**Mr KELLY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would make the point that the Leader of the Opposition is simply using this as an opportunity to lay out the LNP policy in relation to housing rather than—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Okay. You have made your point of order, member for Greenslopes. I will take some advice. Leader of the Opposition, I just ask you to be mindful of relevance and demonstrate how what you are saying is relevant to the bill that we are considering at the moment.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I am going to put it really clearly: the No. 1 issue that local councillors say to us when we are listening to them is that they feel that they are unable to make decisions about planning matters because of the threat that is posed by the legislation. I understand the local government legislation because I have seen the changes this government has made and by making the changes to the legislation it has created fear amongst a generation of good people in local government, and it is people in local government from both sides of the political realm who feel that they are so disempowered by the legislation that they are afraid to make decisions. If they are afraid to make decisions, planning grinds to a halt. If planning grinds to a halt, land supply does not roll out. Tax relief, incentives, land supply: that is how we are going to get young home owners into the market. We are going to work with councils and deliver that for years to come.