




Speech By
James Lister

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

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MOTION

Housing

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (6.47 pm): This government does not just ignore the perilous situation of housing in Brisbane; it is ignoring it in places like my electorate of Southern Downs as well. Goondiwindi in my electorate, along with the other major centres of Warwick and Stanthorpe, are experiencing an extreme shortage of housing. In fact, Goondiwindi has the lowest availability of housing in the entire state. That is having massive impacts on my communities. When I last wrote to the minister last year she replied to me. At the time Minister Enoch said that there were 100 houses planned for the south-west region that I inhabit and that four of them were going to be for Southern Downs. I commend her for her honesty in confessing to such a small figure, but in places like Warwick and Stanthorpe and Goondiwindi and Millmerran we need housing now and it is not being delivered. The government talks a big game. It is always talking about how much it spends, but the fact is that it delivers almost nothing.

A local community group in my electorate, Killarney Memorial Aged Care, had a very comprehensive proposal to deliver community housing—low-cost social housing—in my electorate of Southern Downs. I organised through the minister a meeting with the department and it went nowhere. It went nowhere. We had an opportunity there with all the ducks in a row to get started on something that would now be housing desperate people in my electorate of Southern Downs, yet the government has done nothing about it. I am talking about the Killarney Memorial Aged Care project to create low-cost social housing across the road from that facility. What sorts of impacts does this have in my electorate of Southern Downs? Apart from the fact that people are on the streets, it also means that businesses cannot get staff. In fact, even schools and police stations and hospitals cannot get staff. We are talking about public servants who have to turn down a job that they have accepted because they cannot get accommodation in my electorate of Southern Downs.

If you are running a nursing home in Southern Downs—at Kaloma in Goondiwindi or Akeoramak in Warwick—what do you do if you do not have staff? You shut beds. In my electorate there are beds that are physically available in these nursing homes with huge waiting lists but there are no staff to service them because they cannot find the houses. That is the impact in my electorate of Southern Downs. I know that in Millmerran they are struggling to recruit teachers. They are struggling to recruit teachers in Goondiwindi. I have talked to principals who have said that they have had a teacher lined up to start a job and they have had to turn the job down because there was not any housing.

Unless this government stops talking and starts building—and I mean really building, not just talking about announcements and funding—the situation will get worse. I ask the government members to take their blindfolds off and look when they walk down the main street—

(Time expired)