

For immediate release
12 March 2014

Housing boost for SA's Mid-North and Eyre Peninsula

More than 100 new homes will be built in South Australia's north under a community housing project being undertaken by Unity Housing Company and backed by HomeStart Finance.

The \$22 million project, which has been supported by the State Government and Regional Development Boards will see 102 homes built in 11 locations including Port Augusta, Whyalla, Port Pirie, Laura, Melrose and Burra.

The project will offer affordable rental properties to attract skilled workers to the Mid-North and Eyre Peninsula regions, including mining support, community services such as nurses and teachers and semi-skilled industrial workers.

Rent on all properties will be subsidised and tenants will have the opportunity to purchase the property in the future.

Unity Housing Company Chief Executive Officer Matthew Woodward said the project would nurture population growth by attracting skilled workers and their young families to the regions, as well as providing an economic boost for local business.

"This initiative will build a total of 102 properties, 22 of which will be sold to the market, 60 will be rented to key workers and 20 to older South Australians and people living with a disability.

"The project will fuel job creation during the building and construction phase, with 60-80% of work to be contracted locally.

"We are very proud of this project which has been made possible thanks to partners such as HomeStart," he said.

The project will provide additional cost saving benefits to tenants by offering each of the 80 Unity homes a 1.5kW photovoltaic solar generation system to reduce tenant electricity bills by up to 50%.

HomeStart's Chief Executive Officer John Oliver said that in recent years, the organisation had funded over 20 community housing projects in South Australia, which were vital in building dynamic and sustainable communities.

"Affordable housing is essential to the health, well being and ongoing sustainability of local communities," he said.

"While we are committed to helping people into home ownership sooner, HomeStart also recognises that community housing organisations play a key role in bridging the gap that exists between demand and supply of suitable, affordable, long-term accommodation.

HomeStart makes home ownership a reality for more South Australians in more ways. We are a statutory authority that reports to the Minister for Housing and Urban Development. We were created in 1989 and since then have helped over 64,500 households into home ownership.

Media release



“This project is the largest HomeStart has been involved with and it’s an exciting development for the region. As well as increasing housing options, it will also improve the community and benefit the local economy.”

The project has also been funded by the state’s Housing Construction Grant, the Commonwealth and local councils.

Unity is an eligible Tier 1 national housing provider and is South Australia’s largest not for profit community housing organisation. Unity manages a residential rental housing portfolio of 1,500 properties with a value of \$290 million. All 1,500 properties are rented to people on low to moderate incomes below 75% of market rent.

HomeStart makes home ownership a reality for more South Australians in more ways. We are a statutory authority that reports to the Minister for Housing and Urban Development. We were created in 1989 and since then have helped over 64,500 households into home ownership.