




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 14 February 2024

MOTION

Housing

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (6.31 pm): I rise to support the motion, which is about addressing the issues we have today with housing. Those issues were not there when we were elected in 2015. What rock have those opposite been living under to suggest that this is an issue that has somehow been bubbling away for ages? The member for Everton tries to convince us of the utopian situation when they were in government: 'It was utopia. There were no issues, there was no crime, there was no housing problem and health was running beautifully.' What a load of baloney. No government can guarantee what the member for Everton gets up and tries to spruik in this House. It is absolute Disneyland.

I remember being on our regional forums and I asked the forum members from around the state, 'How many of you were raising housing issues 14 months ago?' Do honourable members know what the answer was? None—not one of them. We face this issue because Queensland is the place where people want to be. We are not alone in what is happening with housing. Those opposite should come out from under their rocks. It is not only happening all around Australia; it is happening internationally. It is a side effect of the pandemic.

These are issues that have happened, and we are the government with the plan to address them. We do not have some ridiculous notion like they do over there where they say, 'Trust us because we were in government; we did it all. There were no issues and everyone was happy.' I saw the worst backlash against the Campbell Newman government from people living in social housing—and the member for Everton and the Leader of the Opposition sat around that cabinet table—that I have ever experienced in my years of being in this place. They were afraid of homelessness. They were afraid of being turfed out of their homes because they went to look after a loved one who needed care. They were afraid to even go on holidays because they would have been evicted by those opposite. Those opposite should not come in here and lecture us about housing. They should not even think about it for one second, because we have a minister and a government that are concentrating on the issues that are facing us.

For those in this House who do not know, 330,000 people have moved to this state since 2020, since we were elected. That is putting pressure on housing and we have a plan to respond to it. Those opposite say that we should have built them 10 years ago. What a load of baloney. You did not build them when you were in government 10 years ago, and here we are now expected to already be doing it. Do not come in and lecture us. You have no plans, you have no vision and you have absolutely no idea.

Mr Minnikin: Through the chair. Through the chair.

Ms GRACE: I will take my direction from the Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): You will put your comments through the chair.

Ms GRACE: I will put my comments through the chair. Those opposite have no vision and no plan.