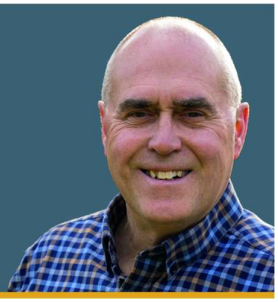

MEDIA RELEASE

Hobart stone-cold last in dwelling approvals across southern councils, must change: Lennon.

New analysis of Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows one southern Tasmanian council has approved 155% more dwellings than Hobart City Council over the same twelve month period.

In the twelve months to August 2026, Hobart City Council had the lowest rate of dwelling approvals, by population, out of six southern Tasmanian councils, said Hobart mayoral candidate Harvey Lennon.

“Kingborough (+14% greater than Hobart City), Huon Valley (+47%), Glenorchy (+54%), Clarence (+55%) and Brighton (+155%) all recorded stronger results than Hobart,” Mr Lennon said.

“When it comes to dwelling approvals across greater Hobart councils, Hobart City was stone-cold last over the previous period, and it’s embarrassing for our capital city,” he said.

“This must change, we must deliver more housing in our City; and if elected, this will be one of my highest priorities.

Mr Lennon has previously said he wants Council to help convert suitable vacant and underused upper floors and empty spaces around commercial premises into inner-city housing.

“What we should be doing in Hobart is using the many empty spaces above existing buildings, and around them, to deliver more homes in our city.

“To build smart, attractive and functional, reasonable height medium-density living spaces.

“It is clear from this ABS dwelling approvals data analysis, that Hobart is lagging badly behind other Councils in delivering approvals for more homes in our City.

“More residents in and around the city centre will help support local shops, hospitality businesses and services and build a more vibrant and active City,” he said.

“With council-led incentives and partnering with government, as well as faster planning approvals, we can encourage the delivery of more homes for inner-city living and turn around this shocking data,” he said.

“We need planning processes that work for families and businesses, not against them.

ENDS 10 October 2026

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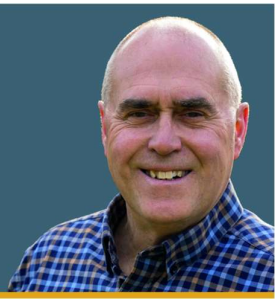
Harvey LENNON

FOR MAYOR, COUNCILLOR, HOBART

For experienced, credible leadership and a sensible balance.



Dwelling approvals by council

12 months to August 2026

Approvals per 1,000 residents

Hobart highlighted

Comparison table

Comparison against Hobart's approval rate per 1,000 residents

Council	Dwellings approved	Population	Approvals per 1,000 residents	Number greater than Hobart	Percentage greater than Hobart
Brighton	154	20,527	7.50	+4.56	+155%
Clarence	292	64,119	4.55	+1.61	+55%
Glenorchy	228	50,450	4.52	+1.58	+54%
Huon Valley	86	19,893	4.32	+1.38	+47%
Kingborough	140	41,628	3.36	+0.42	+14%
Hobart	**164**	**55,859**	**2.94**	**0.00**	**0%**

Reference: ABS Building Approvals, Aug 2026; Regional Population, June 2025. Dwellings approved, not planning applications.

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