




Speech By  
**Hon. Samuel O'Connor**  
**MEMBER FOR BONNEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2025

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Social and Affordable Housing

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (9.58 am): Queenslanders expect a social housing system based around fairness and equity, targeted at helping those who need it most. Under Labor that was not the case, with new data revealing just how bad things got. While the social housing waitlist grew 81 per cent over their decade of decline, they gave up on properly managing our housing system.

Almost half of Queensland's public housing tenants went more than five years without having their rental eligibility checked; that is, 45 per cent of tenants were left unchecked while tens of thousands of vulnerable Queenslanders sat on the waitlist. Labor let high-income earners and even property owners live in social housing. At the same time, around a quarter of public housing tenants were paying far more in rent than they should have been. That is not fairness; that is failure.

This inequity is why our government restarted annual rent and eligibility checks for all public housing tenants on 1 July this year. The early results are shocking. More than 2,000 tenancy reviews have been commenced, which is around four per cent of our statewide total. Of our completed reviews, 76 tenancies have been identified as high-income earners living in social housing; nine households have been found to own property while living in public housing; almost one in four tenants was found to be paying too much rent under Labor—they have had their rent reduced immediately, in some cases by as much as \$70 a week; and 13 households are now paying full market rent after failing to provide income details.

These reviews are delivering fairness for Queensland taxpayers by taking action on cases like the North Queensland couple with a combined income of more than \$168,000 who were paying just \$187 a week in rent for public housing. They are delivering fairness for our tenants: hundreds of households that were overpaying their rent for years have now had their rent reduced immediately. This is exactly why we brought rent reviews back. Labor let six-figure earners live in public housing while pensioners were paying too much. They failed to manage the homes they had and they built too few homes. An average of just 509 per year were delivered over their decade in power, barely a third of the rate at which our state's population grew. That is their record—a housing system mismanaged in every way.

Through restoring annual rent reviews the Crisafulli government is delivering a fairer public housing system for those who need it most. We have compassionately capped any identified rent increases at just \$15 per week per year while ensuring decreases are applied in full without any limits. For those who are no longer eligible, we are supporting their transition to the private market with bond loans, rental grants and other housing help. This is all backed by our record \$5.6 billion housing investment to deliver more social and community homes.

We are empowering our housing officers to do the job they signed up for: helping our most vulnerable Queenslanders with housing. I thank our teams at the Fortitude Valley, Emerald, Mackay, Rockhampton and Gladstone housing service centres whom I have had the privilege of meeting in the last few weeks alone. The fantastic work they do and the feedback they have shared with me is greatly appreciated.

These are long overdue reforms. After 10 years of Labor decline, in just 10 months the Crisafulli government is delivering change to turn around Labor's housing crisis and give more Queenslanders a place to call home.