

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Attention: News Editor

### **Student housing project starts**

Units under construction in the Norman House precinct in Albany will provide affordable accommodation for 20 higher education students.

Great Southern Community Housing Association (GSCHA) is undertaking the \$3 million project with the support of a \$1.17 million Royalties for Regions grant.

Increasing the supply of affordable student accommodation for the region is supported by a business case through the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) and aligns with the Commission's Regional Investment Blueprint.

The Norman House project is the first stage of an initiative that will increase affordable student accommodation in Albany by 60 beds.

The second stage is the 40-bed, \$16 million project at the old Albany Primary School site in Serpentine Road, supported by \$11 million in Growing Our South funding.

GSDC Chair Ross Thornton said the projects would help to retain and attract higher education students who would not otherwise stay in the region.

"The Great Southern Regional Investment Blueprint envisages higher numbers of overseas students in higher education in the region, as well as increasing educational levels for regional residents," Mr Thornton said.

"More engagement in higher education will add value to regional industry and the wider community.

"Starting the first stage of these buildings is an exciting moment and leads us to look forward to the full benefits of the completed project."

GSCHA Chair Peter Adams said the project will provide accommodation that has been purpose built to meet the needs of a wide range of students in high quality, accessible, contemporary energy efficient buildings, right in the heart of Albany.

"To be provided the opportunity to develop two student housing facilities of such magnitude is truly outstanding," Mr Adams said.



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“I believe it gives recognition of our ability to successfully manage tenancies and to undertake large development projects.

“Stage one construction is due to be completed early next year ready for students wanting to study in Albany in 2018.

“We are very pleased to be involved with this important project that will allow more young people to stay in the Great Southern with good opportunities locally for education and employment,” Mr Adams said.

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