




Speech By
Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR OODGEROO

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HOUSING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (12.52 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. The government's Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027 is a 10-year framework that is supposed to ensure Queenslanders have access to safe, secure and affordable housing. The strategy is supposed to ensure confidence in housing markets, ensure consumers are protected and ensure the housing legislative framework is reformed and modernised. The bill supposedly helps meet the objectives of the Housing Strategy by assisting to boost the supply of social and affordable housing and increase private sector investment into the Queensland economy through enabling the Homes for Homes donation deed model in Queensland and by maintaining public confidence in the retirement village industry. In doing so, the bill amends the Housing Act 2003, the Housing Regulation 2015 and the Retirement Villages Act 1999.

In terms of the issue of boosting social and affordable housing and building new housing, the government needs to invest more funding directly into building new housing stock. There are roughly 50,000 people still on a waiting list, and that number is not getting any smaller in a hurry—contrast that with when the LNP was in government and the housing waiting list that we inherited came down in our time.

More than announcements in parliament is needed. Funding needs to actually deliver, and over the last eight years little has happened. More funding into Redlands Coast housing is needed, but over the last eight years little has happened. The people of Queensland should look at what this government does, not at what it says and not at what it announces. For example, the government promised to build new housing on North Stradbroke Island during the economic transition from mining to a tourism centred economy. The government especially promised that new houses would be built for the Quandamooka people on North Stradbroke Island, Minjerrabah, but since 2015-16 nothing has been built according to Quandamooka leaders.

That is why I gave the housing minister a chance to tell us what she has actually been doing, apart from the announcements. I asked the minister a question in a sitting week about a report by the Quandamooka leaders that no new housing stock had been built for them in the last eight years. If I recall correctly, on the day the minister did not answer with a particular number. The number put to her was zero, which was the number local Quandamooka leaders provided. The media approached the minister's office afterwards, and the media reports say that a representative said there might be one. The minister could not refute that it was zero at the time she was asked in the House while on the record, and a spokesperson thought it could be as high as one. So we know it is somewhere between zero and one depending on who you talk to in the government and what day of the week it is.

Clearly, the government are not across their brief or they are just simply withholding bad news. Either way, we can have no confidence in any of the projected figures of this government. The government had a chance to deliver the truth, but the bad news is that they failed to deliver for the Quandamooka people who still wait for their housing. The government have been missing in action in the Redlands when it comes to new housing stock.

Many people find it difficult at this time to make their housing repayments. Some of them find it very difficult to pay the rent. Some of those on North Stradbroke Island had very good, well-paying jobs that were lost when the government shut down the mine before it was expected and did not replace those jobs. At its peak, the mine had 300 workers who came from all over the Redlands and other parts of Brisbane for that work. It also employed a number of local people. At one stage, Sibelco reported that one-third of its workers were First Nations people.

Kate Jones promised 400 ecotourism jobs, but they never happened and partly because there was no housing to put people in. Businesses on Straddie have had to close, some for a time, when they could not get the staff because of the lack of accommodation available on North Stradbroke Island. There is a lack of housing on Straddie and it is regularly reported by businesses, residents, young people and people of all ages. This lack of freehold, social, affordable and specific housing for Aboriginal people is holding the economy back. The government's economic transition has failed on North Stradbroke Island. Some local businesses have closed for good and small and family businesses are struggling because in part they are heavily reliant on the seasonal workforce, especially at Point Lookout, but there is no housing for the workers. The government cannot be trusted to deliver the things they announce and say.

Ms FARMER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I seek your guidance on relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): I am listening closely to what the member is talking about. I think he is talking about a lack of housing in a particular area. I will allow some latitude but draw the member back to the long title of the bill.

Dr ROBINSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I am very happy to talk about the housing situation on North Stradbroke Island and the Redlands and the bill's relevance to it. Quandamooka leaders are being cut out of consultation about housing, decision-making about housing and implementation. They say that the government cannot be trusted to deliver. Then after years of inaction, the government moved to override Redland City Council—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Pumicestone, member for Pine Rivers and minister, cease your interjections.

Dr ROBINSON: Then the government blame the Redland City Council. They blame the council when it comes to issues around innovative solutions. This bill brings some innovative solutions, but not enough. When the council puts forward innovative solutions, this government knock them back. It is a bit hard to blame the council for the fact that we do not have enough housing supply in the Redlands when this government continually intervene to stop those innovative things.

I want to thank the committee. We travelled to a number of states looking at solutions. A number of states are putting in place lots of very innovative solutions in this space, through not only their direct investment in housing stock but also working with community housing and leveraging off that and working with the private sector to invest in housing, like the Logan Renewal Initiative and those types of innovative solutions. Wouldn't those 3,500 new houses be good to have now? Wouldn't Queenslanders love to have 3,500 new houses right now?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Oodgeroo, do you have much more to contribute?

Dr ROBINSON: In conclusion, we do not oppose the bill, but this government needs to be judged on its record, not only on what it announces.