

28 July 2023

MEDIA STATEMENT

Quotes attributable to Fiona Caniglia, Executive Director Q Shelter

Q Shelter backs Housing Australia Future Fund returning to Senate

“Q Shelter is encouraged to see moves this morning to bring the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) back to the Senate next week.

The HAFF is critical as it provides something extra in the funding mix to support more social and affordable housing in the Australian housing system. What people sometimes miss in debating the bill is that this type of funding mechanism is in addition to capital grants and other traditional housing funding that already exists in the system. It’s a program that other forms of capital and finance will support, as it provides a signal for long term investment in housing and can underpin a pipeline of projects that is critical moving forward with Australia’s forecasted population growth.

We are hopeful the Greens, crossbench, and the Liberal-National Party can find a way to support the Bill when it returns to the Senate. We acknowledge improvements to the Bill since it was introduced at the beginning of the year. There’s been several concessions made, including a minimum number of homes agreed for each state and territory, a minimum amount to be spent each year regardless of the performance of the fund, and future indexation of the fund as it grows.

\$2 billion of extra capital funding for social housing was announced by the Prime Minister only a few weeks ago, which results in an extra \$398 million coming into Queensland to support projects in the next two years. The National Cabinet process has asked State Ministers to look at security in the rental market for tenants and state planning systems.

It’s now time to get this legislation passed so that the industry can get on with building affordable homes for vulnerable Queenslanders.”

ENDS

Media opportunities for comment by Q Shelter Executive Director, Fiona Caniglia and Jackson Hills, Policy & Strategic Engagement Manager

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