




Speech By
Hon. Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Affordable Housing

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (9.57 am): Today, planning expert Paul Burton, a member of the Cities Research Institute at Griffith University, backed my move to step in and turn a privately owned golf course into affordable homes for Queenslanders. He said—

If we want to condemn the next generation of children and young people to the prospect of never buying a home, that's what will happen unless we start to accept some more change.

Meeting the housing challenges we face requires leaders not to be NIMBYs and pander to the few but to be bold and ambitious because, as the *Gold Coast Bulletin* wrote last week—

Given the challenges we face ... in accommodating our population, there will be no room for nimbyism in this debate.

What Queenslanders have seen is that our new Premier and our government are not afraid to be just that. We have the Homes for Queenslanders plan to build one million more homes, including 53,500 social homes. We are helping the one-third of Queenslanders who rent with financial support and the reform they need. We have set targets for councils to fast-track planning and to help pay for the infrastructure we need to unlock homes. In the past few months, we have locked in a record investment for social housing. In fact, we have added thousands of homes to our social housing stock and we have around 1,000 homes under construction right now.

We have also opened QBuild manufacturing facilities to build modular homes, and there are 600 more on the way. Our fund to help pay for more infrastructure has attracted hundreds of expressions of interests with the potential to unlock 30,000 homes. We have also locked in \$160 million to support renters in this state.

Our fast-tracked approval pathway has earmarked the first projects to get more affordable homes up off the ground quickly. We have also increased critical funding for homelessness services and created a dedicated fund so that anyone experiencing homelessness in this state is offered accommodation. Our plan is one that housing expert Hal Pawson says our state can—

... reasonably claim to be leading the way on long-term, evidence-informed planning of social housing investment.

But what we have achieved and what we have laid out is all at risk. The LNP have made it clear they will cut billions in critical funding for social homes and home ownership.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjections of those opposite.

Mr Lister interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection of the member for Southern Downs. That is exactly what we are doing in contrast to the LNP, who have slated cuts. Hal Pawson says fragmented and inadequate policy-making capacity bears much of the blame and actions like the LNP's decision to block housing and to walk away from rental affordability, Indigenous housing and social housing construction does not help. What we have seen—

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, Minister. Members, the level of conversation in the chamber is too loud. I ask you to cease those or take them outside.

Ms SCANLON: The LNP insists on sending our state backwards. We are looking forward and we are serious about delivering our Homes for Queenslanders plan, but all of that is at risk under the Leader of the Opposition in October.