




Speech By
Hon. Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 14 February 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Homes for Queenslanders

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.35 am): On the day I was sworn in as Premier I said I would work for Queenslanders every single day. On that day I said the best way we can set Queensland up for success long into the future is by providing intergenerational prosperity. We want to help parents give their kids more opportunities than they had. We know that safe, secure, affordable housing is the most important foundation to make that happen. It does not matter how good the school is, if a student is worried about where they are sleeping that night they are not going to learn. They will fall behind and probably start misbehaving. When a family has to keep moving because the rent is constantly going up, we are not giving young Queenslanders the best start in life.

Last week the hardworking housing minister and I announced Homes for Queenslanders, our whole-of-system housing plan with a \$3 billion investment to back it in. This is the single largest investment in Queensland's housing system ever. It is a comprehensive plan to build more homes faster, to support renters, to help first home owners, to boost our social housing big build and to work towards the end of homelessness. Our goal is unashamedly ambitious: one million new homes by 2046, including 53,500 new social homes.

Last week Minister Scanlon and I visited a social housing development in Alderley that is well on the way to being completed. There we met all the hardworking tradies who are showing up every day to get the job done. Tradies like Matt and Matt, two apprentice carpenters, who are cutting their teeth on the job site that will change Queenslanders' lives. Growing the construction workforce, Queensland's Big Build will need a bigger workforce and the residential building sector is already struggling to find enough skilled labour. To solve the problem, our \$11 million Queensland Construction Workforce Fund will aim to expand free apprenticeships for under-25s and encourage the employment of priority trades within the construction sector. We know we will rely heavily on our very own QBuild to meet our housing targets and I know Minister Scanlon is looking forward to meeting some of those apprentices here at parliament today.

We are also investing in infrastructure to accelerate home construction and build more homes faster, including a \$350 million fund to incentivise infill development. We are supporting Queensland renters with a \$160 million Renters Relief Package and we are banning rent bidding. To help first home owners into the market, we have doubled our First Home Owner Grant to \$30,000 and we are investing in more measures helping regional and First Nations Queenslanders buy their first home. We are working towards ending homelessness, investing \$390 million for a 20 per cent uplift in funding for homelessness services that support our most vulnerable. On top of our five-pillar plan, we will back the federal government's Help to Buy scheme by introducing legislation into the Queensland parliament this year. Housing should not be a political football and I will be seeking bipartisan support in Queensland for this initiative because unfortunately we have not seen that at a national level. Homes for Queenslanders builds on our progress and charts a course towards ensuring every Queenslanders has a safe place that they can call home.