

Media Release

19 October 2024

Infrastructure vital to unlocking new housing supply

National Shelter acknowledges the announcement by the Opposition today of the \$5billion Housing Infrastructure Program (HIP) towards enabling infrastructure to accelerate the delivery of up to 500,000 dwellings in greenfield areas. The four-year program is proposed to provide capital grants and low-cost loans to local governments, state- and territory-owned utility providers, property developers and special purpose vehicles on a 'use it or lose it' basis for shovel-ready infrastructure.

"The removal of blockages in the delivery of housing supply is critical to ensure that we have the quantum of housing supply to meet demand," National Shelter CEO Emma Greenhalgh said.

"After decades of underinvestment and leadership by successive Commonwealth governments in housing it is sensible and timely that we now see both major parties looking at significant investment in housing. However, any significant investment in housing and increasing housing supply must be within a comprehensive housing strategy. This includes a significant and sustained investment in social and affordable housing for the almost 1million very low- and low-income households who will have an unmet housing need by 2041 and will not be able to purchase a home".

"The removal of barriers to housing supply is needed but this needs to occur for infill development as well as greenfield areas. The focus on the delivery of suburban or peri-urban greenfield sites and detached dwellings may be less expensive but could lead to poor urban outcomes with detrimental impacts for liveability, health and wellbeing. Any focus on greenfield areas need to occur with proper planning".

"We need to see more detail about the proposal to overhaul the National Construction Code (NCC). Housing affordability should not come at the expense of homes that are not prepared for climate change, that increase energy costs for households, or remove accessible housing provisions".

Contact:

Emma Greenhalgh
Chief Executive Officer
0402 927 243
Emma.greenhalgh@shelter.org.au