

Speech By

Wendy Bourne

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH WEST

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ADJOURNMENT

Ipswich West Electorate, Housing

Ms BOURNE (Ipswich West—ALP) (9.12 pm): Tonight I rise to speak about the No. 1 issue facing my community of Ipswich West—that is, housing. As one of the fastest growing regions in Queensland, Ipswich cannot afford to be forgotten any longer. While Ipswich is growing rapidly, for too many people the dream of a secure home is slipping further and further from their reach. Families are under pressure, their rents are rising, the cost of living is at an all-time high and frontline services are stretched to their limits. That is simply unacceptable.

That is why it was so important for me to host our shadow minister for housing, Meaghan Scanlon, last week in Ipswich West. I want to thank her for the time she took to visit some of my constituents in their social housing properties and to meet with our amazing frontline services staff, including all the attendees at the Ipswich Housing and Homelessness Network. We saw and heard from a number of dedicated organisations and people who work tirelessly. Those organisations just want security of funding, which they do not seem to have under this government.

It was interesting to see LNP members come to Ipswich last week to open a housing development initiated and funded by Labor. They are always happy to pose for photos in front of projects that Labor initiated. In fact, in September 2024 the member for Ipswich and I turned the first sod on that development to provide 43 new social housing units for women aged 55 and over. That is what good Labor governments do: deliver affordable homes for people who need them most.

We also saw an announcement about a new 24-unit social housing complex in North Ipswich. Of course, this is a welcome announcement, but I note this could not have been done without $14.2 million of critical investment from the Albanese federal Labor government. Huge thanks to federal Labor and our federal member for Blair, Mr Shayne Neumann. It was great to visit the site with him last week.

We must ensure that every Queenslander, no matter their background, has access to a safe, secure and affordable place to call home. I will continue to call on those opposite to stop dragging their feet and start delivering for the people of Ipswich West.