



## MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

### **Link Housing and Wentworth Community Housing merger given the green light** *Working together to scale up and do more to provide more social and affordable housing*

Thursday, December 3, 2020 - Two of Australia's leading Tier 1 community housing providers, [Link Housing](#) and [Wentworth Community Housing](#), have announced they are joining forces. The two organisations have signed a merger agreement with the intention to formally become Link Wentworth Housing Ltd (**Link Wentworth**), on 31 March 2021.

Government endorsement was recently received and member approvals finalised at Link Housing's Annual General Meeting on November 26, 2020, giving the merger the green light. The Board has appointed former Housing NSW CEO, Mike Allen, as Chair-elect, with Link Housing CEO, Andrew McNulty announced as CEO-elect.

The merger of these two major Tier 1 community housing providers means Link Wentworth will be one of the largest community housing providers in New South Wales, able to leverage its scale to enable greater provision of social and affordable housing to those most in need.

The decision to merge was based on a mutual understanding that together Link Housing and Wentworth Community Housing could achieve more by combining their operational scale and experience to help address the growing demand for affordable rental housing in New South Wales.

Having a greater capacity with increased scale of operations, broader coverage of Sydney and surrounds, and more than 70 years of combined experience, the merger is an exciting development. Following the merger, Link Wentworth, will be one of the largest community housing providers in Australia managing over 6,300 homes with around 10,000 residents and 200 staff, with projected combined revenue of \$85M and combined net assets in excess of \$200M. Link Wentworth will have significant capacity to do more, such as:

- **Deliver more housing** – with greater scale and financial strength, becoming a preferred partner for initiatives that increase the supply of social and affordable housing
- **Provide expanded services** – for tenants and people who are experiencing housing stress and homelessness
- **Advocate for greater change** – using a combined voice, reputation and position to influence policy and public perception
- **Increase our effectiveness** – leveraging economies of scale to invest in improved systems, technology, services and solutions
- **Be an employer of choice** – building on existing strengths and reputations to grow and create greater job and career opportunities for staff.



The Link Wentworth Board will be Chaired by respected industry leader, Mike Allen, an independent housing advisor and former CEO of Housing NSW, who believes the merger is an exciting next step for Link Housing and Wentworth Community Housing.

“Together, the two organisations will bring their history, experience, talent and capabilities to deliver more and better services. Having had a career in housing, I am encouraged by the shared mission and vision for the future of these high quality organisations – and I am very much looking forward to supporting the board and management as the new Chair of Link Wentworth from Day 1 of the new organisation, 31 March 2021.”

Andrew McAnulty, current CEO of Link Housing, has been appointed CEO-elect for Link Wentworth and is looking forward to taking on the role of CEO.

“I am humbled by the opportunity to be the CEO of Link Wentworth. Bringing together two great organisations provides us with the potential to do significantly more for those most in need within our community. We will be an organisation more able to advocate for people in need and to then deliver innovative housing solutions in partnership with all three tiers of Government and the private sector. This is a tremendous opportunity for us to make a difference,” said Mr McAnulty.

Wentworth Community Housing CEO Stephen McIntyre has chosen not to continue a full-time executive career due to personal reasons; however, he will continue his commitment to addressing social and economic disadvantage. Mr McIntyre believes the merger is a positive move that will make a difference to people’s lives.

“This is an exciting development for Wentworth and Link and the community housing sector. It will place us in a much stronger position to take advantage of opportunities that arise to expand the supply of housing and housing-related services. We know from our work at Wentworth that secure, appropriate and affordable housing can turn lives around. The most significant benefit of this merger is that we will be able to deliver more housing and services to the most vulnerable people in our communities,” said Mr McIntyre.

Through sustainable and ongoing growth, Link Wentworth will proactively advocate for the federal and state governments to invest in more social and affordable housing. With COVID-19 exacerbating the housing crisis, the new combined entity will capitalise on opportunities to build more housing for those most in-need. This will be achieved by partnering with government, property developers and financiers to fund more social and affordable housing, including leveraging COVID-19 stimulus programs, to help ensure more people do not fall into poverty and homelessness.

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### **About Link Housing**

Link Housing Ltd (Link Housing) is a not-for-profit organisation with a charitable mission to provide safe, sustainable and affordable homes to enhance lives and communities. For over 35 years, Link Housing has been managing the provision of social housing, housing assistance, affordable housing and disability housing from their offices in Sydney's Chatswood and West Ryde.

### **About Wentworth Community Housing**

Wentworth Community Housing Ltd (Wentworth Community Housing) is a not-for-profit housing company with a charitable mission to provide secure, appropriate and affordable housing. Services reach across the full spectrum of housing need from homelessness services to social and affordable housing options, as well as innovative housing initiatives and community projects, provided from four offices located in Katoomba, Lithgow, Penrith and Windsor.