



Speech By  
**Tim Mander**


**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 6 March 2024

**MOTION**

**Cost of Living, Select Committee**

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (5.43 pm): I stand to support the motion moved by the member for Nanango. When it comes to the cost of living, at the moment one of the greatest pressures on Queenslanders is the cost of housing, particularly for renters. Over 30 per cent of Queenslanders are renters. A couple of months ago, figures were released that looked at the rental increases over the past year as well as the past nine years of the Labor government. Those figures are quite frightening. Statewide, in one year, on average, rents increased by 13 per cent but over the past nine years they have increased by 53 per cent. Under this government, rent has increased by 53 per cent, on average, across the state. When you look at some of the local government areas, it is even more frightening.

I recognise Bree James and Yolonde Entsch, who are in the gallery. They are the LNP candidates for Barron River and Cairns. One of the reasons they are fighting for their region is that in Cairns over the past nine years rents have increased by 48 per cent. Some of the other local government areas include: Livingstone in Central Queensland, 77 per cent; Whitsunday, 86 per cent; and Mackay, 79 per cent. Is it any wonder that Queenslanders are struggling to pay their rent from week to week? However, they need not fear because they have a minister who is a renter and can relate to them! The fact that she is on 370 grand a year and has a driver has nothing to do with it. She understands the challenges that renters have! The greatest challenge the minister has is whether she is going to have lobster or Wagyu steak for dinner. That is the greatest challenge she has. It is insulting to say that she understands what they are going through.

What is the result of these increases in rents? The result is now being seen in our parks. The other day I went past Musgrave Park and I could have sworn I passed the Cotton Tree caravan park. What look like brand new tents are all set up, in order. I would say that the government has installed those tents. Of course, in recent days we have heard that the Premier's own electorate of Murrumba has a tent city, located opposite the office of the member for Bancroft. Miraculously, people from the housing department visited that day. They visited because of the publicity in the paper. The only time this government acts is when the media or the LNP embarrasses them, which is happening on a daily basis.

Why do we have a problem? We have a problem because there are not enough houses. There is no supply because this government have not planned. They have been in government for 30 of the past 35 years and for the past nine years straight, but they have not planned and there have not been enough land releases to improve supply.

I can tell members what the government is good at. This government is good at making announcements. There was a classic example of that last week when they made an 'announcement' in a press release titled 'Homes for Queenslanders: Ivory Street redevelopment on cards to bolster

inner-city housing'. Those of my vintage would understand this term: it is a Clayton's announcement—that is, an announcement you have when you do not have an announcement. It states—

Site at Ivory Street, Fortitude Valley could deliver housing solutions ...

Miles Government will now progress a detailed evaluation of housing options which could be delivered ...

The ever-changing face of Brisbane's Fortitude Valley could usher in a large-scale housing solution ...

This project could potentially ...

That one is a double whammy. The release says the site 'may be suitable'. It quotes Minister Grace Grace as saying that this site has the 'potential' to provide safe housing. Another minister is quoted as saying, 'There's a huge amount of potential on this site.' This announcement is not worth the paper it is written on. They continue to make false announcements, giving false hope to our most vulnerable in the state. In the meantime, Queenslanders suffer. Show Labor the door in '24.