

Dear Committee

I am distressed with the trend of increased insurance in the North Queensland, in particular Cairns units.

In 2006 I borrowed heavily to buy a unit in Cairns. I am heavily subsidising a tenant in the hope it will help fund my retirement. Looking increasingly grim.

The complex I have bought a unit in had an annual insurance premium of \$64,000, which has increased this year to \$154,000. At 240%, this is extremely out of touch with inflation and with the rent being paid by my tenant.

It appears Cairns has been forgotten by government. Local government rates are excessive compared to Sydney and now insurance rates are becoming unpredictably excessive.

A comparison:

My Cairns unit INSURANCE will cost this year 8.1% of the rent compared to an equivalent Sydney unit of 2.7%.

This is not sustainable. If others are suffering to the same extent I can only see Cairns population decreasing as it becomes too expensive to live there.

Regards

William Gobbe