




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Housing

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.47 pm): When it comes to the housing crisis, there is no doubt that 2023 has been the worst year in the 10-year reign of the Palaszczuk government. At no time in the history of Queensland has it been harder for a Queenslander to buy a house, harder for a Queenslander to rent a house, harder for a Queenslander to just get shelter. Everybody in this House, if they are honest, can testify to the fact that if they go to any regional city and go through the parks and to the riverbanks of those cities they have never seen so many homeless people in tents, sleeping in parks and sleeping under tables because of the crisis that lays at the feet of the Palaszczuk government.

This government plays with people's hearts by continuing to make announcements and not fulfilling those announcements. The current minister, the third housing minister in the last nine years, is playing from the same playbook once again and coming out and supposedly talking about facts. Let us talk about the facts of the housing crisis in this state. Despite a 150 per cent increase in demand in social housing since the Labor government came to power in 2015, despite them saying they have built, or inferring that there is, an additional 4,000 extra social housing properties, the independent Productivity Commission tells us the fact that there has been only 1,400 extra houses built in the last nine years to increase the portfolio, which is less than three per cent.

The same independent Productivity Commission tells us that, not just this year but the year before, on a per capita basis the spending on public housing in Queensland was the lowest in Australia. Let us look at the way that they want to again try to manipulate the figures. They came to estimates last year and proudly stated that the social housing waiting list had been reduced. What they did not mention until questioned in estimates was that last year more people had been culled from the social housing list than were given houses. Again, they give false hope and deception rather than focusing on the biggest issue in the state, which is increasing supply.

They promised a new prefab home hub and they said that they would build 80 homes a year. Again, that was an empty promise as now they have said they can build only 30 a year. They promised the Griffith University accommodation, as mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow Treasurer. For six months they maintained that deception. They had to cobble together an announcement before the Housing Summit, which was a summit they were dragged to, kicking and screaming. That announcement was put together by a director-general who is a former Labor member of parliament and the Chancellor of Griffith University, who is also a former Labor member of parliament, because they were told, 'We need something to announce tomorrow.' Six months later and \$2 million down the drain, despite promise after promise, that announcement did not come to fruition. As the shadow Treasurer said, Griffith University said, 'Don't worry. We'll bank that.' There is a favour to come.

We might as well make the \$2 billion Housing Investment Fund worth \$10 billion when it comes to the number of houses that have been built. There is promise after promise and announcement after announcement, but not one person is in a house today because of the Housing Investment Fund.

Anything they have announced has been delayed time and time again. Instead of building new properties they buy already existing properties, making even worse the rental stress that people are under. Never has Queensland suffered such a crisis with regard to housing. Having a home is the most basic of human needs. This is a government that claims it is for the people. Guess what: the people are unhappy! The people know that the government cannot fulfil the promises it makes, that the promises it makes are empty. There is only one solution: show Labor the door in '24.