

**Submission
No 9**

INQUIRY INTO SOCIAL, PUBLIC AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Organisation: Urban Neighbours of Hope

Date received: 21/01/2014

Hello,

My name is Jon Owen, and I am the National Director for an NGO, Urban Neighbours of Hope, or UNOH (www.unoh.org). Our work was profiled in the Sydney Morning Herald a few years ago (<http://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/life/house-of-hope-20120118-1q62h.html>).

We are committed to bringing out all that is great in our community, recently we had the Sydney Festival here: <http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/sydney-festival/from-carpark-to-funpark-via-rock-opera-and-hula-hoops-20140117-30zt2.html>

I have never submitted anything like this before, so I apologise for the way it has been submitted.

I have lived in Bidwill for past 8 years. It is primarily a Public Housing Community. I would like to submit a plea for the State Government to cease selling off Housing Property in the 2770 postcode.

There are myriad of reasons for this, least of which, as a Government, in partnership with NGO's we should be at the forefront of Social Housing and Services for Housing Communities - currently the FACs Housing Mantra seems to be "Get out of Housing".

My huge concern is that locally we live in an area that has a proposed Sydney Business Park Development, with Costco, Bunnings and Ikea all set to trade locally <http://www.sydneybusinesspark.com.au>

There are also massive Private Housing Developments that have been approved for Marsden Park through to Windsor, with up to 40,000 new homes likely to be built.

Marsden Park to have 10,300 alone.

<http://www.gcc.nsw.gov.au/media/Pdf/Marsden%20Park/FINAL%20FAQ.pdf>

The prices of these houses will be enormous and many residents will not be able to afford to work the coffee shops and service industry jobs provided in the newly built precinct. Currently we have access to a Housing Community in Bidwill, Shalvey, Willmot and Tregear all close by.

That is great access for labour to work these jobs, and great first jobs for many Housing Community Youth.

It makes viable economic sense to preserve housing stock at this time and to develop partnerships between businesses and our Mt Druitt Housing Communities.

I feel very passionately about this issue too, for too long access to industry has been a major factor blocking employment for many in 2770. Now we have the greatest opportunity ever, lets not let it slip through our fingers,

Please feel free to contact me anytime.

Many thanks,
Jon Owen