

# What's it going to take?

## Urgent housing actions for the Northern Rivers



**Develop** a minimum of 100 additional social housing properties per year for 10 years. We need many more at 250+ per year to clear the existing waitlist, and more again to meet the need for affordable housing.

As of June 2018, there were 3,026 people on the social housing waiting list in our region. (Source: North Coast Community Housing 2018)



**Quarantine** part of the Social and Affordable Housing Fund (SAHF) for regional areas. We need to develop affordable and social housing in areas of critical need including the Northern Rivers.

To date, the Northern Rivers has not seen any benefits from SAHF.



**Increase** transitional accommodation for clients of specialist homelessness services by 150 properties. This is essential to relieve pressure on the limited crisis services in the Northern Rivers and to support people in the transition to longer-term housing.

As one of the largest providers of Specialist Homelessness Services in the Northern Rivers, Social Futures has access to fewer than 50 houses, to meet the needs of more than 2,000 individuals who request housing support each year.



**Allocate** additional homelessness support funding for Northern Rivers. This should include proper funding of 24/7 youth and adult crisis services and rough sleeper outreach programs.

The last two census studies have shown the Northern Rivers has above average levels of homelessness including 19 per cent of the state's rough sleepers, but we do not receive a proportionate share of homelessness funding. There are no properly funded youth or adult crisis accommodation services north of Coffs Harbour.



**Redevelop** Housing NSW properties to deliver better quality and higher densities in appropriate locations.

Ensure there is no net loss of social and community housing land in high-cost markets like Byron Bay. Transfer poorly-used housing assets to community housing providers to accommodate more people in well-designed mixed tenure communities.



**Extend** existing planning instruments that support affordable housing development to Northern NSW Local Government Areas.

Existing State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) in some LGAs require a percentage of stock in new developments to be developed as affordable housing. These provisions should be applied in Northern Rivers given the severity of our housing market failure.



The Northern Rivers Housing Forum is convened by Social Futures

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We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land where we live and work and their continuing connection to land, water, sea and community. We pay respects to Australia's First Peoples, to their unique and diverse cultures, and to Elders past, present and future.