




Speech By
Hon. Samuel O'Connor
MEMBER FOR BONNEY

Record of Proceedings, 26 March 2026

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Social and Affordable Housing

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (10.03 am): After a decade of decline, where housing supply did not go anywhere near keeping pace with demand, where Labor's procurement and building regulation policies meant that 77,000 fewer homes were delivered since 2018 alone, many Queenslanders are doing it tough. Across our state families are feeling the pressure of higher rents, higher mortgages and the cost of everyday essentials like groceries and fuel. We know that a lack of supply in the housing market has directly contributed to these pressures, driven by a failure of those opposite to plan and build the homes that Queenslanders need.

This government is getting on with the job of turning things around. We are delivering a record \$5.6 billion investment into new social and community homes, part of our commitment to deliver a million new homes, including 53½ thousand for our most vulnerable, by 2044. This is not just a plan for the future and it is not just something we talk about or announce; it is a pipeline that is being delivered at scale. Last Friday I visited Charly, a mum in Logan, who is now living in a beautiful new social home delivered through our Queensland Community Housing Investment Pipeline—or Q-CHIP. This was a 17-home proposal that Mangrove Housing had been working on with a developer. In a matter of months we were able to get that deal over the line through our new 'always open' pathway. It is all because we have empowered community housing by replacing the old stop-start, time-limited, funding-limited system with a permanent pathway backed by perpetual funding. I want to acknowledge Sarah Amos, Sam Betros, Kelly Mangan and their entire team within the housing capital delivery part of our department for the work they have done to get Q-CHIP up and running in such a short period.

Right now we have work underway on almost 6,200 social and community homes across Queensland, the vast majority of which were contracted for delivery since we were elected. I need to correct a number that I gave yesterday in the House in response to the member for McConnel saying that most of those homes were under Labor. I said it was 3½ thousand when it is actually 4,103 homes that we have contracted for delivery since we were elected—two thirds of the pipeline contracted, let alone the ones under construction under our government. We are also unlocking supply by opening up land that has been sitting idle and that the Labor Party mowed for many years.

Mrs Gerber: 'Stevo's Mowing Service'!

Mr O'CONNOR: 'Stevo's Mowing Service'! I will take that interjection from the member for Currumbin. Land that was locked up under those opposite is now being activated so we can get more homes out of the ground sooner. That includes delivering more affordable housing, like the work we are facilitating with the Deputy Premier at the Banyo site which, despite the misinformation we have seen from the Labor Party, has a dedicated community housing opportunity with funding on the table to build affordable homes. The Deputy Premier does not just talk about building affordable homes, he actually backs it with funding. This is what real action on the cost of living looks like.

Ms Linard interjected.

Mr O'CONNOR: Boosting supply is the single most effective way to put downward pressure on rents and improve housing affordability. I am not taking those interjections from the NIMBY from Nudgee.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Correct titles, please, Minister.

Ms LINARD: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and ask that the minister withdraw.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Would you withdraw, please?

Mr O'CONNOR: I withdraw. We are proud to be delivering homes in Nudgee because boosting supply is the single most effective way to put downward pressure on rents and to improve affordability. We also know that Queenslanders need support right now, which is why this financial year alone we have helped 23,885 households with private rental products and services valued at nearly \$50 million. Our bond loans, rental grants, rental security subsidies and RentConnect service is delivering practical support to help Queenslanders secure and sustain a roof over their heads while we get more homes out of the ground.

I also want to acknowledge the growing uncertainty around construction supply chains from the situation in the Middle East. Global instability can have real consequences here at home. It is not just diesel for tradies' utes and delivery trucks, it is things like the resin needed to make PVC pipes that are being massively impacted. We have been engaging with industry leaders, including Master Builders, the Master Plumbers' Association and Master Electricians, to understand these pressures and we have begun preparations with the QBCC to establish a dispute resolution and mediation service for any material or labour shortages which may arise. This government is getting on with the job of delivering more homes sooner because every Queenslanders deserves a place to call home.