



The Advocate

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New social housing in final stages, Labor vows more needs to be done to help Tasmanians

Residents on the social housing waitlist will move into 12 new two bedroom units at Latrobe in the coming weeks.

Housing Minister Roger Jaensch said they were among 600 dwellings under construction contracts, with the government in the market for "up to another 1000 properties under contract for the social housing pool".

"This is part of us providing universal, flexible lifelong housing for Tasmanians who need it and thanks to our partners, in this case Housing Choices Tasmania, who are able to co-invest with us," he said.



HOUSING READY: Housing Choices Tasmania's Rana Harbard, Housing Minister Roger Jaensch and Housing Choices Tasmania's Sally Pugsley.

Housing Choices Tasmania's Rana Harbard said people would be moving into the Stanley St units in the next two weeks.

"Residents moving in are able to unpack all of their boxes, not wondering whether or not they are going to be moving in six to 12 months," she said.

"I think when it comes to security of tenure and being able to prepare and think about the future it is really important.

Labor's Housing spokeswoman Alison Standen said while more available housing was welcome news more needed to be done to solve Tasmania's housing crisis.

"The North-West Coast has been an area that has experienced particular rental stress over the past year and like the rest of the state needs new housing," she said.

"There are 3600 people on the social housing waitlist and this minister needs to explain why it is acceptable for those families to be waiting on average 64 weeks to be housed.

"What this means is those people are waiting 64 weeks on couches, in garages, in caravans and in tents."

Mr Jaensch said he understood many were experiencing housing stress and the government was working on providing options.

"We will keep being guided by the applicants to the social housing waiting lists and the people that are turning up needing crisis and emergency accommodation," he said.

"I think what we are seeing at the moment is the playing out of the COVID situation, which has changed a lot terms of people's need and ability to move through different forms of housing."