




Speech By
Ali King

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

Record of Proceedings, 11 June 2024

HELP TO BUY (COMMONWEALTH POWERS) BILL

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (6.06 pm): I, too, rise in support of the Help to Buy (Commonwealth Powers) Bill, the Queensland legislation that is necessary to enable the federal government's Help to Buy scheme. Our Miles Labor government believes that home ownership should not be restricted to those who can access the bank of mum and dad. So many people in Pumicestone have told me they would love the chance to buy their first home through the Help to Buy scheme. With house prices still rising, saving for a deposit is daunting and first home buyers tell us every day they feel their dream of owning a home is slipping further away.

Shared equity schemes like Help to Buy are not new. In the UK a similar initiative has helped over 350,000 people achieve home ownership, but, time and time again, the LNP has talked down shared equity schemes like Help to Buy. Amanda Stoker, the LNP's hand-picked candidate for Oodgeroo, called Labor's Help to Buy scheme 'really dangerous'. Andrew Willcox, the member for Dawson, declared 'a coalition government does not want a stake in your family home'.

The LNP are deeply divided on this issue. You could feel their distaste in the contribution from the LNP's housing spokesperson. As usual, the member for Everton offered nothing but criticism: criticism of the federal Help to Buy scheme, criticism of our Miles Labor government's Homes for Queenslanders plan and especially the Housing Investment Fund. I enjoyed the irony of the member for Everton criticising any other party for a lack of detail—this is coming from the man whose leader backed our entire budget sight unseen.

Then, there was the irony of the member for Everton criticising the federal government for delays in the scheme when it is his federal LNP leader, Peter Dutton, and his mates the Greens who are working together to block and delay it. All this is coming from a man who describes his only housing policy as 'unleashing the community housing sector'. This is code for selling off social and government housing. Will the LNP leader call on Peter Dutton to support the Help to Buy scheme and bring home ownership in reach for more Queenslanders? He should, but we know he will not because he is too scared of popping his head above the parapet. The LNP leader is presenting the tiniest of targets on housing, as he does on every other issue.

The LNP and the Greens love to talk down our groundbreaking Homes for Queenslanders plan. We have all heard the LNP bleating about the Housing Investment Fund, completely ignoring the more than 600 Queenslanders who are already living in homes delivered by the HIF. The LNP say that they will limit the HIF to funding only new construction projects. That means they are rejecting our measures to buy affordable homes before they come off the NRAS, ended by the federal LNP, saving tenants being kicked out on their ear. That means the LNP are rejecting our work purchasing and repurposing unused aged-care centres and hotels and refurbishing them to provide secure homes for marginalised and vulnerable people, and they are rejecting our work repurposing homes slated for demolition due to large infrastructure projects and moving them to sites where they can be let as affordable housing.

The LNP never acknowledged that by the end of this financial year under the Housing Investment Fund almost 2,000 more homes would be contracted and ready for construction to begin. They blather on about wanting more housing, along with the Greens, and then oppose our Homes for Queenslanders plan and oppose new housing developments in their own communities. We heard that just last week the member for South Brisbane protested against the development of 14,000 new homes in her community, some of them ideally positioned on top of a train station. Then, of course, the member for Bonney is on the record trying to block new builds in his community, showing himself off as a true blue-ribbon NIMBY.

My message to the Greens and the LNP is clear: stop kowtowing to the anti-housing coalition of chaos in Canberra and call on your federal colleagues to pass the Help to Buy scheme that will help low- and middle-income Queenslanders buy their first home. I commend the Help to Buy (Commonwealth Powers) Bill to the House.