




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (8.56 pm): Queensland is the place to be. People are pouring into our great state after COVID because we have kept people safe, we continue to grow our economy, we are developing new and innovative industries and there are good jobs here. With all this unprecedented growth, there is pressure on our housing. This is a responsible government and Premier Miles is ensuring all the levers available to government are pulled to ensure we can, as fast as possible, build safe and secure housing for everyone who wants to call Queensland home. Every lever needs to be pulled so that we can do this in Queensland, including engaging EDQ and delivering the powers that they need so that we can realise Queensland's housing needs.

There needs to be a mix of housing solutions to meet the complexity of the housing issues Queensland is facing. To meet the current demand, all levels of government need to be at the table with the private sector, community housing groups, property developers and real estate agents, all to manage the housing issues facing our state. Our Labor government held housing summits in Brisbane to drive solutions. On the back of these, the Greater Whitsundays community held summits in Mackay for the wider Mackay-Isaac-Whitsundays region to identify our own set of issues that we face in each of our communities and possible solutions that would meet the needs of our community. Our local summit developed our very own housing playbook.

I would like to put on record my sincere thanks to all of the housing provider organisations, the council representatives from across Mackay, Isaac and the Whitsundays, the developers, the real estate agents and the construction companies which all contributed to the local discussions. The outcome showed that there is no one-size solution that will solve the housing shortage, but, as a community, we can build on our strengths to ensure that we cater for everyone.

From the Brisbane-based Housing Summit, one action was to expand the remit of EDQ to drive the delivery of social and affordable housing in the context of urban renewal and housing precincts. I am excited that this bill is aimed at increasing the supply of quality social and affordable housing across our state where it is needed. This bill provides flexibility for regions to build the type of housing best needed to cater for demand and need. We have already seen the success of the flexibility shown by the Miles government's approach to delivering housing, with prefab houses being trucked out of the Gold Coast factory. We need homes for Queenslanders to be built faster to meet our big build social housing agenda. I support the bill.