




Speech By
Charis Mullen

MEMBER FOR JORDAN

Record of Proceedings, 12 June 2025

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Crisafulli LNP Government, Planning

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.06 pm): When it comes to planning in our state, it is an absolute clown show under the Crisafulli LNP government. Since their election we have seen some of the most blatantly political planning decisions that should be of grave concern to the people of Queensland. If you want to build social and affordable housing in Queensland then you have no idea what to expect from this government. Whilst they are happy to turn the first sod on housing projects approved and funded by the former Labor government, they are actively rejecting social and affordable housing in LNP seats: in Arundel, 130 fewer affordable homes as a result of ministerial intervention; in Birtinya, 90 fewer affordable homes as a result of ministerial intervention; and in Tewantin, 40 affordable homes supported through a state facilitated development process cancelled by the Minister for Planning.

The government will say that this is all about giving voice to local councils who are unhappy about these affordable housing developments. The developer behind the Tewantin project, Bruce Bairstow, has sounded the alarm, saying—

It's introducing a new sovereign risk to developers from the state government if we go down this pathway to get affordable housing delivered.

To be honest, it is all Bruce's fault. Instead of investing in affordable housing that our state desperately needs, he should have invested in a luxury tourism development on the Sunshine Coast and made a little donation to the LNP.

We have a situation where the Sunshine Coast Regional Council has rejected an application to build 38 new short-stay luxury units in Maleny—but hang on, the government suddenly will not give voice to council's concerns on this one. Instead, they have joined the developer's appeal in the court, citing what they say is an important state interest: tourism.

Here are the facts. The only relevant state interest identified in the planning process was proximity to a state controlled transport corridor. TMR reviewed the matter and recommended the state not join the appeal. On the basis of that advice, the planning department formally determined on 14 March to not join the appeal. Then on 28 April the member for Glass House wrote to the planning minister advocating for state involvement in the appeal. Suddenly the director-general, John Sosso—remember him?—effectively directed the department to join the appeal, despite no new advice from his department or the tourism department and no change in the state interest trigger. I table the department's affidavit on the matter. It makes for very interesting reading on what is a truly murky matter.

Tabled paper: Affidavit of Mr Philip Martin Joyce, Acting Executive Director, Improvement and Assessment, Planning Group, Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, in relation to proceedings in the Planning and Environment Court against the Sunshine Coast Regional Council [632](#).

The developer of this oh-so-important luxury tourism development is, unsurprisingly, also an LNP donor. Last year in opposition Premier Crisafulli said that he wanted 'a Public Service empowered in decision-making and free to give frank and fearless advice'. He obviously forgot to add that this does not apply in projects involving their LNP mates.