



Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**


**MEMBER FOR BANCROFT**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**Social and Affordable Housing**

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (9.02 pm): It is a pleasure to lead off the batting on the adjournment tonight. I have noticed that the LNP are boasting about how many social and affordable houses they are going to build for Queenslanders, but it is going to be hard to live up to their boasting if they keep cutting housing projects. The Deputy Premier, through his decisions, has axed nearly 1,000 affordable homes in the backyards of LNP members. They can do this because the first bill that the LNP government passed gave the Deputy Premier the power to scrap or reduce affordable housing projects to which Labor had given the green light.

The LNP has cut affordable housing projects in their own backyards, including: 970 homes in Arundel Hills; 90 homes in Birtinya; 40 homes in Tewantin; and 73 homes in Redland Bay. At the same time they axed social and affordable housing projects, they axed the policy of buying hotels and unused aged-care accommodation places to help house vulnerable Queenslanders.

I have been at one of these reused facilities—the emergency housing facility at Rothwell operated by Vinnies and the department—and they are doing a tremendous job. By early August, 76 people had come through since opening, and 47 of these clients have subsequently sustained tenancies. They have provided over 7,000 bed nights since they opened 14 months ago. They have 21 clients at all times and they always have 100 per cent occupancy. It is an incredible success story that is possible only because the opposition leader and the member for Gaven made it happen by purchasing this unused facility. There will be no more success stories like this under the LNP—no more innovative purchases to help house vulnerable Queenslanders.

Another policy backflip by the LNP that is stripping out social and affordable housing opportunities is that they have ripped up any requirements for developers to build social and affordable housing projects even when they are supported by a public developer. I am talking about what the LNP has done to the Woolloongabba and Northshore Hamilton PDAs. The Deputy Premier said that the decision to axe these requirements for social and affordable housing reflects ‘the reality of commercial development’. The member for Clayfield said that these requirements were ‘undeliverable pipe dreams’ at Northshore Hamilton. How is it undeliverable to require the development of public land to include social and affordable housing? Where will the building of social and affordable homes end up if the LNP apply ‘the reality of commercial development’ to other housing projects?