




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 16 April 2024

**HOUSING AVAILABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY (PLANNING AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; BUILDING INDUSTRY FAIRNESS
(SECURITY OF PAYMENT) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (4.02 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill 2023 and the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. These bills are critical in responding to the current housing challenges and unlocking barriers to delivering more homes for more Queenslanders, including for First Nations communities.

We know that housing inequity disproportionately affects First Nations Queenslanders. Addressing this is critically important to our combined effort to close the gap on disadvantage. Target 9 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap addresses the need for secure, appropriate and affordable housing for First Nations peoples. We know that in Queensland, First Nations people are: twice as likely to live in severely crowded homes than non-Indigenous Queenslanders; six times more likely to experience homelessness than non-Indigenous Queenslanders; more than 10 times more likely to live in social housing than non-Indigenous Queenslanders; only half as likely to own their own homes as non-Indigenous Queenslanders; and five times more likely to experience financial stress than non-Indigenous Australians.

The Miles government is driving progress to improve housing outcomes for First Nations Queenslanders. Yesterday, as part of the broader conversation about housing, I was pleased to join the Minister for Housing, Aunty Mary Doctor, chair of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland, and residents from Umpi Korumba to help launch *Our place: a First Nations Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2024-2027* which was co-designed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland, the peak body for housing. Our place action plan is backed by an initial \$61 million investment which will provide pathways to help First Nations peoples into home ownership and provide opportunities for the First Nations building and construction industry. In response to calls from Indigenous community housing organisation, we have committed to funding a program to help them maintain and upgrade homes.

The Miles Labor government is determined to close the gap. All of this is under threat from those opposite. It was the members opposite who sat silently as the federal LNP cut funding for remote Indigenous housing, for instance. We need to continue the work to deliver more housing for Queenslanders, and that is what this bill does.

These bills will provide the state and local governments with the necessary tools needed to intervene and respond to the key challenges affecting the delivering of housing, allowing a more agile response to growth pressures throughout the state. The bill provides a streamlined assessment pathway to deliver development that is a priority to the state, such as affordable housing. It also provides easement and acquisition powers for the planning minister to deliver critical development infrastructure. This is an important inclusion for the many families now calling Pallara in my electorate of Algester

home. Over the past nine years, Brisbane City Council has approved thousands of new homes in Pallara, putting many pressures on local infrastructure, including our ability to expand the primary school which at the moment is seeing a new stage of expansion being planned right now.

An objective of the bill is also to improve the operation of the Planning Act 2016. The Planning Act has been in operation since 2017 and has proven to be effective and robust. As planning practices modernise over time, the legislation requires amendments to support its continuing operation. The bill will improve processes for applications for temporary use licences, representations made on approvals under the Planning Act and notice processes for amending the minister's guidelines and rules and the development assessment rules. With newspaper circulation on the decline, the changes will allow for greater flexibility in processes for submissions, public notification and, of course, record keeping. This is particularly important for ensuring the voices of regional Queensland and discrete Indigenous communities are heard.

The Miles Labor government is also supporting stability in the building and construction industry with the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. A stable industry is critical to supporting the Homes for Queenslanders plan. With these amendments, the Miles Labor government is committed to creating a safer, fairer and more sustainable building and construction industry as set out in the *Queensland Building Plan 2017* and the *Queensland Building Plan Update 2021*. We are listening to industry and making it easier and more cost effective to comply. We are ensuring that industry can get on with delivering Queensland's Big Build, including in remote and regional areas and in Indigenous communities.

It is time the LNP came clean with Queenslanders on their plan and whether they are to repeat their brutal cuts to housing and Indigenous communities if they happen to sneak back into government with One Nation support. I commend these bills to the House.