



December 2022

Dear Whiddon Temora residents, families and team members

I am writing to update you on our Homes at Whiddon Temora, as well as provide you with further information about our Grant funding and related building works.

As many of you would be aware, Whiddon was awarded a grant valued at \$3.685M from the previous government, as part of the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF), in 2019. Our intent was to use the grant funding to renovate and extend our Narraburra home and to bring both of our homes together as one.

For a time, the project progressed, our development application was approved by Council and we were ready to commence construction. Unfortunately, the project was then impacted by the COVID pandemic and increased financial pressure, brought about by the well publicised gap in Commonwealth funding.

In regard to the grant itself, Whiddon can only access the funds where works are completed, so essentially the funds remain preserved. With this said, and as a result of the additional pressures faced, Whiddon applied for an increase in funding through the prior BBRF round, to ensure the sustainability of the project and to allow us to commence construction.

Unfortunately, the new Government made the decision to disband the BBRF program, indicating that another similar program may be introduced at a future date. For now, however, this means that Whiddon is unable to access the additional funds required. What this now means, is that regrettably, our major project remains on-hold. We have, however, made a submission to the Commonwealth to have the existing funds rescoped and invested in building works relating to both our Narraburra and Greenstone Lodge Homes.

If approved, this will be backed-up by an equivalent investment from Whiddon, resulting in approximately \$8M directed at much needed upgrades and improvements for our Temora Homes. Specifically, this will also include a smaller extension of our Narraburra home and significant refurbishment works at both homes. We hope to understand the Government's position regarding this application in the first quarter of 2023. In the meantime, we have a number of more immediate building works which commence on 16th January 2023, which are summarised below.

Greenstone lodge

- Minor repairs internally and externally
- Installation of heat lamps to resident ensuites
- Pressure clean external courtyard
- Uplift of external drop off area and access pathways
- Refurbishment of staffroom

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Narraburra Lodge

- Replacement of all skylights & repainting of ceilings
- Removal of redundant radiator heaters from resident rooms
- New flooring and painting to common areas
- New flooring to hairdressers' room

These works represent an investment of approximately \$800,000 and we believe that this work will provide substantial improvements for residents, families and our local team. This we hope, will be a steppingstone towards the larger grant funded project, outlined above.

We will continue to keep you updated on our major refurbishment project as our new plans develop and as always I thank you for your patience and understanding.

Kind regards



Chris Mamarelis
Chief Executive Officer