




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

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MOTION

Housing

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (6.50 pm): Queenslanders know that the LNP do not like the government helping Queenslanders get housing. The LNP want to let the free market rip. Ordinary Queenslanders would sink or swim. Queenslanders know that the LNP will stand in the way of any action that stands in the way of the free market ideology that they treasure. Queenslanders know that the LNP have stood in the way of every action to give Queenslanders the help they need to get the housing they want. For example, they blocked the federal government's shared equity scheme. That would help 40,000 low- and middle-income people into their own homes. At the federal level they have blocked NRAS; they have ripped that up. They have ripped up the funding agreement for First Nations people as well. It is shameful. The question is: if they ever got into power in Queensland what would they do with the prefabricated house factory that QBuild has at Eagle Farm? They do not like it. They would flog it off. They would sell it at the first opportunity.

Compare the record of the LNP with ours. As member for Cooper and the member for Pumicestone said, we have the Homes for Queenslanders plan. I thank the minister for that. That is an absolutely outstanding plan. We have also announced \$160 million to help renters in Queensland. That includes a portable bond scheme which will be welcomed by many people in my area. We are taking action to unlock supply. There are 500 lots that the department own that they are looking to develop. We are fast-tracking changes to local planning scheme updates so that we can unlock those lots that are all ready to go.

The numbers show the disdain that the LNP have towards government backed housing. Since 2015, 5,000 public housing homes were added to our roll. We now have 75,400 public and community homes for Queenslanders, thanks to this government. When the LNP were in power the numbers went backwards. There were 428 fewer homes and a cut of 90 per cent to that budget. We heard the member for Everton say that he was proud of his record. He was proud that he kicked people off the housing list. That is what those opposite are proud of. Queenslanders know that if you want action on housing the LNP are not your friend. They will not help you.