



# STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria  
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Wind Farms Generating Low Housing Availability

Member for Western Victoria Stuart Grimley has addressed a shortage of housing in regional towns where the construction of wind farms are taking place, citing it as an “unintended consequence”.

Mr Grimley spoke on behalf of Moyne Shire Council – a Local Government based in Victoria’s South West - to ask the State Government what they will be doing to address this housing shortage in some of the regional towns in his electorate.

The regional MP acknowledged the obvious positive economic, social and environmental benefits wind farms are generating for landowners, farmers and regional/rural communities.

However, in Parliament he stated there are occasions throughout the year when there is “not a single house for rent” in Moyne Shire’s Local Government Area. This has made it very difficult for regional communities to grow and for businesses to expand.

Further it has driven up rental prices, due to less competition in the form of housing stock.

Most distressingly, due to such a shortage, crisis accommodation – in most cases for women and children fleeing domestic violence - is becoming more difficult to find at certain times of the year.

The Government-funded Housing Establishment Fund has only increased with CPI for many years and therefore the rising rental costs in these rural areas also limits the amount of – and frequency that – rooms can be rented for those in crisis situations.

Mr Grimley voted in favour of the State Government’s Renewable Energy Target of 50% by 2030 earlier this month, hoping for greater investment in regional and rural towns.

Unemployment rates in Moyne Shire were 2.5% in the 2019 March quarter and Corangamite Shire and Colac Otway Shire boasted 2.81% and 3.18% for the same period respectively.

### Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:

“I applaud the State Government on their investment in wind farms and renewable energy in regional Victoria, but I think the housing shortage we’re seeing has been an unintended consequence.

As a result, rent is becoming quite expensive, meaning some of those who have lived in regional areas for years are being shifted further out of town.

Another consequence is that crisis accommodation is so much harder to find. Victims of family violence are finding it increasingly difficult to be placed in safe accommodation because there is literally nowhere to go.”

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