

**SENATOR THE HON DOUG CAMERON  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR SKILLS, TAFE AND APPRENTICESHIPS  
SENATOR FOR NEW SOUTH WALES**

**RENTAL STRESS SOARS AS LIBERALS IGNORE WESTERN SYDNEY**

A [new report](#) released today showing worsening housing affordability and rising homelessness in Western Sydney further highlights the Liberals' contempt for middle and working class residents in the area.

The Western Sydney Community Forum and Wentworth Community Housing report reveals alarming trends in housing outcomes right across Western Sydney – including rapidly rising rental stress and homelessness, declining housing affordability, and a profound and growing shortage of social housing.

Under the Liberals, more than 110,000 households in Western Sydney are now experiencing housing stress, representing more than half of the almost 204,000 households in housing stress across Greater Sydney.

The report has also revealed that within Western Sydney:

- 32.8 per cent of renting households are experiencing rental stress.

- Rental costs have increased at a higher rate than incomes, with most areas showing a higher price to income gap than Greater Sydney.
- Homelessness has increased significantly since 2011, at a far greater rate than the state and national increases.
- The current social and affordable housing supply only meet 40.6% of the total demand.

The reality is that Scott Morrison and the Liberals have done nothing of substance in more than five years in office to address the housing affordability challenge. This neglect by the Liberals has resulted in a housing system that simply isn't working for everyday Australians.

The Morrison Government's support for cuts to penalty rates, along with cuts to schools, TAFEs and hospitals places more stress on the family budget and is making the housing affordability challenge for middle and working class families in Western Sydney more difficult.

The Liberals see housing policy as providing the world's most generous tax concessions for wealthy investors buying their 5th, 6th and 7th property – at the expense of renters, first-home buyers and vulnerable Australians in need.

This election offers a clear choice on housing. Scott Morrison and the Liberals have nothing to offer the people of Western Sydney other than cynical and dishonest scare campaigns on Labor's positive housing plan to increase community housing stock by 250,000 over the next 10 years.

Bill Shorten and Labor will improve fairness and reduce inequality by reforming negative gearing and capital gains tax concessions, invest \$6.6 billion over a decade in 250,000 new affordable rental homes, and develop a national plan to address homelessness through COAG.

Only a Shorten Labor Government will appoint a Commonwealth housing minister and ensure that the issue of affordable housing for all Australians is front and centre of our national political agenda.

**TUESDAY, 23 APRIL 2019**

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