

# Diocesan Office of Justice, Ecology & Peace

## *MEDIA RELEASE*

### **Challenges to Parties to address housing issues in Broome**

Now that the election has been called early, it seems that there are a number of issues that will remain unresolved and unanswered for the people in the remote and regional areas of the State while the major parties attempt to win the votes needed to form Government in the more populated city electorates.

The Coordinator of the Catholic Diocesan *Office of Justice, Ecology & Peace* in Broome, Br Shane Wood has called on the major parties to address the serious housing problems facing the remote tourist town.

“The residents of Broome and their families who are committed to the town and its social fabric are entitled to know what the major parties are offering in terms of real, tangible, on-the-ground, short and long-term solutions to the shortage of reasonably priced housing for rent and purchase in Broome.

“They are entitled to know what alternatives there might be to the drip-feed availability of land for housing development which keeps prices inflated. They are entitled to know why one arm of Government (LandCorp) is seemingly the only developer permitted to work on land releases in Broome, and why it is required to sell developed land to another arm of Government (DHW) at commercial rates. They are entitled to know why LandCorp continues to sell land in Broome at prices that provide it with excessive profits that are not put towards providing more affordable housing in the place where these excessive profits are made,” Br Wood said.

“It is a pity that the seats in the Kimberley and Pilbara are no longer needed for parties to form Government. The reallocation of seats has meant that those areas which generate the most income for the State are the least important politically. Perhaps we might hear some answers from local candidates on these issues in the coming weeks if we keep asking the questions,” Br Wood concluded.

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