




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MILLER

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

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (6.12 pm): I rise to support these important bills: the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill. We are seeing a very tough situation in the housing market as a result of the flowthrough of COVID, the number of people coming back to our country and, of course, the amount of migration coming specifically to Queensland because of the confidence in Queensland due to the strong stewardship and governing of this Labor government. These bills are important in a number of different regards. The Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is all about making sure that subcontractors get the money that they deserve. Moving to ensure this next wave of reform means that subbies get paid during the Big Build. We are a booming state with the Big Build and we want that to continue.

We have seen a \$20 billion benefit since the 2018 reforms. More than 1,200 contracts benefited. The recent independent assessment shows that industry has adapted very well to it. This government has a track record of making sure that private industry is getting the money that they deserve in the marketplace. Those opposite suggest that they are always for the private sector. I did not see them doing these kinds of reforms when they were last in power. They were too busy cutting, selling and sacking people and driving economic growth down to 0.7 per cent at one stage. The contrast between the economic incompetence of those versus the booming Big Build of the Miles Labor government is stark.

It is up to a responsible government like us to deal with what is a nationwide crisis in terms of housing that is accentuated in Queensland because of interstate migration. These new powers will give the minister new easement and acquisition powers in terms of achieving affordable, diverse housing types in infill areas. It gives a new alternate development assessment pathway to deliver development priority for the state and a new ability to declare particular types of use, for instance temporary accommodation for temporary periods of time to help people in need. It gives a new ability for assessment managers and referral agencies to impose a condition of affordable and social housing to get the outcomes we need to help the vulnerable in our community. That is what a responsible government does in terms of making sure people have a roof over their head.

It gives new powers to the minister to direct amendments to planning schemes. This is to ensure that where there are failures in those planning schemes in terms of housing that the state government can prioritise making those amendments to make sure that housing happens. That is what this government stands for and that is what we will continue to stand for. Many of these reforms flow through from commitments made from the housing summit to remove barriers and also to make sure that we have more levers to deal with the housing crisis as a responsible government.

We will not be hypocrites when it comes to housing. I hear criticism from those opposite, but when they were in government all they did was cut, cut and cut. Four hundred and fifty social homes were cut. Who did they appoint as their housing spokesperson for this so-called new LNP? The same member for Everton who cut, cut and cut. If ever you are going to see a way forward, you can see it right there. We have an opposition leader who called Campbell Newman 'special'. We all know that. It is in the biography. We know he loves Campbell Newman. The style of the opposition is very similar: promise the world and have no economic plan whatsoever to pay for it. We know they will slash progressive coal royalties if they get the chance, which means they are then unable to pay for anything and then come the cuts. They promise to build the multiple stages of the Sunshine Coast direct line when they did nothing when they were in power, with no way to pay for it and the department says it is not achievable to get it there by 2032. That shows the irresponsibility, recklessness and hollowness of the Leader of the Opposition. It is the same template used by Campbell Newman—populism without having any actual connection to make it work in the real world and then come the cuts.

I also point out the hypocrisy of the Greens party on housing. They criticise Labor, try to equate us with the cuts and devastation of the LNP—a dishonest position if ever there was one—while regularly opposing housing developments in their own electorates. Greens party members and members of parliament, whether they are federal or state, regularly oppose new housing. They use old class warfare terminology to justify it when the reality is we need all kinds of housing. We need social housing, we need affordable housing, we need private housing, we need units—housing of all kinds. We should be facilitating that as a priority. This government is getting on with the job of creating more housing. I commend both these bills to the House. They are a clear sign of a responsible government that is governing to get things done.