




Speech By
Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

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

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (6.48 pm): I rise to speak to the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill 2023. I realise that I might only have a couple of minutes but in that couple of minutes I want to reiterate, stress and identify that the housing crisis in this state is not just restricted to the capital city or the south-east of the state; it is right across the state. It is right across rural and regional Queensland.

Mr Lister: In Warwick and Stanthorpe.

Mr LAST: I note that my counterpart, the member for Southern Downs, agrees with me on that. In my electorate, it is in the Burdekin, it is in Bowen, it is in Moranbah, it is in Dysart. I was out there last week and they critically need affordable housing in Dysart. We had teachers this year who could not take up their positions in Bowen because there was no housing. We have housing in Moranbah where the average rent is \$600 a week and people are living in cars. I have a family in Bowen with a young newborn baby who are living in a tent. In this day and age, that is a disgrace and something needs to be done.

We hear about reform and we hear about all of these promises, but it needs to translate to housing across this state and I mean right across the state—not just the capital city, not just the major metropolitan areas, but all of those rural and regional towns across Queensland. Those communities are actually withering and suffering horrendously because of the critical housing shortage.