



MEDIA RELEASE

2 November, 2018

Housing Trust CEO calls for affordable housing partnership with WCC

Housing Trust is calling on Wollongong City Council to formally partner with them to provide social and affordable housing in the Illawarra.

Housing Trust CEO Michele Adair says council needs to invest in the future of people desperately seeking housing by working on solutions to a growing problem within the region.

Supporting MP Stephen Jones' call for \$9.2m in commonwealth funding to be directed to social housing in order to ease the critical shortage of housing stock in the region, Ms Adair said Housing Trust could work with council to deliver suitable accommodation.

"We are a proven community housing provider and the only Tier One Illawarra specialist, so it makes sense for Wollongong City Council to partner with us to develop opportunities and solutions to give people a home they can afford," she said.

"Housing Trust was established by Wollongong City Council 35 years ago specifically to tackle issues in affordable housing and has a proven track record of delivering homes within the region.

"We asked councillors last year to pledge their support in tackling the Illawarra's affordable housing problem and work to create a solid plan of action. We were heartened by the response and we hope to see a draft plan soon. This region needs 5000 homes now to reduce waiting lists."

Earlier this year, Housing Trust officially opened its renovated, 25-home complex at Bulli featuring 20 independent living units and five two-bedroom villas, acknowledging it was just one small step in securing affordable housing for some of its clients.

Housing Trust will begin work on four more townhouses and one villa at Corrimal later this month and has other projects in the pipeline which could be fast-tracked with council's help.

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Michele Adair is available for phone interviews

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