

Wednesday July 31, 2013

MORE TEACHER HOUSING PROVIDED IN COONAMBLE

Minister for Finance and Services, Greg Pearce and the Member for Barwon Kevin Humphries today announced the completion of a \$700,000 project to provide more housing for teachers at Coonamble's public schools.

The two four-bedroom houses in Namoi Street, Coonamble were specifically built by the Teacher Housing Authority, and bring the number of new teacher housing residences to be completed in the town this year to five.

Mr Pearce said the Teacher Housing Authority provides an invaluable service to rural and remote communities across the state.

"In many areas, there is limited accommodation available in the rental market and what is available often fails to meet the needs of teachers and their families," Mr Pearce said.

Mr Humphries said the latest addition to Coonamble's teacher housing would be welcomed by the school communities.

"One of the challenges with attracting and retaining teachers in rural areas is the general lack of suitable accommodation," Mr Humphries said.

The Teacher Housing Authority currently provides 33 residences for teachers at Coonamble's two public schools.

Both are leading schools in the Department of Education and Communities' Connected Communities Schools program.

Coonamble High School principal Margaret Mulcahy said the accommodation facilities provided by Teacher Housing makes her work and her staff's work easier.

"Knowing that our teachers are comfortable and well supported, we can then focus on delivering quality education to our students," she said.

Mr Humphries the construction of the new houses had also benefitted regional businesses, with trades supplying a number of products and services, including electrical, glass, window furnishings, fencing and plastering.

Mr Pearce said the Teacher Housing Authority manages around 1,450 residences in 280 rural and remote communities in NSW.

"During the 2012/13 financial year, \$10.5 million has been invested in new housing and ongoing maintenance of existing residences," Mr Pearce said.

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