



TALKING POINT IS

Change will build homes for more

Homes Tasmania will build more social houses faster, says **Guy Barnett**

TASMANIA is about to have the biggest shake-up in nearly a century when it comes to the provision of more social and affordable homes and services for the homeless.

The passing of the Homes Tasmania Bill 2022 through the parliament last week paves the way for Tasmanians to have the most integrated and cohesive housing and homelessness services in the country.

Our objective is to have a more co-ordinated approach to building homes faster so we can get more roofs over the heads of more Tasmanians.

The Bill replaces the Homes Act 1935, and it has been largely shaped by feedback from the housing, homelessness and building and construction sectors.

These expert stakeholders are all highly motivated to improve the current system and their support for change

authority would be tasked with building these homes, by being more responsive, agile and addressing some of the barriers currently being experienced to getting houses built quickly.

One of the key differences is that Homes Tasmania led by an experienced board with diverse, strong and specialist views to guide its decision-making and to help address our housing challenges. It will continue to be directly responsible to the Minister of the day.

Collectively, the board will have the relevant knowledge and skills to ensure that the functions and powers of Homes Tasmania are performed and exercised appropriately.

This includes commercial skills and experience, and skills and experience in community development or welfare.

All the hardworking staff at Housing Tasmania will

is reflected in the structure of Homes Tasmania.

The Tasmanian government has an ambitious plan to deliver 10,000 new social and affordable homes and units by 2032 and are on target to build 1500 by June 30 next year.

This is the biggest investment in housing in Tasmania's history and provides \$538m in capital funding for social and affordable housing over the next four years, including \$204m in this year.

One of the ways we can do this is by leveraging the asset base of the government's housing stock, which is valued at \$3.5bn, and then using these assets to increase the supply of housing for Tasmanians in need.

The new housing

transition to the new authority and I look forward to them continuing to make a contribution under the new Homes Tasmania.

Every Tasmanian deserves to have a roof over their head and we need to do things differently to achieve this and work collaboratively across state, federal and local governments and the community to ensure the needs of Tasmanians are at the centre of every decision we make.

I want to thank all the stakeholders for their support for this historic legislation and I look forward to working with them closely as we implement our plan to deliver more homes for more Tasmanians.

**Guy Barnett is State
Development, Construction
and Housing Minister**

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