




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (7.17 pm): All across Australia and New Zealand, and across the developed world in Europe, there are struggles post-COVID with the production and demand for new housing. We have seen high prices and these strains. It takes a serious, careful, determined approach to actually deal with these problems. Instead, it is really disappointing to follow someone who sees this as an opportunity for theatrics, for a confused mishmash of misinformation, with very little analysis of the actual bill that we have in front of us. That is disappointing. It is disappointing that this cannot be taken seriously by the opposition and that we cannot structurally examine this bill.

It is such a misrepresentation to talk about our commitment to the community housing sector. I have seen some fantastic projects—for example, the fantastic Marblewood Apartments, partnering with the Churches of Christ, that the member for Springwood, Minister de Brenni, along with Minister Enoch officially opened. Just the other day, the housing minister and I were facilitating a partnership with The Lady Musgrave Trust to provide housing for domestic violence survivors who are rebuilding their lives in partnership with YFS.

Why would you misrepresent that? Why would you misrepresent these serious things? It is because you are not serious about serious issues. This is all about cheesy politics. I want to talk about retrospectivity. This is something that came up in the determined and serious work we did as a committee. I want to recognise the deputy chair and others on the committee, because we took it seriously. We asked these questions about retrospectivity because we read about it in some of the submissions. The department said that would only happen where there was an amendment to a relevant development scheme. Where a developer was seeking an amendment to the scheme that could be beneficial to the developer, they could enter into an agreement about social and community housing.

In this confused mishmash, I am trying to work out if there are any policies over there. Is there a rejection of an agreement to work on social and community housing goals and affordable housing goals? It would seem that was the implied policy. Is there a policy to not work constructively with the community housing sector, as we have done, but instead go back to their policy of completely privatising social housing and moving it away from the government zone altogether? I am confused because it was not taken seriously. Everything was flittered around and not put into the framework of a policy. That shows the difficult problem faced by governments all over Australia, New Zealand and, indeed, the developed world. It takes serious and constructive hard work, not flippant politics and theatrics.

I rise to speak in support of this bill not just as the chair of the Cost of Living and Economics Committee but also as the member for Logan, where so many families are moving to. The acts that this bill amends have been vital to providing housing for thousands of young families seeking to establish for themselves a secure home for their children and their family. In my electorate I have both Yarrabilba and parts of Flagstone, which I share with the member for Jordan, and also the council areas of Park Ridge and Logan Reserve. These areas are vital for young couples starting their families and getting that housing supply. We have helped get thousands of young families into these EDQ developments.

These new structures mean we are going to see many more families being able to create this great piece of certainty with a new home for themselves. We are taking this seriously; we are not being flippant or making it about politics or talking about silly things that have nothing to do with the bill. We are taking the task in front of us seriously, but I do not expect to see that from some members opposite. I know that the deputy chair will do that, but that will be in stark contrast to the shadow minister.

The committee took this so seriously that there is no dissenting report to the committee's report. Many of the suggestions that were put forward to give powers to EDQ to facilitate these community goals are powers that the opposition leader, a former minister for local government, actually stripped away from EDQ. We are putting them back because we have these important goals. The things that were taken away by a flippant and unserious opposition who were all about theatrics and politics have to be put back by our government because we have these goals about achieving social and community housing.

These acts have ensured that Yarrabilba has the services that families need. After we built the state school, we also had plans in place as part of the EDQ development—that the shadow minister was so against—to put in place the Yarrabilba Community Centre. We have seen the recent expansion of the performing arts centre. We have invested in TAFE, which is also in the community centre. I want to recognise the TAFE minister, who was out in Yarrabilba witnessing that community growth as part of the deep commitment that these ministers have to seeing these areas thrive. This is a serious commitment with a determined policy, not theatrics, mishmash and misinformation. We built The Buzz, which I just spoke about. We have the ambulance station and the fire station that were invested in by the ministers. Catholic Education has a partnership with our investment and the developers to develop San Damiano College and St Clare's. We are building jobs in Flagstone that are sorely needed for people who want to travel further.

I urge members to not listen to the misinformation but to carefully read the report that we have put in place. I thank all of the members of the committee who took their job seriously and put those questions. We certainly put that serious question about retrospectivity and got serious answers from the department. The aim of this bill is to enhance EDQ's capacity through governance, resourcing, commercial and operational structures in order to increase housing supply, affordability and diversity. We want to see win-win situations where good planning, development and governmental support mean that, through this process of EDQ development, we can get social and affordable housing and get thousands of Queenslanders moving into new homes, creating great families and creating a great Queensland future.