



Speech By
Sandy Bolton

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Housing

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.56 pm): Our hopes that a new government would actually do something for those stuck in housing emergency or instability have been dashed. For nearly two years I have sought reassurances that something—anything—would be done about our dire housing situation, including that funding for emergency accommodation would be available. The result is another weekend like many before, with organisations turning away residents in need because they have no funding. I spoke to desperate, angry and traumatised care workers, government workers and hospitality workers—one begging on Facebook for somewhere safe for women to park their cars to sleep in as our Salvos car park has been full for months. There have been posts from residents outraged that people are sleeping in puddles.

As I have raised many times, we have a former campground with ablution blocks sitting unused that is suitable, with minor works, for demountables, tiny homes and caravans. For years I have had to listen to excuses as to why it cannot be used: it is being master planned—the end result is nothing; it is too far from town—it is five minutes from town; the driveway during floods can get difficult—well, put a couple of pipes in; and, the real humdinger, government prefers to put its money into long-term, sustainable housing, which can be translated into 'government is happy for you to sleep in your car for the next 20 years as, even if you are eligible for subsidisation, to meet the demand of those who are will take decades.'

We have a site that for \$200,000 could provide a safe, temporary solution for up to 25 residents. We have community housing providers that are happy to manage it, and I am happy to live onsite if that is what it takes. We cannot have our women begging on Facebook. This has gone beyond a crisis; it is now a disaster. Queensland's income threshold is 20 years old and lower than other states. The government's response to the housing disaster delivers nothing for these workers, instead it sells land to developers without an affordable requirement in the belief that increased supply equals affordability. It does not. Whatever is built will still be out of the reach of these women.

I have pleaded many times in this chamber for action. Now I lay it squarely at the feet of this government: you cannot blame anyone else—not the federal government and not the previous government. You are now responsible. You have not provided solutions or another site yet you own one, so do something with it. You say you care about community safety yet you are allowing this—women begging for somewhere to park their car—to happen on your watch. It is not okay and it does not pass the pub test.