

Media Release

Friday 15th February 2008

Unions welcome public housing funds and call for careful planning to allow access to employment opportunities

Unions Tasmania Secretary, Simon Cocker today said the Tasmanian Government announcement allocating sixty million dollars to public housing was great news for low income working families in Tasmania. A boost to public housing stock is much needed and, with careful thought to the placement of the housing, will improve access of working people to employment.

Mr Cocker said:

“It is important that some good planning goes into where these houses are built so that areas where employment opportunities are increasing are given priority. The time and cost of transport are major issues for award and low income workers when considering workforce participation.”

“It is also important that planning include consideration of the aging population and for those currently homeless.”

“The Commonwealth should also contribute by wiping Tasmania’s housing debt. Canberra does not need this money and the interest savings will be another boost for housing in Tasmania.” said Mr Cocker

Media Contact: Simon Cocker 0419402377/Susan Wallace 0418372198