




Speech By
Nigel Hutton

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

Record of Proceedings, 12 June 2025

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Keppel Electorate, Housing Supply

 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel—LNP) (2.52 pm): I rise to speak to the efforts being made by Central Queenslanders to have a share in the Crisafulli LNP government's vision for more Queenslanders to have a place to call home and address the strong housing demand across our region.

The communities of Keppel are growing, with the latest data demonstrating strong, consistent growth of two per cent on the Capricorn Coast. This equates to more than 1,000 residents joining the community each year. Livingstone's population will grow to over 44,000 next year. Rockhampton has also seen solid growth and will have some 85,000 residents by 2026. As you know, Mr Deputy Speaker, David Crisafulli and our LNP team are committed to working with Mayor Belot, Mayor Williams and their councillors to deliver for our region. As our beautiful region grows, we need all levels of government to work together to provide the investment necessary to provide the services and infrastructure our locals deserve.

Both councils have submitted strong projects for consideration in the Residential Activation Fund, and I am very keen to promote and advocate for the benefits these projects can bring to our region. The Rockhampton priority project—the Alexandra Street extension—will drive housing growth and unlock new homes in Parkhurst. The project—a new 1.85-kilometre collector road from Birkbeck roundabout along with footpaths, the provision of trunk water main and associated works—could see over 2,200 homes delivered across the master planned Ellida Estate and is an enabler to delivering new homes in the Rockhampton market.

In Livingstone they have applied for stage 1 of the East West Connector Road. If funded, this project will be a two-kilometre arterial road connecting Neils Road and Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road. It would provide a new intersection opposite Neils Road and the extension of Pineapple Drive to link with the new corridor. This project is designed to unlock access to around 1,500 new residential lots in the Hidden Valley precinct.

The Crisafulli government's Residential Activation Fund is a much needed enabler which supports our regional communities; however, it requires genuine partnerships. I am proud to say that the Livingstone and Rockhampton regional councils have taken a critical step in seeking investment for growth. I commend these bold, forward-thinking initiatives to the government and support their capacity to supercharge housing in Central Queensland.