

16 August 2007

## **Good outcome for Banora Point residents at Yarra Court**

“Some tenants will actually now pay less rent ...”

Seniors living in 30 units at Yarra Court, Banora Point have won much improved outcomes compared to initial Department of Housing eviction notices following the intervention of Tweed Nationals MP Geoff Provest.

“Most of the tenants who wanted to remain at Yarra Court, especially the most vulnerable, will be able to stay put,” Mr Provest said.

The Yarra Court property was purchased by the Department earlier this year and all residents received eviction notices, despite a number qualifying for public housing.

Mr Provest said senior Department of Housing officials had travelled from Newcastle on Wednesday for a meeting with him and then Yarra Court residents met with the Local Manager, and he described the outcomes as very satisfactory.

After the Departments' assessment of the tenants that applied only 3 were declined for Priority Approval as they did not meet the criteria for public housing.

“The Department has agreed to help the three tenants who had to go to find new accommodation and a similar offer will be made to the five tenants who did not apply for assessment,” Mr Provest said.

“Some tenants will actually now pay less rent.

“I am grateful to the NSW Department of Housing officials for the cooperation and eventual common sense approach to this sensitive issue,” the MP concluded.

“This problem does highlight the severe shortage of public housing in the Tweed and I again call on the Lemna Government to give us our fair share of funds here, particularly considering much of the State public housing budget comes in the form of grants from the federal government,” Mr Provest concluded.

**Geoff Provest 0418 754 775**