

Fund has 21,000 homes in sights

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The Federal Government says it will deliver 21,000 new social and affordable homes in its biggest tranche yet of the \$10 billion Housing Australia Future Fund, despite fewer than 1000 homes having already been constructed.

By the end of the third round, the fund will have established agreements to build 40,000 new homes by mid-2029, with a target of 55,000 homes delivered in full, the Government says.

The third round of funding is expected to open in late-January, and provides concessional loans and grants to community housing providers at reduced rates, as well as to State and Territory governments.

Housing Minister Clare O'Neil said all Australian governments "have to build".

She said the Albanese Government was supporting social and affordable homes "in every corner of our country".

More than 100 applicants received funding under the first round of the fund, including providers such as Anglicare, Housing First and Uniting. The third round will include the introduction of a new regional and rural component.

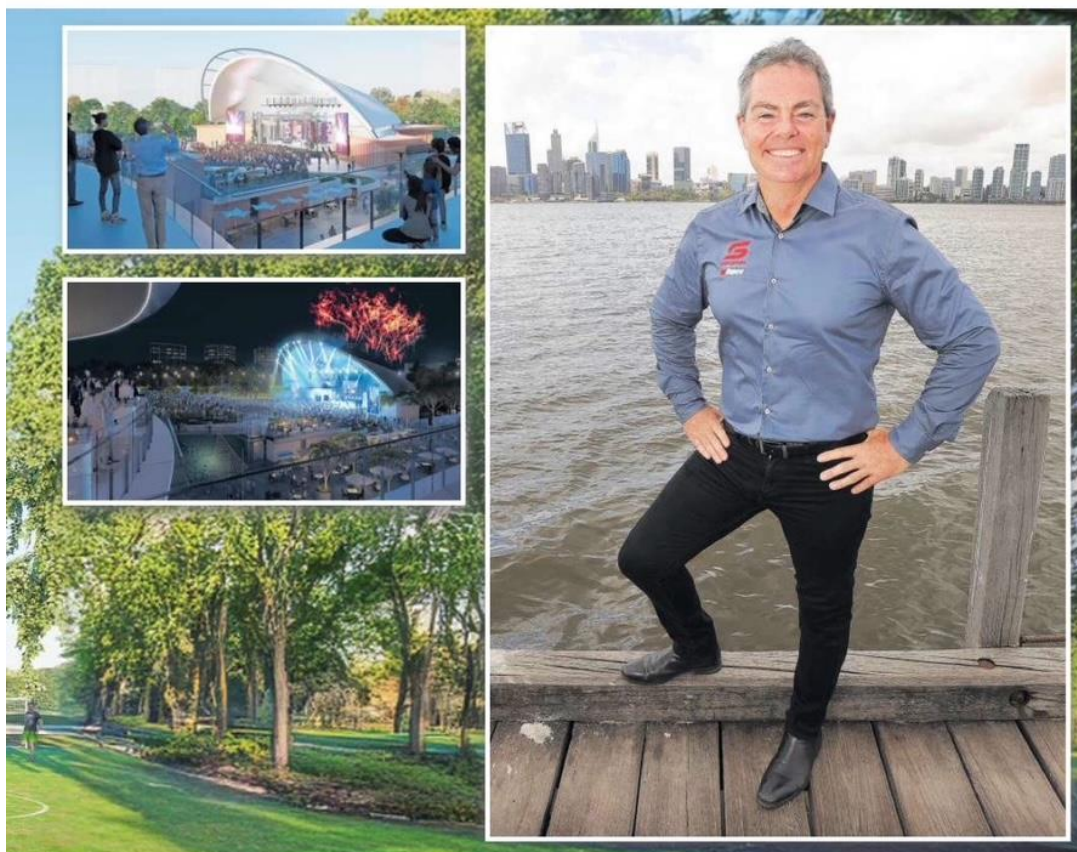
A dedicated funding stream will also be made available for projects delivered by, or in partnership with, First Nations housing organisations.

A tenancy target of 10 per cent First Nations renters has also been set under the third round, as well as an accelerated application process and new delivery and co-investment partnerships with the sector, along with State and Territory governments.

The Government hopes by offering concessional loans under the fund, it will reduce the borrowing burden on providers, which it says is slowing down development.

But officials revealed during Senate Estimates only 889 homes have been constructed so far following the first and second funding rounds.

Housing Australia chief executive Scott Langford denied accusations the fund was buying homes, telling Estimates providers were open to develop homes "in their own right". The Government hopes to build 1.2 million homes, including those under the fund, by mid-2029, but the target remains far off.



RESHAPE CITY

community entertainment precinct NOT just a racetrack

kesperson said. "The State Government is in discussions with Crown to utilise approximately 3.5ha of land as part of Perth Park. Those discussions have been positive and the Government has been clear that it won't be paying any money to bring the land back into public hands."

The Burswood redevelopment plans have come in for fresh criticism this week, led by Town of Victoria Park mayor Karen Vernon, after the Environmental Protection Authority gave the project its tick of approval by deciding a full assessment was not required.

Ms Vernon said locals felt robbed of their ability to have their say prior to the project becoming an election promise

and Liberal leader Basil Zempilas has been against the race track. Nearby residents have been vocal about what they see as visual and aural pollution.

Deputy Premier Rita Saffioti as late as Friday night took to social media to defend the project against what she said were "complete lies" from the Victoria Park council, and

attacked its track record. Their cause was boosted earlier this year when Anthony Albanese's main man in Perth, Federal MP Patrick Gorman, expressed vehement opposition to the project.

But the State Government has remained steadfast in its resolve to proceed with the project,

saying a public consultation period had shown overwhelming positive feedback for the redevelopment.

"Perth Park will be built for the community — shaped by local ideas, designed for families, and created to bring people together," Ms Saffioti told *The Sunday Times*.

"This will be an incredible precinct for WA families and a world-class destination for community, entertainment, culture, arts and sport. Not only will this project reinvigorate the

area, it will deliver long-term economic returns for WA."

The summary of the business case, prepared by consultancy firm ACIL Allen, states an expected \$61m boost to the State economy every year for three decades.

"All things being equal, this suggests that the project can be considered a worthy investment ... on the quantifiable economic and social benefits and costs," it states.

The Government has made project details available at perthpark.wa.gov.au.

"This abandoned golf course site will become an activated parkland, the whole community can enjoy," project steering committee chair Daniel Pastorelli said.

“This precinct — unlike anything we have in WA — has something for everyone, and . . . will be a place all Western Australians can be proud of.”

Premier Roger Cook

