




Speech By
Hon. Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Record of Proceedings, 11 June 2024

HELP TO BUY (COMMONWEALTH POWERS) BILL

 **Hon. LR McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (4.31 pm): I rise in support of this bill. This is a bill that is going to make a real difference for everyday Queenslanders who are looking to secure their home. It is going to help locals in Ipswich and Bundamba because this is more than just a piece of legislation; it is a lifeline for people who have been looking to break into the housing market. We know that the purchase of a home is likely to be the biggest purchase that is ever made in most people's lives. This bill and what it enables will literally change the lives of many Queenslanders. It is backed by our Homes for Queenslanders Plan. That is a comprehensive plan backed by proud Labor funding, which is already delivering when it comes to housing in Queensland. We have been proud, as part of the announced budget, to lift the stamp duty threshold for first home buyers from \$500,000 to \$700,000. That follows the recent doubling of the first home owner grant.

We have other measures that are helping Queenslanders into homes quicker, things like targeted home ownership support for First Nations people and increasing regional finance support. We have certainly increased social homes in Queensland. Just in my Bundamba community over the last couple of years we have had three new complexes in Redbank, one in Bellbird Park, one in Goodna and one in Redbank Plains. It is fantastic to see this additional social housing stock coming into my community and communities like mine right throughout Queensland where we are getting more people into secure homes. Our housing plan also includes rental assistance as well as more funding and assistance for those in need of emergency support to get them into secure accommodation. The measures in this bill will complement and dovetail very well with our fully funded and considered evidence-based plan that is delivering more homes for Queenslanders and getting more Queenslanders onto that pathway to owning their first home.

While here in Queensland the Miles Labor government has proudly been doing the heavy lifting, the federal LNP in Canberra had years and years in government to address this issue—years and years to help Queenslanders and Australians right across the nation—but they did not do anything. In fact, they made it worse. They cut the National Rental Affordability Scheme and they are still at it, even in opposition, by voting with the Greens to block the very scheme that will be enabled by this legislation. I implore the opposition members in this House to talk to their federal colleagues and tell them to stop blocking critical legislation that will enable Queenslanders to get into housing quicker, legislation that will enable Queenslanders to own their first home quicker.

Previous speakers have made mention of the current LNP candidate for Oodgeroo, who thinks that the Help to Buy scheme is dangerous. We know from media reports that, if successful, that particular candidate might go straight into the cabinet of a future LNP government.

Mrs Frecklington: Who's the Labor candidate?

Mr McCALLUM: Indeed I take the interjection from the member for Nanango, who is not in her correct seat.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): That is noted. Member for Nanango, you know the rules.

Mr McCALLUM: If that particular candidate is going to go into a future LNP government, what portfolio might that particular candidate hold? Let's hope it is not the housing portfolio because she will wreak cuts on housing here in Queensland. This bill means that Queensland will lead the nation.

Mr Mander: Have you wiped him off already? Is that a concession speech?

Mr McCALLUM: I take the interjection from the member for Everton—probably coming for his seeing as housing went backwards the last time he was the housing minister in Queensland. We will keep on delivering for Queensland on this side of the House because Labor always delivers for Queensland and Queenslanders will know it when it comes to the election in October.

I return to the bill. This bill means that Queensland will lead the nation. We will be the first state to roll out this scheme. It delivers on our commitment to tackle housing affordability head-on. This is about cooperation between different levels of government for the greater good. I commend this bill to the House.