

MEDIA RELEASE
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**Greens release housing plan -
“more than we can say for the ALP or the Coalition”**

Chairperson of National Shelter Adrian Pisarski praised The Greens for recognising housing as a major election issue and commended their “innovative and interesting” solution to the problem.

In response to their housing plan released in Brisbane today, Mr Pisarski said “Not only have the Greens taken an innovative and interesting approach to housing, they have identified housing affordability as a major concern for voters in this election, which is more than we can say for the ALP or the Coalition.”

Having previously blasted the parties for their neglect of the issue during the campaign, Mr Pisarski said that “housing is the single biggest expense for low and moderate income earners”.

While recognising the need for more detail surrounding the plan, he acknowledged the immediate improvement that could be made to supply if vacant properties and rarely used holiday homes were available in the rental market.

“Underutilisation of stock is definitely a problem, that if addressed effectively, can make substantial improvements to housing affordability,” he said.

- More than 60% of the 1.1 million households in housing stress are renters
- We have 493,000 too few affordable and available rental properties
- Vacancy rates are below 2% in every capital and many regions
- Rents are rising at 3 times the CPI
- More than 105,000 people are homeless on any given night

Measures National Shelter wants commitments to include:

- A specific residential development task force to advise government on how to meet the affordable housing shortfall
- Housing elevated to a Cabinet Ministry linked to Urban and Regional Development
- Honouring Prime Minister Rudd’s commitment to build 100,000 affordable rental units through NRAS
- Sustained spending on Public Housing beyond the economic stimulus

Housing Australia Affordably, National Shelter’s policy platform makes extensive recommendations to parties to improve housing affordability in Australia. It and the data behind this release are available at www.shelter.org.au

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For further information please contact:

Adrian Pisarski, Chairperson on 0417 975 270

Contacts for State offices at <http://www.shelter.org.au/links.htm>