



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Unique community alliance delivers new housing for women escaping family violence

An unlikely alliance between a Victorian wind farm and two not-for-profit organisations will inject \$500,000 towards the delivery of urgently needed accommodation and guaranteed placements for women seeking to escape domestic violence.

Victorian-based renewable energy developer, Tilt Renewables, today joined Women's Housing Limited and Warrnambool-based Emma House Domestic Violence Services Incorporated (EHDVSI), to announce a new 'Safe Housing Program', a key initiative of Tilt Renewables' Dundonnell Wind Farm *Benefit Sharing Plan*.

The Safe Housing Program will enable greater access to housing specifically for women and children from south-west Victoria who at risk of homelessness due to family violence.

As a key partner in the new program, Tilt Renewables will donate \$500,000 toward the construction of Women's Housing Limited's new long-term, 24-unit development in Bayswater, set to open early next year.

Tilt Renewables' Chief Executive, Deion Campbell, said his company wanted to create meaningful and sustainable community benefits and, by opting to join forces with two of the south-west region's most recognised family violence service organisations, had provided a benefit the community told us is important to them.

"This partnership reflects our commitment to deliver social investment programs that go right to the heart of what the local communities surrounding our wind farm assets require.

"The Dundonnell Wind Farm *Benefit Sharing Plan* will do more than just deliver passive funding to local community groups – it will see us working and investing together with two incredible community organisations to create and deliver safe and secure services for women and families from the south-west region," he said.

The 336-megawatt (MW) Dundonnell Wind Farm, near Mortlake, is Tilt Renewables most ambitious project to date. When complete, it will generate enough clean, emission-free energy to power 245,000 homes.

Women's Housing Limited Chief Executive, Judy Line, says today's announcement of the 'Safe Housing Program' will further remove barriers for vulnerable women trying to escape family violence.

"South West Victoria has one of the highest incidences of family violence in Victoria. Many women in regional areas believe it is unsafe to remain in their home town and opt to relocate to metropolitan areas," she said.

“The Safe Housing Program will guarantee 10 places per annum for south-west Victorian women and children in any of Women Housing Limited’s portfolio of apartments.

“Through the development of the Safe Housing Program, our partnership with Tilt Renewables and EHDVSI will help these vulnerable women and children avoid lengthy stays in temporary accommodation, which can often be isolating, inadequate and expensive.

“Thanks to the Tilt Renewables’ funding and ongoing facilitation of our program, we are of the firm belief that we have created a long-lasting connection between our organisation and EHDVSI, which will mean that some of our state’s most vulnerable women and children will have an easier time finding safe, long-term accommodation for years to come.” said Ms Line.

EHDVSI EO Ruth Isbel states:

“Domestic and family violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women and children and lack of affordable housing options is one of the major reasons women feel unable to leave and return to abusive relationships.

“Like many other rural and regional areas, the South West is facing an affordable housing crisis that reduces options for disadvantaged communities, particularly women and children in crisis accommodation.

EHDVSI is excited about the social housing possibilities this partnership will offer our region.”

Tilt Renewables’ ‘community-motivated’ *Benefit Sharing Plan* was a key component of the company’s winning bid for the Dundonnell Wind Farm under the Victorian Government’s *Victorian Renewable Energy Auction Scheme*, announced last year.

In announcing the six winners of government contracts for energy produced, the Victorian Government noted it expected renewable energy projects to also deliver benefits for the communities where they are being built.

Consequently, the Dundonnell Wind Farm *Benefit Sharing Plan* will be the largest community investment program associated with the construction of a wind farm, in terms of the sheer number of programs it promises to deliver.

Tilt Renewables, Women’s Housing Limited and EHDVSI will host an event today to launch the Safe Housing Program, an exciting component of the wider Dundonnell Wind Farm Benefit Sharing Plan.

**-ENDS-**

**For further information please contact:**

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### **About Tilt Renewables**

Tilt Renewables’ vision is to be a leading developer and owner of renewable energy generation in Australia and New Zealand. It owns and operates eight wind farms in Australia and New Zealand with an installed capacity of 636 MW and an additional 469 MW under construction. Tilt Renewables also has a significant pipeline of over 3,000 MW of wind and solar projects in Australia and New Zealand of which just under 1,500 MW have secured the required planning approvals.

[www.tiltrenewables.com](http://www.tiltrenewables.com)

**About Women's Housing Limited**

Women's Housing Limited (WHL) is a not for profit organisation that provides low cost housing to women at risk of homelessness, particularly women and children escaping family and domestic violence and older low income women who cannot afford to pay high market rent. It delivers large-scale housing projects contributing to the growth of affordable housing stock. WHL advocates for the ever-growing housing needs of women and children and currently manages 391 properties.

**About Emma House Domestic Violence Services Inc**

Based in Warrnambool, EHDVSI is the specialised funded family violence service in South West Victoria and has been supporting women and their children living with domestic violence for over 40 years and is located in Warrnambool. EHDVSI directly supports the regional community surrounding the Dundonnell Wind Farm. EHDVSI offer a range of services including amongst others - crisis housing; emergency accommodation; and refuge accommodation. EHDVSI assist over 1,000 women per year, of which over 500 are new referrals - of these over 40% require new housing support.