




Speech By
Hon. Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

Record of Proceedings, 14 February 2024

MOTION

Housing

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (6.15 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. notes
 - (a) nationwide housing pressures are impacting the ability of Australians to purchase their own home and afford rental payments;
 - (b) Queensland is particularly exposed to housing pressures due to significant interstate and international migration;
 - (c) the Miles government's Homes for Queenslanders plan delivers a comprehensive plan to address housing and rental affordability as well as addressing homelessness and social housing supply;
 - (d) that the former Newman government sent social housing construction backwards and cut QBuild jobs;
 - (e) that Peter Dutton and the federal Greens are blocking the passage of the Albanese government's Help to Buy legislation that would help more Queenslanders purchase their first home.
2. calls on the LNP Leader of the Opposition to stand up for Queensland and tell Peter Dutton to vote for Queenslanders to be given more opportunities to own their own homes; and
3. condemns Peter Dutton and the Greens for standing in the way of affordable housing.

Our Homes for Queenslanders plan is a big plan backed by big investment to deliver our big build. It is about building more homes faster, supporting Queensland renters, helping first home owners into the market, boosting our big social housing build, and working towards ending homelessness. It is a plan backed by many. The CEO of the Queensland Council of Social Services said—

Today Steven Miles and Meaghan Scanlon MP showed that they listen. We asked for a housing plan that has ambitious social housing targets, more funding for frontline services and better protection for renters. Today this was delivered.

She also said—

Facing this challenge takes courage, and it takes ambition. These targets that the Miles Government, together with our hardworking Housing Minister, are announcing today demonstrate just that.

The Property Council of Australia said—

Homes for Queenslanders, and in particular incentivised infill initiatives, show that Government has listened to industry feedback and to build homes needed to respond to the housing crisis.

We need all levels of government to play their part, and measures like the Albanese government's Help to Buy scheme will make it that little bit easier for low- and middle-income earners to buy their own home. We want to introduce that enabling legislation into our parliament to make sure Queenslanders can take advantage of that scheme as quickly as possible. We could do that if the mates of those opposite would stop blocking it in Canberra with the Greens political party. Some members may remember that in October last year the Leader of the Opposition told the Queensland Media Club that

an LNP government would 'look at' a shared equity scheme. That appears to be a bit out of step with his federal colleagues, because since then we have seen Peter Dutton, every Queensland LNP MP and the Greens all team up to delay this bill from passing through the parliament. What have we heard from the Leader of the Opposition? Absolutely nothing. He has backflipped on what was supposedly his signature policy at the Media Club. It is pathetic.

The real test of leadership is standing up for what you believe in, even when it is hard. Of course, at every opportunity the Leader of the Opposition fails that test. He says that he is for more home owners getting into the market. He could make that happen right now if he just picked up the phone and talked to Peter Dutton. It is weak, just like it was weak when he said nothing when his mates in Canberra blocked more investment in social housing. They said nothing when their mates discontinued the National Rental Affordability Scheme. They said nothing when the LNP discontinued the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing. If he will not stand up to the LNP in Canberra, he will not stand up for Queensland. It was only a day—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, member for Everton. If you want to get on the speaking list, there are plenty of opportunities, I would say.

Ms SCANLON: I would love to hear from the member for Everton. It had only been a day after we had released the housing plan and he said it was too much—too much—which is in keeping with their past record because, of course, the Leader of the Opposition made the conscious decision when selecting the shadow cabinet to appoint the very man who sent social housing in this state backwards by 428 homes. He axed the social housing construction program by 90 per cent. He cut 1,600 QBuild workers, the very people who build, maintain and repair properties. He even cut tenancy support services. So devoid of ideas is the member for Everton that he spent half of his speech talking about the fact that I am a renter rather than talking about any actual ideas in this House.

I am very proud of this government and our record investment in social and affordable housing. The only risk to Homes for Queenslanders is the LNP.

(Time expired)