




Speech By
Hon. Samuel O'Connor

MEMBER FOR BONNEY

Record of Proceedings, 20 February 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Housing Supply

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (10.15 am): After a decade of Labor, it has never been harder for Queenslanders to have a place to call home. The former government left us with a building and construction industry in complete disarray, weighed down with red tape. Queensland has the least productive construction sites in the nation. It is a big reason housing supply simply is not keeping up with demand, and that is especially the case when it comes to social housing over the last decade. On average, only 509 social homes were built each year under Labor. At that rate, it would have taken 105 years to deliver our state's target of building 53½ thousand social and community homes. Unlike our predecessors, the Crisafulli government will ramp up construction to build the more than 2,000 social and community homes we need to deliver each year to do what we said we would do.

In our first 100 days we have made significant progress to get the construction industry to where it needs to be to deliver the homes and infrastructure our growing state needs. We are directing every dollar of the Housing Investment Fund towards building new homes, not purchasing existing properties, as was happening under Labor. We paused BPIC, Labor's CFMEU tax on construction, to restore productivity on job sites. We have the re-establishment of the independent Queensland Productivity Commission underway, with their first task to be a review of the building and construction sector. This review will be important, but we cannot afford to wait until it is done to get moving. That is why, on day 101 as minister, I announced immediate and near-term actions the Crisafulli government is taking to make it easier to build in Queensland.

Our Building Reg Reno is about cutting red tape, reducing costs and getting the right regulatory environment to deliver the homes and infrastructure Queenslanders need. The first big change is pausing the further rollout of trust accounts to private projects below \$10 million. This would have added an enormous administrative burden to house builds across our state, the last thing anyone needs during a housing crisis. We will scrap unnecessary financial reporting for more than 50,000 individual operators—that is 97 per cent of licensees—so they can spend less time on administration and more time on the tools. We will abolish duplicate licence fees for plumbers doing fire protection work, because paying twice for doing the same work just does not make sense. We will move the QBCC into the 21st century as a more customer-friendly organisation, with digital platforms to cut paperwork and streamline licensing and approvals. We will simplify safety notifications by removing duplicate reporting requirements between the QBCC and Workplace Health and Safety Queensland. We will improve the QBCC's review and dispute resolution processes and review the licensing and insurance thresholds for smaller projects. These are commonsense changes that will make sure our regulations are clear and consistent to help builders get on with the job.

The Building Reg Reno is our commitment to a better building and construction industry: one where small operators are not buried in red tape; one where tradies are not paying unnecessary fees; one where we get the balance right between regulation and productivity, between oversight and efficiency, between protecting consumers and supporting businesses to succeed. Our Building Reg Reno is the first step to make Queensland the building capital of the nation.