




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR GAVEN

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REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (3.28 pm): I am pleased to speak on the revenue bill. I am also pleased to follow the member for Oodgeroo as we talk about home ownership because who could forget that it was the member for Oodgeroo who said on Sky News that a shared equity scheme was ‘really dangerous’—now she comes in here and says that she supports home ownership—despite that being in complete contradiction to what the Premier has put forward as a policy. Perhaps that is why she is not on the front bench.

Of course, I heard none of those brave soldiers in the government say anything when Peter Dutton and their federal mates were blocking the shared equity Help to Buy scheme. They were completely silent about home ownership when they were all blocking reform and investment that would help young people and working Queenslanders get into the market and now they are trying to pretend like they care about young Queenslanders getting into the market. Let’s be honest, this is really about giving a tax cut to people who want to buy multimillion-dollar homes. The government is not interested in helping working Queenslanders get into the market.

Mr O’Connor: You’ll be eligible, member. You can get in the market.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the member for Bonney, the chief NIMBY himself. I do not know how the member will help young Queenslanders get into new homes—this is about new homes—when time and time again he blocks new homes being built in his own electorate.

The Labor opposition will always support attempts to increase home ownership and housing supply, but we do share some of the concerns that experts have put forward about the impact the measures in this bill will actually have on the housing market. The REIQ, which those opposite so often like to quote, said—

The REIQ would be interested to understand if the Government has modelling in relation to the expected take up of the new concessions and anticipated increase in the rate of homeownership in Queensland.

I ask the Treasurer in his reply to the debate to table the modelling. I suspect he will not because, as with the Making Queensland Safer Laws, there is no modelling. This is one measure but there needs to be a range of measures to improve the rate of home ownership in this state. I agree with the member for Oodgeroo on one thing: supply is necessary. Time and time again we see the government opposing supply. The UDIA said—

... fundamentally the important thing to remember is that supply is the only answer. We need more houses of all types ...

Q Shelter made similar remarks. What is the Crisafulli government’s record on supply? Their housing minister ran on a platform against affordable housing in his electorate. Some 650 homes that were—

Mr O’Connor: Hypothetical houses.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection. Any DA is effectively hypothetical until it is approved. When you remove the mechanism for it to be approved, it cannot then eventuate.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order! Member for Bonney.

Ms SCANLON: That is how planning works. This is perhaps why the member for Bonney is not the planning minister. That is one example of—

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Bonney! That is twice now I have pulled you up.

Ms SCANLON:—a number of projects the member for Bonney and those opposite have opposed in their own electorates. The first bill that the government introduced in this House was not in fact about youth crime, despite all their rhetoric at the election. Their first bill was to rush through an Olympics piece of reform, abolish the truth-telling inquiry and a whole range of reforms for First Nations people and sneak in measures to give the Deputy Premier the power to cancel or reduce affordable housing projects that Labor had given the green light to. Why would the government create that power if they did not intend to use it? The Deputy Premier needs to disclose which affordable housing projects he has a problem with and wants to axe or reduce. That is the first law that the LNP passed. It will go down in history that a law to get rid of affordable housing was their priority.

We saw in their supposed 100-day plan that they were going to somehow unlock 10,000 new community homes and it would not cost a dollar. It was just a change in regulation, apparently. The member for Bonney has already walked that back. We have already seen cabinet ministers step out of line on that issue. We have seen the member for Chatsworth oppose 44 proposed—I know that that word 'proposed' triggers the member for Bonney—homes in his own electorate.

Mr Minnikin: Complete rubbish.

Ms SCANLON: I take the member for Chatsworth's interjection. If it is rubbish, why is he telling his community that he has concerns?

Mr O'Connor: It's to put their feedback in. It's not difficult.

Ms SCANLON: There is already a mechanism—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I remind members about standing order 247, which is to address comments through the chair. If you are addressing anyone, it is through the chair.

Ms SCANLON: The member knows about that project because it was publicly available for people to provide comment on. If the LNP are wanting to pass laws to be able to amend those projects, they must be cutting them.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Ms SCANLON: They must be cutting them.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Bonney! I have just reminded the House about standing order 247, which is about addressing all comments through the chair. I remind the House about standing order 246 as well—there is to be no quarrelling.

Ms SCANLON: Those opposite talk a lot about cutting red tape. We have just heard that they want to elongate processes. The whole point of the state facilitated development pathway was to speed up approvals, and those opposite have created laws to slow it down and to cancel projects. I will not be lectured to by those opposite about productivity and reducing red tape when they have already put in place a whole range of roadblocks that will slow down the supply of affordable housing in this state.

What actually helps create housing supply and encourages home ownership? The answer is providing free TAFE and free apprenticeships. When the LNP were last in government, they tried to make people pay for TAFE, outsource TAFE and close down campuses.

Mr McCallum: Over 900 per cent fee increase.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the member for Bundamba. Massive increases do not incentivise people to take up a trade. It also helps to have a dedicated minister responsible for all of the levers in housing. That is what our Labor government did, but those opposite could not trust the members on that side so they have put a whole lot of portfolios in different areas. None of them is talking to the other, which will cause enormous problems for industry.

I hear the government talk a lot about productivity, as I just mentioned, and I wonder if the member for Bonney has actually read the Australian Productivity Commission report that was released only very recently.

Mr O'Connor: I quoted it the other day.

Ms SCANLON: He quotes the bits that work for his political convenience—I take that interjection. I remind the member for Bonney of some other quotes in the Productivity Commission report. Under the title 'What should be done?', it says—

Streamlining the operation of the entire planning system ... is needed to improve productivity.

It specifically references the state facilitated development pathway that those opposite just passed laws to try to slow down. If they wanted to create productivity they should have kept doing the things Labor was doing, but they have tried to make changes to effectively give the Deputy Premier the power to cancel those projects or to reduce them.

Mr McCallum: Politics over policy.

Ms SCANLON: Politics over policy—I take the interjection again.

Mr KEMPTON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Bundamba is interjecting—the interjections are being taken—and he is not in his seat.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sure the member knows the direction: if you want to interject or contribute, you need to be in your allocated seat.

Ms SCANLON: If those opposite are so defensive about the state facilitated development pathway and they are, allegedly, now not going to make changes, even though they created the powers to do that, why did the LNP Noosa candidate say that she was going to scrap the project? That clearly got the consent from someone, presumably the leader. It is about time the planning minister and the housing minister owned up to the fact that those laws were all about cancelling housing projects.

The Productivity Commission report also talked about the need for modular homes. It specifically mentioned Labor's commitment to build 600 modular homes in Queensland. When we announced that commitment those opposite suggested it was too much, so presumably there will be cuts to modular housing. Last time the LNP were in government there were cuts to QBuild, which builds and maintains public homes. I heard the member for Bonney praising QBuild. If only he did that years ago when his neighbour was sacking them all. I assure you: they have not forgotten.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Gaven and member for Bonney, there is a bit of cross-chamber chatter. Member for Gaven, please direct your comments through the chair. Minister, please cease your interjections.

Ms SCANLON: As I said, the Labor opposition will always support reforms that increase home ownership and increase housing supply. We do not believe that this bill goes anywhere near far enough to addressing the significant housing policy that needs to be addressed in this state.