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Housing for older and younger Tasmanians key to Liberal's pledge



Housing pledge: The site of newly built social housing in Devonport was where the Liberal government set out its plan for housing to 2027. Picture: Brodie Weeding

The Liberal party has promised to top up plans to build more social housing beyond 2023 to 2027 if re-elected in May.

Minister for Housing Roger Jaensch pledged a further \$280 million to deliver an additional 2000 social housing dwellings over four years.

"It gives a strong signal to our building industry that there is a long pipeline of work out there," Mr Jaensch said.

He said the housing register had identified particular needs for younger and older people, who needed special responses.

Mr Jaensch announced a re-elected government would invest \$20 million into new supportive accommodation facilities for older Tasmanians who are on the social housing register.

"These two new projects, one in the North-West, one in the north, will... provide housing specifically for the needs of older Tasmanians and also free up potentially some of the existing social housing stock."

He said \$15.3 million would support younger people through three new initiatives:

- A three year trial lighthouse project for young people homeless under the age of 16
- 20 new modular home dwellings in four groups of five around the state for over 16
- Supported accommodation for young people living in a shared social housing model

Cradle Coast Authority chief representative Peter Freshney said its member councils welcomed the announcement.

"We very much appreciate the commitment to support the efforts of local government in the development of regional land use strategies," Cr Freshney said.

Housing Choices Tasmania general manager Kim Bomford said the longer pipeline to 2027 was perfectly timed for local builders.

Last week, the Labor party had promised \$195.7 million to build an additional 2000 new social houses over the next six years, in addition to those already funded in the budget.

Shadow Housing Minister Alison Standen said the government had only built 37 new social dwellings in its first term.

She said that solving the housing crisis would require more than bricks and mortar.

"Labor has committed to more crisis and supported accommodation as well as case workers to help lift people out of homelessness," Ms Standen said.