



NATIONAL HOUSING RESEARCH PROGRAM

# Research Agenda 2027

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**PART I:**

# Introduction



# 1. Introduction

The National Housing Research Program (NHRP) is Australia's premier mechanism for funding, publishing and disseminating housing and homelessness research. Over more than 25 years, the NHRP has been building an evidence-base of practical applied research to support policy development, and is adding new knowledge to housing, homelessness, urban policy and related disciplines.

The NHRP Research Agenda is updated annually to provide direction in the development of this evidence-base and to set priorities for the annual funding round.



## 2. Policy Development Research Model

The Policy Development Research Model facilitates engagement between the research and policy communities. Policy development research integrates the traditionally separate processes of evidence building and policy development into one set of practices. Policy development research demands a high degree of collaboration within and between the research communities and the policy and practice community. This occurs through specialised research vehicles developed by AHURI in which research and policy engagement are integrated.

The Research Agenda 2027 is structured around four research types.

### **Inquiries**

Inquiries are integrated programs of research consisting of a suite of independent, original research projects to advance knowledge to address the policy issue, with ongoing engagement with an external Inquiry Panel. Through the course of an Inquiry, the Inquiry Panel – drawn from a mix of policy and practice expertise from government, non-government and private sectors – considers the evidence and the outcomes of the research to address the policy issue, and gives advice on recommendations for policy development or practice innovation.

See Research Topic A for more information.

### **First Nations Research Projects**

Closing the Gap priority reform areas are grounded in the insight that in order to achieve better outcomes, Aboriginal people, communities and organisations need to be empowered in genuine partnerships and in the design and delivery of policies, programs and services.

AHURI encourages researchers to consider needs and responses for First Nations people and communities across all project types. In addition, it provides a specific funding pathway for projects which focus on First Nations housing and homelessness, in alignment with Closing the Gap.

See Research Topic B for more information about First Nations Research Projects.

### **Research Projects**

The NHRP Funding Round 2027 will include funding for Research Projects to ensure coverage of a broad range of policy issues, through a variety of research perspectives. Research Projects engage a wide range of disciplines and research methods to tackle the policy issues identified.

See Topics C to K for information about Research Projects as part of this Research Agenda.

### **Unsolicited Data Projects**

The NHRP Funding Round 2027 will include limited opportunity for funding of data projects addressing topics not solicited in the previous sections of the research agenda. This opportunity provides an avenue for emerging policy research relevant to housing and homelessness policy. This category of project attracts additional scrutiny. Applications in this category need to justify the inclusion of the policy priority being addressed, and why this issue should be considered alongside the research priorities identified by senior policy makers.

See Research Topic L for more information about Unsolicited Data Projects.

# 3. Research Agenda development

The NHRP Research Agenda is updated annually to provide direction in the development of the evidence-base and to set priorities for the annual funding round.

The Research Agenda is developed through a sequence of consultations with government Housing Chief Executives and senior officers, the Australian Government, relevant state and territory government departments, Research Centre Directors and the AHURI Board (Figure 1).

Critical in the Research Agenda development process is the input from Australian and state and territory governments. Bilateral consultations were conducted to capture input from the Chief Executives (or equivalent positions) and senior officials of housing agencies.

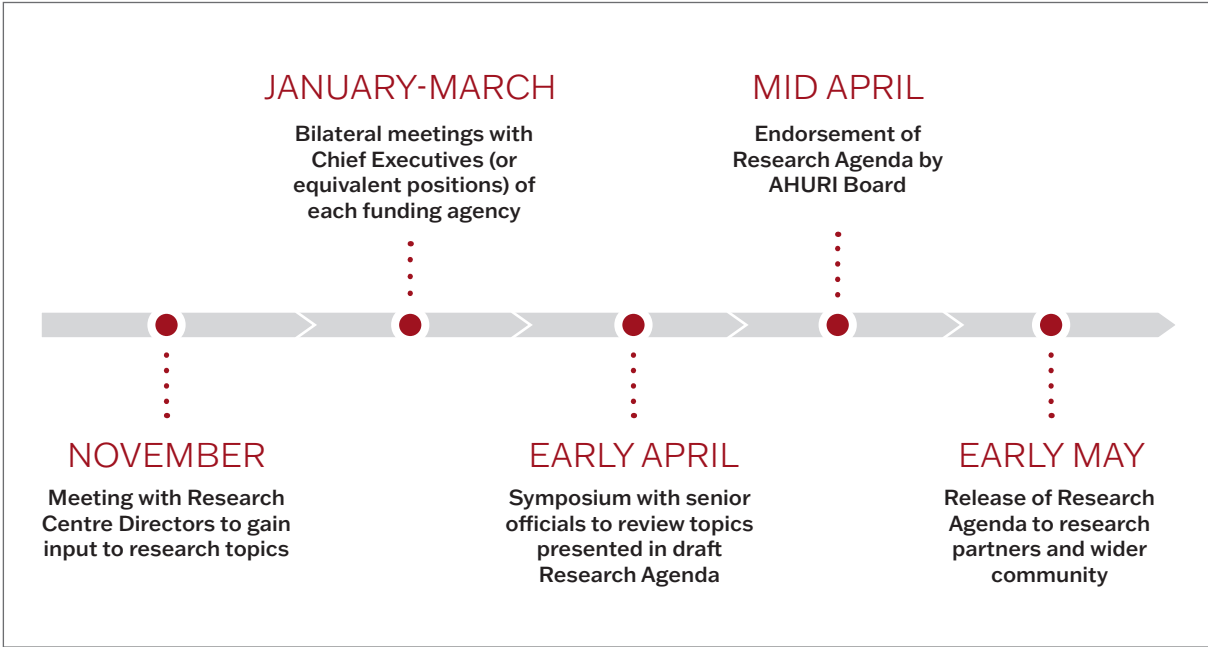
A draft set of topics for the Research Agenda 2027 was prepared, based on the combined consultations described above, and circulated to senior officials ahead of the AHURI Housing Chief Executives’

Symposium. Draft topics were presented using the same format as the final Research Agenda – a policy issue followed by detailed commentary on the context for the issue, a number of avenues of opportunity for potential research, and recognition of constraints on the opportunity.

The Housing Chief Executives Symposium, with senior officials from the Australian Government and state and territory governments, was held 1 April 2025. Each draft topic was considered in detail. The Housing Chief Executives approved the draft research agenda, subject to a range of refinements, additions and deletions reflected in this final agenda.

The Research Agenda 2027 was then presented to the AHURI Board for endorsement in April 2026.

Figure 1: Research Agenda development process



## 4. Applying for funding

NHRP project funding is awarded through the annual Funding Round. The Funding Round is competitive, with researchers from AHURI partner universities eligible to apply.

All applications must be submitted by the university's Research Centre Director (RCD), in accordance with the NHRP Research Handbook.

### Key dates for the NHRP Funding Round 2027 are:

**Open:** 12pm AEST Thursday 7 May 2026

**Close:** 12pm AEST Thursday 16 July 2026.

All applications will be assessed on the merit of the application, which is determined by an assessment panel in accordance with criteria set out in the Research Handbook.

Research funded through the NHRP is intended to foster collaboration between AHURI partners. The NHRP also seeks to build Australia's long term research capacity by supporting new academics, postgraduate scholars and early career researchers, including First Nations researchers.

The applied, policy focussed nature of research funded by the NHRP differentiates it from other research programs. This has implications for the style and format of AHURI published outputs. AHURI reports and papers should be written succinctly and in plain English.

**PART II:**

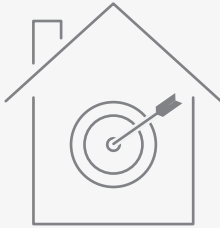
# Research topics



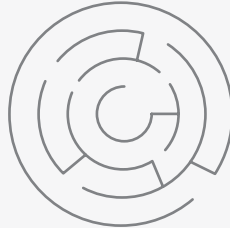
**Policy issue** What are the most effective approaches to accelerate housing supply in Australia, and under what conditions are they most successful?

**Project type** Inquiry Program

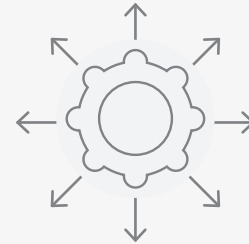
### Policy context



**Ambitious targets for national housing supply**



**No clear or easy solutions to accelerate supply**



**Numerous approaches being used, trialed or proposed**

Australia's governments have set ambitious targets to significantly increase new housing supply beyond historic levels and within specified timeframes. The National Housing Accord specifies a target of 1.2 million well-located homes over five years. Most of these homes will be delivered by the private sector.

Governments at all levels are using or investigating a wide range of approaches to facilitate the increase new housing supply. These include:

- Facilitating the delivery of enabling infrastructure
- Implementing modern methods of construction
- Introducing reforms to increase construction sector productivity
- Providing standardised housing designs with shorter development approval times
- Reconsidering housing construction controls
- Restructuring government agencies to reduce inefficiencies
- Reviewing the use of government owned land
- Rezoning land proximate to transport nodes
- Streamlining development assessment processes
- Taking a concierge approach to assist key development applications
- Using government as a guarantor of apartment pre-sales.

While there are few formal or publicly available evaluations of supply acceleration measures, there is extensive literature contemplating the benefits of individual approaches. This includes government reports, analyses by think tanks and peak organisations, scholarly research, and media investigations.

The varied approaches being used in different locations are also creating 'natural experiments' that test the effectiveness of different supply initiatives.

The National Housing Supply and Affordability Council provides estimates, projections and analysis of housing supply and affordability. However, there is no single, easily accessible source which compares the effectiveness and limitations of different housing supply interventions in Australia, and the circumstances under which they work most effectively.

There is also a lack of clarity around the effects of interactions between different measures.

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### Opportunities

Researchers should:

- Develop a portfolio of the full range of approaches being used or proposed to accelerate housing supply across Australia
- Examine the geographic, economic, policy and regulatory environments in which each approach is most successful
- Review the existing evidence supporting each approach and, where possible, measure its outcomes
- Consider the interactions between different approaches to accelerating supply
- Describe critical gaps in the evidence base
- Produce an easy-to-use final report that assesses the strength of the evidence base for supply approaches and identifies measures to support its implementation.

Researchers may also:

- Undertake research to address evidence gaps, where feasible
- Consider the impact of new supply measures on housing affordability
- Consider the role of supply chains in a period of global uncertainty.

### Constraints

This research is not intended to replicate the work of the National Housing Supply and Affordability Council nor to monitor the delivery of housing against targets set in the National Housing Accord or other state, territory or local government commitments.

Its focus is on the delivery of housing in the private market. The research is not intended to focus on the delivery of social and affordable housing, nor on the delivery of housing to support people with specific needs.

This research is not intended to focus on aspects addressed in other parts of this Research Agenda. The research may consider international literature and evidence. However, its focus should be on approaches used or proposed in Australia, rather than on initiatives which are used in other locations with different economic contexts, policy contexts and systems of government.

**Policy issue** What changes are needed to ensure that First Nations people secure appropriate, affordable housing that is aligned with their aspirations, priorities and need?

**Project type** First Nations Research Project



The National Agreement on Closing the Gap aims to achieve genuine self-determined outcomes in the design and delivery of policies, programs and services that affect First Nations people and support better life outcomes.

First Nations communities have provided ongoing advice and dialogue on how best to resolve disparity in the housing and homelessness sector; this is identified in the Closing the Gap framework. Foundational to achieving outcomes for First Nations people is a commitment to true self-determination.

Closing the Gap is underpinned by the belief that when First Nations people have a genuine say in the design and delivery of policies, programs and services that affect them, better life outcomes are achieved. Its priority reform areas are intended to change ways of working with First Nations people. They are:

1. Formal partnerships and shared decision making
2. Building the community-controlled sector
3. Transforming government organisations
4. Shared access to data and information.

A further priority is continuing to advance the work of the Housing Policy Partnership.

An important factor in the First Nations housing journey is exploring options for home ownership to support intergenerational wealth creation and economic prosperity for communities. This conversation is largely left off the agenda; however, it is vital to achieving self-determination and community prosperity.

### Opportunities

Applications must include First Nations researchers in meaningful roles within the research team.

Research proposals must:

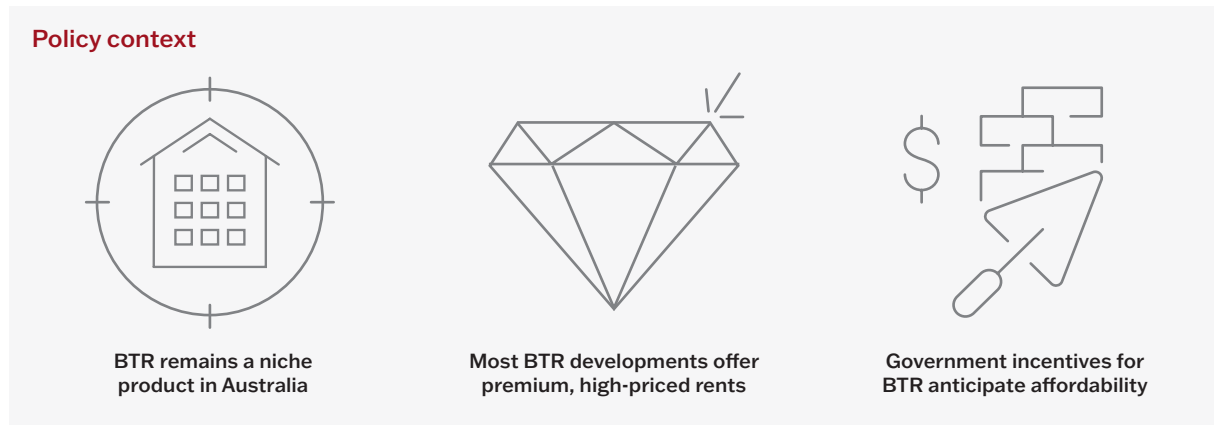
- be determined in partnership with First Nations people or arise from existing priorities identified by First Nations groups
- incorporate a focus on genuine First Nations self-determination in systems, programs and services.
- be culturally safe and respectful of First Nations peoples' experiences.

Researchers might:

- Understand causes for, and pathways out of, homelessness
- Investigate pathways to growth for the Indigenous community-controlled housing organisations (ICCHO) sector, including how governments can best enable growth
- Explore options for home ownership to support intergenerational wealth creation for First Nations people and economic prosperity for community
- Identify practical solutions to increase the proportion of First Nations people living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing.

**Policy issue** How can private sector build-to-rent deliver mid-market affordability?

**Project type** Research project



Over recent years, Australian governments have acted to encourage build-to-rent (BTR) as a sector, including federal tax incentives to facilitate corporate private ownership of multi-unit rental properties. It was anticipated this would provide a stock of secure, long-term rental properties and be generally affordable to moderate income earners. In practice, most developments to date are of a premium product, catering to a higher income sector of the market.

BTR is an established presence in the UK and US (where it is known as 'multi-family housing') and a small but growing sector in Australia – one that has been recently encouraged by the Australian Government and by several state and territory governments. Previous AHURI research has assessed the scope and success of BTR internationally and identified a range of potential benefits in an Australian context, emphasising developer motivation to produce sustainable, high-quality builds to minimise lifecycle asset management costs.

With more Australians living in BTR housing, there is a need to consider how affordability can be sustained over time, with positive housing outcomes for tenants.

As a significant market presence for BTR has yet to be established, there is also a need to understand how growth in the supply of affordable BTR can be achieved.

### Opportunities

Researchers should:

- Establish how the private sector can deliver BTR housing which is affordable for households on moderate incomes.

Researchers might:

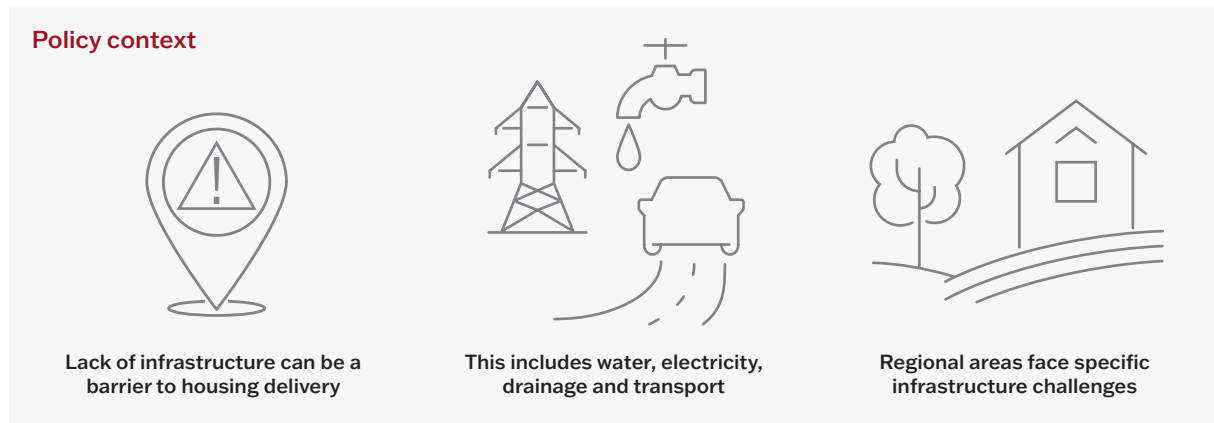
- Map existing BTR properties, identifying key characteristics such as location, dwelling type and size, rental price, lease conditions and ownership structure.
- Create a profile of current (and former) BTR tenants that identifies outcomes of BTR development, reasons for choosing BTR and experience of the anticipated benefits of BTR
- Consider the potential for moving beyond high-rise apartments by assessing the feasibility of dispersed or non-contiguous developments in a BTR portfolio
- Consider the affordability of BTR models for households in different income groups.

### Constraints

This research is not intended to review BTR developments or programs outside Australia, nor to examine rent-to-buy or shared equity development.

**Policy issue** How is enabling infrastructure best planned, financed and delivered to help unlock new housing supply?

**Project type** Research Project



One of the challenges faced in delivering new housing is the need for enabling infrastructure, which encompasses utilities such as water, electricity and drainage, as well as road and rail transport. This includes providing new infrastructure to greenfield development sites in cities and towns, as well as increasing the capacity of infrastructure in existing residential areas intended for infill development.

There is a wide range of public and private sector organisations involved in planning, funding and delivering enabling infrastructure. These stakeholders typically have differing responsibilities in each jurisdiction, and disparate views on the optimal way for enabling infrastructure to be coordinated and delivered.

There is also range of policies and programs governing the way in which enabling infrastructure is financed. These include the Australian Government's Housing Support Program, as well as a plethora of state, territory and local government policies.

### Opportunities

Researchers might:

- Map the ways in which enabling infrastructure is planned, funded and delivered in different jurisdictions
- Examine the range and effectiveness of infrastructure delivery policies and incentives
- Consider differences in infrastructure provision needs and approaches in infill, outer urban and regional areas
- Examine the potential impact of value capture in financing enabling infrastructure improvements or in establishing new housing
- Identify leading practice in infrastructure planning, funding, coordination and delivery.

### Constraints

This research is not intended to focus solely on developer contributions to infrastructure provision. The provision of infrastructure to enable non-residential development is also beyond the scope of this project.

**Policy issue** How can plans to use government-owned land for housing be more readily realised?

**Project type** Research Project



Government land purchase and release decisions are driven by a range of considerations. Different models for management of land holdings emphasise consolidated holdings or distributed parcels of land, depending on the intended use.

Government-owned land is often seen as providing significant opportunity to deliver housing, whether social, affordable or private. Jurisdictions regularly review government land assets with a view to repurposing unneeded or underutilised sites for housing supply.

However, recent reviews have typically not resulted in large quantities of land being released. Sale of government land may not generate rapid new housing supply, as there are multiple stages in housing supply pipeline management beyond land purchase, before and after approval.

Repurposing land owned by non-housing government agencies may require compensating agencies for release of the land – and the pricing of this release can be complex. Not all sites are suitable for housing, and agencies may need to acquire other land at higher purchase price than the land being released. Site contamination, heritage and natural disaster risk may also be considerations.

Governments across Australia are looking for practical ways to make greater use of their land assets to help deliver housing objectives.

### Opportunities

Researchers might:

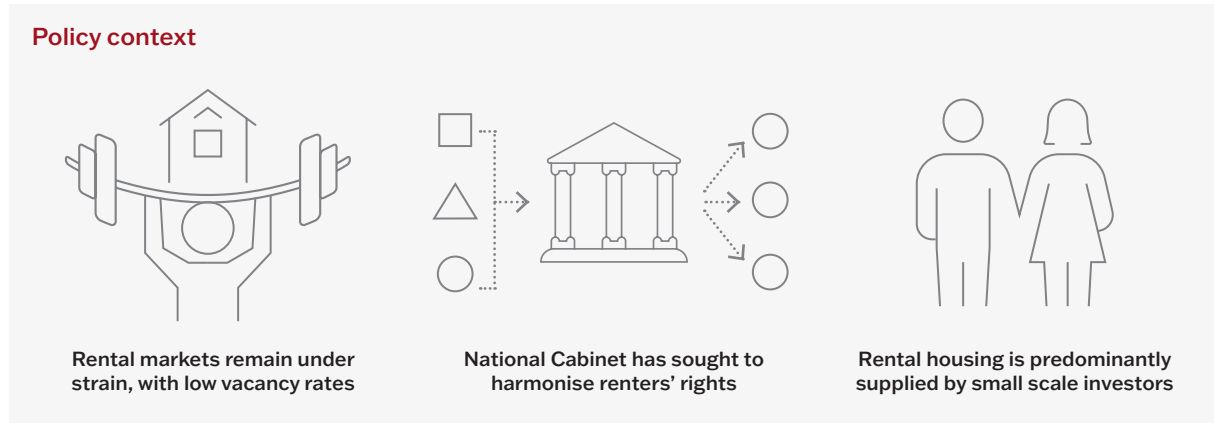
- Estimate the amount of unused or under-utilised government-owned land in Australia that may be suitable for housing, and describe its suitability for housing use
- Understand the outcomes of previous programs seeking to use government land for housing, along with characteristics of successful examples
- Analyse the financial flows arising from the sale of government land for housing and non-housing uses under different scenarios
- Consider agency, industry and community perspectives on using government land for housing
- Develop solutions suitable for use in different financial, social, geographic and legislative contexts.

### Constraints

This research is not intended to focus on opportunities for co-location of housing and other uses, such as offices, hospitals or schools. It is also not intended that the research result in reuse, rezoning, design or disposal strategies for specific government owned sites.

**Policy issue** What are the impacts of rental reforms in Australian jurisdictions, and what reforms are still required to improve private rental systems?

**Project type** Research Project



A growing proportion of Australian households live in the private rental market and increasing numbers of households are renting for longer. Australia's private housing systems appear to be consolidating into a two-tenure model of homeowners and renters, with a greater proportion of households being lifelong renters.

This shifting tenure pattern is placing considerable pressure on private rental markets across the nation.

In recent years, state and territory governments have engaged in various rental reforms, primarily seeking to improve the rights of renters. Most jurisdictions have:

- Constrained or eliminated no-grounds evictions
- Placed limits on the frequency of rent increases
- Banned solicitation of rent bidding
- Introduced or improved supports for renters experiencing family or domestic violence.

Some jurisdictions have established rental commissioners to work independently with government, industry and landlords to make renting fairer.

There remains potential for further initiatives that appropriately balance the rights and obligations of renters, landlords, property managers and regulators.

### Opportunities

Researchers should:

- Analyse the impacts of recent rental reforms across Australia and identify initiatives or policy settings that could be beneficially implemented in other jurisdictions.

Researchers might also:

- Identify gaps in the current national rental reform agenda
- Consider opportunities for further reforms which could be delivered in a broadly consistent way across jurisdictions
- Consider if there are any differences in approach needed for small scale, large scale and/or institutional investors, as well as managers of BTR housing
- Examine the impacts of recent reforms on the sentiments and behaviour of tenants, landlords, property managers and regulators.

### Constraints

This research is not intended to act as a formal evaluation of any specific program or initiative, nor to evaluate the progress of current reforms under the National Cabinet's Better Deal for Renters.

**Policy issue** What strategies work to steward markets associated with the production and consumption of private housing?

**Project type** Research Project



In Australia, the vast majority of households access housing by purchasing or renting in the market. Some households, and increasingly also private firms, invest in housing to rent to others. There are, consequently, multiple markets associated with housing consumption, including ownership markets, rental markets, and investor markets; and each have associated submarkets.

Most consumption is of pre-existing housing stock. It can involve land markets, capital markets, labour markets and markets for construction materials, and can interact with other (non-residential) property markets.

There are also submarkets associated with geographic localities, built form (size, free standing house, townhouse or apartment), or other specific attributes. Each of these markets and submarkets operate in ways that are predominantly driven by consumer and industry activity. Ultimately, however, new housing supply occurs in response to market demand, as distinct from housing need.

Markets — and submarkets — can be volatile, involving boom and bust cycles. Weak or falling demand for housing can constrain production and supply, even when there is significant unmet or growing need, such as at the present time.

The price of housing in the market is set by the value of existing property, and represents the amount of money that purchasers (either investors or owner-occupiers) are willing to pay. For new housing supply, development will proceed only if the expected sale price is higher than total production costs.

### Opportunities

Researchers should:

- Consider potential strategies for stewarding private housing markets over the long term, to reduce the frequency and amplitude of boom-and-bust cycles.

Researchers might also:

- Conduct deeper analysis of the operation of Australian housing markets and submarkets, including how different submarkets interact
- Consider how countercyclical activities can smooth volatility in specific submarkets
- Examine the impact on rental markets of volatility in home purchase markets
- Consider relevant international approaches to managing housing markets to improve stability and support households' access to appropriate housing.

### Constraints

This research is not intended to focus only on one specific submarket or housing location, or on one specific stage of housing production.

**Policy issue** How can social housing providers leverage emerging technologies to support applicants and tenants and manage assets?

**Project type** Research Project



Existing use of technology in the social housing sector varies widely across and between public housing and community housing providers.

Emerging technologies (including Artificial Intelligence) create opportunities to improve the social housing system and the experience for applicants, tenants and communities. There are potential uses in areas such as managing social housing waitlists, supporting waitlisted applicants, allocating housing to applicants, assisting in coordinating tenant supports, communicating and engaging with tenants, and tracking tenant satisfaction.

There may be particular benefits or challenges to consider in the use of emerging technologies in relation to tenants with disability, or who are non-English speakers, those with low literacy, or those who are escaping domestic and family violence.

There are also opportunities to use emerging technologies to better manage social housing portfolios, for example in optimising asset use and in planning and managing maintenance.

Use of emerging technologies in private markets (including rental markets, short-term letting and real estate sales) may offer both positive and negative lessons for social housing managers.

There are complex challenges to be managed in the use of emerging technologies. These include protecting data, maintaining privacy, ensuring data quality, mitigating algorithmic bias, and providing trauma-informed service.

### Opportunities

Researchers might:

- Explore the ways in which social housing managers currently use technology
- Examine opportunities in using emerging technologies to improve experiences for applicants and tenants and better manage social housing assets
- Consider ways to mitigate risks and negative consequences associated with use of emerging technologies in social housing
- Identify lessons from the use of emerging technologies in private market housing
- Consider innovative use of technologies by social housing managers internationally.

### Constraints

This research is not intended to focus only on the use of emerging technologies in the private market, nor is it intended to recommend specific platforms or products.

**Policy issue** How do we understand tenure mix in large housing development projects to realise social, economic and environmental objectives?

**Project type** Research Project

**Policy context**



**Mixed tenure housing projects vary in composition**



**A large number and range of projects are currently underway**



**Mix typically calculated by floor area or unit mix**

Mixed tenure projects aim to deliver subsidised housing at reduced cost to government and with positive social and economic outcomes. These projects are funded through Australian, state and territory government programs, often with co-financing from the private sector and community housing providers.

Some of these projects are social housing redevelopments, while others are situated on government-owned brownfield land or delivered by the private sector due to planning requirements. Some projects also consider environmental outcomes and aim to improve building performance for residents.

Mixed tenure projects vary widely in their location, built form and funding composition, as well as in the proportions of social, affordable and private housing they include. The duration of affordable housing provision within these developments is also variable, typically from a minimum of 10 years to 'in perpetuity'. Projects may incorporate housing for specific cohorts, such as student housing or housing for older people.

In Australian mixed tenure projects, assumptions are often made about the optimal proportion of social and, more recently, affordable housing to be included. Mixed tenure housing has also often been assumed to have greater benefits for social and affordable tenants than single tenure projects or estates. Often, it is overall project viability that drives tenure mix settings.

There is a need for a rigorous review of the evidence base underpinning assumptions about mixed tenure housing and the outcomes it achieves for tenants, communities, governments and other stakeholders.

## Opportunities

Researchers should:

- Undertake a systematic review of the evidence on the social and economic outcomes of different types of mixed tenure development in Australia.

Researchers might also:

- Provide evidence on preferred methodologies for calculating tenure mix
- Document the tenure types and development models of a wide range of mixed tenure developments across Australia
- Investigate the relationship between tenure mix and the density, typology and location of projects, as well as the duration of affordable housing provision
- Consider whether – and why – there are differing environmental outcomes associated with different tenure mixes
- Understand relevant international practices and trends in mixed tenure development.

## Constraints

This research is not intended to focus only on the feasibility of mixed tenure developments on specific sites, nor to act solely as an evaluation of a specific project which has been proposed or delivered.

**Policy issue** What are the best models for delivering and funding non-housing supports to social housing tenants with different needs?

**Project type** Research Project

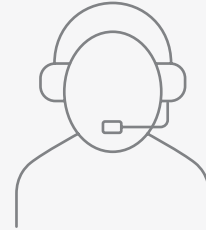
### Policy context



Supports include psychosocial services and health referrals



They also include links to education and training



Access to support varies across jurisdictions and managers

Many social housing tenants have complex needs and can benefit from services that support them to sustain their tenancies and achieve their goals. These services are sometimes referred to as ‘wrap around support’ or ‘non-housing support’.

Reports from Auditor Generals’ Offices in several states emphasise the importance of public and community housing providers operating as social landlords — addressing aspects of tenant welfare and wellbeing, as well as tenancy and property management.

Few housing managers, whether public agencies or community housing providers, directly provide tenants with non-housing supports. Some housing managers assist tenants to access third party support services, while others assume tenants will access them independently.

Tenants can also benefit from initiatives designed to reduce isolation and improve community cohesion. Some housing managers provide these broader initiatives directly, while others work with partners in delivering them at the block or neighbourhood level.

Transfer and development programs are increasingly requiring housing managers to provide support services for tenants at the individual and community level, however associated delivery and/or coordination costs are rarely considered. This means housing managers may be required to fund new services without commensurate increases in operating revenue.

### Opportunities

Researchers might:

- Document different models of tenant support offered across jurisdictions and housing managers, and for cohorts of tenants with different types and levels of need
- Analyse the outcomes of different tenant support models for tenants, communities, housing managers and governments
- Identify the impact of tenant support approaches in sustaining tenancies and preventing homelessness
- Identify the specific tenant support needs of First Nations tenants and communities
- Understand the short- and long-term costs of delivering different tenant support models
- Provide direction on tenant support models likely to deliver the greatest benefits and equitable outcomes within constrained budgetary environments.

### Constraints

This research is not intended to focus on the cost of managing and maintaining social housing. It is also not intended to focus on the specific requirements of supportive housing.

**Policy issue** How can social housing investment be sustained at appropriate levels over the long term in Australia?

**Project type** Research Project



Public investment in social housing in Australia decreased in the 1990s, following a period of sustained effective decline due to increasing costs and lower revenues. Since then, public investment has generally trended downwards, except for a few occasions where large amounts of capital have been invested as part of wider economic stimulus and support measures (during the GFC and the COVID pandemic).

Recent investments by the Australian and several state governments are unprecedented and have stemmed this decline. However, the level of ongoing investment required to maintain the social housing system at its current state, as well as to grow the system to address unmet need and new demand, is significant and requires a sustainable long-term approach.

In recent decades there has also been a shift away from direct public provision of social housing towards mechanisms that support the growth of the community housing sector. These have included access to private capital and leveraging public and community assets, but state subsidy and often capital investment continue to be required.

### Opportunities

Researchers should:

- Model the scale of financial investment (both capital expenditure and operating expenditure) required to maintain and grow social housing provision in Australia over the short, medium and long term, mindful of budget constraints.

Researchers might also:

- Identify appropriate and sustainable funding models that enable long term social housing investment
- Model a range of alternative scenarios
- Determine if there is an optimal mix of direct public investment and subsidy to the community housing sector
- More fully model and/or explore the level and nature of ongoing government investment into the community housing sector that is required
- Consider the optimal arrangements for joint investment vehicles between the Australian, state and territory governments.

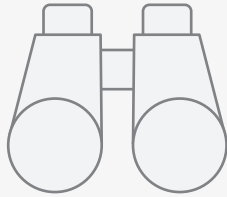
### Constraints

This project is intended to focus on social rental housing (that is, public housing and community housing). Government investment in other housing tenures and types, such as affordable housing, homeownership and private rental, is outside the scope of the project.

**Policy issue** How can new data-focused research contribute to housing and homelessness solutions?

**Project type** Research Project

### Policy context



Governments are seeking real solutions to housing challenges



New data sources can provide housing policy insights



Strong focus on policy and practice application needed

Governments frequently review and revise policy to enable them to respond to emerging challenges and opportunities. All levels of government across Australia currently have a particularly strong focus on housing and homelessness policy and practice.

This focus is framed by the National Housing Accord, National Agreement on Social Housing and Homelessness, and housing and homelessness strategies at the state and territory, and sometimes local, level. As discussed in Topic B (First Nations research), it is also framed by the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

There are many opportunities for researchers to contribute to the agile development of evidence-based housing and homelessness policy and practice.

Projects which have a national scope or enable comparison of different policy and delivery outcomes are currently particularly valuable. There is also a strong preference for findings from data and innovation projects to be practically applicable to policy responses. The Commonwealth Government has a strong interest in projects focused on productivity and new supply.

### Opportunities

Researchers should:

- Actively engage with, and contribute to, current policy and practice.

Researchers might:

- Understand the policy opportunities revealed by fresh waves of key datasets
- Analyse new, or newly linked, datasets to determine potential policy changes
- Use existing datasets that have not been previously considered in addressing housing challenges
- Apply emerging technologies to gain new insights
- Consider innovative questions or methods which shed new light on existing approaches.

### Constraints

Data Projects are not intended to simply catalogue the nature or severity of housing challenges, absent of policy responses. It is also important to note that AHURI will not store datasets or databases nor commit to their update.



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