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**State Member of Parliament for  
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## Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE USE

Thursday 2 July 2020

### **Sheed welcomes upgrades of local social housing**

Independent Member for the Shepparton District Suzanna Sheed has welcomed Victorian State Government investment in upgrading locally held social housing stock and public and private investment in new stock.

Minister for Housing Richard Wynne MP confirmed to Ms Sheed this week 71 homes will be upgraded over the next two years, with planning for an original 33 properties increased by an additional 38 under the Building Works program in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

“This is a very worthwhile investment, particularly in the current context. Upgrades not only improve the quality of life for those relying on social housing but inject funds into the local building industry,” Ms Sheed said.

Earlier questions of the Housing Minister had identified 29 unused government-held properties in the Shepparton region and Ms Sheed said she hoped this number would be dramatically reduced by the extra spending.

“We have too many unused housing units in my electorate. It is unfortunate that people are going homeless while properties sit empty.”

Minister Wynne also confirmed 10 new homes would be funded through the Victorian Government’s Social Housing Growth Fund.

“We’re seeing quite a bit of badly needed investment in new social housing funded both by the public and private sectors. The Peter and Lyndy White Foundation are to be commended for their investment which will reportedly deliver up to 45 new homes. The Haven Mooropna development will deliver an extra 36 homes and Winteringham has its development of around 30 homes,” Ms Sheed said.

“My office has identified our region needs around 50 new social housing units per year to combat homelessness and lower housing affordability for low income earners and this investment goes a long way to meeting that goal.”

**ENDS**

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