




Speech By
Hon. Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2024

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL
APPROPRIATION BILL
Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)
Appropriation Bill

Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee, Report

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (2.40 pm): As always, we hear very shouty contributions from those opposite, particularly the member for Everton who seems to be a very angry man.

Ms Pease interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I take the member's interjection. I too would be pretty angry if the best outcome of the election was going back to the same job I was booted from nearly a decade ago. Why did he get booted from that job? Maybe it was the fact that he was a state housing minister who sent social housing backwards by 428 homes. You want to talk about delivery? I think that is a bit more 'how ya going'! He axed support for renters. We know he clearly does not like them. He demonstrates that every time he comes into this House and talks about renters. They cut 1,600 QBuild jobs—that is, the very people who literally build and maintain public housing. We heard from the member for Everton that he is going to do it all again.

During estimates, we heard that the LNP's plan is for no more public housing. It was the first time we got that on the record: no more public housing from the LNP. The estimates process showed a very clear contrast between the Miles Labor government that is doing what matters by delivering our Homes for Queenslanders plan and an opposition that openly admit that they do not want more homes in their own backyards. This is an opposition whose line of questioning would suggest that they would rather see people sleep rough than have a safe place to stay. It is an opposition that spent its time undermining renters and reforms that will protect renters in this state. It is an opposition that is misleading Queenslanders by saying that 10,000 homes could be magically built at no cost and we discovered that that was a blatant lie.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Minister, I ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

Ms SCANLON: I withdraw. The estimates process revealed that at the LNP convention the opposition leader said that they would deliver—

10,000 new community homes working with the faith-based sector, it won't cost a dollar—just a change in regulation.

That is a direct quote. In reality, when we talked to those faith-based organisations we learnt that they do in fact want money for the leasing of the land and they do in fact want money to develop those projects. This is the LNP again either deliberately misleading Queenslanders or doing dodgy and secret deals.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Linton, I ask you to withdraw that comment, please.

Ms PEASE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I withdraw and I am the member for 'Lytton'.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: My apologies, member for Lytton.

Ms SCANLON: We also caught on the record LNP members saying that they do not want us to build up and they also do not want us to build on defunct golf courses but, at the same time, they say we need more housing supply. The math is not mathing. If you say that you do not want to go up and you do not want to build on land that is available, where are the houses going to go? We know that math is not a strong suit for the member for Everton. We all remember the costings press conference.

The member for Lockyer showed up. He showed that the LNP did not understand that in order to deliver housing there must be solutions in the planning system as well. At least the member for Lockyer actually bothered to hang around, unlike the member for Kawana, who is actually the shadow minister for planning. He spent barely 10 minutes in the chamber. He asked a handful of questions and, after the theatrics, decided that he had had enough and left. He did not even stay for the one-hour session that was allocated for planning. That shows how strongly the LNP feel about housing and planning.

The opposition leader and the LNP say they want to unleash the community housing sector but, in the same breath, they criticise the community housing providers for buying homes and they criticise them for their timeframes in delivering housing projects. You cannot have it both ways. You cannot say that you support them and then criticise them for everything that they do.

I want to respond to some of the claims made by the member for Everton and those opposite about the Housing Investment Fund. I want to be very clear: the Housing Investment Fund has delivered 617 homes and people are living in those homes right now. We all know that it takes some time to build homes and this is just one of many programs. They are very picky with their words because they are trying to deliberately mislead Queenslanders. There are people living in those homes right now because of the investment that our government has made. I could go on and criticise many other elements of the member for Everton's comments. He suggests that we are spending too much money on emergency accommodation but then talks about people living in tents. I think the LNP need to articulate what on earth their plan is.

(Time expired)