



Speech by

Paul Hoolihan

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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ROTARY CLUB OF YEPPOON, HOUSING

Mr HOOLIHAN (Keppel—ALP) (9.15 pm): Tonight I would like to pay tribute to a group of people on the Capricorn Coast, the Yeppoon Rotary Club and, more specifically, their success in relation to the provision of low-cost housing or affordable housing on the coast. Back in the mid-1970s when Yeppoon only had a population of approximately 5,000 the local parish priest suggested to a group of people that they should try to acquire some land and build affordable housing. At that time Queensland Housing, then the Housing Commission, did not assist with lower cost housing.

The group of people consisted of many aged people. In 1988 they acquired land and commenced constructing single-unit dwellings for people who were unable to obtain other accommodation. They raised their money through bingo and a variety of other activities. In 1988 they approached the Rotary Club and, because of the age of the committee at that time, they handed over these houses and \$90,000 and asked the Rotary Club to take over the trusteeship of Birdwood Estate. The Rotary Club has continued to construct houses and today they have 23 single-unit houses, six duplexes and one triplex.

Around the end of 2004 they decided that they would construct some affordable units for older retired people and people living on their own. Last Saturday afternoon I had the pleasure of attending at Birdwood Estate when they opened the first eight units. These eight units are valued at approximately \$1.2 million. They are single self-contained units and they are a very attractive set of units.

There is still further land available to construct another eight units. I look forward to working with the Rotary Club in trying to acquire the finance to continue that work. All in all, they have provided good accommodation on the Capricorn Coast. Although the Department of Housing has now taken up the slack in relation to providing low-cost and affordable accommodation, I say to the Rotary Club of Yeppoon and their forerunners who raised all that money: congratulations on a job well done.