

Hervey Bay Independent

[Home](#) / [2013](#) / [September](#) / [12](#) / Region's housing to improve under merger



Region's housing to improve under merger

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Fraser Coast Housing Ltd (FCHL) completed a Queensland first merger with national not-for-profit housing provider Community Housing Ltd (CHL) last week.

The merger was the culmination of 18 months of discussion.

FCHL has three offices in the Fraser Coast region managing 189 properties with 21 staff. The organisation will continue to provide

services from its Maryborough office under the direction of CHL Group managing director Steve Bevington.

“This merger is the coming together of two like minded organisations that share a common vision of providing quality housing and services to the community and will benefit from the exchange of knowledge, skills and competencies,” Mr Bevington said.

“Through our combined resources we will have increased efficiencies and capacity to offer enhanced development opportunities which will allow us to meet the growing housing demand in the region and the state overall.”

Ian Clunn, the CEO of FCHL will join the Executive team as CHL Manager for Wide Bay and CHL Queensland Representative.

Lance Stone, the former Chair of FCHL will be taking up a position as a Non Executive Director on CHL’s Board.

Fraser Coast Mayor Gerard O’Connell said the merger would “galvanise support for a much needed service for our community”.

“This merger will provide much-needed capacity in terms of social housing on the Fraser Coast. We’re going from an entity with 190 properties and 21 staff to one with 4000 properties and 160 staff,” Cr O’Connell said.

“It will provide more capability and deliver a good service and I truly believe this is a great asset to address the shortage of housing we have in this region.”