




Speech By
Hon. Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2025

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORKS COMMITTEE, REPORT

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (4.33 pm): I am pleased to follow the housing minister because his speech, frankly, was flatter than his poll numbers. It is no wonder, after the *Brisbane Times* clearly took the air right out of him this week with shocking poll numbers for those sitting opposite. It is not surprising, given the track record of the LNP in the last six months. The Minister for Housing opened his estimates session with great fanfare about the 6,000 homes. One would think he had been laying bricks with his own two hands with the fanfare we had, but here is the rub: when you dig beneath the spin, you find that those 6,000 homes were not his achievement at all. In fact, they were Labor's. They were funded by Labor, approved by Labor and driven by Labor. While the minister struts around in his hard hat for the cameras, the truth is that he is cutting ribbons on homes he did not build and pretending that it is his work.

Behind the glossy announcements is a government dismantling social and affordable housing. Let's be honest. We know that the strings are not being pulled by the member for Bonney; they are being pulled by the member for Kawana. Minister Bleijie is trying to scrap affordable housing targets in priority development areas and has axed 1,000 homes across the state, including in his own backyard. The member for Bonney seems to be confused with that figure, so I want to make it really clear for him. The Deputy Premier has already axed 1,000 homes, many of which were affordable homes. That is on top of the public housing that the member for Bonney is now proposing to sell off—two different programs, both cuts. The member for Bonney seems to be confused by those figures.

We also have Julian Simmonds in place to do their bidding. This former LNP councillor, former federal LNP MP and partisan attack dog has been parachuted into the top job at Economic Development Queensland. This is a \$300,000-a-year gig handed over without advertisement, just a cosy chat with the Deputy Premier's chief of staff. Let's call that for what it is. It is about putting Minister Bleijie's mate in charge of the public developer so he can carry out the government's dirty work of axing social and affordable housing projects in LNP electorates that they do not like. Imagine having a public developer that does not even require a single percentage of its projects to include social and affordable housing. It is madness. It is like running a hospital that bans doctors. It completely defeats the entire purpose of having a public developer doing housing.

The Premier tells Queenslanders that the Public Service should be beyond reproach and free of partisanship, but then he hires a Liberal National Party lifer to run the state's development arm. That is not reform; that is jobs for the boys at the expense of homes for Queenslanders. When it comes to delivering new homes, the arrogance is staggering. When asked when the first homes under the Residential Activation Fund would actually be built, the director-general shrugged and said, 'I am not Nostradamus; I would not have a clue.'

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Member, could I ask you to resume your seat. The time for this debate has expired.

