

THIS BULLETIN IS FOR ALL YOUR MEMBERS. PLEASE SHARE IT AROUND. THEY CAN SUBSCRIBE DIRECTLY BY EMAILING THEIR NAME, CO-OP AND EMAIL TO enquiries@commonequity.com.au

CENSW CO-OPS FORUM - SUMMARY & OUTCOMES OCTOBER 2019

As many of you are aware Common Equity NSW (CENSW) held a Housing Co-operative Forum on the 26 October this year in Sydney. There was a great turn out with 21 Co-ops and 41 members in attendance. The purpose of the Forum was to hear from Co-ops and to foster a shared vision between Housing Co-operatives and CENSW about potential opportunities in the sector.

There were several activities throughout the day which encouraged participation and input from all with a focus on exploring and aligning with organisational and sector priorities.



Overall 93% of members present on the day showed a strong connection to the current CENSW strategic focus, placing the 4 Strategic Goals on the high end of the scale of importance/value. These Strategic Goals are to:

- ▶ Build and develop additional housing co-operatives
- ▶ Strengthen the co-operative housing sector by supporting robust governance, independence, participation and diversity
- ▶ Provide a positive tenant and co-operative experience
- ▶ Champion the social value and impact of housing co-operatives.




Attendees were also asked 2 communications related questions. Overall 85% of members agreed that the Bulletin was a good way to stay informed and 55% agreed that the CENSW website was a good way of accessing information.

Smaller round table groups generated passionate discussions, resulting in a range of topics and action areas for collaboration and focus.

The most common areas of focus were:

-  Ageing in place: lobby the Government for secure tenure; advocate for increased rental affordability for aged pensioners.
-  Pathways to growth: building new housing that is accessible to all (or allows for adaptation over time); lobby federal, state & local members for more housing and opportunities for growth; promote value of co-ops.

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-  Sustainability: CENSW to negotiate a power purchasing agreement for all co-ops; investigate insulation and cooling and use of alternative building products.
-  CCA's (Company Co-operative Agreements): clarify roles of CENSW & co-ops; Asset Management Plan training; how to provide surplus for growth through the CCA; keep tweaking & developing the company rent model.
-  Other: attract & support overall younger co-op membership; peer-to-peer on-skilling & upskilling of co-op members; improved communication and consistent messaging across the sector, broader engagement with the community, sharing waiting lists; develop preferred contractor list; mentoring.

Many of these issues raised at the round tables align with projects outlined in the 2019/2020 CENSW Business Plan.

NOW, NEAR FUTURE & FAR FUTURE

Participants were also asked to highlight what issues they would like to see addressed now, in the near future and into the far future.

NOW: opportunity for all people to access co-ops; education on co-ops; pathways between co-ops for different life stages/ changing needs; static Co-op Board membership; preferred and uniform contractors contact list; sharing waiting lists across all co-ops; upskilling; increase co-op participation; develop lessoned learnt document; follow-up on schedule 3 maintenance.

NEAR FUTURE: more communication between co-ops; reduce carbon emissions; government advocacy to grow sector; younger housing co-ops; ongoing security of tenure; build sustainable housing

FAR FUTURE: demand for co-ops increasing; long term leases and transfer of title; inclusion of regional co-ops through improved communication & inclusion; ageing in place model developed.

NEXT STEPS: for 2020

- ◇ Sustainable Energy Thermal Upgrade Project for eligible properties pending funding approval
- ◇ Combined waiting lists & preferred contractor details to be developed & distributed
- ◇ Grant opportunities promoted
- ◇ Training and education schedule development & delivery
- ◇ CCA's- further consultations
- ◇ Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and Communications Plan being developed
- ◇ Ongoing advocacy with government to support sector growth
- ◇ Another co-op forum!!



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WHO TO CONTACT FOR:

- STORM DAMAGE:** tenant to FIRST call the State Emergency Service (SES) 132500
THEN inform your Co-Op
AND report damage to the CENSW after-hours maintenance number 0432664486
- FIRE:** Call 000
AND report any damage to your Co-Op
AND report damage to the CENSW after-hours maintenance number 0432664486

OFFICE CLOSING DATES FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

Please be advised that Common Equity NSW offices will be closed from COB Friday 20 December 2019 & re-open Monday 6 January 2020.

The staff will be having their Christmas lunch on Friday 13th December, the office will be closed from 12.00pm.

For emergency maintenance issues during these times you can contact the Property Manager, Stephen Wardrop on 0432 664 486.

All non urgent enquiries will be handled when the office re-opens as usual.

ON BEHALF OF EVERYONE AT COMMON EQUITY NSW, WE WISH YOU ALL A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS.



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