




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 20 April 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Housing, Griffith University

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.12 pm): Six months ago at the Premier's Housing Summit, one of the signature policies was to repurpose Griffith University student accommodation into emergency accommodation for those in most need. Yesterday we heard that that program was scrapped. Despite the number of press announcements made over the last six months talking about construction being underway and the fact that its opening was imminent, the Deputy Premier announced yesterday that another dud policy by this chaotic government had been scrapped.

This failure raises many questions for the Deputy Premier and the housing minister, and I smell a rat. First, why wasn't due diligence done at the time before \$2 million was spent and all of this false hope was given to vulnerable Queenslanders? Second, why did it take so long to come to this conclusion? Third, did Griffith University actually advise the department that there could be potential problems with fire safety? Fourth, did the \$2 million that they stated has been spent pay for a consultancy report that told them after six months that it was not going to meet fire safety standards? Fifth, how much more money needs to be spent to remediate this property and return it to Griffith University? There are questions that need to be answered about the process over the last six months which caused at least \$2 million of taxpayers' money to be wasted once again.

Here is the sixty-four thousand dollar question. Today the Deputy Premier was asked when they first knew that that property would be inappropriate. After a little bit of mumbling around, he said 'in April'. We are at most three weeks after that date, and the Deputy Premier expects Queenslanders to believe that the department of housing went out with their replacement policy and bought 64 homes in a little over two weeks. The department is good but no department in this government will move that quickly.

I will tell the House what has happened. Those 64 properties are part of the normal buying program that the state government does in the housing department, and they have decided to try to bring them in under cover and say that the money they were going to use for the Griffith University accommodation is now being spent on that. That is a lie. That has not happened, and now \$25 million that was for emergency accommodation is not going to go towards it because they have covered it under the normal buying program.