




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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MOTION

Miles Labor Government

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (5.47 pm): One of the greatest pressures in the cost-of-living crisis we have at the moment is on housing and the costs associated with that. Unfortunately, in this state over the last nine years the housing situation and the cost of housing has got worse and worse. Minister Enoch was in the housing portfolio initially. Then it was Minister de Brenni, then back to Minister Enoch and now Minister Scanlon. We have had four iterations of ministers in the last nine years. The situation has not got better; it has actually got worse. It does not matter what stage of housing you are involved in—whether it is trying to buy a new home, whether it is trying to rent or, if you are a vulnerable person, whether it is trying to get a social housing property.

Unfortunately Cairns and Far North Queensland have not been immune from those pressures. Mr Deputy Speaker, do not take my word for it. The statistics speak for themselves. When it comes to trying to get a new home in the Cairns regional LGA, over the last eight years there has been a 94 per cent reduction in lot approvals—a 94 per cent reduction in lot approvals. Is it any wonder it is more difficult and more expensive to buy a new home in the Cairns area? When we look at trying to rent a property, over the last eight years the vacancy rate in the Cairns region has decreased from 3.1 per cent to 1.2 per cent. If you are trying to rent a house in Cairns, you will realise how difficult it is.

If you get one then you have to pay for it. In the last eight years, rent in Cairns has increased by 48 per cent. They are last year's figures, so I can only imagine that figure is worse now. The cost-of-living crisis is hitting Cairns in the housing sector like it is everywhere else across the state. Those who do not fit into that category, those who cannot afford to buy a new house and are struggling to rent a property, are looking for social housing. The social housing figures are even more staggering. Over the last eight years there has been a 19 per cent increase in those looking for a social housing property in the electorate of Cairns, and in Cook there has been a 60 per cent increase in the number of people looking for a social housing property. Do not worry, because the Queensland state Labor government has the solution with the social housing big build! They tried to use a bit of alliteration with the Bs. I can think of another 'B' that can be added on to 'Big Build'. Have a think about what it might be. Just think about it. The Big Build is baloney. Why is it baloney? It is because over the last nine years this government on average has increased social housing by 200 extra properties per year. They expect us to believe that 200 is going to be 2,000 properties that are going to be built per year.

An opposition member: By when?

Mr MANDER: That is in how many years time? By 2046, so that is 22 years time. They are unbelievable in so many ways. They are giving false hope. The great consolation renters have is that they have a minister who is a renter as well and she understands renters. She understands the struggle of trying to put rent together. Forget the fact that she is on \$350,000 a year and forget the fact that she

has a car and chauffeur to drive her around—she understands how difficult it is to pay the rent every week. Thank goodness we have a minister who can relate to renters! It does not matter where you live in this state, you are affected by the cost-of-living crisis. The only answer is to show Labor the door in '24.

(Time expired)