




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

Record of Proceedings, 11 June 2024

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (8.24 pm): I rise to commend this bill to the House. We are taking more actions to get more houses on the ground in Queensland. Under this bill, EDQ will get a new operating model to deliver more affordable and social housing across Queensland. EDQ will get additional pathways to deliver social and affordable housing in our great state. It will be able to undertake more investment activities in property assets and will be able to establish place renewal areas in place renewal frameworks to help deliver more housing. EDQ will be able to lead coordinated and integrated urban renewal. It is a great way to get more houses on the ground. These actions will be very welcome. I know that they will kickstart some crucial urban and residential developments.

I will outline some more actions that will complement the raft of actions in the Homes for Queenslanders plan. That plan will deliver safe, secure and affordable housing to Queenslanders. Under the Homes for Queenslanders plan, as we have heard, there is an additional investment of \$3.1 billion. We aim to deliver one million new homes including 53,500 social homes in Queensland by 2046. Homes for Queenslanders is already putting roofs over the heads of Queenslanders. Over 600 Queenslanders now are in homes or have been kept in homes because of the use of the Housing Investment Fund.

Saying that these homes do not count, that these people are already there and they are not new homes, is a fallacious argument. These are NRAS homes that will continue to house renters on less than market rent. These are residents who will not have been evicted when these properties were sold to the private market. They have not been kicked out in favour of private owners or people who can pay double the rent. They have stayed in their homes and have kept on paying reasonable rent. That is keeping roofs over the heads of vulnerable Queenslanders.

I commend the Miles government for its actions on homelessness under the Homes for Queenslanders plan. People have moved from tents and cars into temporary accommodation because of the uplift to these emergency services. I also commend the Miles government for the action it has taken today on duty concession thresholds. As we have heard, first home buyers will pay no duty on homes valued up to \$700,000, up from \$500,000, and will be eligible for savings of up to \$17,000. I conclude by congratulating the minister and the Premier on delivering these actions that help put more homes on Queensland soil for Queenslanders to live in. I commend the bill to the House.