

Unlocking Regional Housing Supply

The MRGC represents six local councils in northern Victoria. Like much of the country, our region is facing a housing crisis. Housing affordability and availability have sharply declined across the MRGC region in recent years.

While traditionally more affordable than metropolitan markets, northern Victoria is now experiencing critical housing shortages. This is undermining local workforce expansion, economic development, community wellbeing and liveability in our rural and regional communities.

- Employers across the MRGC region report difficulties recruiting due to housing shortages.
- Developers are reluctant to invest without assistance with infrastructure costs.
- Major projects including VNI West, mineral sands mining, and renewable energy installations will require significant temporary and permanent housing for workforce accommodation.

Regional developers face particular barriers, including higher upfront costs for trunk infrastructure, increased construction costs, a shortage of trades, and limited economies of scale. These challenges restrict housing supply even where there is adequate zoned land. Local councils are innovating with local solutions but need support.

We call on the Australian and Victorian Governments to:

- co-establish and invest in a **Regional Housing Development Infrastructure Fund** to deliver essential trunk infrastructure in the regions : drainage, water, sewerage, electricity, telecommunications and roads;

This investment will:

- Accelerate new housing supply in our towns and growth areas
- Reduce development bottlenecks and make projects viable
- Support regional economic growth and job creation
- Improve housing affordability and availability for families, workers, and businesses

It's not a land shortage. It's an infrastructure gap. Let's unlock regional housing supply and tackle the housing crisis together

The Murray River Group of Councils stands ready to partner in delivering housing solutions that grow our communities and strengthen Victoria.

Further Information: Geoff Turner, Executive Officer, p: 0419 030 314 e: gturner@mrhc.com.au

HOUSING: Unlock Regional Housing Supply

- Northern Victoria's housing crisis is real. Housing shortages are stalling workforce growth, stifling our economy and driving up living costs.
- We need a dedicated **Regional Housing Development Infrastructure Fund** to deliver trunk infrastructure: water, sewerage, roads, power & drainage.
- It's not a land shortage. It's an infrastructure gap. Let's unlock regional housing supply and tackle the housing crisis together

For Further Information:

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