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## Robust decision on social housing acknowledged

BeyondHousing has acknowledged Greater Shepparton Council's impartial review of the submissions made in the Nixon Maude housing proposal. Whilst disappointed in the outcome, which would see local families and individuals waiting even longer for housing, the process was fair.

BeyondHousing CEO Celia Adams said "We thank Greater Shepparton City Council for the careful consideration of the community submissions and of our proposal. We acknowledge the difficult decision they were faced with and appreciate the investment of time and resources to complete appropriate due diligence based on fact.

"We also recognise the absolute commitment by Councillors and the broader community for the provision of social housing in alternative locations.

"Whilst we are disappointed, we respect the democratic process and thank Councillors and Council staff for the mature and robust approach taken. The emotion displayed during the Councillor's speeches is evidence this was decision was not made lightly.

"We are encouraged the issue of safe, secure, affordable community housing is central to public discourse on the housing crisis here in Shepparton. Housing is a key element in the liveability of our neighbourhoods, it is key public infrastructure and makes good economic sense.

"We are seeing the devastating impact of the rental crisis across Greater Shepparton, and we know that social housing is a critical and powerful way to tackle the rental crisis. Finding appropriate land to build much needed community housing is challenging, but it is essential to increasing the supply of affordable housing.

"The waiting list for housing is now so dire that Councils, our community, and not for profit housing organisations like ours really need to work together pragmatically to prioritise projects that deliver affordable housing for individuals and families.

"We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with Greater Shepparton Council, all levels of Government, our stakeholders, and the broader community to identify solutions to the housing crisis and pursue our goal to end homelessness," said Ms. Adams.

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*About: BeyondHousing is the largest community housing organisation within the Goulburn and Ovens Murray regions of Victoria. BeyondHousing is the main entry point for the homelessness system and provides a range of supports for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. If you or anyone you know is experiencing or at risk of homelessness, call 1800 825 955.*

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