

# Members Bulletin – 30 May 2022

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## Election Outcome

Everything is in a state of hiatus until the ALP ministry is confirmed - anticipated as on Wednesday. While there is some more confidence the ALP may get to 76 seats this isn't locked in. However, one would hope the Greens would be supportive of legislation to introduce the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF). In the Senate there are predictions there may be a progressive balance of power block sympathetic to social and affordable housing. Should David Pocock take a Senate seat in ACT his views on housing seem to align with many of CHIA's including funding additional social and affordable housing.

## ESG Reporting Framework for Social and Affordable Housing

The project is progressing well and is in its second stage following a review of current Australian and international ESG reporting practice. The project team is consulting with a small number of individual CHOs and investors before a workshop in mid June that will bring together the two groups. Broader consultation will then take place. We hope to launch the work during September 2022.

## National Housing and Homelessness Agreement

The Productivity Commission paused its stakeholder engagement during the election campaign. The Commission is holding a limited number of workshops. One focusing on the views of disability and mental health organisations took place last week. I believe that one on social housing is being organised.

The deadline for reporting to government has been extended to 31 August 2022. A publication date has not been set.

## Building and Construction Forecasts

CHIA was invited to join the Australian Construction Industry Forum (ACIF) which brings together peak bodies and associations involved in residential and non-residential building and construction. The members span the development and asset management fields including feasibility study, design, cost planning, construction, building and management. Amongst the most familiar are the Australian Institute of Architects and the Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors. Our inclusion was part of their recognition they should include organisations representing more diverse interests. For example, the peak body for women in construction is also a member.

ACIF's staff participate in joint Commonwealth / State consultations on the Australian Building Code and more ad hoc Commonwealth groups, convened to respond to particular salient issues such as supply chain problems and the East Coast floods. ACIF itself meets quarterly, the latest meeting being Monday past. The focus was the May release of ACIF's construction forecasts and what it means for the Forum members.

The forecasts show an increase in building and construction work across all sectors of 3% with a consequent increase in jobs across all trades and professions. Skill gaps, sharply rising material costs – timber being a stand out – the wet weather adding to existing problems by slowing down felling activity - and rising long term interest rates contributed to a somewhat gloomy short / medium term outlook. These factors are increasing the costs of business, and numbers of insolvencies amongst building firms are growing. No one was advising that the HAFF should kick off in a hurry and suggesting careful phasing of the program.

As CHIA members you are entitled to access the ACIF Customised Forecasts Dashboard via this link: <https://www.acif.com.au/subscribe/type/CHIA>. You will need to complete the registration / subscriber form for complimentary access to the dashboard available [here](#). Note the box labelled 'ACIF Member Org ID' can be left blank. This is a copyright product and only for the use of ACIF members and their members. If you would like to purchase the Australian Construction Market Report, you can do so [here](#).

If you are interested in learning more about ACIF or its members let me know.