




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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HOUSING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (4.21 pm): If members want an example of delusion, it is what we have just heard from not only the member for Bundamba, but also the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development, the member for Bulimba. It shows complete delusion while reading straight from the talking points of Labor. Where is the little bit in the talking points for Labor that says, 'Hang on a minute, you've been in government for eight years. What have you done? Why is this another crisis?' We know all about the health crisis, we know all about the tax crisis, we know all about all of the other crises, this is just another crisis stemming from this chaotic Palaszczuk government.

There is no better example of delusion than the member for Bundamba when he stood there and said in his opening lines, 'The core Labor strategy is to build more homes'. Where are those homes? They certainly are not scattered across the state. That is why people are living in their cars, why they are living under bridges, why they are living in tents. The member for Pine Rivers does not believe someone living in a shed is bad enough. The member for Pine Rivers might like to get out of her little patch in Brisbane and head out towards Proston and have a look at how people live without decent running water and without connectivity. They are doing everything they can to survive.

The Palaszczuk government is so ignorant and so out of touch it simply does not understand how the other side live. After eight years those opposite are so delusional they do not worry about talking to anyone, they do not worry about listening to anyone, they just come in here and lecture us on the fact that the core strategy is to build homes. It is unbelievable.

Let us talk about the Leader of the Opposition's first question in the House today about the Housing Investment Fund. Two years ago the Housing Investment Fund was set up. Those opposite laugh and think it is hilarious that they cannot do anything in two years. This is the problem with the Palaszczuk government. It comes out with an announcement, it says it is going to set something up and two years later there is zero outcome. What happened with the Griffith University plan? That is right, zero houses have come out of that. What about the Clayfield retirement home? There has been zero out of that.

Mr Stevens: Granny flats!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: What about the granny flat announcement? I take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. All that was about was a media release, another big announcement, to say 'we are going to do this'. It is a bit like the member for Bundamba talking about \$2 billion. I wonder if the poor people of Bundamba actually question where the money is going. It is their money. They are the taxpayers. It is not the 'AAA' money—'All About Anna'—it is taxpayers money and they deserve to have it spent properly. It is the money of mums and dads. When we have a government that is so interested in themselves and not the people of Queensland it is no wonder we have a housing crisis. It should not be about talkfests and announcements, it should be about the people of Queensland who, after eight years of this incompetent Palaszczuk government, just want a roof over their heads. It is about the lack of social housing in this state.

We know that the record of the Labor government in relation to social housing is abysmal. In the last five years the number of social housing bedrooms has increased by less than one per cent and the waiting list has grown by 70 per cent. The government is trying to blame Peter Dutton, the federal opposition leader, the former LNP government, probably the Lord Mayor, the Ukraine war—who knows—but the problem rests with an incompetent government that has honestly stopped listening to the people of Queensland. It is unbelievable that the number of social housing bedrooms has increased by less than one per cent while the waiting list has grown by 70 per cent.

In 2021 I asked the housing minister for data in relation to social housing in my electorate. Back then the figures were terrible, but the figures now are even worse. The data shows there are 121 approved applicants waiting for a home within the Nanango electorate and 118 of those people have been categorised as a very high need. That is not last year's figures but this year's figures and yet somehow the Labor government still tries to blame the LNP. It is gobsmacking. The applicants include older people over the age of 55, young families, disabled people, Indigenous people and people who are already homeless. In fact, one of these people has been on that waiting list for the whole time the Palaszczuk government has been in power. More than a third of the people on that waitlist have been on the list waiting for more than 35 months. The majority of people on the waitlist for social housing in my electorate have been waiting for more than three years, yet somehow the Palaszczuk government is so incompetent at its job it is still trying to blame the former LNP government. It is simply unbelievable.

It has been confirmed that only \$40 million of the government's promised \$1 billion fund for social housing will be spent each year, which means it will be nearly 2050 before the commitment is even close to being delivered. It is certainly not going to fix the housing crisis. When the Productivity Commission speaks we should listen. The Productivity Commission found the Palaszczuk Labor government is the worst government in the country, spending the least on social housing compared to every other state or territory. Even though the Productivity Commission has said that about the incompetent Palaszczuk government when it comes to social housing, it is somehow all the LNP's fault, or maybe Peter Dutton's fault, maybe the Lord Mayor's—

Ms Leahy interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is probably all the fault of the local council. I take the interjection from the member for Warrego. I will continue to advocate for our regions and highlight that state government assets are still being under-utilised. The residence of former Nanango Hospital medical superintendent, Dr John Robinson, has remained vacant for two and a half years. We have a housing crisis in this state and yet a state government owned home, a four-bedroom, beautiful home in Nanango, has remained vacant since June 2020.

The house is owned by the department of communities and housing. I have asked the minister why it has remained empty for so long when we have families that are desperate. The minister claims that there is no demand for government employee housing in my electorate and says they are still deciding what to do with that home. It seems incredible to me that it has taken nearly three years to make a decision about a four-bedroom home that is owned by the government—that is, taxpayers' money. It should have been made available sooner.

It begs the question: how many other state government owned homes are there like that one? I know the member for Burnett was talking about the same issue in his area. There are beautiful vacant homes so how about the government look outside of the box and think about what the heavens they can do with those homes? They could take someone who is living in her car in the centre of Kingaroy and put her in a vacant house. Gee, that would make sense, but no! They put someone who is living in her car in the centre of Kingaroy on the waitlist for social housing for—what was it? Thirty-five months or nearly three years! It beggars belief.

This government lurches from chaos to crisis. Like always, there will be another announcement saying that this is what they are going to do with taxpayers' money but no outcomes will be seen. The ministers will continue to give talking points to the poor backbenchers who the Premier has said will never get anywhere. Goodness help the people who are living in their tents, who are living in sheds or who are living under bridges because the Palaszczuk government does not have their back and they are not planning to help them. That is why in October 2024 we will need an LNP government.