




Speech By  
**Peter Russo**

**MEMBER FOR TOOHEY**

Record of Proceedings, 7 March 2024

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Housing, Queensland Greens**

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (6.20 pm): After the unrelenting penny-pinching, hard-headedness conservatism and the numerous controversies of the Liberal-National coalition in government at the federal level, we all faced challenges that included rising interest rates, draconian employment conditions and an escalating cost of living. No wonder Queenslanders have had it tough. Unfortunately, some have had it tougher than the rest of us as they struggle to meet the cost-of-living increases and to put a roof over their heads.

Earlier this month I met with a local who faced challenges with her current housing due to complex issues. We spoke and talked about real strategies that could be taken to help. Due to privacy, I am unable to comment further on this case. This person also reached out to the Greens party for help. It was very disappointing that the Greens did not provide any real or concrete action but actually used this person's misfortunes for grandstanding. The Greens could have used their social media presence to assist the person to find accommodation. They could have appealed to their loyal fan base for help, but they did not. Rather, they decided it was another opportunity to talk about themselves. Trying to whip up a public frenzy to attack issues, whether real or imagined, is of no difference for them. They wanted to position themselves as champions. Their manufactured outrage was obvious and almost dripped from the screen. It is disappointing that the Greens seek to politicise Queenslanders in need.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr RUSSO:** If they were serious about helping Queenslanders, the Greens would work with us to deliver additional homes rather than play politics. The Miles government has released our landmark Homes for Queenslanders plan—

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Order, member for Gregory.

**Mr RUSSO:**—a plan which will create more affordable homes faster and work towards ending homelessness. A sound first step would be for the Greens to commit to and start working with the Albanese government.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr RUSSO:** This is something which would help more Queenslanders own their own homes.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, I called out your name before. I note that you just interjected again. You are on a warning, so you can leave the chamber for one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Gregory withdrew from the chamber at 6.23 pm.*

**Mr RUSSO:** The Greens delayed additional investment in social and affordable housing for nearly a year before finally caving in. If that money had not been delayed, then right now—today—we would have more social homes. We would be in a position to help more people right now. I call upon the Greens to put aside their political grandstanding and work to deliver more social housing and more affordable housing and accept additional homes in our communities.