




Speech By  
**Nikki Boyd**

**MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS**

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### **REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (7.56 pm): I too would like to lend my support to any attempts to improve the housing supply here in Queensland. Home ownership is something that I think every Queenslanders aspires to. It is heartbreaking to see many people in housing insecurity at the moment or people who do not believe that this is a dream they can realise. I think to my maternal grandparents when I think about the importance of home ownership. They were very working class, with very low levels of education. They toiled and they applied hard work, and they instilled in me the principles around hard work. For them, their home was very hard-earned and it was their most precious possession. The conversations they had with me around that importance have stuck with me throughout my lifetime.

I appreciate that the circumstances in which they obtained their first home, which was their only home, were very different to the market my parents were in when they bought here in Queensland. They were fortunate enough to buy a house that they really overextended themselves to purchase in the first place. It was the home that I and my siblings were raised in and the home they still live in to this day. Again, they were very different circumstances to what I was in when I was able to buy my first home. Even though that was relatively recent, I appreciate that the framework, the circumstances and the impacts we are operating in today are completely different to when I purchased my first home a number of years ago. It is concerning to all of us to hear young people today talk about how they feel that home ownership is out of reach. I think of my young daughter and wonder where the real estate market will be and what prospects will be available to her and people of her age once they come of age and are able to contemplate home ownership.

I think, though, one of the things that was really stark through the committee process, certainly very stark through the report, is that the experts in the sector have said to us that this is not the silver bullet, that there needs to be a multifaceted approach applied to tackling this problem. They have said to us that, really, they are concerned that these concessions are not a targeted approach and that there has not been any modelling done from Queensland Treasury in relation to this.

One of the things I find in conversations with young people in my electorate specifically to this policy is that they do not think it will make an impact at all. Certainly if you are of means, if you are able to purchase a property in inner-city Brisbane, if you are buying a property for \$2 million or thereabouts, then you are going to get far more money back than somebody who is buying a house in a community like mine or a community like Bundaberg or Ipswich. We are all coming into this debate looking at the facts and looking at the expert opinions that tell us that not only has the modelling not been done by Queensland Treasury on the impact of this, so it is largely an unknown, but also they are concerned that it will not actually move the dial significantly on home ownership into the future.

I note the calls from the Property Council, which is looking for a review of the property tax settings. That is something we committed to. I think it is really important to do a review of property taxes here in Queensland. I certainly urge the government to look seriously at that.

I would like to also commend the committee for some of the recommendations they made in their really frank report. There was a very frank assessment done in relation to the housing sector and some of the solutions, and whether or not this particular policy, which is lauded by those opposite to be the silver bullet—it is one of very few policies that they took to the election; it is certainly in government one of the very few policies they are talking about—is in fact the answer to the comprehensive and complex challenges that Queenslanders face in the housing market at the moment. The UDIA said it really well when they submitted—

Supply is the only answer. We need more houses of all types everywhere. The first home buyer concession is not going to solve the Queensland housing crisis. However, it does have a role to play along with those other land supply, infrastructure and regulatory reforms that are required. It does provide a helping hand to first home buyers to give them a leg up when they are being pushed further and further behind.

The challenges outlined really starkly—the challenges that are happening from generation to generation, from decade to decade—are obvious here in Queensland. We need to get more housing stock built. We absolutely need to be able to pull those levers. It is really disappointing to see that some of the first acts of the new LNP government in this state were, in fact, to cancel housing approvals, particularly affordable housing approvals for the state of Queensland, particularly in LNP electorates. We know that supply is the critical issue. We know that that is one of the biggest levers in terms of addressing housing supply here, and to slow that down is really concerning throughout the state.

One of the other things that has been raised through my community—something that I see when I am working with my community groups, something that my Zonta group locally has raised with me—is the housing insecurity that exists for women in our community. The REIQ also submitted that women over the age of 55 are the fastest growing demographic of homelessness.

I want to particularly acknowledge all of the housing support and the homelessness organisations throughout my community that do a tremendous job in supporting really vulnerable members of our community while they are going through a tough time. I was out with one of them a week or so ago. One of the journalists here popped out at the same time—not organised by me, of course. We were talking about the story that they covered in the press around people who are in really vulnerable stages of their lives—elderly Queenslanders who are very sick—and the fact that this is something that can happen to every Queenslander. We are all, I believe, only one or two life circumstances away from being placed in those really precarious positions. We know that once members of the community are in those insecure environments usually other issues in their life exacerbate as well.

There is absolutely more that needs to be done in this space. I suggest that there needs to be more government funding and more government support. It would be really good for the LNP to bring forward to this parliament proper and real solutions that are designed in consultation with experts and stakeholders in this sector in order to move the dial not only on home ownership but also on people who are living rough in our community, people who are insecure.

The government went to the last election promising they had solutions on a lot of things. Slogans are fine to take to elections—and it is up to the LNP how far they want to politicise particular challenges in the community—but once you are on the government benches it is incumbent upon you to deliver on what you have promised. The LNP have identified a number of crises and it is now up to them to deliver on them. I really worry about that when you have the former housing minister, the member for Everton, who gets into this place and idolises Joh Bjelke-Petersen and the Bjelke-Petersen government in this debate. I think the approaches of the LNP—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Ms BOYD:** I hear the member for Nanango furiously interjecting, as always.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Parole Board President.

**Ms BOYD:** It's okay, you won't be gagged here by me, Deb. One of the things that is really important to do is to take the politics out of this—to stop the low blows, member for Nanango—and work with the sector and with experts to deliver the solutions that Queenslanders need.