



City of **HOBART**

Memorandum: Lord Mayor
Deputy Lord Mayor
Elected Members

Response to Question Without Notice

GRANTS PROGRAM - COMMUNITY HOUSING

Meeting: Finance and Governance Committee

Meeting date: 19 January
2021

Raised by: Lord Mayor Reynolds

Question:

The State Government has allocated \$100 million dollars for a grants program for Councils to partner with community housing providers with the goal of building 1,000 social-housing dwellings by 2023. Can the General Manager advise if the Council has looked into this grants program and is the Council planning to do anything as part of that?

Response:

With the announcement of the Community Housing Growth Program – New Social Housing Supply EOI process in September 2020, staff viewed and discussed the relevant documentation and attended the information session held on 30 September 2020 to seek information regarding the applicability of the grant program for the City of Hobart.

The expression of interest program closed on 25 November 2020 with the funded social housing projects to be fully completed by 30 June 2023. Details regarding the program are available at <https://www.communities.tas.gov.au/housing/news/community-housing-growth-program>.

It was evident from the documentation and through attending the information session, that the program was seeking proposals primarily from not-for-profit organisations for the construction of social housing across Tasmania in areas of identified demand. A requirement of the Expression of Interest (EOI) was that new social housing properties are allocated to applicants on Tasmania's Housing Register.

Proponents were required to demonstrate they are sustainable and can manage social housing over a long-term agreement. Proponents were encouraged to partner with one of Tasmania's four Tier 1 registered community housing providers to support the allocation of tenancies.

Councils were eligible to submit a proposal in partnership with one of the Tier 1 registered community housing providers for a social housing project that could be fully completed by 30 June 2023.

It is understood that the City of Hobart has not been approached by a community housing provider to partner with them for a proposal to be submitted as part of the EOI process. It would be anticipated that as part of any partnership, the City of Hobart's contribution would be the supply of land. As Elected Members would be aware, there is very minimal availability of suitable Council owned land in the Hobart municipal area.

It is noted that over the past two years there have been discussions held with a community housing provider regarding the possibility of utilising a parcel of City of Hobart land (that is currently under a lease agreement) for a community housing project. However, this potential project has not been progressed at this time and was not put forward by the community housing provider as a relevant proposal for the the Community Housing Growth Program – New Social Housing Supply EOI process.

As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.



N D Heath
GENERAL MANAGER

Date: 5 February 2021
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