

## Guy Barnett MP

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### Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

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Guy Barnett, Minister for Energy and Renewables

#### **Building more homes and creating opportunities with Homes Tasmania**

The Tasmanian Liberal Government is committed to the most ambitious plan to build 10,000 social and affordable homes and dwellings in the next decade.

A critical part of delivering real change for our community and building more homes faster to help Tasmanians in need is our new authority Homes Tasmania, and today marks its first day of operations.

Homes Tasmania will provide a dedicated focus on housing and homelessness services, increase the number of social and affordable homes and have a market-wide view of Tasmania's housing challenges and opportunities.

Today I was joined by the new Homes Tasmania Chair, Michele Adair, and several Board Directors in Timothy Gourlay, Daryl Lamb and Alice Spizzo to mark this historic day at the site of a new social housing development in Ravenswood.

Ms Adair said: "I'm excited by the Tasmanian Government's vision and commitment to addressing the need for more social and affordable housing. Having worked and maintained close relationships in Tasmania over the past 15-20 years it's a privilege to be able lead Homes Tasmania and to make a difference in the lives, communities and businesses of this wonderful State."

This Ravenswood development showcases just how partnerships with the community housing providers and industry can deliver more homes for Tasmanians in need.

Centacare Evolve Housing and Wilson Homes are delivering five units on the site for Housing Register applicants when they are completed in April next year.

Wilson Homes has been able to employ 11 apprentices on these units and other projects.

Not only are these social housing developments providing homes for vulnerable Tasmanians, they are also providing employment opportunities for young Tasmanians.

The Homes Tasmania Board will provide leadership, innovation and expertise to seize opportunities to do things differently to deliver the Tasmanian Government's commitment of \$1.5 billion for 10,000 new homes by 2032.

This includes being able to use its \$3.5 billion balance sheet to drive more investment to create more housing solutions.

In addition to building houses, Homes Tasmania will deliver housing and specialised homelessness services for Tasmanians in response to needs, with a focus on providing safe and affordable dwellings, including supports available to prevent homelessness.

This will ensure that Tasmania will have the most integrated and cohesive housing and homelessness system in the country.

Critical to Homes Tasmania's success will be the ongoing partnerships with the State's housing and homelessness sector, community housing providers, local government and industry through the recently formed Minister's Housing Reference Group.

It will work across government, sectors and the community to better understand the housing market and future need for housing, lead urban renewal, and create more inclusive communities. One of its first tasks will be finalising the 20-Year Housing Strategy for Tasmania which will guide the development of the targeted 10,000 homes.

The Tasmanian Government looks forward to working with Homes Tasmania and its Board as we continue to ensure that every Tasmanian can have a safe, affordable and secure roof over their head.

Michele Adair has extensive experience in the community housing and business sector, the health, aging and disability sector, is CEO of the NSW Housing Trust and Chair of the Community Housing Industry Association in NSW.