



## Speech By **Christopher Whiting**

**MEMBER FOR BANCROFT**

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### **PRIVATE MEMBER STATEMENT**

#### **Housing Affordability; Movember**

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.41 pm): I rise to talk a little bit more about the failings of the LNP when it comes to providing ordinary Queenslanders with housing. Today we heard the member for Woodridge say that the housing waitlist has gone up 11 per cent in three months and there has been an increase of 13.2 per cent in housing costs in a year in Queensland, but the number of houses started has gone down 4.4 per cent compared to the average for the last decade. Yesterday we heard from the Premier and Deputy Premier that the only solution is supply. If that is their own solution it is simplistic and inaccurate, because it does little about the biggest issue: affordability.

They are not my words; they are the words of Centacare, which has put out a report. They have also said that hospitality workers, meatworkers and early childhood teachers and workers can only afford 0.8 per cent of available rentals nationally. That is less than one per cent of rentals they can afford across our nation. If we are talking about supply then developers are going to do well out of that, as they would do well out of the Visy site if that ever gets into their hands, but ordinary workers cannot afford to rent or buy the new stock that comes on board at this point.

It is simplistic to imagine that affordable homes will simply trickle down, appear on the markets and be available for people to buy. That economic theory was absolutely discredited in the Reagan era, but what we are seeing at the moment is a re-embracing of trickle-down economic theory as the only viable solution they have for fixing housing. If supply, supply, supply is their only solution then I am afraid they have nothing of substance to help address all of the nuances of the housing problems we have in our state. I believe that is another failing of the LNP.

On a different note, Movember is around the corner and I can announce that I will be gracing this chamber again—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr WHITING:** I know!—with my mo a la Ron Burgundy. When I was a kid I was inspired by those sporting heroes Dennis Lillee and Allan Border, great sporting men with moustaches. I loved that. It is great to see that sporting people these days are re-embracing the mo, whether that be in cricket or hockey, but not the mullet. I am not going down that path. It is good to see these younger people who inspire me. Men's health is a good cause. You can go onto my social media pages to make a donation. You stay classy, Queensland.