

6. NOTICES OF MOTION

6.1. HOUSING SHORTAGE IN DOUGLAS

COUNCILLOR: Cr Abigail Noli

NOTICE OF MOTION:

This is a notice of motion submitted by Councillor Abigail Noli concerning the housing shortage in Douglas.

Councillor Noli gave notice of her intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Council Meeting of 19 October 2021.

As a matter of urgency, Council facilitates a working group to investigate and when possible, implement short term measures to address the housing shortage in Douglas.

BACKGROUND:

Housing shortage in Douglas has reached a critical stage. The lack of housing is not contained to low socio-economic status but across a broader range of economic levels. As a leader and having available resources, Council has the ability to bring together all stakeholders in an effort to address, if at all possible, the shortage in the shire at the moment.

(Information drawn solely from Mossman Support Services) 14/10/2021

Housing concerns have escalated exponentially in the Douglas Shire in the past year due to an increased number of new residents arriving from outside of the Shire and buying properties, either as investment properties or as personal residences.

Previously the primary concern regarding access to safe housing was the affordability concerns, new trends show that availability as well as affordability are affecting the housing options for Shire residents. A majority portion of residents accessing community support to seek housing advocacy are coming from the private market and their crisis is due to their tenancies coming to an end and not being renewed either to increased rental rates, owner plans to renovate to prepare the house for market, or the home selling.

Some of the statistics pulled from the Mossman Community Centre between July 1 2021 and October 14, 2021 are listed below:

48 people have sought housing support from MCC since July 1 2021

23/48 have tenancy ending for one of the above listed reasons

15/48 are facing pre-existing homelessness (including couch surfing and living in overcrowded settings)

10/48 are seeking housing due to inappropriateness of current location

These numbers are purely clients seeking only housing support do not reflect the residents seeking other supports from MSS in which housing is a symptom of their needs (i.e. DV, Medical needs, age related needs).

That is 48 cases in three months seeking assistance from one agency, this does not include those who have not contacted MSS.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil