



**Brighton
Council**

Media Release

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Brighton Council backs first home builders with rates relief

Brighton Council has taken a bold step to support first home buyers, resolving to waive general rates for the first 12 months for residents building their first home in the municipality.

The new policy, endorsed by councillors at Tuesday night's Council meeting, will provide first home builders with financial relief in their first year of home ownership.

Brighton Mayor Leigh Gray said the initiative reinforces the municipality's reputation as Tasmania's "First Home-Owner Capital."

"We want Brighton to be the place where young Tasmanians can build their future," Mayor Gray said.

"Building your first home is exciting, but it can also be financially challenging. Waiving rates in the first year means one less bill to worry about while people settle into their new home."

Brighton already leads Tasmania in first home ownership, with the highest per-capita uptake of First Home Owner Grants in the state, and the youngest median age of any Tasmanian municipality.

It is also one of Tasmania's fastest growing regions, with the number of local jobs doubling over the past 13 years.

Mayor Gray said strong economic growth and significant investment in planning had positioned Brighton as one of Tasmania's most attractive places to live.

"We have invested heavily in planning for the future, with three exciting growth precincts in Old Beach, Brighton and Bridgewater. Just yesterday, the Planning Commission approved our 400 lot master planned rezoning along Boyer Road!" he said.

"That means we're delivering the right kind of growth, with efficient infrastructure, good services and strong community amenities.

"At Council we are serious about laying the right foundations to make Brighton the most attractive place to move to and now is the time to build in Brighton."

Under the policy, Council will waive the General Rate for 12 months for first home builders who can demonstrate they have qualified for the State Government's First Home Builder Grant.

The current General Rate for residential properties ranges from \$1,145 to \$1,260 per dwelling per year.

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