

LORNE AFFORDABLE HOUSING ONLINE COMMUNITY MEETING 1
5 JUNE 2023

Cr Gary Allen. Opening remarks

The availability and affordability of dwellings for locals – particularly in Lorne and Anglesea.” was recognised as a problem in the Surf Coast Housing Policy, a detailed study funded by the Commonwealth Government in 2006.

To my understanding, including the failed release of land in Lorne, we have seen many wasted years, from all levels of government, in working together to find solutions to a problem identified seventeen years ago, and at a time when it was not the national and international problem that it is today.

In 2018 the Committee for Lorne, supported by the Council, asked Graham Braun, to produce the report “[Accommodating Lorne’s Future](#)”, which was released earlier this year. This report arose from the release of “Achieving Lorne’s Aspirations” work undertaken by the Committee (Ian Stewart outstanding leadership in progressing this work), a worsening housing situation - compounded by the growth in AIRBNBs.

In 2021 the newly elected Council declared a Housing and Accommodation Emergency, which resulted in the council working with the Committee for Lorne, the LBTA and GORCAPA to help address the immediate short-term problem for seasonal workers and the Council also began work to look at the medium to longer term problem for long term essential workers.

Changes have been made to the local amenity law, supporting a trial in the Shire for tiny houses and progressing the work for affordable housing in Winchelsea, Anglesea and Airey’s Inlet, which will benefit Lorne both directly and as working models.

At the end of 2021 the Council appointed Alicia Hooper to develop an Affordable Accommodation Action Plan (one of the few LGAs to do so), this is a comprehensive, extremely well researched plan and is available on the Council’s [website](#).

This is a long-winded introduction to my remit “What do we want to Achieve?”

1. We do not want these two reports, as a framework to address the housing and accommodation problem to languish. We simply cannot afford another wasted 16 years.
2. The response to the webinar is magnificent and gives me hope that we will achieve positive outcomes, as this response is from the community, and we as a community must continue to put pressure on all levels of government to act.

3. From tonight we must continue our dialogue, research and thinking to add to the current solutions, to refine existing options and be open and flexible in our thinking.
4. I also believe that we should attempt to deepen the understanding in the community of the realistic capabilities and constraints of the various levels of government and the different agencies in what can be achieved in this space to more appropriately target our actions.

This is vital work if we wish to support a Lorne that has young people and families that add to our vitality, support our voluntary organisations, the school and the hospital – the very fabric of our community.