



NSW Federation of
Housing Associations inc

Federation Bulletin



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Campaign against National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) Funding Cuts

Background

The Commonwealth Government is proposing to cut **\$264 million** from the money projected to be allocated to the National Rental Affordability Scheme, and to cap the number of incentives it will give under the scheme at 35,000 (instead of the 50,000, as announced when the Scheme was established).

The cut is part of a package of proposals to help finance the government's response to the extraordinary summer floods in Queensland.

We are concerned about the shortsighted nature of this measure. Not only is there and will there be an immediate need for affordable rental housing in flood-affected regions of the country, but affordable housing remains critical need in all other regions affected by high housing costs and rents. This scheme had the potential to be a cost-effective mechanism for mobilizing government, community sector and private sector dollars into the long term.

Apart from the recent funding for social housing under the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan, NRAS is **the** growth fund for Australia's low cost housing and has been gaining momentum very successfully. Read more about the NRAS [here](#)

The National Affordable Housing Summit (with which the NSW FHA has worked closely) has strongly criticised the Government's decision to cut back its commitment to growth in the NRAS. The Summit calls on the Government to commit that the promised support for NRAS will be restored from no later than the middle of next year.

Act Now! -Join our campaign!

The NSW Federation of Housing Associations has joined with Shelter NSW, NCOSS and the National Affordable Housing Summit to call on the Government to restore their initial commitment to the NRAS scheme.

Please send a letter, a fax or an email, to one (or 2 or 3) of the following Commonwealth ministers: the Treasurer, Wayne Swan; the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Terry Burke; and/or the Minister for Social Housing and Homelessness, Mark Arbib.

Minister Burke has responsibility for the scheme.

Suggested text can be found [here](#) (or as an attachment to this email)

Contact details are as follows:

The Treasurer:

- Send letters to: Hon. Wayne Swan MP, Treasurer, PO Box 6022, House of Representatives, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
- Send faxes to: Hon. Wayne Swan MP, Treasurer: (02) 6273 3420
- Send emails to: Wayne.Swan.MP@aph.gov.au

Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities:

- Send letters to: Hon. Tony Burke MP, Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, PO Box 6022, House of Representatives, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
- Send faxes to: Hon. Tony Burke MP, Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities: (02) 6273 6101
- Send emails to: Tony.Burke.MP@aph.gov.au

Minister for Social Housing and Homelessness:

- Send letters to: Senator the Hon. Mark Arbib, Minister for Social Housing and Homelessness, GPO Box 36, Sydney NSW 2001
- Send faxes to: Senator the Hon. Mark Arbib: (02) 6273 7096
- Post an online comment to him [here...](#)

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