




Speech By  
**Bruce Saunders**

**MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH**

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**RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AND ROOMING ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER  
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; MANUFACTURED HOMES (RESIDENTIAL  
PARKS) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (3.56 pm): I rise to talk about the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill and the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. I would like to say a few things before I talk about the act. I would like to thank the housing minister, Minister Scanlon, the assistant minister, the member for Pumicestone, who has been across this working with us all, and the member for Bancroft. This particular member has been working on the residential homes act. He has known about this and worked with residents for many years, and he has done a really great job. On behalf of the RV village in Tinana I would like to say 'thank you' because they asked me to say thank you in the chamber. The member and the chair of the committee came up and addressed the residents. He went over very well, I might say. I did not blow his tyre up. He blew a tyre leaving the RV village and I think he blamed me at one stage. The member Kurwongbah, Shane King, has also done a lot of work on this. We have worked together to make sure that we have landed in a good spot and the good spot is this legislation. I would like to thank the minister because the minister has listened to us.

Before this legislation, people were desperate. I meet with people in residential parks quite often, particularly the Tinana RV park in my electorate, and Norm and residents from Latitude25 which borders the Hervey Bay and the Maryborough electorates. The member for Hervey Bay and I have had many conversations with the residents of these RV parks. We spoke with Trevor there, who has been talking to the member for Hervey Bay and myself quite often about the conditions and how the residents felt. They did not feel too good. There are a lot of things happening. I mention the member for Burleigh—we have seen the transcripts and heard from the member for Bundaberg about what happened there. We were talking about the opposition being involved and he said 'the opposition housing minister will be like putting a fox in the hen house' to try and help us. They were not impressed because they knew which side of the fence the LNP would be on—it would be with the overseas owners of a lot of these parks. A lot of the residents felt all the time they are being bullied, they are being harassed in the parks. They have lost a lot of their rights in terms of the selling of their residential homes.

I was interested to hear the opposition spokesperson say that house values would go down and they would not be able to sell them. That is contrary to what the people in the RV villages have been telling us, that this legislation will be an asset and it will help them. We know from talking to the people in the RV villages that a lot of the managers of these parks are not friendly. We have even heard of elder abuse of some of the residents that is happening in the parks. This legislation with provisions regarding market rent reviews and capping increases at 3.5 per cent or CPI gives certainty to the residents in the parks. As the member for Bancroft mentioned in his speech, a lot of the residents are on a fixed income—they are pensioners—so they need certainty and they need protection. That is what this bill will do.

I want to thank the committee. We had a really good roll-up at Hervey Bay. A lot of residents came and talked to the committee, listened to the committee and put their ideas forward. We came up with good ideas. As the member for Hervey Bay will tell people, some really good ideas came from the residents of these RV villages. One thing I did pick up is that they were very happy that the government listened. They were very happy that the chair of the committee, the committee and the minister listened to what they put forward. That is a big thing. They felt listened to and they felt that this government cared; the Miles Labor government cared for them and about their wellbeing in making sure they had a roof over their heads. We see otherwise from those opposite. I had a personal feeling that they would be backing the multimillionaires and overseas superannuation funds that own a lot of these RV parks. We see it with progressive coal royalties; we know who they are backing: the cigar-smoking Bentley Zurich owners of the mines. It would make no difference with the RV villages in terms of who they would back and where that would leave a lot of people in my electorate who live in these RV villages. They are great people; they are down-to-earth people who have worked hard all their lives. They just want some certainty. The Miles Labor government through Minister Scanlon has given the people certainty that they will be looked after. I commend the bills to the House.