




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 28 March 2023

HOUSING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (4.45 pm): It is not hard to tell why the member for Currumbin had swings against her at both the last by-election and the last general election.

Mrs Gerber: Why don't you play the ball and not the person, Minister?

Mr BAILEY: That one landed!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Order, members. I realise there is a bit of provocation there, member for Currumbin. There is really no need for the loud interjections.

Mr BAILEY: Ten minutes of nothing other than rhetoric. That is all we heard. We have to ask the question: why are interest rates—

Government members interjected.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members. Member for Currumbin.

Mr BAILEY: We have to ask ourselves: why are interest rates escalating? It is because of the record inflation left by the LNP in this nation. We know that is the truth. They did not trim the stimulus. They messed up the economy. It is the Albanese government and the Palaszczuk government—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members, I cannot hear what the member for Miller is saying—honestly! Member for Miller, I do not remember interest rates being mentioned in the bill. I call you back to the long title of the bill. We have had a wideranging debate so I will not pull you up too much. Just mention the bill every now and then.

Mr BAILEY: Indeed. Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I totally accept your guidance. We are talking about housing and the need for people to have decent housing. That is what this bill is about. In response to the previous speakers—

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Currumbin, that is the third time. You now are warned under the standing orders.

Mr BAILEY: We know that, despite what the opposition say in opposition, when in government they always cut housing funding. We know that. In fact, the current shadow housing minister was the housing minister in the Newman government who cut social housing. We have to look at the signals being put out. The Leader of the Opposition, who was a member of the Newman cabinet, has appointed the Newman government housing minister as his shadow housing minister. What does that tell us? Two plus two equals four. The housing minister under Newman will be doing exactly the same thing. Let us not hear the rhetorical nonsense of the members for Nanango and Currumbin. We know that if they ever get back into power housing will be first thing on the chopping block.

I will speak to the bill, as opposed to those opposite. One of the main objects of the bill is to amend the Retirement Villages Act 1999 to promote consumer participation and fair trading practices in operating retirement villages and to encourage the growth and viability of our retirement village industry. That is important in terms of my electorate, where I have a range of retirement villages and facilities. Those people deserve to be well managed.

The bill inserts a new object into the act which is to maintain public confidence in the retirement village industry by enhancing the financial transparency of the operation of villages and the accountability of scheme operators. This strengthens the act's purposes when it comes to consumer protection and fair trading. It makes clear the Palaszczuk government's commitment to having a financially transparent and accountable retirement village industry, while enabling its growth and viability.

This new object also supports other objectives in the act such as to encourage the adoption of industry best practice standards and facilitating participation by residents in the affairs of the village. The new object will assist with the statutory interpretation and decision-making that best achieves the purposes of public confidence, financial transparency and accountability.

I am proud of our government's role in improving the transparency and standard, particularly when people are in the latter part of their life. It is very important that their rights be respected. This government wants to see older Queenslanders live their best possible life in the best possible facilities. This bill aims to ensure that the Queensland public has confidence in the industry. These changes make clear the government's commitment to continuing growth.

The bill shines a light on the finances of retirement villages to ensure its residents receive the best possible care while knowing exactly how their money is being spent. These proposed changes will support senior Queenslanders in the electorate of Miller in retirement villages like Regis in Chelmer, the Village Yeronga and TriCare Annerley. Residents have had severe impacts with the recent floods. I worked with them on that. I was very glad to join them at their annual market day.

Queenslanders who are in retirement villages will be given the opportunity to have a direct input into the affairs of their village due to these reforms. These changes will ensure that my constituents are given a voice in how where they live is run. It ensures greater transparency. Not only will these changes improve the accountability of retirement villages, they will also protect the Queenslanders who live in them. I endorse the bill. I certainly encourage all members to talk to the bill as opposed to some of the speeches I have heard in the last 20 minutes. I endorse the bill and every decent member should vote for it.