

Government's response to the Regional Housing Taskforce

The NSW Government has adopted and will implement all recommendations of the Regional Housing Taskforce as part of a comprehensive response.

In June 2021 the NSW Government established the Regional Housing Taskforce (the Taskforce) to respond to increasing pressures on the supply and affordability of housing in regional NSW. The focus of the Taskforce was to:

- identify and resolve barriers in the planning system to housing supply and affordability
- provide recommendations on ways to speed up the delivery of new homes in regional NSW
- find ways to encourage building new houses on appropriately zoned land.

The Taskforce consulted widely with councils, the development sector, not-for-profit housing providers and community groups and prepared a report that summarised the key issues identified.

The Taskforce considered all feedback and submissions and prepared a second independent report provided to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces on 29 October 2021. The report contained recommendations on how the government can better use the planning system to address housing needs and stimulate supply in the regions.

Recommendations of the Regional Housing Taskforce

The challenge for the government and the planning system is not simply to increase the supply of housing generally but to provide a diverse range of housing that supports the full spectrum of housing needs in regional communities now and into the future.

The task force made 5 key recommendations for the government and 15 supporting targeted interventions that related to the recommendations. The key recommendations were to:

1. support measures that bring forward a supply of 'development-ready' land
2. increase the availability of affordable and diverse housing across regional NSW
3. provide more certainty about where, when and what types of homes will be built
4. investigate planning levers to help deliver housing that meets short-term needs
5. improve monitoring of housing and policy outcomes and demand indicators.

The government's response

The NSW Government will implement all task force recommendations as part of a comprehensive response to unlock 127,000 new homes in regional NSW over the next 10 years.

The whole-of-government response includes existing newly funded commitments announced as part of the NSW Government's \$2.8 billion [2022 Housing Package](#).

The response includes:

- a \$33.8 million regional housing development program that will provide:
 - up to \$12 million in grant funding over 4 years to help regional councils plan housing
 - funding to extend urban development programs into high-growth regional areas to improve housing delivery and coordination between governments, the development industry and infrastructure providers
 - funding to improve regional housing data to better manage the housing supply pipeline.
- up to \$120 million to support the delivery of infrastructure in the regions to enable new houses as part of the \$300 million round 3 of the [Accelerated Infrastructure Fund](#)
- \$174 million to deliver more than 270 homes for key frontline workers for the regions –teachers, police and health workers.

The response follows an initial investment of \$30 million through the [Regional Housing Fund](#) launched in February 2022. This funding is helping 21 regional councils in high-growth regional areas address increasing housing pressures.

The government response also includes state-wide programs that will help put suitable roofs over the heads of people in the regions, including:

- \$300 million to upgrade more than 15,800 social homes across the state to improve the quality and extend the life of properties and ensure they are suitable for ageing and less-mobile residents
- \$217 million to improve First Nations housing outcomes across NSW including through new and upgraded homes, support for Aboriginal home ownership and tenancies, and support for the Aboriginal community housing sector, the majority of which will be spent in the regions and in remote areas such as Menindee, Broken Hill, Coonamble and Cobar
- \$780.4 million to help up to 6,000 single parents, older singles and key workers across NSW buy a home through a pilot 2-year shared equity scheme
- \$162.6 million to address uncertainty and blockages in the planning system and unlock more housing sooner through faster planning assessments, accelerated rezoning of key housing precincts and council-led rezonings in Sydney and the regions.

The response builds on the momentum of the NSW Housing Strategy – [Housing 2041](#) – that includes a range of initiatives to improve data, develop partnerships, speed up assessments, unlock land and enable infrastructure to create a strong housing pipeline across regional NSW.

More information

For more information, visit the [Regional NSW housing supply pages](#) of the Planning website.

Contact the department via email at regional.housing@dpe.nsw.gov.au.