



# STUART GRIMLEY MP

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

## MEDIA RELEASE



### Housing Crisis in Western Victoria Must be Fixed, says Grimley

14 May 2021

Member for Western Victoria, Stuart Grimley MP has asked the government to address the housing shortage crisis in Western Victoria. This comes as only seven councils in the Western Victoria Region – out of 24 - have been allocated a minimum commitment of the Big Housing Build Program.

During a visit to the Northern Grampians, Yarriambiack and Buloke councils this year, a common theme kept arising. Each Shire is having problems with a lack of rental housing, residential development, and homes to buy.

This is in stark contrast to larger regional areas and metropolitan cities, where huge investment (including from the State Government's Big Housing Build) of new housing projects is being undertaken.

As shown on RealEstate.com, between these three LGAs, there are only 21 properties available to rent. That includes 7 in Ararat and 5 in St. Arnaud. That leaves just 9 properties for rent for all the other towns.

Stawell, a town of over 6,000 people has just 1 property available for rent. This has been a huge issue for the community, with limited accommodation availability for prospective temporary and permanent workers, making it difficult to fill job vacancies.

The Northern Grampians alone has more than 150 job vacancies that need to be filled, some of which pay over \$100,000 a year. Yet due to the distance from major cities and the lack of available housing, these jobs will struggle to be filled.

Mr Grimley also raised the issue of a dire lack of crisis accommodation for family violence victim survivors and their children. This has been especially relevant for south-west Victoria, where relevant bodies are finding it continuously difficult to find emergency accommodation for their clients.

Mr Grimley called on the Government to allocate a portion of the Big Housing Build to his other rural councils as a matter of urgency to increase rental housing and homes available for purchase.

#### Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:

"We are experiencing a housing crisis across in regional Victoria. Our smaller councils that have been struggling for years to get more residents, will continue to struggle because they miss out on major funding including for housing projects.

I have 24 councils in my region of Western Victoria, with only seven getting a guaranteed minimum investment through the Big Housing Build program. Don't get me wrong, the funding for these councils is needed, but so is funding for housing in the 17 others.

This is so urgent that there has been talk for some councils to become 'quasi-housing developers' because they can't attract private companies to construct housing. As many of these councils are struggling financially, it is just another burden they'll need to carry to grow their area.

I'm asking the Government to commit a minimum guarantee of funding to the smaller LGAs in Western Victoria, so they too can have a chance to expand their rate base."

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