

SHANE KNUTH

Katter's Australian Party

Member for Hill



MEDIA RELEASE

More emergency housing is needed for the Far North

The Far North has seen an increase in the need for emergency, transitional and long-term housing with next to no housing available for struggling families.

Now is the time for the State and Federal Government to support community organisations and rural and regional Queensland by supplying more housing.

Member for Hill Shane Knuth said the Tablelands and Cassowary Coast was in desperate need of emergency accommodation.

“Our office has been approached by a number of concerned organisations and struggling families regarding their troubles in getting accommodation,” Mr Knuth said.

“The need to provide emergency, transitional and long-term housing must be addressed immediately.

“We need action on this now as this issue is not going to go away.

“We need to equip these service groups to better support the community with rental assistance and more housing.”

Better Together Community Support Inc CEO John Russell said like many social services on the Tablelands they had seen increasing pressures in housing and homelessness.

“Families that we support are having real problems trying to access housing or sometimes even hold onto their existing accommodation,” Mr Russell said.

“Trying to make ends meet when available housing stock is so low, and rental prices are starting to increase often means poorer families are forced to move further out. When move away from the larger towns it means they also move away from the services trying to help them turn their lives around.

“This is an emerging issue, and it is not just here; it is happening right across Queensland and I think it is only going to get worse.

“People moving away from larger towns and cities, returning from overseas, retiring to rural areas all put upward pressure on the rental market and on the very limited housing stock.

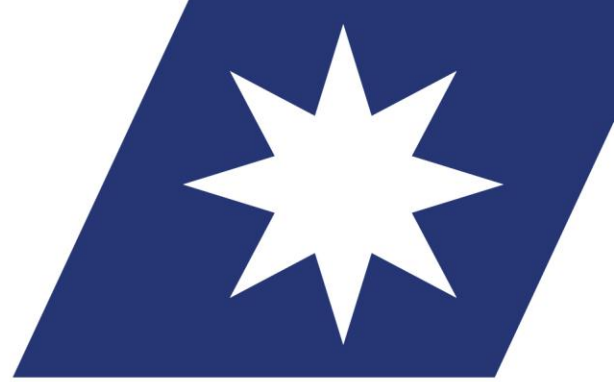
“We think there are 3 issues;

1. No crisis accommodation available on the Tablelands,
2. Not enough social housing stock and an increasing waiting list for social housing and

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3. Not enough private housing stock to meet the increasing demand.

“I guess you could add that there are not enough house builders to go around.

“We need help from government, both State and Federal, to increase stock and to increase support to the families who are dealing with this issue right across the Tablelands community.”

-ENDS-

Media Contact – Bronwyn Wheatcroft, 0401 400 599