




Speech By
Hon. Samuel O'Connor
MEMBER FOR BONNEY

Record of Proceedings, 3 March 2026

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Social Housing

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (10.39 am): The Crisafulli government is turning around the housing crisis we inherited by delivering supply, supply, supply in every corner of Queensland. Well over 100,000 lots for new homes have been unlocked by the Deputy Premier through the RAF, the LAP and many PDAs. There is not a three-letter acronym the Deputy Premier has not used to unlock more homes in our state. Projects delivering roads and sewer, water, electricity and communications connections, which have been holding back housing for years, are finally underway. Housing approvals have increased by 11.9 per cent—a clear sign that confidence is returning to the market and our reforms are getting more homes out of the ground.

Labor opened an average of just 509 social homes per year. Right now we have almost 6,000 social and community homes under contract or construction across our state, the overwhelming majority of which have been contracted for delivery since we were elected on 1 November 2024. We are growing our housing pipeline to deliver more than 2,000 social and community homes per year by the end of this term—four times the annual average that the former government achieved. Delivering new homes has never been more important because the social housing system left by Labor was a mess. The waitlist for social housing grew by 81 per cent and annual eligibility checks of existing tenants had not been undertaken for over five years. We had no idea whether almost half of Queensland's social housing tenants were even eligible for it or whether they were paying the right amount of rent. That meant one in four tenants were paying too much rent and high-income earners and property owners were allowed to live in social homes. Neighbours and communities were living in fear from policies which put zero consequences on antisocial behaviour. While Queensland's population grew by 16 per cent, the number of social homes in our state grew by just six per cent—barely a third of the rate.

Just when I thought the things we inherited could not be any worse, some very helpful people alerted me to the issue of social housing sales. This was not on my radar because our focus is on building homes. We only sell social homes in very specific circumstances like when they are too expensive to repair, where the opportunity to deliver more homes cannot be delivered by our department, or through our Sales to Tenants program. Thanks to these very helpful people who raised this issue, I have now learned that the former Labor government sold 1,960 social homes.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Lee: Who sold the assets?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Hervey Bay, you know you do not interject when I am on my feet so you are warned.

Mr O'CONNOR: I heard an interjection 'Who sold the assets?' I can inform members that it was mostly the member for Springwood. He sold 1,377 social homes during his time as housing minister. That is almost 2,000 social homes that we do not have right now to help our most vulnerable Queenslanders. By contrast, only 16 social homes have been sold since the Crisafulli government was elected. Almost all of those homes have been sold to our long-term tenants whom we are proud to see achieve the dream of home ownership.

Thank to you the Labor Party for highlighting all the social homes sold by the Labor Party, but please stop trying to scare vulnerable Queenslanders with yet another misinformation campaign that those opposite know is completely false. The Crisafulli government is delivering the biggest investment into building social and community housing in Queensland's history. We are giving community housing providers the certainty they need to grow. Queenslanders deserve facts not fear. We are delivering supply sooner and at scale so more Queenslanders can have a place to call home.