



Speech By
Hon. Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Housing

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (10.02 am): As I said yesterday, our government has heard the message from Queenslanders that more needs to be done on housing, health care, community safety and, importantly, cost of living. I want to work with Queenslanders on those solutions. It is why my government has taken a new approach to community cabinets. My ministers and I are available and accessible to anyone who wants to meet with us, and the town hall provides an opportunity for locals to ask us anything they want on the issues that matter to them.

At our community cabinet in Cairns I heard from Mandy. She is a teacher aide from Kuranda. Mandy told me about her experience with rent bidding, which was putting her and others in the same position at a disadvantage. Her story is just one of many. That is why we have released the Homes for Queenslanders plan. It is our response to the current pressures and outlines our plan to build more homes faster and invest in new initiatives to increase social housing, support the vulnerable and better protect renters, crack down on real estate agents through a new code of conduct and outlaw rent bidding. Prospective renters should not be played off against each other so that landlords can turn a better profit. It is just not good enough. We heard that, so we are doing something about it.

We have already delivered changes to rental laws so renters cannot be discriminated against for having pets and to protect renters from being asked to leave a property without grounds. We have also brought in minimum housing standards, because renters were telling us that some properties were just not up to scratch. A working kitchen, a private bathroom and functioning locks are not luxuries; they are the basics.

For vulnerable Queenslanders who need a helping hand, our Homes for Queenslanders plan boosts the supports available. That is what organisations told us they needed. We listened and delivered. We are rolling out dedicated critical response teams who help find accommodation for those sleeping rough. I have seen their work firsthand at Mckillop Park in my electorate and Musgrave Park here in the city. It is life-changing. Safe and secure housing underpins everything. It boosts confidence and provides opportunity. I want all Queenslanders to have that opportunity and to aspire for more. Only my government will deliver that because we are a strong team willing to make big decisions.