

HOUSING INNOVATIONS UNIT UPDATE

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Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan – Stage 2 announcements

This week marked a funding injection into the social and affordable housing market for Tasmania and saw Federal Minister for Housing, Tanya Plibersek make her first visit to the State.

The Australian Government announced on Monday 31 August that over \$5 billion worth of projects were to be funded under the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan (NBESP) Social Housing Initiative- Stage 2. The social housing component of the NBESP has been estimated by Treasury to support 15,000 jobs nationally over the next two years.

On Tuesday 1 September, Minister Plibersek and Tasmanian Minister for Human Services, Lin Thorp announced that Tasmania has been successful in receiving \$109.3 million in Australian Government funding. This will see the delivery of at least 445 new dwellings to be built across the State to boost the stock of public and community housing.

Included in this announcement were the plans for a new 50 bed homelessness facility to be constructed at 87-91 Campbell Street, to cater for medium to long term accommodation for homeless and low income residents.

In total, the NBESP has seen Tasmania receive \$125,480,000 in funding to construct 510 new homes.

Proponents who have been successful in gaining funding approval under stage 2 would have received confirmation of their status this week. All proponents who did not receive funding approval have been invited to attend a debriefing session to discuss the reasons for non selection.

The HIU are currently organising contracts to be sent out to successful developers and it is expected that construction will commence as soon as practicably possible.

The first units constructed under NBESP Stage 2 are expected to be finalised by mid 2010.

Image: HIU Project Manager Richard Gilmour, Tasmanian Minister for Human Services Lin Thorp MLC and Federal Minister for Housing Tanya Plibersek MP discuss the plans for the 50 bed homelessness facility in Campbell Street.



Federal Minister for Housing visits first completed homes under NBESP

During Minister Plibersek's two day visit to Tasmania, Minister Plibersek also visited the first units completed under NBESP Stage 1.

On Wednesday 2 September, Minister Plibersek visited the three new units at Prospect in Launceston. These are now currently tenanted and represent 3 of the 65 new dwellings purchased or constructed under stage 1 of NBESP.

In addition to the new dwellings constructed under stage 1 and 2 of the NBESP, a further 17 dwellings purchased under the Social Housing National Partnership will be handed to Housing Tasmania. These are located around the State, including Kingston, Devonport and Legana and 16 of these are already tenanted.

HIU Update

National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS):

An announcement is imminent from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) surrounding the successful proposals under Round 2 of the NRAS. The successful proponents will be published on the HIU website and announced in the next newsletter.

Round 3 of NRAS opened on 1 September 2009 and will remain open for 12 months. This round will differ from earlier rounds and include three types of proposals.

- Applications which link to proposals for the Social Housing Initiative component of the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan
- Applications which seek to have the private sector develop state owned land that has been released for residential development that may include a proportion attracting NRAS incentives
- Applications which propose to construct a minimum of 1,000 dwellings as a large scale portfolio of affordable housing.

HIU is currently identifying suitable land to be released under Round 3, which will then be made available through tender later this year

Our Contacts List

To receive regular email updates join the HIU's e-list by phoning Erin Fyle on (03) 6233 5038 or email erin.fyle@dhhs.tas.gov.au.

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

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

www.economicstimulusplan.gov.au