




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Minister for Housing

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.49 pm): As I stand I welcome the member for Gaven to the Housing portfolio. While it is a new portfolio for her, of course, she is not a new minister. She is a recycled minister and has sat in the cabinet that has made every decision in the Housing portfolio. I compare her appointment to that of an NRL coach being appointed to the lowest ranked side from the year before such that they can only go up. You cannot get worse; you can only go up. That is the situation she finds herself in at the moment. On the weekend I read a very interesting puff piece in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* about the recycled minister. It is fair enough to get a soft article. She was quoted as saying something which is very telling. The article quotes her saying—

I think success is making sure we deliver on what we promised to deliver.

Using the minister's own standard, when it comes to housing this government has failed miserably. Let us look at its track record so far and put it against that measure of success. The government promised a 200-bed homeless facility at Griffith University. What happened? Nothing—fail. The government promised that its granny flat announcement would make a significant contribution to the housing crisis. What happened? Fail. The state government promised to perform a property and land audit within three months. It took six months—fail. Members opposite crow about their investment in housing, but the Productivity Commission reported that Queensland has the lowest per capita expenditure on social housing in the nation—fail.

The minister has set a reasonable standard when it comes to measuring success—a standard that Queenslanders I think would expect to be met. This minister now has a chance to show whether or not she can be successful. This is her first challenge. Twelve months ago, the Labor government promised to build a 34-unit development at Chermiside, funded from the Housing Investment Fund, by September this year. I was at that site on the weekend, but the sod has not been turned. By the new minister's own measure of success—that is, delivering what was promised—if those 34 units are not built over the next four months then she has failed and failed miserably.

In that very revealing puff piece on the weekend the minister mentioned—she has mentioned it in several interviews—that she understands the struggles of young renters because she is a renter herself. The minister failed to tell people that she happens to be on a salary of \$350,000 per year. She expects that young people will think she can relate to the fact that they can hardly afford to put food on the table, let alone pay their rent, while she earns \$350,000 a year plus a driver and car. It is absolutely insulting to those people. I am not the only one who thinks that. In fact, one of her very close colleagues said some pretty harsh words about people in that situation. This person is not only an MP but also a factional colleague. Not long ago, the member for Pumicestone accused some members in this House of 'self-indulgent greenstanding ... about their status as wealthy lifestyle renters'. She said—

With ... people ... right across Queensland ... suffering rental stress, this poverty cosplay is deeply offensive to people in my community and other marginalised communities across Queensland.

To those members of parliament who fit into that category she said—

I call on those members to apologise for this offensive behaviour.

These are not my words; these are the words of the member for Pumicestone, a factional colleague in her government who has already called out her behaviour. What we see of the new minister is not new; it is recycled, it is chaos, it is a circus.

(Time expired)