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MEDIA RELEASE

State Plan Charts Course Through Recovery

The Western Australian Council of Social Service has welcomed yesterday's release of the State Government's comprehensive WA Recovery Plan. The plan sets out a course forward through investing in a range of initiatives, including those targeted towards supporting communities and people experiencing hardship.

"WACOSS and a range of other representatives from the community sector were able to contribute to the formation of this plan through the State Recovery Advisory Group and Ministerial Roundtables," said Dr Jennie Gray, Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

"This plan is more than simply measures to restart industry activity, but also provides much needed investment into community services like financial counselling and family violence support.

"We are pleased to see the announced renewable energy projects as part of this plan, including \$6 million for solar panels to be installed on around 500 social housing dwellings. WACOSS has long advocated for this initiative to ensure the benefits of renewable energy, such as reduced electricity bills, can be accessed by those on the lowest incomes in our community.

"The focus on supporting Aboriginal enterprises and essential services in remote communities is also very welcome. It demonstrates an intention to facilitate the economic empowerment of Aboriginal communities as part of the recovery process, which will enable positive outcomes long-term.

"The release of this plan is just one step in Western Australia's ongoing recovery efforts and we must ensure the engagement involved in its development continues as we work to implement these initiatives. This necessitates a strong, transparent, cooperative approach that facilitates continued community engagement and decision-making.

"Together, we will be able to build back better, to create a Western Australian economy that is truly inclusive, just and equitable," concluded Dr Gray.

Ends.

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