



## MEDIA RELEASE

2 September 2020

### ***Two Henry Road – Independent Living Units***

Construction of six independent living units that commenced in September 2019 is complete with all six units to be tenanted by local seniors in early September 2020.

The *Two Henry Road* units were officially opened today by Shire of Irwin President, Mike Smith in the presence of Shane Love MLA and Midwest Development Commission CEO, Gavin Treasure.

The Shire of Irwin received funding through the Southern Inland Health Initiative, made possible by Royalties for Regions, in February 2017. The former Minister for Health; Culture and the Arts, John Day said “evidence from around the world shows that local communities and individuals alike benefit when we keep older people well, functioning independently, and living in their homes and towns”.

25.3% of the Shire’s population is aged over 65 years. To accommodate senior residents comfortably and enable ageing residents to stay in the community, the Shire has been working with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to build six Independent living units located at 2 Henry Road Port Denison.

The units have been designed to accommodate seniors with disabilities and dementia and have been awarded Livable Housing Australia’s highest level of ‘Platinum Certification’ for the design. Some of the design aspects include level, step-free entrance ways and easy, independent access to hobless bathrooms installed with grab-rails.

In July 2019, after a state-wide tender process, local company Nordic Builders were awarded the construction contract. 98.6% of the construction costs went to local suppliers, primarily from the Shire of Irwin, this equated to approximately \$1.63 million invested in the local economy. The Shire of Irwin will soon be going out for tender for construction of the next 6 units.

**Shane Ivers**  
**Chief Executive Officer**