




Speech By
Jonty Bush

MEMBER FOR COOPER

Record of Proceedings, 14 February 2024

MOTION

Housing

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (6.44 pm): I rise to support the motion and, in doing so, I want to talk about Isobel. Isobel lives in my electorate. She is a renter. She is in her 50s and until recently she was renting with her husband. Her husband was diagnosed with a degenerative disease and his mobility took a turn for the worse, impacting heavily on his housing needs. Despite respectful requests to their landlord, Isobel was unable to make reasonable modifications to their rental. Isobel spent the final months of her time with her husband arguing with agents, attempting to enact her rights and eventually searching a tight rental market for a new home and saving for a second bond.

Isobel's story is not isolated. Queensland's domestic migration has led to unprecedented housing pressures and it is for Queenslanders like Isobel that the Miles government has introduced its landmark Homes for Queenslanders plan. This plan is bold and the most ambitious plan that I can recall seeing across any Australian jurisdiction in my life. It is a plan to build a million homes and a plan to unlock land and support gentle densification so that we can grapple with the wicked problem of building more housing while protecting greenspace. It is a plan to work with councils to enshrine housing targets and, critically, a plan to back renters, offering renters greater dignity and certainty through reforms like a portable bond scheme so renters can transfer their bond without having to save thousands of dollars. We will create a new code of conduct to crack down on harmful practices in the rental sector and all forms of rental bidding will be banned.

This rental package builds on our previous rental reforms like minimum housing standards, limiting without grounds evictions, protections against retaliatory actions and limiting rent increases. These reforms mean that people like Isobel can focus on living their lives without the stress of having to worry about whether or not she has a roof over her head. These reforms mean that those who are renting while they are saving to buy can focus on permanency without worrying about how long their tenancy will last.

This is in stark contrast to the actions—or inactions—of other parties. Federally right now we have political parties blocking the Help to Buy shared equity scheme. How do you say déjà vu without saying déjà vu? This is a scheme that would help eligible homebuyers to enter the market sooner. Renters often talk to me about their ambition to own their own home. Any political party standing in the way of that—any political party slowing that process down to gain political mileage—needs to re-examine its priorities. Queenslanders need housing and housing options now, not in three months time when a political party has had the time to run a few petitions and harvest people's personal details for political gain. The Miles government is working towards ending homelessness here in Queensland and we ask all political parties to get on board.