




Speech By
Hon. Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2024

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; STATE FINANCIAL INSTRUCTIONS AND METWAY MERGER AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (3.43 pm): I rise to support the Miles Labor budget. This is a budget that delivers what matters for Queensland. We want every Queenslander to have a safe, affordable place to call home, and that is why one of the first things the Premier did was outline his Homes for Queenslanders plan, within only a matter of months of becoming the Premier of this state.

Mrs Frecklington: He had been there a decade.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the member for Nanango. Under our government, we have increased both public and community housing in this state, while under the LNP, under the member for Nanango, social housing in this state went backwards.

This budget locks in funding for our Homes for Queenslanders plan with a record \$2.8 billion investment just this financial year. You only had to listen to the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply speech on Thursday to know that the Miles Labor government has got it right, given the LNP have just tried to copy our entire plan. When the Premier launched our Homes for Queenslanders plan, the peak body for homelessness in New South Wales applauded our approach. The Queensland Council of Social Service has described it as nation-leading. The Northern Territory Property Council called on their government to copy it. They actually used the words 'Homes for Territorians', asking their government to copy our plan. Now, after the LNP have spent months saying that our plan to build one million homes and 53,500 social and affordable homes was unachievable and 'too much', they have remarkably backflipped and said they are going to do the same thing. They have basically said, 'Yeah, what they said'—pretty much our entire housing policy.

I guess imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, but the fact is that it is the Leader of the Opposition who will say and do anything to become Premier of this state. In fact, he is already calling himself 'Premier-elect'. You cannot trust them because his record is of cuts. The record of his team is of cuts. The record of his housing spokesperson is of cuts. They cut before and they will cut again. It is Queenslanders who will suffer.

We heard a lot of slogans from the LNP. We have heard them continuously talk about the fact that they support first home owners getting into the market, and now we have heard that they suddenly think shared equity is a good idea. Of course, it is a Labor idea. In fact, we passed legislation about this in the parliament only recently. There is just one problem, though: the Leader of the Opposition and the rest of the LNP have been silent when their federal colleagues have been blocking this very fund. Canberra is literally willing to pay, but the LNP continue to stand in the way. Frankly, I have never seen a clearer admission that the Leader of the Opposition is not up to the job than when it comes to this particular issue. If David Crisafulli, the Leader of the Opposition, does not have the ticker to pick up the phone to Peter Dutton and tell him to stop blocking this then he does not have the ticker to be the

Premier of this state; it is as simple as that. There is a funded policy right now that would see at least 2,000 Queenslanders every year get into home ownership, significantly more than the opposition's plan, and they are refusing to call on their federal colleagues to get out of the way.

When it comes to the Housing Investment Fund, which the member for Everton has relentlessly attacked, I want to say a couple of things. We have already delivered hundreds of homes through the Housing Investment Fund, currently housing around 800 Queenslanders. These are principally National Rental Affordability Scheme homes which we stepped in and bought after the LNP cut that program. These homes are owned and managed by community housing providers, growing their balance sheets and, in turn, giving them more capability to deliver more homes.

For all of their talk about unleashing the community housing sector, those opposite do not seem to grasp the most basic concept, and they do not seem to back the very thing the community housing sector asked us to do, which was to step in and go and buy those homes. Every time the LNP say the Housing Investment Fund will only be used to build new homes, what they are saying is that they do not support us purchasing those NRAS homes, they do not support us purchasing hotels, and they do not support us purchasing the retirement villages that are providing housing for people right now.

The Housing Investment Fund is also supporting new builds. As I said, there are hundreds and hundreds of new social and affordable homes being built right now, being built by housing community providers. Every time those opposite criticise the construction timeframes of the Housing Investment Fund, they are criticising community housing providers, because they are the ones delivering those projects. It is just rank hypocrisy. You cannot trust a word they say, particularly the member for Everton. This is a man who sent social housing backwards by 428 homes and cut the social housing construction program by 90 per cent. Despite all of that, the Leader of the Opposition has given him the job again if they are elected.

Yesterday we also gained an insight into their plan to cut QBuild. The member for Scenic Rim made a pretty extraordinary attack on QBuild in his contribution in this House. He said that 'QBuild is notoriously inefficient' and that having them involved in building a rural fire station is 'a negative outcome for all'. I thank the member for Scenic Rim for making clear the LNP's plan for QBuild, because it sounds a lot like what the member for Everton did last time, which was to decimate QBuild, our public builder. He cut the apprenticeship program and axed over 1,600 jobs. We know that they are desperate to distance themselves from their own record, but their old boss, Campbell Newman, pointed out recently on radio that they were all there. We know from their comments yesterday that they want to do those very things all over again.

If the Leader of the Opposition took a test on ancestry.com, he would find that he is a close relation of Campbell Newman. We know that public housing is not in their DNA, the public builder is not in their DNA, the public developer is not in their DNA and public ownership is not in their DNA. I find their so-called housing plan very interesting. They say they want EDQ to prioritise public housing when they are the very people who removed that function from EDQ. It is just bizarre. Only a Miles government will do what matters through this budget.

It has been brought to my attention that a post I made on social media on 18 April 2024 could have misrepresented the proceedings of the House. This was not my intention. I have removed the post and I apologise to the House.

The Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

We are delivering a cost-of-living budget focussed on helping Gold Coast families and on building the infrastructure our community needs.

Our Big Build is delivering for our growing community across the board.

We promised to deliver more housing and that's what we're doing—building another 200 social and affordable homes with the Southport Supportive Accommodation project.

It includes about 200 high-rise social and affordable units will help people experiencing or at risk of homelessness as well as two floors dedicated to delivering on site support services.

That's in addition to the hundreds of new social homes underway across the Coast.

The Gold Coast will receive \$2.4 billion for health with work starting on new Coomera Hospital.

There's \$116 million in school upgrades to help local kids get the best start in life.

We're keeping the Coast moving, including three new train stations at Pimpama, Hope Island and Merrimac; Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3 from Broadbeach South to Burleigh Heads and we're upgrading the M1 from Varsity to Tugun.

It's also full steam ahead on the second M1—the Coomera Connector—with work well underway.

Since we came to government, the Gold Coast has 1908 extra nurses, 763 extra teachers, 505 extra doctors and 149 extra ambulance officers—we are doing what matters for the Gold Coast.

We are backing in our investment in education, healthcare, and our road and rail network and doing what matter for Gold Coasters.

Those opposite might get up and talk about these projects, but they fail to admit to Queenslanders that none of those projects would exist under the Opposition because they didn't commit to any of those projects.

There would be no mental health rehabilitation unit at our Gold Coast University Hospital, there would be no expansion there. There would be no expansion at Robina Hospital. There would be no Tugun satellite hospital and there would be no second M1 to Nerang.

It is only Labor governments that are delivering in this budget whether it be for the health infrastructure that our community needs, the housing that we need or cost-of-living measures that we know so many people need right now.

Can I finally say how proud I am that this budget delivers for my community in Gaven, for families and for the people of Queensland.

This is a great Labor budget that we are all incredibly proud of and I commend the bill to the House.