




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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HELP TO BUY (COMMONWEALTH POWERS) BILL

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (5.04 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise in the House following the Labor member for Jordan, who is part of the government—

Mr Sullivan: As being a minister.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. The backbench member would like me to defer to the member for Jordan as 'the minister'. I am pleased to follow the minister. There is such arrogance and hubris in this House. The minister, who is part of the cabinet along with the supposed 'new' Premier, called increasing stamp duty for first home buyers a 'thought bubble'. The minister, who was part of the cabinet, actually rubbished it and said, 'What a ridiculous policy from the LNP, helping out big business.' Is helping people trying to get into a home a thought bubble, member for Jordan? I think not. This is trying to relieve the pressure for Queenslanders, because Queensland has the lowest rate of home ownership in the nation. Why? Because we have had the Palaszczuk-Miles government—not a 'new' government—for a decade. It is hubris and arrogance for those opposite to think that any idea put forward by the LNP is a thought bubble.

Mr Sullivan: Like the Bradfield scheme? How did the Bradfield scheme go for you?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. I am more than happy to talk about the Bradfield scheme. Come in, spinner! It was former premier Palaszczuk who announced the Bradfield scheme. She announced it to stop the LNP talking about it. What happened with her budget costings? There was a big fat zero, because it is the Labor government in this state which refuses to build water projects. Look at Emu Swamp. Where is that dam? That is right: Emu Swamp, just like the Bradfield scheme, became nothing because of the Palaszczuk-Miles government.

We are in the middle of a housing crisis. Queensland has the lowest percentage of home ownership in the nation. I refer to the statement of reservation by the honourable Jim McDonald and the honourable Michael Hart, who—

An honourable member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. They are taking offence to them being called 'honourable' because those members have not been ministers.

Mr O'Connor: The 'honourable' Jim.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am more than happy to call him that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): The member for Bonney will cease his interjections.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Recommendation 2 of the committee report is really interesting. The members for Lockyer and Burleigh said—

While we agree with the intent of Recommendation 2 in the committee's report we believe that it does not go far enough.

Interestingly, in relation to income thresholds, the member for Jordan talked about low- to middle-income earners wanting to get into their first homes. I agree: anyone who is a low- to middle-income earner would love to get into their first home. But the income thresholds for participants of this scheme are also questionable. Further, the statement of reservations states—

We believe they need to be increased from \$90,000 for single income households and \$120,000 for joint income households.

As the former assistant treasurer knows, that probably does not reach into middle-income earners.

Mrs Gerber: Police officers earn \$110,000.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that great interjection from the member for Currumbin. The average income for a police officer is \$120,000.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there is any more talking across me when I am on my feet, those members will be warned instantly. Member for Nanango, I did not think you needed protection but the House is becoming disorderly. We will have fewer interjections, thank you.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you. I so wanted to take the police minister's interjection, but I will move on. It was wonderful to see the police house in Blackbutt freshly painted. That would make them feel a lot happier in that house. It was lovely to see that fresh coat of paint. I thank the police minister. I am really happy to see that happen. I plead with the police minister to put the Blackbutt Police Station at the top of the list. It did not make this budget, so I am going to keep going. Next year I ask the police minister to put it at the top of the list.

We are in the middle of a housing crisis. I want to talk about a Nanango housing issue that I have talked about in this House numerous times. A state government owned home in Nanango has sat empty since 2020. I am talking about a vacant doctor's house. I have written to the housing minister. I have written to the public works minister. I have written to the health minister. It is unacceptable in the middle of a housing crisis in a regional town like Nanango where people are screaming for homes that this former doctor's residence has been sitting empty since that local doctor retired from Queensland Health. I have been calling this out for over two years, but the large four-bedroom home remains empty.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As fascinating as this treatise on a local issue from the member for Nanango is, it has nothing whatsoever to do with the Help to Buy bill. I ask her to come back to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, you were straying away from the bill. There has been a wide degree of latitude allowed by speakers in the chair. We will continue on that basis while I am in the chair. However, you are a significant way from the long title of the bill. Please return to it.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The member for Miller is correct. When we are talking about Help to Buy—and we are talking about the delegation of Commonwealth powers bill 2024—without a doubt, the sooner we can get people even into a government home the better. They can start saving money. They can get out of their car. They can get out of their tent. They can live in a home with a roof over their head. They can have a house to live in.

I will go on. There are 10 Seqwater homes in Somerset Dam village that have been sitting empty since 2010. It is unacceptable that 10 Seqwater homes have been left vacant for so long. We have so many vulnerable people. Nearly every Labor member who has spoken has talked about the need for more homes and the need to get people into homes. That is why we are talking about this bill. We are talking about the Help to Buy scheme.

I have also found out from the answer to a question on notice that there are another three government employee housing homes in my electorate that have sat empty for 18 to 24 months. The reason I talk about this in this House constantly is that the people of regional Queensland, the people of my Nanango electorate, deserve to have a roof over their heads. Whilst we are talking about the Help to Buy bill, I note again that one of the priorities for the LNP is securing our housing foundations. It is about getting people into homes. It is about making sure, as the member for Jordan said—

Mr McDonald: We're listening.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: We are listening. I take that interjection from the member for Lockyer. The latest Census data shows that Queensland has the lowest rate of home ownership at 64 per cent. Each and every one of us in this House wants to see that percentage increased. Again, I put to the House: why are we here? We are here because we have had a decade of a Labor government that has refused to invest in the housing foundations that enable people to get into their own homes. That is why we are here today.

I note the opposition members who put in that very well written and very well thought out statement of reservations because they raise some really important points. I particularly note the income thresholds. It is extremely important to note that not everyone gets to live on a member of parliament's wage or even a minister's wage. You need to be out there listening and talking to people in areas like the Nanango electorate, to people who are living in tents who really do need a roof over their head. They see the vacant houses not just for one year but for over two years. That is why I am encouraging everyone I speak to, particularly within my electorate, to show Labor the door on 26 October 2024.