



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MP calls for a permanent solution to the housing stress in Noosa.

Friday, 23 March 2018.

State Parliament has been told that a shortage of rentals and affordable housing is causing serious concerns for the community of Noosa.

Member for Noosa Sandy Bolton, raised the issue in Parliament this week, and said despite State and Federal initiatives the problems of housing shortages, rental stress and homelessness remain.

"My electorate of Noosa faces significant challenges. Median house prices are nine times the average household income and just under a quarter (14.3 per cent) of households are experiencing rental stress.

In addition 63 applicants are in desperate need of public housing in Noosa, with the problem amplified by the lack of rentals available (27.8 per cent) which is well below the national average of 30 per cent," Ms Bolton said.

"There's been a long standing chronic under-investment in community housing and a failure of housing policy in Noosa ," she said.

Public housing, which is owned and managed by the State Government costs taxpayers more than \$29,000 dollars per dwelling annually. (Productivity Commission Report on Human Services 2016-2017)

"A number of solutions need to be supported by the State Government. It's evident that community housing providers who manage private and social housing have done it well. Not for profit providers are also offered generous incentives by the Commonwealth," Ms Bolton said.

"In addition these providers don't require a high level of tax or rate payer monies. For example, the incentives offered by the National Rental Affordability Scheme, where capital is provided by the investor and a yield gap in the form of a tax incentive of up to \$11,000 dollars per annum is provided by the Federal government," Ms Bolton said.

"Urgent and sustained action needs to be actioned for Noosa and across Queensland. A recent report by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute calls for greater leadership at State Government level, and for the long term investment in affordable housing through community providers.

It is these providers, and innovation from the private and not for profit sectors that I believe could hold a solution to the housing crisis for low income workers which we see ourselves in across Noosa."

ENDS.

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