



MEDIA RELEASE

David Borger
Minister for Housing
Minister for Western Sydney

More homes for people in need in the Inner West

November 15, 2008

Housing Minister David Borger today announced that work has started on a \$29.5 million public housing redevelopment project in Lilyfield.

Mr Borger said demolition on the vacant old estate at Lilyfield Road, Balmain Road and Edward Street has started making way for 88 new architecturally-designed environmentally sustainable units.

“There’s no doubt that more Sydneysiders are under financial stress and struggling to keep a roof over their heads,” Mr Borger said.

“That’s why the Rees Government is committed to increasing the supply of affordable housing in Sydney. We now have over 5,500 new public and private homes in the pipeline – worth over \$1.3 billion dollars of construction, investment and jobs in NSW.

“This major redevelopment in Lilyfield will create around 261 jobs and increase the number of public housing homes in the Inner West, giving more tenants access to local shops, jobs and transport.

“We know there is a huge demand for more affordable homes in the Inner West and that’s why we are working with all levels of Government and with Industry and Community groups to tackle this growing problem.”

Local Member for Balmain Verity Firth welcomed the start of work on the site.

“The inner west is becoming more and more expensive for people to live in and this project will provide much-needed social housing for those most in need,” Ms Firth said.

Mr Borger said the start of work today in Lilyfield was just one of the ways the NSW Government was increasing housing in the Inner West for people in need.

“We currently have new affordable homes being built across the city with major construction projects at Riverwood, Villawood, Glebe, Bonnyrigg, Minto, Redfern and across the Inner-West,” Mr Borger said.

“We are providing help for those most in need by increasing the supply of land for new homes and providing financial help and we are encouraging investment by cutting red tape.

“The site currently has 40 vacant two and three bedroom units in 12 separate two storey blocks. They were constructed in the 1950s and it’s no longer financially viable for Housing NSW to keep maintaining them.

“That’s why we are replacing them and through better design principles we are able to increase the number of units on the site so we can give more tenants a place to call home.

“The new estate will have 88 new units consisting of 26 one bedroom units, 53 two bedroom units and nine three bedroom units and all will have environmentally friendly features.”

Mr Borger said some of the new features include:

- **Solar and gas hot water systems;**
- **Solar power cells to power communal area lighting;**
- **Double glazing on windows to reduce heat loss in winter and special glass installed in east and west facing windows to reduce heat in summer;**
- **Specially designed roofs that allow sun in private yards and living rooms during winter but that blocks out some sun in living rooms and balconies during summer;**
- **Rainwater tanks connected for use in gardens, laundries and toilets; and**
- **External drying racks to minimise the need for clothes drying machines.**

“All of the ground floor units will have their own private yards and the communal outdoor areas will be secure and easily accessible by wheelchair,” Mr Borger said.

“All the public housing tenants who used to live in the old estate will be able to move into the new properties once they are built if they are eligible.

“Creating more affordable housing is a major priority for the Rees Government because we know that people are doing it tough.”

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