

**Submission
No 1**

**OPTIONS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO EXISTING AND ALTERNATE
ACCOMMODATION TO ADDRESS THE SOCIAL HOUSING SHORTAGE**

Name: Mr Grant Mistler

Date Received: 7 July 2021

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

7 July 2021

Dear Legislative Assembly Committee on Community Services

RE: Options to Improve Access to Existing and Alternate Accommodation to Address the Social Housing Shortage

Thank you all for taking time to collaboratively work on this issue.

My only contribution to this inquiry, is the issue of empty homes. Plenty of research and discussion already exists around the issue of empty homes in Sydney.^{1,2,3,4}

Empty homes exist more so in highly desirable areas, closer to education, medical, employment, transport and recreation opportunities. What the current research and discussion lacks however, is the impact of social isolation in urban settings, where people and life-interactions are missing as those empty homes remain dormant. Similar to the “food desert” concept, those empty homes add to the precedents of social isolation, and poor health.

In the UK, Horsham District Council produced their Empty Homes Strategy 2020–2024 because they feel empty homes are a wasted resource.⁵ Sydney too enjoys a lot of wasted resource, as those empty homes sit idle with blunted affect.

I feel a link can be made between the social housing shortage, and the issue of empty homes.

Many thanks in advance for providing actionable solutions to address the social housing shortage.

Yours faithfully

Grant Mistler

¹ www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/thousands-of-empty-homes-adding-to-sydneys-housing-crisis-experts-say-20160323-gnnc52.html

² www.realestate.com.au/news/record-number-of-sydney-homes-are-now-sitting-empty-sqm/

³ www.yourinvestmentpropertymag.com.au/news/why-are-so-many-homes-being-left-vacant-by-owners-234928.aspx

⁴ www.abc.net.au/news/2017-07-17/vacancy-tax-wont-solve-australias-empty-housing-problem/8709184

⁵ www.horsham.gov.uk/environmental-health/empty-homes-strategy