




Speech By  
**Corrine McMillan**

**MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 June 2024

### **HELP TO BUY (COMMONWEALTH POWERS) BILL**

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (5.54 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Help to Buy (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2024. Queenslanders, like many people around the world, face increasing housing costs in a tight housing market. Queensland's housing market is under pressure to meet the needs of a rapidly growing and aging population. Queensland has also experienced a record number of people migrating from interstate. My electorate of Mansfield is not immune. A record number of young families are moving to my electorate to access outstanding schools and the quality education they provide. The schools in Mansfield are the pride of our community, and I am honoured to be leading this community given my extensive experience in school leadership over 15 years. It is harder for young families and young people and those on low incomes to achieve the dream of owning their own home, including in my electorate. Everyone deserves a safe and secure home, and the Miles Labor government is implementing its ambitious Homes for Queenslanders plan to support all Queenslanders to achieve this goal.

A key action in the Homes for Queenslanders plan is to work with the Australian government to progress enabling legislation to get the Commonwealth Help to Buy scheme up and running as fast as possible. There is one priority of this bill: to help low- and middle-income earners to buy a home. The bill will provide the constitutional basis for the Commonwealth Help to Buy scheme to run nationally. The Help to Buy (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2024 will put eligible Queenslanders in the front seat to access this scheme as soon as it becomes operational.

Help to Buy is a shared equity scheme. It means the government will chip in and share the risk at the beginning of a loan. It will contribute up to 40 per cent of new homes and 30 per cent of existing homes. Those accessing the scheme would only need to have a two per cent deposit, which means buyers could potentially be in a home in months, not years.

On 7 June 2024, the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee tabled its report on the bill and made two recommendations: that the bill be passed and that the Queensland government continue to liaise with the Australian government on the parameters of the Help to Buy scheme to ensure the volume of participants and places for targeted groups, purchase price caps, participant income levels and buy-out provisions are appropriate for Queensland. The government accepted both of these recommendations.

Sadly, not everyone agrees with the content of this bill. Former Liberal senator Amanda Stoker says that Labor's Help to Buy scheme is 'really dangerous'. Queensland has come to expect nothing less of the LNP after the provision of social homes went backwards under their watch from 2012 to 2015. The LNP government sent social housing back by 428 homes. The LNP sacked over 1,600 QBuild workers. That is 1,600 people who could have been building homes and supporting disaster recovery, their employment terminated by the LNP.

The Miles Labor government believes that every person deserves access to a safe and secure residence that they can call home. In this current housing context, all levels of government must activate every lever available to them to ensure access to safe and affordable housing for all Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.