




Speech By
Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

Record of Proceedings, 28 March 2023

HOUSING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (4.31 pm): We in Labor believe that everyone deserves to have a roof over their heads. We believe that housing should be safe, secure and affordable. I want to clarify that in fact, unlike members of the opposition, I do not believe that sheds are an appropriate place for Queenslanders to live. The contributions from the member for Surfers Paradise and others on the opposition benches today, talking about sheds as an acceptable place for people in our community to live, were absolutely abhorrent. While those speakers did take interjections from me, I place on record really clearly that I do not support that and it is not something that I think is appropriate in this day and age in Queensland.

Frankly, I think the conflated and inflated contributions that we have heard from those opposite were really offensive when we look at their record and the contribution that they made during their very short tenure on the government benches. Through that short three-year period when they were in government in Queensland the only thing that I can see that they cut was the number of people able to get on the waiting list. I think we should have this debate in a respectful way. The points raised by opposition members through this debate have been, quite frankly—and this is probably being complimentary—juvenile at very best. We should stick to the facts and I would like to make a contribution in that respect.

In terms of the legacy of the Labor government, we have developed the Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027, which outlines a commitment to deliver a better housing future by working with communities, industry and the housing sector. Having a roof over your head is a critical basic need. When governments can help the community to meet that need we know that there will be overwhelming economic and social benefits, in addition to the really positive impacts that it can have on the resident. Homes values are booming right across the south-east corner as well as on most of the eastern coast. While this is good news for home owners, it is locking many first homebuyers and people on low to moderate incomes out of home ownership altogether.

One of the elements of the plan that we have put together, which I am really excited to see roll out, is advanced in this bill and it is the Homes for Homes initiative. It will dramatically boost the supply of social and affordable housing and will also see a boost to investment by the private sector. Homes for Homes is a model established by the Big Issue, which collects, through a voluntary donation deed, a tax-deductible portion, which is 0.1 per cent, of the sale price of properties in Queensland. Those donations then go back into the purchase of more social and affordable homes in Queensland.

The Homes for Homes donation deed is a voluntary caveat lodged on the property title and can be withdrawn into the future. Property owners can choose to retain the donation at 0.1 per cent, increase it to a higher percentage, or make a nominal donation or no donation at all. This model is operating successfully around the country and, to date, has delivered some 13 projects from the \$1.2 million it has raised. A Queensland advisory group will advise on priority housing needs and assess future applications. The Palaszczuk government is focused on opening up new opportunities to improve housing outcomes across all communities in Queensland.

Our Queensland housing plan is all about partnerships. We know that we alone cannot do all of the heavy lifting. Working with the charitable and non-government sector will help make major inroads into our ambitious and necessary goals. Since the launch of our Housing Strategy we have partnered with the community housing sector to unlock existing investment and drive the growth of the sector. We will continue to support community housing providers to grow their capacity through innovative funding opportunities and partnerships across government and private industry. This legislation is good, essential reform for the future of safe, secure and affordable housing in Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.