

Sunday, 24 February 2019

STATEMENT

Housing Choices Tasmania is thrilled to be one of four community housing providers selected to deliver \$30 million of desperately needed new social housing in greater Hobart.

State Manager Kim Bomford said: "The \$8million allocated to Housing Choices as part of the funding package just announced by the Federal Government, will allow us to build 32 new homes in areas of Hobart where affordable and social housing is under severe pressure."

More than half those waitlisted for social housing in Tasmania live in the south of the State; predominantly greater Hobart.

"Our homes will be offered to people on the State's Priority housing waitlist, including older people with health and mobility issues, women and children escaping domestic violence and people living with a disability," Ms Bomford said.

Ms Bomford applauded the commitment by the Federal Government to help address Tasmania's housing crisis and acknowledged the vigorous support the housing initiative had received from Independent Member for Denison (Clark), Andrew Wilkie, MP.

"This exciting new housing project for Hobart complements our other active housing supply initiatives under the State Government's Affordable Housing Strategy (AHS) and Better Housing Futures programme, including the delivery of 62 new dwellings in the North West in June this year."

All homes will be built to exemplar design and accessibility standards and meet the 'Silver' standard of the Liveable Housing Design Guidelines, making them fully accessible. It is anticipated they could be ready for residents within 18 months of commencing construction.

"It's also great to be working alongside other community housing providers, where our combined impact -- a total of 130 new homes -- truly magnifies the housing outcomes for Hobart," Ms Bomford said.

Ms Bomford said: "But this investment is also about more than just housing. It will bring with it an economic stimulus in the order of \$75million, through construction jobs and services and it will take pressure off our vital tourism economy, by relieving tensions in the short-stay rental market.

"Further, as a community housing provider, Housing Choices Tasmania is committed to creating communities and delivering life-enhancing opportunities for our residents once they move in, including improved access to education, healthcare and employment. That has its own massive flow-on effect on our economy and our society.

For further information: Mary Clark 0418 544 873 Media Adviser