




Speech By
Nigel Hutton

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel—LNP) (12.56 pm): It was 11 years ago this month that my wife and I, after years of saving, had our block of land cut, ready for the start of the construction of our first home. It was a time of great stress and pressure—perhaps exacerbated by the impending birth of our firstborn child—yet as we stood on our block we were incredibly proud. We were proud because it was the product of dedicated saving, of choices to scrimp and save and to go without, and with the support and care from our family and friends and plenty of hard work we finally got there.

We were young professionals, both working in good jobs, yet when we went to the bank our fear levels had been through the roof: ‘Will they let us borrow? Can we build the home we need for our literally growing family? Ultimately, can we afford to stay in the community where our support network, where our family and where our friends can be found?’ These are the same conversations I have had so many times with prospective homebuyers in Keppel. My wife and I were lucky because, if what we faced appeared at the time as a hill to climb, our young people today are facing absolute mountains. Today, cost of living, inflation and rising housing prices are all making what has always been the Australian dream a lucky break—that is, if our first home buyers can afford it at all.

At the last election, I advocated for a fresh start for Queensland that included our ambitious promise to bring Queenslanders to the top of the home ownership ladder by 2034. This bill will abolish stamp duty for first home buyers, removing a significant cost, and will support demand for new builds in communities like mine in Keppel. This bill also acknowledges the much higher mortgage repayment costs faced by new homebuyers by giving them the freedom to rent out a room, giving them the freedom to choose to ease the financial pressure of their new build by way of including a housemate or flatmate. This is one way we can help.

To own a home has always been a part of the Australian dream. For many, their home will be the largest asset they ever own. It is a keystone piece of many Australians’ plans for financial security in their retirement. As a government, the Crisafulli government, we are supporting Queenslanders to buy or build their first home. I commend this bill to the House and I commend the Crisafulli government for working every day to ensure Queenslanders have a place to call home.