




Speech By
Hon. Steve Minnikin
MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (8.50 pm): I would like to make a contribution to the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. It would be remiss of me if at the outset I did not thank the members for Bulimba, Bundaberg and Aspley for their guidance on what not to do when delivering a speech in this august chamber and for their examples that could go into a training instruction manual. Only a few months ago, many of us worked and slaved away to be deemed worthy in the eyes of our constituents to wear the mantle of the member for X, Y or Z. Today has been a textbook example of why many on the other side of the chamber have failed to come to grips with the fact that they are now in opposition. As some on this side know, the way back will be long with many dark days, but members on that side will not begin to get back if they operate or perform like that.

I move to the substance of the bill. The explanatory notes for the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 list the policy objectives and the reasons for them, and I will speak to them in no particular order. The bill amends legislation administered by the Commissioner of State Revenue to implement revenue related commitments made by the Queensland government during the 2024 state election campaign. To implement these 2024 state election commitments, the Duties Act will be amended.

I would like to go back a little bit in time to come up to speed with the present. Many people on this side of the chamber know—and maybe some on that side know this too—that I love music. I have also made it clear that I have zero musical talent, and because of that I was a DJ and I love the ARIA charts. I will go back to 1995, and there is a reason I want to go back to 1995 in relation to this bill and how it pertains to housing affordability. Would anyone like to tell me—and I will take the interjection if it is right—what the No. 1 song in Australia was in 1995? It was *Tomorrow* by Silverchair. Why is 1995 relevant to my contribution on the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024? It is because that was the check marker to where we have come now, to have the worst housing affordability index since 1995.

About seven months ago, I rose in this chamber and said that we have a housing affordability crisis. I said that we all had examples of young people in our respective electorates who were struggling desperately to get into the home ownership market. In fact, I think I recalled an example from when my son and half a dozen of his football-mad mates were watching a game of the English Premier League at midnight. As they were grabbing a drink, casual conversation flowed about who was looking to put down a house deposit and not one of them even remotely thought they would ever be able to afford a home. That is why I am incredibly proud that on this side of the chamber we are introducing some real measures in relation to making sure that home ownership is a bit more of a reality for particularly young people. Under Labor, Queensland has become the state with the lowest rate of home ownership in the nation.

A government member: Shame.

Mr MINNIKIN: I will take that interjection. It is truly shameful. Many members on that side of the chamber have made some pretty poor contributions. They have waffled and waffled and waffled. I do not know what tree they were living in during the last campaign, but housing affordability was pretty much the top cost-of-living pressure. We made it crystal clear going into the election that if we gained the confidence and the faith of the people of Queensland we would do something about it. Home ownership is now at 63.5 per cent, with only 35 per cent of Queenslanders aged 25 to 29 owning their own home today. Let me repeat that figure: only 35 per cent. There has been a steady decline in home ownership in Queensland almost without exception since 1971.

We are going to abolish stamp duty on new homes for first home buyers from 1 May 2025. Everyone knows, regardless of where you live in Queensland, that that will be a significant savings measure for people who are buying their first bit of the Australian dream, some bricks and mortar. Whether it is a detached house or a townhouse, it is their little slice of the Australian dream. We want to make that dream more realistic and I totally support the measures in this bill. We have made abolishing stamp duty on new homes from 1 May one of our biggest commitments.

Some members on this side of the chamber have made the important distinction that this bill is more than just that measure. The Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 will also remove the restriction on homebuyers from renting out a room within the first year of occupation without losing any of their concessions. That is a fundamentally important measure in this bill. Many young Queenslanders would desperately like to use that as part of an income stream when they are seeing their mortgagee or bank manager. It is going to make a huge difference for many young people.

I have heard some of the inane assertions in relation to the patients tax, et cetera. I was privileged, along with several of my colleagues, to listen to the heartfelt story of a GP and a medical administrator based on the Sunshine Coast who were lead proponents in relation to taking this battle on and getting Labor's patients tax repealed. I put on the record in this chamber tonight how empowering it was to hear their plight. In any agitation for change, someone has to be at the forefront. The member for Kawana played a lead role in getting this GP clinic on the Sunshine Coast to go into bat and weather the storm, particularly for those other members of society who were not prepared to go into bat. I pay full tribute to their contribution. I pay full tribute to the Deputy Premier for the way he was able to rally the opposition leader at the time, the member for Broadwater, now the Premier and get him activated. He has absolutely brought about some of this change so that we will proudly pass this legislation.

The reality is this: every contribution, maybe with the exception of two, that I have heard so far in the debate from that side of the chamber shows they have to get a grip on reality. The fact of the matter is they had a very precious gift. They squandered it. They were the government of the day. On 26 October, people grabbed that most powerful weapon democratically known to humankind, a 2B lead pencil; they marked their ballot papers. Those opposites have fallen short. It is now beholden on them as an opposition to make sure when they get up here they cannot speak with a forked tongue and absolutely pillory and bag the new government but then at some stage just try to sneak in the fact that, 'By the way, we will support this.' Then they go back to the 'but'. The best thing that they can do is make sure they take stock of the new situation and be a responsible opposition and earn their way back. With every breath of my body, I will try to make sure that that return to the government benches is indeed many years away. We need to support good legislation such as the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. I am indeed very proud to make a very small contribution to the debate.