

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

I live in the small community of Magnetic Island. Since COVID a large number of houses have been bought by interstate investors, mainland locals and FIFO workers. These houses either remain empty for long periods or go into the holiday rental pool. This has a number of side-effects:1. Island locals and people moving in to the island cannot find affordable rentals and leave.2. This reduces the number of locals from which SES draws volunteers. As such the island Group is at a low ebb compared with a few years ago.3. Holiday home owners expect SES to protect their properties, but are not there to self help.4. Some become angry or frustrated when told SES do not service holiday rentals. (For example, one Townsville resident purchased an absolute beachfront property and became agitated when told SES would not build a sandbag wall around it to protect it from an approaching cyclone). While this is probably a small part of the greater housing affordability crisis, it highlights a flow in effect to maintaining a viable SES presence in tourists towns.