




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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**HOUSING AVAILABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY (PLANNING AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; BUILDING INDUSTRY FAIRNESS
(SECURITY OF PAYMENT) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (4.17 pm): What a day! The land bill this morning, housing, planning, building—it is Brittany's day in the chamber; it is a planner's day. It is all right in my wheelhouse and I am very excited to debate this legislation today. Although, I cannot believe those opposite are resorting to personal attacks, alleging that we do not know what we are talking about when this is, ultimately, right in our wheelhouse. We, as Labor members in this place, believe in the importance of housing. We believe in the importance of housing as a fundamental human right—that it is connected to our everyday lives. It not only provides essential shelter but also plays a significant role in our quality of life and economic prosperity whilst supporting the long-term growth of our cities and regions.

More than 125,000 additional people each year are choosing to call Queensland home. This growth is coming when the housing market is already strained. To ensure we maintain our great Queensland lifestyle we need to plan for this growth. We need to be able to pull the new levers in the planning and development system to deliver more homes where they are needed faster. If we plan ahead and plan well, growth will not only deliver more homes but also bring other opportunities like more jobs, more infrastructure and more services sooner.

At the Queensland Housing Summit, the government made a commitment to introduce legislative changes to the planning framework to remove barriers to the development of new housing and we are delivering on that commitment. The Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill amends the Planning Act 2016 to optimise the planning framework's response to housing challenges. This bill makes various operational amendments aimed at enhancing planning efficiencies in Queensland. This is about using all of the levers at our disposal to break down the barriers and help build more homes sooner. Planning is absolutely the key tool used by state and local governments to deliver connected, livable and sustainable communities across Queensland. Yes, this bill will ensure the framework is responsive, efficient and effective in removing barriers affecting housing and land supply in areas where growth should be occurring with quick and targeted intervention.

Planning does matter. This bill will give planners and developers more freedom to address the housing challenges as we see huge numbers of people moving to Queensland. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the planners in Queensland for all of their work day in, day out. They are passionate about making a difference and making life better in Queensland. I also want to thank the Planning Institute of Australia for their leadership and expertise in developing so many of the amendments that we are debating in this place today and for their detailed and thoughtful submissions. I speak of planners like the great Phil Heywood, who made a very detailed and thorough submission to the committee, Nicole Bennetts, Sean Cullen, Shannon Batch and our very own State Planner, Tess Pickering. I thank them for the work they do to help make Queensland a better place to live, work and raise a family.

With new easement tools and streamlined state-led assessments, we are removing barriers to housing supply, especially for affordable homes where they are needed most. This government is taking decisive action, aligning our Homes for Queenslanders plan and the South East Queensland Regional Plan with legislative reforms in this bill to deliver homes faster. That is contrary to the LNP's unfounded claims, such as those made earlier today in this place by the member for Kawana that this bill will not make any difference. What would he know? I can tell honourable members, with certainty, that the bill's measures are designed to expedite housing projects and tackle barriers that hinder housing supply, demonstrating a clear commitment to improving affordability and accessibility. This bill will make a difference. It will deliver houses faster.

The bill introduces significant amendments to the Planning Act, including a new assessment pathway designed to prioritise affordable housing developments. Additionally, it grants the planning minister the authority to acquire land or create easements to facilitate critical infrastructure needed to support housing projects. I am pleased that this bill removes the requirement for public notices in newspapers, allowing electronic submissions, suspending appeal periods and clarifying owner consent for state reserve development. These changes directly address the challenges of housing availability and affordability by streamlining approvals and ensuring essential infrastructure can be delivered efficiently to support housing development.

We are tackling housing challenges head on, but those opposite have nothing to add. They have no innovative ideas to expedite projects and boost housing supply. They just come in here to whinge and whine and, yet again, have nothing constructive to offer as to how to improve housing affordability—

An opposition member: You haven't offered anything constructive for the last nine years.

Ms LAUGA: Is that something constructive that you might have to offer? I do not think it was—still nothing. Those opposite just come in here to whinge and whine and have nothing to add. Now is the time for substance, not whingeing and whining. They should propose solutions, join our efforts to expedite housing projects and remove supply obstacles or get out of the way. That is what a good opposition does and it is what Queenslanders expect.

Today marks a positive step forward for Queensland. Yes, there is more work to be done, but the LNP need to stop their whingeing and get on board with making positive change for Queensland's future. I commend the bills to the House.