




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (8.33 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 and, in particular, the social and affordable housing provisions. Queensland is booming. Today our Queensland population stands at 5.56 million people. Queenslanders, like many people around the world, face increasing housing costs and a tighter 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. By 2046, we will need around one million new homes to house our growing population. We will also need to provide more social and affordable housing so that everyone can have a safe and reliable place to call home. The success of the Queensland government's response to COVID-19 and the more than 368,000 jobs created since COVID also brings its challenges, and one of those challenges is the pressure placed on housing supply. Following the Queensland Housing Summit held in October 2022, a specific action listed in the summit outcomes report was for Economic Development Queensland to strengthen the remit of EDQ to deliver more housing supply across the state including new social and affordable housing in the context of urban renewal and precincts.

Using the Queensland Housing Summit outcomes as a basis, EDQ identified the following objectives to address the housing shortage: achieve an increase in housing supply, diversity of housing typologies and provision of quality social and affordable housing at scale across the state which is informed by need; build the capacity of government and the housing sector to deliver social and affordable outcomes in a flexible manner tailored to specific opportunities; leverage government intervention to maximise industry capability, alternative delivery models and funding sources; deliver a range of housing outcomes within accelerated timescales; and define social and affordable housing outcomes with a supporting set of quantitative targets that support broader statewide strategy and prioritisation and in consultation with the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works.

This bill is about the Miles government building on the role of Economic Development Queensland—the Queensland government's land use planning and property development agency—and putting it to even better use to deliver more homes for Queenslanders faster. The bill will improve EDQ's ability to plan the location of diverse housing and require the delivery of the social and affordable housing targets set within priority development areas. At the same time the bill gives EDQ and the development industry more flexibility around how these obligations are conditioned and met to ensure the right type of housing is delivered when and where it is needed.

Additionally, the bill enables the Minister for Economic Development Queensland to enter directly into agreements with third parties, like community housing providers, to deliver social and affordable housing projects. This will make it easier for EDQ to work in partnership with the housing portfolio on delivering new social housing projects like the proposed new West Tower development at Southport.

Importantly, the bill also addresses the matter of infrastructure provision to support the delivery of new houses by giving the Minister for Economic Development Queensland the ability to acquire land specifically to facilitate infrastructure provision. This new power, which is similar to powers already available to local governments and distributor-retailers, will enable the government to step in as a last resort and assist to get critical infrastructure delivered where it is needed to service new houses.

These changes, coupled with other changes proposed in the bill, will support EDQ in delivering an additional 1,300 dwellings over the next five years, as well as approving a further 15,000 homes in priority development areas. By implementing the changes in this bill, EDQ will be better placed to fast-track sustainable and affordable places that people can call home.

I commend the minister for her work on this very important bill. I thank the chair of the committee for his leadership as we progress this bill through the House. I commend the bill to the House.