Media Release

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Housing Summit Success

This week saw a pivotal moment in Swan Hill Rural City Council's moves to address housing challenges in the Swan Hill Region. Over 100 business professionals and engaged community members gathered at a highly successful Housing Summit in Swan Hill, a first crucial step towards finding sustainable solutions to the shortage of housing across the municipality.

Swan Hill Rural City Council's CEO, Scott Barber said that the summit had been organised to tackle the pressing issues surrounding housing shortages and included insights from well-regarded industry professional including keynote speaker Peter Maddison, award winning architect and Grand Designs presenter.

""While everyone is aware of the housing challenge we all face, it takes a community to work together and deliver solutions. The event was about fostering a collaborative spirit, bringing together diverse perspectives from various sectors to address the multifaceted nature of the housing crisis.

"It was a gathering of minds committed to finding tangible solutions to our community's housing challenges. It was heartening to see over 100 individuals, representing both businesses and community interests, actively participating in this critical dialogue.

"The summit covered a range of topics, including the shortage of affordable housing, the need for diverse housing options, and strategies for sustainable development. Participants engaged in workshops, panel discussions, and networking sessions to foster a comprehensive understanding of the issues at hand," Mr Barber said.

Mr Barber emphasised that the summit was an essential starting point for us to collectively share ideas, gain a deeper understanding of the opportunities and challenges, and lay the groundwork for planning our way forward.

"The collaboration and dedication displayed by everyone involved in the summit represented the shared commitment to addressing the housing needs of our community," he said.

Mr Barber said the next step in the process, was the preparation of an outcomes report that would be presented to Council and the broader community.

"This report will sum up the key findings, recommendations, and proposed strategies that emerged from the Housing Summit discussions. The aim is to provide a roadmap for addressing the housing shortage and fostering a more sustainable and inclusive community.

"The success of the Swan Hill Housing Summit reflects the community's collective determination to address housing challenges head-on. Thank you to everyone who contributed and offered to partner with Council and each other to tackle this challenge.

"An outcomes report will serve as a valuable resource for future planning and action, guiding the municipality towards a more robust and resilient housing landscape," he said.

For more information, please visit https://letstalk.swanhill.vic.gov.au/swan-hill-housing-summit

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