



## Office of the Chief Executive

### MEDIA RELEASE – For Immediate Release

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#### **THE VILLAGE BUILDING CO. REBUILDS THE STROMLO COMMUNITY**

The Village Building Co. has completed the restoration of Stromlo rural village giving the original residents of the community the opportunity to return to their homes.

The ACT Housing Minister John Hargreaves will today welcome the ACT Housing residents, who have moved into their new homes at Stromlo following the devastation of the January 2003 bushfires at Stromlo.

The Village Building Co. Chief Executive, Bob Winnel said the completion of Stromlo rural village is a major step forward in the ACT's recovery from the January 2003 bushfires.

“Village are pleased to be involved in rebuilding this community and it's great to be able to play our part helping the people who lost their houses in the fires to finally return home” said Mr Winnel.

Cheryl Gregory, a Stromlo resident says that the day is a wonderful chance to reflect and remember while also looking to the future. “The bushfires threatened everything that we knew; our homes, our community, our friends. Although the re-building of our community is a long process and we don't know what the future holds, we are pleased to have moved back to the village and finally start re-building our lives”.

The Stromlo redevelopment project undertaken on behalf of the ACT Government has included the development of 21 blocks for private sale as well as significant measures for bushfire protection including asset protection zones.

“We've worked closely with the ACT Government to re-build Stromlo, ensuring that it meets the needs of residents. Our focus has been on creating a lively, interactive and sustainable housing estate” said Mr Winnel.

“We wanted to restore Stromlo back to its unique rural village character and looked at ways to enhance the community feel. It's fantastic to now see this great community coming back to life now that the residents have returned” said Mr Winnel.

The Village Building Co.'s focus now shifts to Uriarra, the second rural village the company is rejuvenating. The work The Village Building Co. is undertaking at Uriarra includes the rebuilding of 23 ACT Housing homes as well as the development of 77 rural blocks for private sale.

“Our progress at Uriarra is moving along quite well with civil works complete and construction on housing well underway” said Mr Winnel.

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For media inquiries please contact Tania Kalogianis on 6273 0232 or 0421 374 287.