



28th September 2022

Dear Shoalhaven Ratepayer,

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, I'm reaching out for your help on an important issue our city is facing.

The Shoalhaven, like many other Local Government Areas, is experiencing an unprecedented housing availability and affordability crisis, and while we are doing what we can to advocate for additional affordable housing in the Shoalhaven, the reality is Council has limited powers to assist the people directly impacted.

We know though, that many houses in our city are currently vacant for a variety reasons whether that be deceased estates, holiday houses or short term/holiday rentals and my appeal is to the owners or managers of these properties.

I ask that you please consider making your property available for full time rental, even if only for 12-18 months to help alleviate some of the pressure and to buy us some time as we await the promised housing investment funding from the Federal and State Governments.

I understand the reservations; the thought of tenanting your home through a rental agreement is daunting, but there are organisations available who can help you with this, for example:

Southern Cross Community Housing: a Registered Community Housing Provider that help put people into homes and can manage your property: <https://www.scch.org.au/real-estate/>

Salt Care: help people settle into homes with wrap around care and support. Their team will work with you to give you peace of mind that your home is in good hands:
<https://www.salt.org.au/salt-care/salt-assisted-housing/>

I understand this is a big decision and its not a request I make lightly. If you do decide to tenant your property, please ensure you look after your own interests first and seek financial advice and professional help from a trusted real estate agent or accredited organisation.

We have taken our fair share of knocks over the last few years with multiple natural disasters and the pandemic. There are some in our strong and resilient community that are doing it tough and feeling more vulnerable than ever before.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my request to help put a roof over someone's head. If you would like more information, please contact Council on 1300 293 111.

Kind regards

Amanda Findley
Mayor