





Household formation

Table #: Number of effective households by type

													Change	% '
101AL: Family and household groups	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	(2022 – 2032)	of total
Couple family with children	3,043,000	3,043,000 3,042,000 3,075,000 3,111,000	3,075,000	3,111,000	3,152,000	3,189,000	3,225,000	3,261,000	3,297,000	3,335,000	3,370,000	3,152,000 3,189,000 3,225,000 3,261,000 3,297,000 3,335,000 3,370,000 3,404,000 361,000 21%	361,000	21%
Couple family without children	2,702,000	2,702,000 2,726,000 2,771,000 2,816,000	2,771,000	2,816,000	2,863,000	2,911,000	2,957,000	3,004,000	3,050,000	3,096,000	3,143,000	2,863,000 2,911,000 2,957,000 3,004,000 3,050,000 3,096,000 3,143,000 3,190,000 488,000 29%	488,000	29%
Lone parent family	1,107,000	1,107,000 1,110,000 1,125,000 1,141,000	1,125,000	1,141,000	1,159,000	1,176,000	1,194,000	1,211,000	1,229,000	1,246,000	1,263,000	1,159,000 1,176,000 1,194,000 1,211,000 1,229,000 1,246,000 1,263,000 1,280,000 173,000 10%	173,000	10%
Other family household	121,000	121,000 121,000 122,000 124,000	122,000	124,000	126,000	128,000	131,000	133,000	128,000 131,000 133,000 136,000 138,000 140,000 142,000	138,000	140,000	142,000	21,000 1%	1%
Group household	443,000	443,000 438,000 441,000	441,000	446,000	452,000		459,000 467,000	475,000	475,000 484,000 492,000 499,000	492,000	499,000	507,000	64,000	4%
Lone household	2,603,000	2,603,000 2,638,000 2,690,000 2,743,000	2,690,000	2,743,000	2,798,000	2,854,000	2,912,000	2,968,000	3,025,000	3,082,000	3,140,000	2,798,000 2,854,000 2,912,000 2,968,000 3,025,000 3,082,000 3,140,000 3,198,000	595,000	35%
Total households	10,020,000	10,020,000 10,075,000 10,224,000 10,381,000	10,224,000	-	10,551,000	10,718,000	10,885,000	11,053,000	11,220,000	11,387,000	11,555,000	10,551,000 10,718,000 10,885,000 11,053,000 11,220,000 11,387,000 11,555,000 11,722,000 1,702,000	1,702,000	

Note: Total households excludes vacant properties such as household second properties

Supply

We follow the model developed by Tulip and Saunders⁷² to estimate building approvals, commencements and completions. Building approvals, commencements, work done, investment and completions have a reasonably stable long-term relationship. As a building approval is required before construction can commence on a new dwelling, we start with estimates of approvals, then map these through to other construction variables.

Building approvals feed into 2 separate chains of variables.

- 1. Chain volume measures of approvals are used to estimate dwelling investment and the real value of the housing stock.
- 2. The number of new building approvals is used to estimate completions and the number of dwellings, which in turn, feed into estimates of the rental vacancy rate.

Estimate the equation for chain volume building approvals for each dwelling type

Using a state space model, we worked out an equation for chain volume building approvals for detached housing and higher density dwellings. Inputs include the real mortgage rate, real dwelling price, real HDI, GST indicator and lagged chain volume building approvals.

Convert the chain volume estimate of building approvals into a number of building approvals by estimating dwelling quality

The chain volume building approvals relates to number of approvals by the average quality of new dwellings. We estimate separate equations for the constant price measures and average quality of approvals, then back out the number of approvals using the following identity:

$$APPNO_{t} = \frac{APP_{t}}{QUALITY_{t}}$$

Where APPNO is the number of approvals, APP is the chain volume measure of approvals and QUALITY is the quality, or average volume, of approvals. A key advantage of this approach (relative to directly estimating the number of approvals) is that the quality of approvals is much less volatile than the number of approvals, so it is easier to estimate. Relatedly, the number of approvals drives the cyclical variation in the constant price measures of approvals. Having separate equations for both the number and constant price measure of approvals could result in inconsistent estimates of the housing construction cycle.

Quality of approvals

We assume that the quality (or average volume) of approvals increases in line with real income per capita in the long run.

$$\Delta(quality_t) = -\lambda(quality_{t-1} - hddy_capita_{t-1} - \theta_t) + \Delta hddy_capita^*$$

Where quality is the average volume of dwelling approvals, hddy_capita is real household disposable income per adult (15+ years) and Δ hddy_capita* is steady-state growth of real income per adult. All variables are in natural logs.

Other ways this equation is presented include:

$$\begin{split} \Delta \ln(bahouseavol_{t}) &= \lambda_{house} \times \left(\log \left(\underbrace{bahouseavol_{t-1}}_{i} \right) - \frac{1}{8} \sum_{i=1}^{8} \log \left(\underbrace{bahouseavol_{t-1}}_{i} \right) \right) \\ &+ ir_inc_per_wap \quad \left(\frac{rinc_{t-1}}{wap_{t-1}} \right) \\ \Delta \ln(bahouseavol_{t}) &= \lambda_{other} \times \left(\log \left(\underbrace{bahouseavol_{t-1}}_{i} \right) - \frac{1}{8} \sum_{i=1}^{8} \log \left(\underbrace{bahouseavol_{t-1}}_{i} \right) \right) \\ &+ ir_inc_per_wap \quad \left(\frac{rinc_{t-1}}{wap_{t-1}} \right) \end{split}$$

Where bahouseavol and baotheravol refers to average quality of building approvals $\binom{chain volume building approvals}{number of building approvals}$, for detached and higher density respectively; rinc refers to real household disposable income, wap refers to the population of adults over 15 years of age.

We have used simple assumptions for the 2 parameters I and q.

- The speed of adjustment coefficient, I, is set equal to the speed of adjustment for the chain volume measure of approvals.
- 2. q is the steady-state ratio of the average quality of approvals and real income per capita (in logs). We assume q is equal to the average value of this log-ratio in the final 2 years of our sample. We calculate this average over a 2-year period (as opposed to a longer horizon), so that q is fairly responsive to recent data: while real income per adult and the average volume of approvals have grown at a similar rate in the long run, it is not clear that the ratio of these variables should be stationary.

Estimate the equation for dwelling commencements for each dwelling type

We use an error correction model to estimate equation for dwelling commencements for detached housing and higher density dwellings. Inputs include lagged dwelling commencements, building approvals and GST indicator.

Estimate the equation for dwelling completions for each dwelling type

We use an error correction model to estimate equation for dwelling completions for detached housing and higher density dwellings. Inputs include lagged dwelling completions, dwelling commencements and GST indicator.

Income projection methodology

When available, nominal income estimates compiled using microdata from the Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) are used (2017–18 being the latest reference year). These estimates are then projected forward at the national level using per household income indicators by income quintile compiled from ABS national accounts, income and population data.

Nationally, the per household income indicator is sourced from the ABS' gross disposable income growth by income quintile between 2017–18 and 2019–20 financial year (Australian National Accounts: Distribution of Household Income, Consumption and Wealth, 2019–20 financial year). However, where the data set is unavailable, the average per household income indicator is compiled by dividing the household gross disposable income (Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, June 2021) by its projected number of households under the Series II scenario (Household and Family Projections, Australia, 2016–2041). The disaggregation by income quintile is calculated by carrying forward the variation between income quintiles and the average income growth between 2017–18 and 2019–20, as per the above calculation. A key assumption in this methodology is that income has increased consistently across the income quintiles.

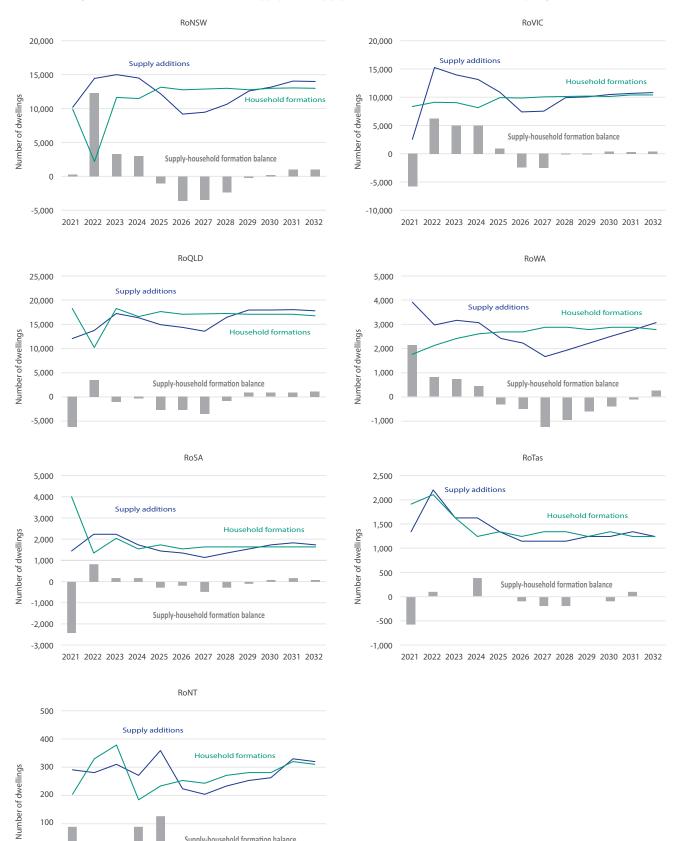
The method for projecting the income estimates has been updated since the previous publication of this report. A linear trend technique was employed in last year's report but has now been replaced with a method that should more accurately capture the effects of the unusually weak economic conditions and sluggishness in population growth since early 2020. Both methods were tested for accuracy, by analysing how well they would have anticipated previous SIH figures, with the new method generally proving more accurate. The change in income projection methodology resulted in minor adjustments to some of the 2020 Lorenz curves compared to the 2020 Lorenz curves published in the previous report, for both renters and prospective first home buyers.

Perth's rental affordability curves showed a noticeable difference. We had indicated renters across all income quintiles could afford proportionately much more stock than their corresponding income quintile (indicated by the curve being above the line of perfect equality). The downwards revision in incomes means that is no longer the case, with renters in the lowest and second lowest income quintiles being able to afford just up to a quarter of rental stock. Adelaide's rental affordability distribution also changed. The proportion of stock that renters earning up to median income could afford used to be under the line of perfect equality, now the proportion of stock that renters earning up to the second highest income quintile are under this line.

With regards to prospective first home buyer curves, the most evident change was for Brisbane's affordability distribution. Previously, we showed the curve for households earning up to the middle-income quintile was above the line of perfect equality, but they were revised to be under this line, resulting in a 20% reduction in affordability on average.

Supply-household formation balances

Annual change in household formation and supply and supply-household formation balances by regional area



2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032

0

-100

-household formation balance

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		RoNSW	
Year	New net annual dwelling supply	New net annual household formation	Supply- household formation balance
2021	11,100	10,800	300
2022	15,700	2,400	13,300
2023	16,300	12,700	3,600
2024	15,800	12,500	3,300
2025	13,200	14,300	-1,100
2026	10,000	13,900	-3,900
2027	10,300	14,000	-3,700
2028	11,600	14,100	-2,500
2029	13,700	13,900	-200
2030	14,300	14,100	200
2031	15,300	14,200	1,100
2032	15,200	14,100	1,100

RoVIC Year New net New net Supplyannual annual household dwelling household formation supply formation balance 2021 2,700 8,900 -6,200 2022 16,300 9,700 6,600 2023 14,900 9,600 5,300 2024 14,000 8,700 5,300 11,600 2025 10,600 1,000 2026 7,900 10,500 -2,600 2027 8,000 10,700 -2,700 2028 10,600 10,800 -200 2029 10,700 10,900 -200 2030 11,200 10,800 400 2031 11,400 11,100 300 2032 11,500 11,100 400

		RoQLD	
Year	New net annual dwelling supply	New net annual household formation	Supply- household formation balance
2021	12,800	19,500	-6,700
2022	14,600	10,900	3,700
2023	18,400	19,500	-1,100
2024	17,400	17,700	-300
2025	15,900	18,800	-2,900
2026	15,300	18,200	-2,900
2027	14,500	18,300	-3,800
2028	17,500	18,400	-900
2029	19,100	18,200	900
2030	19,100	18,200	900
2031	19,200	18,200	1,000
2032	19,000	17,900	1,100

		RoWA	
Year	New net annual dwelling supply	New net annual household formation	Supply- household formation balance
2021	4,200	1,900	2,300
2022	3,200	2,300	900
2023	3,400	2,600	800
2024	3,300	2,800	500
2025	2,600	2,900	-300
2026	2,400	2,900	-500
2027	1,800	3,100	-1,300
2028	2,100	3,100	-1,000
2029	2,400	3,000	-600
2030	2,700	3,100	-400
2031	3,000	3,100	-100
2032	3,300	3,000	300

Source: Macroplan, NHFIC

Annual change in household formation and supply and supply-household formation balance by regional area

		RoTas	
Year	New net annual dwelling supply	New net annual household formation	Supply- household formation balance
2021	1,400	2,000	-600
2022	2,300	2,200	100
2023	1,700	1,700	0
2024	1,700	1,300	400
2025	1,400	1,400	0
2026	1,200	1,300	-100
2027	1,200	1,400	-200
2028	1,200	1,400	-200
2029	1,300	1,300	0
2030	1,300	1,400	-100
2031	1,400	1,300	100
2032	1,300	1,300	0

		RoSA	
Year	New net annual dwelling supply	New net annual household formation	Supply- household formation balance
2021	1,500	4,100	-2,600
2022	2,300	1,400	900
2023	2,300	2,100	200
2024	1,800	1,600	200
2025	1,500	1,800	-300
2026	1,400	1,600	-200
2027	1,200	1,700	-500
2028	1,400	1,700	-300
2029	1,600	1,700	-100
2030	1,800	1,700	100
2031	1,900	1,700	200
2032	1,800	1,700	100

		RoNT	
Year	New net annual dwelling supply	New net annual household formation	Supply- household formation balance
2021	300	210	90
2022	290	340	-50
2023	320	390	-70
2024	280	190	90
2025	370	240	130
2026	230	260	-30
2027	210	250	-40
2028	240	280	-40
2029	260	290	-30
2030	270	290	-20
2031	340	330	10
2032	330	320	10

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Estimating the need for social housing

Metric	Description	Findings	Limitations
Statistical data	Includes survey and census statistics on supply (e.g. number of social housing dwellings), demand (e.g. wait lists, household affordability stress, homelessness), and efficiency (e.g. time taken to receive public housing).	The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) compiles a data repository on public and community housing. ⁷³ As of June 2020, Australia had 436,000 social housing dwellings. The total number of households on waiting lists has increased recently to over 175,000 households as at June 2020, up from 155,000 in 2019. ⁷⁴ Among newly allocated households, three-quarters received public housing within a year of being on the waiting list, 42% spent less than 3 months waiting. ⁷⁵ ABS data ⁷⁶ shows the annual number of dwelling unit completions by the non-private sector peaked in 2011 at almost 12,000 completions but plateaued after the GFC social housing stimulus program ended and then steadily declined to be around 3,000 completions a year. But these numbers do not account for demolitions.	State and territory governments lack consistency in reporting number of social housing units by provider type (e.g. public, community housing). ⁷⁷ In some states, affordable housing is included. Community housing is also defined differently and the AIHW totals are sometimes inconsistent with numbers managed by registered Community Housing Providers. Australia has no separate source of community housing data. Even within the national regulatory system, each state and territory can specify which organisations are required to register. No official source enables the CHP-managed portfolio to be split by provider- owned vs. CHP-managed. The extent to which head-leased properties included in published stock totals is also unclear. No state or territory government routinely publishes statistics on the construction of new social and affordable housing, nor on public housing sales or demolitions. It is unclear if CHP construction is captured under the ABS housing construction statistics. Often when state governments pledge new social and affordable housing investment programs, they are often in little detail and do not account for sales and demolitions of existing homes. Statistics reflect a point in time analysis, are updated infrequently, and cannot accurately distinguish between chronic homelessness and those whose lack of accommodation is more temporary. Changes in the waiting list numbers are not necessarily reflective of changes in underlying demand for social housing. Policy changes and eligibility criteria can affect the waiting list length. Some may not apply due to long waiting times.

73 https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/housing-assistance/housing-assistance-in-australia/contents/summary

74 AIHW Data Tables: Social housing households 2019–20

- 75 https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/housing-assistance/housing-assistance-in-australia/contents/entries-exits-transfers-and-wait-times
- 76 ABS Cat 8752.0 Table 37, Number of dwelling unit completions by sector, Australia.

77 CHIA 2020 – Social and affordable housing provision data – state of play

Metric	Description	Findings	Limitations
Availability of affordable private rentals to low-income households	Low-income households are classified as those with a gross household income within the first or second quintile, according to the national Census. Affordable housing is defined as housing costs being no more than 30% of gross household income. The metric derives the shortfall in the number of private rentals available and affordable to low- income renters. This follows a methodology developed by the US Housing and Urban Development Department in the 1990s, and later used by the National Housing Supply Council.	The national shortfall was estimated to be 150,000 in 1996 and nearly doubled to 270,000 in 2011. ⁷⁸ National social housing as a proportion of total housing stock would need to be expanded from 5% to 8.4% to accommodate low-income renters eligible for social housing whose rental payments were currently deemed unaffordable. ⁷⁹	The metric relies on census data and is therefore an infrequent point in time analysis. Given this metric is focusing on historical data, it is not able to accurately project the changing scale of the future shortfall. It also does not factor in the appropriateness of the low-cost dwelling stock, such as building quality or overcrowding.
Growth required to maintain current share of social housing	This is a state-based approach and involves taking the current social housing stock as a proportion of total stock as a starting point, and then estimating the additional number of social housing dwellings required to maintain the current share. The metric will account for projected household growth.	For NSW and using 2016 as a starting point, 2,000 rentals would need to be added each year over a 20-year projection period. ⁸⁰ Accounting for the additional social housing supply required to rehome tenants with unaffordable rental payments resulted in 4,900 rentals required each year, totalling around 100,000 between 2016 and 2036. To return the national social housing stock to a 6% benchmark, which was the level when Australia stopped its routine public housing construction program in 1996, 330,000 additional social housing dwellings are required over the 20-year period. ⁸¹ Factoring in affordable housing resulted in an estimated dwelling deficit of 580,000.	The approach assumes the share of social housing in the base year is adequate. Also assumes no further change in incidence of housing stress (paying more than 30% of income on rent) over the projection period

78 Hulse, K., Reynolds, M., Stone, W. and Yates, J. 2015, Supply shortages and affordability outcomes in the private rental sector: short- and longer-term trends, AHURI Final Report No. 241, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, Melbourne, https://www.ahuri.edu.au/research/final-reports/241.

79 Groenhart, L. and Burke, T. 2014, Thirty years of public housing supply and consumption: 1981–2011, AHURI Final Report No. 231, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, Melbourne, https://www.ahuri.edu.au/research/final-reports/231.

80 Yates, J. 2016, Addressing the housing affordability crisis: Basis for an estimated need of 100,000 dwellings in NSW over the next two decades, NSW Federation of Housing Associations, Sydney, http://www.communityhousing.org.au/index_attachments/NSWFHA%20Need%20for%2010 0,000%20dwellings.pdf

81 Yates, J. 2018, Social and Affordable Housing Projections for Australia 2016–2026/36, Paper commissioned by Everybody's Home – The National Housing Campaign, http://everybodyshome.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/EH_researchreport_190418- 1.pdf.

Metric	Description	Findings	Limitations
Simulation model	AHURI ⁸² developed a simulation model to measure the housing supply required to meet affordable housing demand during the period 2017–2025. The simulation factors in housing market conditions, labour market, labour market earnings, household formation, and tenure choice to generate estimates of newly arising need. ⁸³ The user can estimate housing need under a range of economic and housing supply scenarios. Housing need is defined as the number of households unable to access housing at market prices or require some form of assistance in the private rental market to avoid rental stress.	Using 2017 as the base year, the model projects 527,000 potential households unable to meet housing need via market options. In addition, the model estimates 806,000 private tenants required financial assistance to avoid rental stress. Over the period 2017–2025, the model forecasts the number of households in housing need would increase from 1.3 million in 2017 to 1.7 million in 2025 (from 14 to 16% of households, respectively). This scenario assumes population will rise at a steady rate. The incidence of housing need varies across states. It falls in Qld and WA, while the percentage rate of need remains steady in SA, Tas, ACT and NT. In Vic and NSW, large increases of households in need are projected.	Interactions between labour and housing systems should not be used at a state level, because datasets like HILDA are designed to be representative at a national level. There is no readily available data that could be used to model demographic or labour market conditions at a local government level.

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⁸² Rowley, S., Leishman, C., Baker, E., Bentley, R. and Lester, L. 2017, Modelling housing need in Australia to 2025, AHURI Final Report No. 287, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Limited, Melbourne, https://www.ahuri.edu.au/research/final-reports/287

⁸³ Using Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) dataset, ABS population and household formation projections (state and LGA), ABS labour market data, ABS time series modellers' database, SIRCA-CoreLogic RPData on LGA monthly median house prices and rents.

Description

Current and projected housing need

Metric

An AHURI report⁸⁴ incorporated current and projected housing need from 2016–2036 to estimate the number of dwellings required from 3 segments of the population amongst households in income quintile 1.

Currently met need

 Existing social housing tenants, projected forward as a share of households⁸⁵

Manifest need86

 Homeless persons, and projected forward based on household growth formation

Evident need87

 Low-income households paying more than 30% of income on rent but are not existing social housing tenants nor homeless, also projected forward based on expected household growth formation. In total, those that fall under the 3 segments accounted for around 9.4% of Australian households in 2016. AHURI calculated that some 727,300 additional social dwellings would be required over a 20-year period, implying an annual average growth of 5.5% over the existing stock. This would mean a more than tenfold increase on recent social housing construction activity. Relative to current supply, Melbourne, Perth and regional Qld would need particularly large additions of stock. Conversely, additional supply needed in Canberra, Darwin and regional SA would be relatively modest.

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Findings

Using this method, the expansion of social housing needed is around twice what Yates (2018) estimated to reach the 6% social housing benchmark.

To simply prevent further deterioration in the current shortfall of social housing, 290,000 homes were required over the projection period (manifest need plus evident need), or 15,000 annually.

This research was extended to households in income quintile 2 in another report.⁸⁸ It identified total housing required by 2036 as being just above one million homes by 2036. This translates to around 8–9% of Australia's dwellings being social or affordable housing.

Limitations

In terms of newly arising need over the period to 2036, the analysis uses pre-pandemic population growth projections which are now out-dated.

Currently met need:

The approach does not account for the potential to better utilise existing social housing stock, such as empty or underoccupied homes. This risks potentially overestimating the need for new dwellings.

There is no allowance for necessary demolition and replacement of existing social housing stock at the start of the projection period.

Manifest need:

Homelessness relates to severely crowded dwellings in 2016 estimates. This approach assumes all occupants require new dwellings, however, only some occupants would need to be rehoused to resolve overcrowding.

There is also potential for manifest and evident need households to be doublecounted, as the counts are taken from different sources.

Evident need:

It may not be appropriate to assume current levels of rental stress applies over a 20–year horizon. For instance, if affordability improves, then there is an overestimate of need, and vice versa if affordability deteriorates.

⁸⁴ Lawson, J., Pawson, H., Troy, L., van den Nouwelant, R. and Hamilton, C. 2018, Social housing as infrastructure: an investment pathway, AHURI Final Report No. 306, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Limited, Melbourne, https://www.ahuri.edu.au/research/final-reports/306

Projected need to maintain the social rent share = Share of households with currently met need in social housing (census data) x 20-year growth rate in households (estimates provided in ABS 3236.0 Household and Family projections), Average annual construction = Projected need to maintain the social rent share ÷ 20 years
Current manifest need = Number of homeless persons (ABS 2049.0 Census of Population and Housing) ÷ average household size of 2.5 persons. Average annual construction = (Current manifest need + (Current manifest need x 20-year growth rate in households)) ÷ 20 years

⁸⁷ Derive number of low-income households who are in approx. the bottom quintile for single, adult group, family households (census data). Derive number of households in rental stress based on combination of reported household income bracket and rental payment bracket Rental stress rate = Number of low-income households in rent stress ÷ Number of households in private rental with known income and rent (census data) Current evident need = (Total no. of households x No. of households in private rental x Rental stress rate) ÷ No. of households with known tenure (census data) Average annual construction = (Current evident need + (Current evident need x 20-year growth rate in households)) ÷ 20 years

⁸⁸ Troy, L., van den Nouwelant, R., Randolph, B. 2019, Estimating need and costs of social and affordable housing delivery, City Futures Research Centre, Sydney, https://cityfutures.be.unsw.edu.au/documents/522/Modelling_costs_of_housing_provision_FINAL.pdf