

# Community Housing Industry Council

## Communique

Meeting #18, 27 March 2024

The New South Wales (NSW) Community Housing Industry Council (CHIC) had its eighteenth meeting on 27 March 2024.

The CHIC welcomed the newly appointed CEO of Homes NSW, Rebecca Pinkstone, who presented on her vision for Homes NSW and the broader community housing sector. Rebecca comes to the position with a wealth of experience and knowledge about the community housing sector, having previously held the position of CEO Bridge Housing.

Nathan Dal Bon CEO of Housing Australia provided an update on the Housing Australia Future Fund. Applications for Funding Round One under the Housing Australia Future Fund Facility (HAFFF) and National Housing Accord Facility (NHAF) closed on Friday 22 March 2024. It is anticipated there will be multiple HAFFF and NHAF funding rounds.

The CHIC also welcomed Professor Hal Pawson, Professor Housing Research and Policy and Associate Director at UNSW's City Futures Research Centre, University of NSW who led a discussion of how housing may feature in the 2025 Federal election debate.

The CHIC discussed the pros and cons of updating the Community Housing Industry Strategy 2023-2027. It was agreed that any update should await the development by the NSW government of its policy on social and affordable housing and that an updated strategy should contain targets.

### **CHIC project updates**

#### ***Decarbonising social and affordable housing project***

At recent meetings, working group members have received presentations about the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Reporting Standard for Australian Community Housing, as well as from the Commonwealth Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. These were helpful in progressing the decarbonising work for the sector and the projects being delivered under the CHIC.

SGS Economics and Planning have been engaged to conduct a mapping exercise of NSW and Australian decarbonising policies and strategies. The project will aim to enhance the capacity of the CHIC to assist community housing providers as owners and managers of social and affordable housing in ensuring their current and future property portfolio is able to meet the challenges of climate change.

This work should be finalised before the next CHIC meeting in June 2024.

#### ***Climate Change projects (CHIA NSW)***

CHIA NSW previously tabled the *Climate Risk Readiness Report and Decarbonisation guidelines for community housing in NSW*.

The feedback from the CHIC informed the finalisation of these reports, which have now been published and disseminated to the industry. The reports were formally launched at a

briefing event on 14 March 2024, at which the project consultants provided an overview of the key findings and recommendations.

CHIA NSW has now commenced stage 2 of the project, which will assess cost effective interventions for different property types and examine the funding and support needed to deliver carbonisation at scale. Urbis has been engaged to undertake this work, with assistance from MBM Quantity Surveyors.

Urbis has completed an initial analysis of available property data to identify potential archetypes to model. Modelling and technical analysis will continue through Q2 2024. Draft outputs are anticipated by the June 2024 CHIC meeting. These will be tested through engagement with the industry before being finalised.

### ***Streamlining CHP Data Collection and Reporting project***

The project inception meeting was held on 9 November 2023. Since that meeting the consultants Societal have briefed key stakeholders, and the data collection template has been circulated to the agencies identified in the project scope. It is anticipated that all data will be returned and analysed by the June 2024 CHIC meeting. A more fulsome update will be provided at that time.

### ***Showcasing the Community Housing Industry***

CHIA NSW has made significant progress on the first stage of this project. Preliminary data analysis for the State of the Industry report has been completed and case studies are being sourced from member organisations, which demonstrate the industry's capacity to deliver high-quality homes and resident services. The State of the Industry report will be presented at the June 2024 CHIC meeting for feedback and input.

In March 2024, CHIA NSW engaged a consultant for the second stage of this project, which involves the development of promotional videos. The project will formally commence in April 2024, and it is anticipated the videos will be finalised by August 2024.

### ***Capacity Building Plan***

This project will build on and replace the current Community Housing Industry Development Strategy. It will provide a vehicle for the sector and NSW Government to work together to continue developing the industry as needed.

The next CHIC meeting is scheduled for 26 June 2024