



Speech By
Hon. Samuel O'Connor

MEMBER FOR BONNEY

Record of Proceedings, 25 August 2026

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Social and Affordable Housing

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (10.11 am): For a decade the former Labor government drove our state deeper and deeper into a housing crisis that too many Queenslanders are still feeling the impacts of today. Too few homes were built. Social housing only grew by an annual average of 509 homes. Almost 2,000 existing public housing properties were sold. Basic eligibility checks were paused for over five years, meaning that hundreds of high-income households and property owners were living in social homes. It led to our housing waitlist growing by around 80 per cent and Queenslanders left wondering whether they would ever have a place to call home. Under our LNP government we are starting to turn that around. Because of our record investment into building more social and community homes, we have seen the Social Housing Register reduce by around 23 per cent from its peak, and that is month-on-month reductions of the number of vulnerable Queenslanders on the register since last October. There are still far too many Queenslanders who need housing help, but the register is now almost 7,000 households lower than it peaked at. This consistent turnaround is a result of our efforts to build more homes and to properly manage the social homes we already have.

Those opposite had their chance. They had 10 years to address this crisis, but instead their every action time and time again fuelled the housing crisis. However, now they are trying to convince Queenslanders that housing has only become an issue since they left office, running misleading scare campaigns across our state. Here are the facts: there are more homes under construction across Queensland right now than at any point in our state's history. That is 50,000 homes underway—a more than 25 per cent increase in just the last 12 months alone, and it is all types of housing supply that we are increasing, not through failed mandates, not by going to war with councils across Queensland but through partnerships and record investments. As at 31 July, 10,868 social and community homes have now been delivered or are underway towards our target of 53,500. That is 20 per cent of our 20-year target delivered or underway—4,505 homes delivered, another 4,617 under construction right now and 1,746 contracted to be delivered, with more to come thanks to our record \$5.725 billion capital program over the next four years alone. We are proud to say that over 77 per cent of these social and community homes are being delivered in partnership with churches and charities with the community housing sector.

Labor will keep running its scare campaigns. It will keep telling Queenslanders funding has been cut when it has not just increased beyond the amounts it allocated; it is being spent better. It will keep falsely claiming homes are being taken away while thousands more homes are actually being built. It will keep talking about a housing crisis that it created and had a decade to do something about. Our LNP government has made good progress, but there is a lot more to do. After a decade of decline, we are getting on with the job of delivering a place to call home for more Queenslanders.