

**SPRINGHAVEN LIFESTYLE VILLAGE**  
**SPEECH BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC,**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA, TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018**

Good morning and thank you for inviting me and Dick here today to turn the first sod to mark the start of construction of the new Southern Cross Care facility, Springhaven Lifestyle Village.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land—the Mouheneener people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

May I acknowledge among you:

- Most Reverend Julian Porteous, Archbishop of Tasmania;
- The Honourable Elise Archer MP, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice, Corrections, Environment and the Arts;
- Alderman Doug Chipman, Mayor of Clarence;
- Alderman Sharyn von Bertouch;
- Alderman Richard James;
- Mr Ray Groom, Chairman of the Board, Southern Cross Care;
- Mr Richard Sadek, Chief Executive Officer, Southern Cross Care.

In June 2013, then Governor Peter Underwood turned the first sod to mark the start of construction of Fairway Rise Lifestyle Village, on the other side of Gordons Hill Road. That construction comprised 82 independent living units.

The Village was completed in December 2015 and the adjoining Fairway Rise Residential Aged Care Facility which opened in January of that year. I visited this as part of the Clarence Municipal Visit on 11 March 2016.

So there is a logical sense of continuity in my doing the honours here today for Southern Cross Care on this five-and-a-half hectare site.

Construction of Springhaven Lifestyle Villagewill be undertaken in 3 stages, with the first 24 Independent Living Units due for completion by December 2018 and all 84 Units and the Community Centre ready by early 2020, in a setting of parklands and gardens.

As has been noted, “Springhaven is a complementary village to Fairway Rise, similar yet having its own unique identity. The development will breathe life back into the land (which had lain fallow for 20 years), with the creation of a new vibrant community.”<sup>i</sup>

When he made his address in 2013, Peter Underwood quoted Australian Bureau of Statistics figures indicating that in the 20-year period to 2012, those aged 65 and over increased from 11.5 per cent to 14.2 per cent – a significant increase – while those 85 and over doubled to nearly two per cent of the population.

By 2016, over-65s had increased another full percentage; clearly, a rising trend. And as I think most of us know, Tasmania is Australia’s “oldest” state or territory, with a median age of 42 years and, with South Australia, has the highest proportion of older citizens.<sup>ii</sup>

So between Southern Cross Care and the Clarence City Council, you are fortunate elder residents. Clarence has officially been recognised by the World Health Organisation as an Age-friendly City, the criteria for judging which are:

- outdoor spaces and buildings;
- transportation;
- housing;
- social participation;
- respect and social inclusion;
- civic participation and employment;
- communication and information;
- community support and health services.

Council met the criteria by having an ongoing commitment to a cycle of continually assessing and improving its age-friendliness.<sup>iii</sup>

In respect of Springhaven specifically, the rezoned land – formerly part of the golf links – was unanimously approved last year by the Council for this development, subject to some issues relating to impact on wildlife and birdlife.

Those issues were resolved through the widening of existing wildlife corridors, the creation of a slightly larger buffer zone around the extremities of the development, and by removing fewer mature trees. That sounds to me like an eminently sensible outcome.<sup>iv</sup>

What is also very interesting about this development is that, given the topography here, a new type of dwelling has been developed: these are two-up-two-down Townhouses, offering level, stair-free access and low maintenance surrounds. And there is a choice of Upper level Balcony or Lower level Courtyard.<sup>v</sup>

The project is valued at around 30 million dollars and as the statistics I have quoted show – and not to mention how tranquil it is here – every dollar is going to be a dollar well spent.

I know that most of us will have had some experience of a family and loved one making the decision early to move to an independent living lifestyle facility, in order to enjoy the many benefits of independent living in a strong community environment. And some of us may have had the experience of a family member making such a decision too late to really settle in!

Springhaven Lifestyle Village is bound to be as good as it gets and to encourage a move sooner rather than later.

And so on that happy note I congratulate the Executive and the Board on their initiative and I now have great pleasure in turning the first sod so that work on this construction can commence.

Thank you.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.scctas.org.au/2017/12/springhaven-launch-30th-november-2017/>, accessed 11 May 2018.

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Previousproducts/3101.0Media%20Release1Jun%202016>

<sup>iii</sup> <http://www.ccc.tas.gov.au/page.aspx?u=1786>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.scctas.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/UnderTheStarsSpring2017.pdf>, page 26, accessed 11 May 2018.

<sup>v</sup> <https://www.scctas.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Springhaven-Lifestyle-Village-Launch-Information.pdf>, accessed 11 May 2018.