



Speech By
Hon. Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Community Support and Services Committee, Report

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing) (2.50 pm): I am pleased to speak after the member for Everton who was, of course, the housing minister in this state when we saw social housing go backwards. It did not increase; it actually went backwards by 428 homes. He has the nerve to come into this place and lecture me and this government about social housing when we have the largest single concentrated investment in social and affordable housing in this state's history.

I have heard the conspiracy theories from the member for Everton about the social housing register and even though I said this during estimates I want to repeat it now. He refers to how the department treats people on the housing register who are uncontactable. That is the very same policy that existed under the member for Everton's watch. In fact it is a policy that has existed for my entire life. If he had such a big problem with the policy, why did he not get rid of it when he was housing minister?

When it comes to the QAO recommendations, the only changes that we have made are directly in response to the QAO recommendations. That is to provide an active and inactive list. I have been very clear in saying that, even though there is an inactive list on the register, I still define those people as being on the register. We are still reporting them. In fact, I have increased reporting to quarterly to provide transparency. That will be uploaded four times a year. That is in stark contrast to what the opposition's policy effectively was when they were in government. It was effectively to push people out of social housing. In contrast, we are building more social housing to help people on the register.

What I also find hypocritical from the member for Everton when talking about the housing register is the fact that his political party right now is blocking the Housing Australia Future Fund which could deliver 30,000 homes across the state. That is more homes than people on the Queensland social housing register, and they are blocking that investment. If they care about social and affordable housing then they should get out of the way and back in federal Labor's Housing Australia Future Fund. Otherwise, it is just rank hypocrisy.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): The member for Bonney is warned under the standing orders.

Ms SCANLON: I take the member for Bonney's interjection. He wants to talk about the Housing Investment Fund. We have homes under construction. It takes some time to build homes. I know it is a foreign concept because the LNP did not build very many homes so they do not understand how construction works. We are also purchasing homes. We are purchasing homes that came out of the National Rental Affordability Scheme because the former LNP government axed the program.

Ms Bates interjected.

Ms Camm interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I warn the members for Mudgeeraba and Whitsunday.

Ms SCANLON: Your party axed the National Rental Affordability Scheme leaving vulnerable Queenslanders in limbo. We are purchasing those properties. What I hear is whingeing and whining from the opposition saying they do not want us to purchase existing properties out of the market. They do not want us to help anyone with purchasing right now. But then I have a letter from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition asking me to buy them.

Ms Camm interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, would you resume your seat. I am sorry to interrupt you. Member for Whitsunday, you have fallen foul of interjecting after you have just been warned. I know you are not the worst offender of the day, but it is you. You will leave the chamber for one hour.

Ms CAMM: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. Can I clarify: was I warned just now or previously?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Previously.

Ms CAMM: I am sorry, I did not—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not wish to discuss the matter. You are to leave the chamber for one hour please, member for Whitsunday.

Whereupon the honourable member for Whitsunday withdrew from the chamber at 2.53 pm.

Ms SCANLON: Despite the fact that they are criticising us for purchasing properties on the current market, I then have a letter from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition asking for my department to purchase National Rental Affordability Scheme homes in his electorate. There seems to be a lot of division over there about whether they think we should purchase properties or not.

I also find the comments from them about purchasing properties pretty hypocritical when I look back at the data which shows that when the member for Everton and the LNP were in power they were purchasing new dwellings from the private market. They were also headleasing properties—another thing that they criticise us for doing right now. During estimates the member for Everton described the policy of headleasing properties as silly. He thinks that it is silly that we are helping thousands of people right now with homes who would not be able to be in a secure home if it were not for those headleasing arrangements.

I am not sure what on earth the LNP's policy is if they do not support headleasing properties and they do not support us purchasing National Rental Affordability Scheme homes. It appears that the deputy leader does but I am unclear what everyone else thinks because they seem to contradict each other all the time. While we are building more homes we are focused on making sure that we provide those other opportunities where we can, whether that be headleasing or purchasing existing properties, particularly in circumstances where they may be coming off the National Rental Affordability Scheme.

When it comes to Indigenous housing, we see rank hypocrisy. We explained at length why that data is different. That is partly because of home ownership, which is a good thing, and also because of some of the inaccuracies between councils providing some of that data. It is hypocrisy though when it was again the former LNP government that cut the remote housing partnerships agreement. We no longer have that funding thanks to the LNP, and I think that is an absolute disgrace.