

Non-Executive Directors PROGRAM AGENDA

Date Monday 18 November 2024
Time 9.15am – 12.30pm
Venue QT Canberra, 1 London Circuit, Canberra
 Chair Paul Howlett

Item	Topic	Time	Timeframe	Facilitator	Meeting Paper/ Comments
1.	Welcome & Introductions – Purpose of the NED session	9.15am	10 mins	Paul Howlett	
2.	Session 1 Panel discussion Panel Comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katrina Reye • Shaun Whitaker • NED 1 (TBA) • NED 2 (TBA) 	9.25am	65 mins	Suzie Leask	Issues arising for NEDs from new funding arrangements (i.e. HAFF) Board considerations during a tender process. How states are outsourcing risk to CHPs.
	Morning Tea	10:30am	15 mins		
3.	Session 2. International guest speaker Andrew Cowan – Devonshires	10.45am	45 mins	David Cant	Lessons from the UK including Grenfell, Insurance and Risk.
4.	Session 3 Panel discussion exploring special topics of interest Panel Comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suzie Leask • Shaun Whitaker • NED 3 (TBA) • NED 4 (TBA) 	11.30am	55 mins	Katrina Reye	Use of SPVs. Reducing the cost of sub debt. ESG issues
5.	Close, feedback and review of session.	12.25pm	5 mins	Paul Howlett	



YOUR FACILITATORS & SPEAKERS



Paul Howlett

Paul has a 50+ year career working as an engineer, executive manager and non-executive director within the industry sectors of mining, construction, environment management, government procurement and now social and affordable housing. Throughout his career Paul has maintained a strong involvement with industry peak bodies and development of sector capability. He has been on the board of Evolve Housing since 2008 and chair of the board for the past 12 years.



David Cant

David Cant has worked in social and affordable housing in both UK and Australia for over 40 years. He was the inaugural CEO of Brisbane Housing Company, stepping down from that role after 15 years in 2017. David was an inaugural director on NHFIC (now Housing Australia), and Chair of the board of PowerHousing Australia. David served for 4 years on the former Prime Ministers Council on Homelessness. David is currently a director on Uniting Vic Tas, the largest community services provider in Victoria and Co-Chair of Under 1 Roof, a consortium of housing and homelessness services in Brisbane. David supports several CHPs with pro-bono advice.



Suzie Leask

Suzie Leask is a Partner in Hall & Wilcox's Corporate & Commercial team, and Office Partner in Charge for the firm's Newcastle office. She specialises in corporate governance and commercial transactions with particular expertise in the not-for-profit, charities and community housing sector. Suzie is often sought to provide best practice governance advice on board and shareholder issues, and is a trusted advisor on areas including regulatory compliance, commercial contracts and procurement, ESG, technology & privacy, mergers and acquisitions, and IP. In 2024 Suzie was a finalist for both Corporate Partner of the Year and Commercial Partner of the Year, and was named Private Practice Lawyer of the

Year in 2019. Suzie is Co-Lead of Hall & Wilcox's Beyond Compliance board and executive training program, including her popular Business Contracts, Competition & Consumer Law training and Director Masterclass. She also is co-host of the Building Better Boards and Leaders Podcast.

YOUR SPEAKERS

Devonshires **Andrew Cowan**



Andrew is a Consultant in our Banking, Governance & Corporate team having been Senior Partner and head of social housing at Devonshires. His work in the social housing sector spans over 35 years, starting from his time as a banking lawyer at the outset of the period when housing associations started to borrow in order to fund their development work. He is known for his strategic advice, regulatory compliance, structuring transactions and dealing with “problem cases”. Andrew has been a member of the NHF’s Finance Policy Advisory Group and the Regulator of Social Housing Advisory Panel and has been a board member of both not for profit and for-profit social landlords. He received the NHF Lifetime Achievement award for his work in 2018. Andrew advised the then Regulator on the UK Housing & Regeneration Act. He has also worked on social housing projects in Ireland, South Africa, Australia, Rwanda, India, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, understanding different policy environments and opportunities. His clients include a broad range of providers of For Profit and Not for Profit social housing in the UK, including London & Quadrant and Sage Homes.

Hall&Wilcox **Shaun Whittaker** smarter law



Shaun specialises in new economy transactions revolving around social infrastructure, technology and impact investment. He has extensive experience advising on the structuring, delivery and financing of various social and affordable housing projects, build-to-rent projects, specialist disability accommodation (SDA) projects, hospital and healthcare projects, childcare facilities and technology platforms integrating with these sectors. Shaun’s clients benefit from his considerable projects and finance expertise. He regularly advises on bankability risks in infrastructure projects, with particular experience in capital grants, impact investment funding, alternative debt funding and subsidised arrangements. His experience in structuring, joint ventures, corporate, investment and finance enables him to provide ‘whole of project’ solutions to clients. Shaun has a deep understanding of the political, commercial and regulatory issues around funding and delivery of successful new businesses and projects, drawing on his experience acting for public and private entities, including not-for-profit and startup enterprises, to provide a holistic service to clients. Shaun is the national co lead of the Hall & Wilcox national Social & Affordable Housing Industry Group with Katrina Reye.

YOUR SPEAKERS



Katrina Reye

Katrina is a projects lawyer at Hall & Wilcox and a recognised industry leader in social and affordable housing projects. Katrina has specialist experience in construction and infrastructure projects including PPP projects in the social and affordable housing sectors and the National Disability Insurance Scheme specialist disability accommodation sectors. Katrina has specialist expertise in acting for community housing providers in various procurement processes and tenders for government departments and agencies and then assisting with all aspects of the delivery of the projects including advising on and set up of charitable SPV project vehicles, advising and negotiating funding deeds and project delivery agreements, drafting and negotiating design and construction contracts and services agreements, property due diligence and property transactions. Katrina acts for Tier 1 community housing providers in Australia and the State Government in relation to social infrastructure, urban renewal projects and special activation precincts. Hall & Wilcox have acted for a range of Tier 1 CHPs including Home in Place, CHL, Bridge Housing, Evolve, Hume Community Housing Association, Haven, Southern Cross, Argyle and others. Katrina is experienced in all legal work associated with social and affordable housing Government programmes in NSW and nationally. Katrina has worked with CHPs on many social and affordable housing programs including the Social and Affordable Housing Fund NSW, Big Housing Build Victoria, Housing Investment Fund QLD, Social Housing Management Transfer NSW, Core and Cluster NSW, Communities Plus, Housing Australia Future Fund, Affordable Housing Partnership Program and many others. Katrina is also deeply familiar with the regulatory environment that applies to social and affordable housing programmes including the Community Housing Providers (Adoption of National Law) Act 2012, the Housing Act in Victoria and various statutory interests and director interests that the State Governments have in various jurisdictions. Katrina is also deeply familiar with the feasibility issues associated with social and affordable housing projects, having worked on multiple funding deals for these projects. Katrina understands all the applicable Government policies that apply to this housing including the National Affordable Housing Ministerial Guidelines. Admitted as a solicitor in 2004, Katrina was awarded numerous awards throughout her university career, including the Evatt Medal (awarded for the best performance in the Bachelor of Law course). In recognition of her experience in commercial property, Katrina was invited to be a member of the Hunter Chapter of the Property Council of Australia and has been a member of the Committee since 2011. Katrina is the national co lead of the Hall & Wilcox national Social & Affordable Housing Industry Group with Shaun Whittaker. She also provides advice to the social housing industry generally on common interest projects through PowerHousing Australia.