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Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

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Guy Barnett, Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing

Evidence-based collaboration critical to improving housing outcomes for Tasmanians

The Tasmanian Government is exploring every opportunity and idea to address housing stress for vulnerable Tasmanians and today my Ministerial Reference Group met as a formal group for the second time, having also held a Working Group meeting since July 2022.

The Group includes 17 community service providers, peak representative bodies, and the Local Government Association of Tasmania. The Group brings together experts from across the housing, homelessness, property, construction and local government sectors.

Today, the Group discussed the demand for housing supply as projected over next 20 years and agreed on using the recently released Census data to ensure these homes are built when and where they are needed most.

Members also presented proposals for consideration to address issues raised in the previous meeting.

I also updated the Group on progress of the *Homes Tasmania Bill 2022* through Parliament, which passed the House of Assembly in August 2022.

As Parliament was prorogued due to the passing of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, debate will resume when Parliament resumes from Tuesday 27 September

The Reference Group was instrumental in the release of the Tasmanian Housing Strategy Discussion Paper which is now open for consultation until 21 October 2022.

The third meeting of the Ministerial Housing Reference Group meeting will be held in December 2022 and the Tasmanian Government acknowledges the expertise and total commitment of this group to find innovative ways to address housing stress and homelessness in the State.