




Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**

**MEMBER FOR BANCROFT**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 April 2024

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

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.29 pm): I rise to speak in support of both of these bills. Homes for Queenslanders is building more homes for more Queenslanders. These two bills provide strong and crucial support for the nation-leading Homes for Queenslanders program. Homes for Queenslanders is the most comprehensive policy-in-action plan to deal with a social and economic problem I have seen in over 20 years of public life. Each time you look at it you see some other initiative that you know is nation leading. I would remind people that there are five pillars: building more homes faster; improving our planning system to deliver more quality homes in the right locations; supporting Queensland renters and helping first home owners; boosting social housing to reduce housing stress and protect vulnerable Queenslanders; and moving towards ending homelessness by providing more funding for homelessness services and help for vulnerable people.

The LNP may talk about homelessness, but some of us go out there with service providers and spend time amongst people living in those areas. Those service providers now have 20 per cent more funding to go out and work amongst those people who are living rough. From what I have seen when I have gone out there, each one in my area has offered an alternative. 'What can we do for you?' 'We have this for you; we have that for you.' Everyone out there has options, and that is coming through the Homes for Queenslanders plan. I want to compliment all of the housing ministers who have contributed to this bill. I also want to compliment the Premier on this groundbreaking policy action.

As we have heard the minister say today, it is an ambitious plan to build more homes faster. It is the most ambitious housing program ever in Queensland's history. What have the LNP said they would do about housing? We have heard absolutely nothing about what they would do. We heard about what they think is wrong. We have heard about what they do not like, but we have not heard one iota of what they would do. They offer nothing. They previously said they want to offer hope: they want to use the hope of Queenslanders to suck them in and get them to vote for them. At the end of the day, the LNP offers nothing on housing and they never have. All they have done is cut, sack and sell. They have a disgraceful record on housing in Queensland. I challenge the member for Kawana to show me your policy.

**Mr Crandon:** The only record is \$16 billion sold by your mob. That has made that clear. Nobody sold anything at all. You lot sold \$16 billion worth!

**Mr WHITING:** Show me the policy!

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Order!

**Mr WHITING:** You have no policy!

**Mr Crandon:** You lot sold \$16 billion worth!

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Coomera and member for Bancroft, I will not tolerate arguing across the chamber. I will ask for disciplined behaviour.

**Mr WHITING:** I do apologise, Madam Deputy Speaker.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Coomera, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Bancroft, you are also warned under the standing orders.

**Mr CRANDON:** I am sorry, Madam Deputy Speaker, I said nothing.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You are being warned for your earlier conduct when you were arguing across the chamber. Member for Bancroft, you have the call.

**Mr WHITING:** As I was saying, Homes for Queenslanders is a great program. We have a target of one million new homes by 2046. We have set a target to roll out 53,000 social homes by 2046. As we heard this morning, there are 1,000 new homes under construction by the Miles government right now. Homes for Queenslanders is building modular homes through QBuild and in partnership with the private sector. I would remind people that the last time the LNP was in government they sacked 1,600 people from that state government agency. As we also heard this morning, we are one of only two states that has increased the number of public and community houses in the last 10 years in Australia. I want to begin my comments in relation to these bills at the end: the statement of reservation by the LNP on one of these bills. They said—

There is little evidence from the inquiry that this Bill will assist the current issues of Housing Availability and Affordability ...

It is clear that these bills will help the building and construction industry and the state government to put more roofs over the heads of Queensland families.

I will conclude by talking about the building industry fairness bill, which has the project framework. This particular framework is one of the best things we have seen to support housing and the housing industry within Queensland. Robert Pearson from Master Electricians, which represents all of the sparkies and contractors, said—

We commend the Queensland government for its proactive response towards security-of-payment issues ... Queensland is the only jurisdiction, at both a state and federal level, to have decisive legislation action to genuinely prioritise the welfare of construction subcontractors. Queensland has become a national leader in security-of-payment laws, setting a commendable precedent for other Australian states ...

I commend these bills to the House.