



MEDIA RELEASE

SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK BUILDS AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR ATHLETES & WIDER COMMUNITY

9 March 2016

For immediate release

The Sydney Olympic Park Authority (SOPA) has embarked on an innovative partnership with community housing company Bridge Housing to ensure athletes, park workers and others in the local community can afford to live close to work in western Sydney.

SOPA is developing up to 50 apartments for affordable rental housing and will consider more in future housing development in the park. The apartments are integrated in mixed tenure multi-unit developments and were built by Ecove to the same high standard as the apartments sold to private investors.

Bridge Housing, a leading developer and tenancy manager of affordable homes across greater Sydney, has won the right to manage the tenancies on behalf of SOPA. This is part of Bridge Housing's growing affordable housing portfolio.

SOPA General Manager – Corporate Nick Hubble said: "Our commitment to providing affordable housing in the park means we can support athletes who come to train and compete here and also the essential workers who ensure the park operates as a world-class facility."

"We have built these sustainable homes in accordance with the original 'Green Games' philosophy for the park, and residents have easy access to public transport, cafes, services and a vibrant precinct."

"This partnership with Bridge Housing is a win-win because we are each doing what we do best to build a community at Sydney Olympic Park that is inclusive and affordable for a wide range of residents."

Bridge Housing CEO John Nicolades said: "This part of Sydney has become increasingly unaffordable in the past few years and property prices will no doubt continue to rise when the proposed new light rail is completed."

"It is vital that we not only increase the supply of affordable housing across Sydney generally but that homes are located in places where people can find jobs, travel to work, have access to local amenities, it is safe for their families and they can participate in their community. These homes we are managing at Sydney Olympic Park tick all those boxes. "

New tenant Joanne Ho said her home is well located for her job in aged care in the inner west and to her children's school in Concord. "We could not have afforded to live here had it not been offered as affordable housing. The property is in great condition with modern facilities and we love using all the surrounding parkland at weekends."

This new partnership model for the development and management of affordable housing provides a blueprint for other developers and community organisations.

For more information:

Anna Grutzner at Bridge Housing: 0408 224 427

Bridge Housing is a leading community housing association that sources and develops affordable housing for people on moderate-to-low incomes across 18 local government areas in greater Sydney. It manages more than 1,700 properties housing 2,800 people and is set to deliver an extra 350 affordable homes by 2018.

www.bridgehousing.org.au

Sydney Olympic Park Authority is responsible for managing and developing the 640 hectares that comprise Sydney Olympic Park. Under its management, the park has become an important urban centre, a premier destination for sporting, entertainment and cultural activities, and one of Australia's largest urban parklands.

www.sopa.nsw.gov.au