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MEDIA RELEASE

HIA Welcomes Moves To Restore Rent Scheme

The Housing Industry Association has welcomed the deal negotiated between the Greens and the Government to retain the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS), a scheme aimed at lifting the supply of new affordable rental housing.

“In negotiating support for the flood levy, the Greens have secured an agreement from the Government to reaffirm its commitment to NRAS, retain a target of at least 50,000 new residences and extend the program to allow orderly progress of the project delivery. We believe reinstating this program would be a great outcome for the many Australians who are in dire need of more affordable rental housing,” HIA Chief Executive Association Graham Wolfe said.

NRAS aims at addressing the shortage of affordable rental housing by offering financial incentives to the business and community sector to build dwellings and rent them out to low and moderate income households at 20 per cent below market rates.

The Government had committed \$1 billion to the scheme over four years to build up to 50,000 homes and apartments. But in its flood response package, the Government said it would cut back funds from NRAS and reduce the number of dwellings it would help to build from 50,000 to 35,000.

The National Affordable Housing Summit, a coalition of housing and community advocacy groups, including the Housing Industry Association, has been urging the Federal Government to reconsider funding cuts to the scheme.

“At a time when we are facing national housing shortages of 20,000 homes a year, it’s crucial that we boost, rather than cut back investment in affordable housing,” Mr Wolfe said. “NRAS is a supply-driven policy that the HIA has long supported, and we are keen to see it continue in its original form.”

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