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## Perth Locals Push Back Against Hotel's Social Housing Conversion

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Tensions are rising in East Perth as residents voice strong opposition to the Western Australian government's decision to convert the upscale Fraser Suites hotel into a mixed social and affordable housing complex. Locals insist they are not against public housing itself but argue that the process lacked transparency and proper consultation, prompting concerns about planning, density, and neighborhood impact.

The \$100 million purchase of the Fraser Suites, previously considered a high-end accommodation option, has sparked frustration among nearby residents who say they were

caught off guard. Many claim they learned of the redevelopment plans only after the deal was finalized. Their concerns focus primarily on the sudden increase in population density, the use of shared spaces, and the strain on already limited parking. “We support social housing, we just want it done the right way,” one local said, emphasizing the need for proper planning and use of available resources.

Supporters of the government’s plan, particularly homelessness advocacy groups, argue that the urgency of the housing crisis warrants swift action. According to Shelter Western Australia (Shelter WA), there are currently over 22,000 people on the state’s social housing waitlist, with many waiting up to two years for placement. Kath Snell of Shelter WA noted, “We know people sleeping in cars, under bridges, or couch-surfing with relatives, this is a crisis.”

The term “Not In My Backyard,” often abbreviated as NIMBY, has been used to describe the opposition from residents. However, locals reject this label, maintaining that their concerns are rooted in the execution of the plan, not its intent. “We were simply not informed,” one resident explained. “To disrupt people’s homes without any notice leaves a bad taste.”

Housing Minister John Carey has acknowledged residents’ concerns and has met with local opponents twice in recent weeks. He highlighted that many individuals in need of housing include vulnerable groups, particularly women over 55, who are increasingly at risk of homelessness. “These are the people we are trying to support,” Carey stated.

With a growing housing shortage and rising demand, the state government has not ruled out repurposing additional buildings for social and affordable housing. However, questions remain about whether future projects will involve community input before implementation. For residents near Fraser Suites, the lack of engagement has become the core issue, one they argue could set a troubling precedent for urban development in Western Australia.