



Speech By  
**Hon. Ann Leahy**


**MEMBER FOR WARREGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 29 October 2025

**MOTION**

**Housing**

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (5.46 pm): I rise to support the amendment. That was a disgraceful display by the member for Bundaberg attacking community housing—absolutely disgraceful.

Local governments are key to addressing the housing issues across Queensland, but under Labor's decade of decline they were left in the dark.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers!

**Ms LEAHY:** Councils are key to addressing critical housing supply but they were treated like second-class citizens by the members opposite.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers, you are now warned.

**Ms LEAHY:** We on this side of the House know that the delivery of the right plan for Queensland's future, to solving Labor's housing crisis, is dependent on local governments being treated as genuine and equal partners.

Labor did not have a minister for local government. They had a housing and local government minister who was against local government all the way. Labor had a minister who used her special powers to call in the Arundel development, overruling the local council decision. Council's plans were for the redevelopment of the site for homes, but the member for Gaven proved she was the minister against even her own local council. It was the LNP when it came to government that had to step in so the council could get on with the job of housing for the Arundel community. It was also their minister against local government who waited 200 days to do anything about the former mayor of Townsville, yet in 22 days the LNP had the former mayor out of the Townsville City Council chamber.

It might help some of the Labor members opposite to reflect on what their former Labor colleagues did back in 2008 when they abolished the Smaller Communities Assistance Program, known as SCAP. They have taken billions of dollars away from councils—funding that councils used to extend water and sewerage assets to support housing in their communities. The LNP are assisting councils with our Residential Activation Fund. We are helping councils to bring more lots on to the market for housing. I will give a really good example of this. In Dalby there are fewer than 10 lots to purchase if you wish to build a home. The Residential Activation Fund—and I thank the Deputy Premier for the work he has done in relation to the Residential Activation Fund—working with council and local developers, will help unlock over 90 new lots in that community.

That is a massive boost for housing supply in Dalby and something that is desperately needed in this growing community. That story is repeated over and over again as you go to rural and regional councils right across the state, be it Charleville, Thargomindah, Roma or Saint George.

As we heard from the minister earlier, one of the things we have done in government is abolish stamp duty for first home buyers on new homes. It is not very often you hear of a government abolishing a tax, but that is what we have done to help young first home buyers into the market.

We also introduced the Boost to Buy scheme, which will reduce the deposit gap for first home buyers. That is something that is really needed because we know there is often postcode discrimination in rural and regional areas. We removed the restriction on first home buyers renting out a room. People have come to me in relation to that restriction and we removed it. We also dealt with the member for Woodridge's farcical proposal to make Queenslanders pay a renter's tax. Can you believe that, in a housing crisis, Labor wanted young people to pay a renter's tax? It was just bizarre. The member for Gaven failed to deliver a single home under that \$2 billion housing investment.

I commend the housing minister for the work he is doing with our Indigenous councils, particularly the rent-to-buy model through the Palm Island Home Ownership Scheme. It is the first time Indigenous people will be able to own their own home—

*(Time expired)*