




Speech By
Tim Mander
MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 14 November 2023

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Housing Supply

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.46 pm): I want to continue on the theme of cost of living. Reports today that Queensland has become the most unaffordable place to rent in Australia are yet another example of how Queenslanders are paying for Labor's failures. In the past year, Queenslanders have experienced the largest rent increases of anywhere in Australia, at 9.5 per cent, while also facing a record low vacancy rate of 0.87 per cent. The Queensland housing crisis is a direct result of Labor failing to release land ahead of population growth, with residential lot approvals plummeting 30 per cent during the last decade under Labor.

The Palaszczuk Labor government's chaos and crisis are costing Queenslanders dearly. Never before has there been a more difficult time to find, secure or keep a roof over your head in Queensland than now under the Palaszczuk Labor government. Queenslanders are fighting against the lowest rental vacancies on record and the biggest rental rises in the nation. The situation is dire, and it is getting worse. Some regional Queenslanders are now paying more than half of their income on rent in this Queensland housing crisis. Regional Queenslanders are paying a devastatingly high price for decade-long government failure to plan and deliver the land for the housing that we need.

Our state is in the grip of a housing crisis fuelled by a lack of new homes to accommodate our growing population, pushing rents out of reach for too many Queenslanders. New houses have gone backwards by nearly one-third, while our population continues to grow. The Queensland housing crisis has not happened overnight. Queenslanders have watched Labor fail to plan and deliver, and now we are living with the results. The LNP's priorities include improving housing affordability with more land supply and developing timely plans to identify what infrastructure and services are needed to accommodate our population.

On that theme, let's talk more about some of the problems that are contributing to the housing crisis in Queensland. A few weeks after the Housing Summit, which was over a year ago, the Premier said—

To further drive housing supply, the State Development director-general is currently auditing state owned land and buildings to identify properties that could be repurposed for social housing or crisis accommodation—this audit is expected to be completed in three months ...

What was meant to take three months actually took six months. In May the government released to the media some scant details of the audit with 27 land parcels found. The opposition dug a little deeper with a question on notice to the Deputy Premier. It has now been revealed that the audit of the state government's own land had not even determined if the land was suitable to build homes on. It turns out a quarter of the sites are not suitable to help house Queenslanders.

Does the Premier and her government not get the urgency? Does she not understand the dire housing crisis that we are currently in? The blame for the housing crisis lies nowhere else but at the feet of the Palaszczuk Labor government. The Palaszczuk Labor government continues to make promises that they cannot keep.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr MANDER: What we are saying to them is to stop peddling this misinformation and giving false hope to Queenslanders who are so vulnerable. As I said, it—

Mr SMITH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am seeking to know whether or not the Leader of the Opposition has been warned previously because he just interjected. I thought that he had been warned previously.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): The House will come to order and I will hear the point of order in silence. I ask you to resume your seat, member for Everton and I will take some advice. Member, I think you seeking my guidance in relation to that is actually disrespectful to the chair. I control the behaviour in the House. I will be the first to admit that anybody who sits in this chair does not see 100 per cent of everything that happens, but we do our best to maintain the order and the dignity of this chamber and we will continue to do that.

Mr MANDER: When is the member for Bundaberg going to realise that every time he stands up he totally embarrasses himself and the Labor Party?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Everton, I do not need your commentary on the rulings that I make.

Mr MANDER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I am not talking about your rulings at all. I am talking about the member for Bundaberg—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let's move on.

Mr MANDER:—during his last 11 months in this place as a one-term wonder. He wonders whether he will get his part-time job back again at the school. That is what he left, a part-time teaching position; he has been trying to make out that he is a teacher. You are going to soon find out what the unemployment line is like if you continue to embarrass yourself in this House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your comments will come through the chair.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will come to order.