MEDIA RELEASE
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North Sydney Community Housing Forum Proposes Innovative Solutions to Federal Government for Improved Housing Affordability

In a groundbreaking initiative, the Federal Electorate of North Sydney recently hosted its inaugural Deliberative Democracy citizen's forum, aiming to explore effective measures for tackling the ongoing Housing Crisis. Spearheaded by Kylea Tink MP, Independent Federal Member for North Sydney, in collaboration with newDemocracy, the North Sydney Community Housing Forum marked a pioneering effort in Australia.

Convening 30 participants randomly selected from the electoral roll to represent the diverse demographics of North Sydney, the Forum reviewed over 60 public submissions from local residents and organizations. Expert insights were provided by Link Wentworth, the Community Housing Industry Association, Sydney YIMBY, the Centre for Independent Studies, and the University of New South Wales.

After seven hours of robust and respectful deliberations, the Forum achieved a consensus on the following key recommendations:

The North Sydney Community Housing Forum proposes that all Federal infrastructure funding be contingent on two conditions:

1. **Establishment of a minimum R3 zoning within a 1km radius of train stations, accompanied by lifted height restrictions to at least 12 meters.**
2. **Implementation of mandatory inclusionary zoning, requiring a minimum of 10% of Gross Floor Area within 500m of rail infrastructure to be dedicated to affordable, social, and essential worker housing. Management of this allocation should be entrusted to not-for-profit Community Housing Providers.**

Forum participants anticipate that these recommendations will not only contribute to housing affordability by expanding housing stock but will also foster community integration by mixing affordable housing with standard housing options.

The Forum's recommendations are now set for consideration by policy experts, who will evaluate their potential implementation in the context of the broader policy environment, including steps being taken by State governments. Progress and outcomes will be communicated to the community.

Commenting on the initiative, Kylea Tink MP, Independent Federal Member for North Sydney, expressed her commitment to transformative political engagement:

"I was elected to do politics differently. Our community chose to reclaim its voice from major parties, ensuring that the people of North Sydney have a genuine say in parliamentary discussions and decisions. Our Housing Forum on October 29th embodied the very essence of democracy, and I am immensely proud of our community's achievements.

"The Forum's recommendation to link Commonwealth infrastructure funding with higher density housing development, especially for lower-income households and essential workers, is a commendable step. It is pleasing to see the steps already being taken in this direction, but we need to look at how the federal Government can provide appropriate support.

"The success of the North Sydney Community Housing Forum illustrates that we can harness citizens' intellect, passion, and hard work to formulate viable public policy supported by the community. This Forum was our first major foray into deliberative democracy, and certainly not our last."

In the pursuit of broader collaboration, Kylea Tink MP plans to engage with experts and other Independent MPs. Importantly, the Forum's recommendations align with ongoing efforts by the NSW Government, particularly in the realm of higher density accommodation near public transport hubs. This synergy aims to complement state government initiatives and secure robust community support for these crucial changes.

Read the full report at http://www.kyleatink.com.au/housing_affordability

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