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Alice jobs in decline, residents numbers falling, and land unobtainable

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Alice Springs' population is declining, job numbers are falling, land in Alice Springs is prohibitive and the government says it's in control.

The Member for MacDonnell today expressed his continuing dismay in the government's inability to provide a livable place for people in Central Australia. A recent report demonstrates that the population in the town has dropped for two years consecutively. All this on top of a shortage of staff to fill jobs in the town.

Speaking in Alice Springs today the Member for MacDonnell said,

"The government is dilly dallying around the fact that people cannot afford to live here. There are jobs available but they can't find staff to fill them. But even if people work they can't afford to put a roof over their heads.

"When you open a newspaper and discover that an unimproved block of land has an asking price of $157,000 you know there is a problem. I recently saw a similar block in Queensland in a rural community two and a half hours from Brisbane for $8,500. What on earth is this government doing?

"People applying for new home owner's grants can only take advantage if they're prepared to live in a tent.

"The government can say all it likes about what it's doing but it doesn't amount to squat.

"The government has made promise after promise and all we've had is smoke and mirrors and excessive land prices.

"Putting in planning applications is more of the same. Selling blocks isn't.

"The government is way too late now and we are paying the cost as a town.

"There hasn't been leadership like this since the light brigade."

Ends.