

HOUSING INNOVATIONS UNIT UPDATE

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Feedback on Tender Process

The Housing Innovations Unit is pleased to report that we have received a strong level of interest in the current tender process for social housing construction under the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan (NBESP).

We have received a large number of enquiries against both the call for Expressions of Interest from Not-For-Profit Housing Organisations (closing 2pm Monday, 1 June 2009) and the Request for Tenders from parties interested in the construction of social housing and sale of land (closing 2pm, Tuesday 2 June 2009).

Last week's pre-tender briefing sessions were very well attended. Around 20 people participated in the North West session, 30-40 in the North and 60 in the South. Peter White, Director of the Housing Innovations Unit, and Tony Jacques, our contact officer for the Request for Tenders attended the sessions and were pleased to report the strong response from the building and construction industry and Not-For-Profit housing organisations.

The Housing Innovations Unit team would like to remind interested parties that there is now only a little over a week until the closing dates. We are keen to hear from as many people as possible, so if you are thinking of putting together a proposal and require any further information or assistance please do not hesitate to contact us on 6236 5690.

Updates to the Housing Innovations Unit's Website

There have been a couple of new additions to the Housing Innovations Unit's webpage on the NBESP. The presentation delivered by Peter White at the NBESP pre-tender briefing session can now be downloaded. A flow chart has also been added that shows the planning and approval system that can be applied to successful NBESP tenders under the new Nation Building and Jobs Plan Facilitation Act 2009.

To view both documents, simply visit our [NBESP webpage](#) and refer to the 'Features' section.

Questions and Answers

Tony Jacques, our NBESP tender contact officer has received a number of comments and questions about the tender process. For example, people have asked about how to demonstrate evidence of land ownership, or if successful, when and how the tender will be paid.

We will be posting a list of common questions and answers onto our website from Monday so that everyone has access to the same information. If you have a question that you need answered and would like to add it to the list, contact Tony Jacques on 6236 5690 or tony.jacques@dhhs.tas.gov.au.

Tender Timelines

One question that has constantly arisen is about the timelines for the current Expression of Interest and Request for Tenders processes. That is, when will tenderers know if they have been successful?

In short, tenderers can expect to receive an indicative decision from the State Government by 7 July 2009 and a final decision from the Australian Government by 31 August 2009.

The State Government has until 30 June 2009 to evaluate all of the proposals that it receives and to make its recommendation to the Australian Government about which proposals should receive funding and which should not. At this stage the Housing Innovation Unit will contact tenderers and advise whether or not their tender has been recommended to the Australian Government for approval.

The Australian Government will then make a final decision as to which tenders are approved and not approved. This final decision will be made by 31 August 2009.

Changes to the Australian Government Occupational Health and Safety Accreditation Scheme

The Federal Safety Commissioner (FSC) recently announced that some building works funded under the NBESP will not require the application of the Australian Government Building and Construction Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Accreditation Scheme (the Scheme).

For the NBESP to have the desired effect on the economy, it is essential that funds flow quickly into areas of need. For this reason the Australian Government has decided to not require the application of the Scheme to certain projects funded under the NBESP, subject to scheme thresholds.

For more information refer to the attached fact sheet from the Office of the FSC, visit their [website](#) or contact the **FSC Assist Line** on 1800 625 500.

Join Our Contacts List

To receive regular email updates such as this join the Housing Innovations Unit's e-list by contacting Amanda Daly on 6233 5038 or email amanda.daly@dhhs.tas.gov.au.

Visit the Australian Government's Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan Website

For further information about the NBESP, including what's happening in education and community infrastructure, visit the Australian Government's NBESP Stimulus Plan website:

www.economicstimulusplan.gov.au