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Press release: Park Home Development

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Park Home Development

Details of a \$500,000 Housing Trust project to provide homes for more than 50 families in a park-like setting at Smithfield, were today released by the Premier, Mr. Dunstan.

It is the first of the "transport corridor" housing developments foreshadowed by the Premier in his election policy speech on February 19.

The Commonwealth Government has agreed to provide \$200,000 towards the cost of the project which would go ahead immediately, Mr. Dunstan said.

The homes will be built on Highways Department land intended for ultimate use as a transport corridor.

Their design will enable them to be later resited elsewhere.

The 52 houses will be set in park-like surroundings as a cluster development.

The area will contain a large recreation area, two playgrounds for children, a childminding centre and a shop.

Schools, shopping and other community facilities are nearby.

Mr. Dunstan said a feature of the scheme - the first of its type in Australia - was that special attention would be given to landscaping.

There would be formal garden areas, lawns, trees and shrubs. It was intended that some large young trees would be planted at the outset.

Planting would be planned so that many of the trees could be retained along the route if it was later developed as a transport corridor.

Mr. Dunstan said it was hoped that families could move into the Park Home development by Christmas. This compared with the normal three years from the start of a building project to the date of occupation.

The houses would be rented at about \$15 a week.

Eligible tenants would be able to apply for rent reductions.

It would be a mixed income development with tenants being drawn from the Trust's present waiting list.

I believe the scheme is an exciting one, making use of land that would otherwise be unused.

"The utmost care has been given to design throughout the planning stage, to achieve pleasant living conditions and a sense of community among the people who will live there."

The Premier said it was planned that similar schemes would be started elsewhere in the metropolitan area later.