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COMMENT || GUY BARNETT

An agile and innovative housing model

THE Tasmanian Liberal government has invested record amounts into social and affordable housing and worked hard to deliver for those who need our support. Yet, the need for safe, secure and affordable housing has continued to grow over the past decade. Our population has also increased by almost 50,000 since 2016. While its great people love Tasmania, we need to ensure all Tasmanians have a roof over their head.

We know we have to do things differently, and passage of the Homes Tasmania Bill will create a housing body with the skills, knowledge and power to do that. It proposes a modern, contemporary approach that

is agile and innovative to deliver the homes needed, when and where they need them.

Sector stakeholders have strongly advised that change is needed to get houses out of the ground faster and provide the right types of homes for people who need them as quickly as possible.

The Homes Tasmania Board will bring a dedicated focus on housing, strong leadership, expertise and ability to draw on representative and specialist views.

With an asset base of \$3.5 billion, it will be one of Tasmania's largest government-owned entities, with significant leveraging powers. This means more houses for

more Tasmanians, optimising our ability to deliver 10,000 homes by 2032 guided by our 20-year Housing Strategy.

Housing affects us all. Unlike our current model, Homes Tasmania will play a role in not just social and affordable housing, but how the broader housing market operates and creating contemporary, liveable communities. Critically, how we deliver support services must also change. This includes the types of services offered and addressing individual cohorts needs like youth, women with children and our elderly. Homes Tasmania recognises housing as a basic human need.

Discussion that Homes Tasmania will

diminish public accountability is simply untrue. Homes Tasmania will be more transparent than a government agency, with the minister's statement of expectation tabled in Parliament, plus a corporate and annual plan as well as usual accountability measures like budget estimates scrutiny. The minister continues in an active role and remain ultimately accountable.

I look forward to Parliament passing the Homes Tasmania Bill 2022 to create the most integrated and cohesive housing system in Australia.

|| Guy Barnett is the State Development, Construction and Housing Minister.

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