



Speech By  
**Sandy Bolton**

**MEMBER FOR NOOSA**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Noosa Electorate, Housing

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (9.24 pm): Regardless of promises by governments, our housing crisis remains critical and was amplified over Christmas. In Noosa we had much loved residents pleading on Facebook—or to myself—such as an 80-year-old invalid pensioner who has lived in the same one-bedroom unit for a decade, a 70-year-old grandma and volunteer of 45 years, mums with bubs, working families and young professionals, all desperate. Then we have to add in the many who have come from elsewhere in Queensland and those in hardship without a mooring and live-aboard permit potentially needing to be transitioned to housing or unregulated rivers in coming months. These are all real stories, real residents and real tears.

We have a waitlist for our Salvos safe car park for women over 55, at capacity since opening. With nowhere to transition these Noosa volunteers and workers to whilst projects in the pipelines are built—some two years away—we need government to step up. I have raised with various ministers since 2018 the state owned former House with No Steps site at Doonan that has a portion that was originally a campground with infrastructure and capacity for transportable solutions—as well as the Salvos site. We have requested stamp duty relief to incentivise downsizing as well as an end to negative gearing and the commercialisation of everyday residential homes through short-term letting. With housing and construction pressure leading into the Olympic and Paralympic Games, governments can no longer hide behind statements such as ‘investing more into housing’ or touting build targets two decades into the future that cannot address the needs of the waitlist now.

That waitlist is not even reflective of the extent of the need. For 20 years successive state governments have not reviewed the income threshold criteria for social housing. Once that is done, how many more will be eligible for Queensland’s waitlist? Are we talking about 100,000 or 200,000, more? Nobody knows as no data has been collected. It is these workers who are becoming broken, with no solution in sight, yet governments continue to say that the various sites put forward are not suitable, nor fund suitable sites identified in 50-50 partnerships. Instead they announce a Land Activation Program without mandating affordable housing for workers. I ask: what is going on?

The hard-fought-for projects in my electorate need to house our own. I call again on the minister to commit any units not required by existing Noosa residents on the waitlist to be made available to those not eligible via an affordable housing subsidy as well as utilise in the interim the former House with No Steps site, as requested, and partner with the Salvos on their transitional site when it is brought back to you.