




Speech By  
**Lance McCallum**

**MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 March 2023

### **HOUSING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (4.16 pm): More housing and getting more Queenslanders into housing sooner is a core Labor value. It is the foundation on which the Queensland Housing Strategy is built and it is delivering more homes to more people sooner. One of the signature parts of our Queensland Housing Strategy is our \$2 billion Housing Investment Fund. This is part of a \$3.9 billion investment to increase social and affordable housing supply and is the largest concentrated investment in housing in Queensland's history, with 5,000 homes commenced and on track to be increased to 13,000 by 2027. That is doing the heavy lifting when it comes to responding to the extraordinarily high demand in our housing market at the moment. It is happening in our local community in Bundamba. Over the last 18 months alone we have delivered over five new social housing complexes—three have been constructed in Redbank, another in Bellbird Park and there is a fifth that is in its final stages of construction in Goodna, and there is more to come.

Our QuickStarts Qld program is seeing 166 new social homes commenced more broadly in Ipswich by 30 June 2025 and that is going to go through to a planned investment of \$43.7 million which is going to support more than 138 full-time jobs. Already under QuickStarts Qld there have been moves towards contracts being awarded for another 156 new homes in the Ipswich region, and this is in addition to the 253 new social homes that are already commenced under our Housing Strategy.

As well as social and affordable homes, we are facilitating more housing stock coming on. This morning we heard the Deputy Premier talk about a \$40 million funding commitment for the Catalyst Infrastructure Fund, \$5.91 million of which is going towards the construction of Barrams Road in Providence in South Ripley which will unlock another 5,600 lots.

It is clearly evident that under the Palaszczuk Labor government there is a range of initiatives that are responding to the housing needs of Queenslanders at every level. We will keep doing that. We will keep on delivering. It does stand in stark contrast, however, to the LNP and its record when it was last in government. When it comes to social housing construction we are building and we will continue to build. The LNP cut social housing construction by 90 per cent. There was a 90 per cent cut to social housing construction. In Ipswich there was zero commencements of social housing in 2013-14—that is absolutely shameful—as well as in Logan, on the Gold Coast and on the Sunshine Coast. In fact, when the Palaszczuk government was elected in 2015 there were 428 less dwellings under the LNP. It is absolutely despicable.

We have heard how the former LNP wrote to tenants in social housing asking them to justify staying in their housing in case they went away on holiday or to maintain their place on the register and they defunded the tenants advisory and advocacy service. One of the cruellest things that occurred under the LNP's watch was that it put up the rent of vulnerable and low-income social housing tenants. It sought to take 25 per cent of payments of carers allowance, mobility allowance, pension supplements, utilities allowance and pharmaceutical allowance. It was extraordinary meanness. This bill will go a long way towards putting more Queenslanders into social homes sooner. I commend the bill to the House.