**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**QLD COMMUNITY HOUSING PROVIDER AWARDED INDUSTRY’S FIRST AA- RATING**

Community housing provider Brisbane Housing Company (BHC) has received the accolade of becoming Australia’s first provider of its kind to receive a global AA- credit rating.

International ratings agency Standard and Poors (S&P) awarded BHC the high rating based on the provider’s low debt levels, experienced management, strong relationship with the State Government, and a robust demand for its quality, affordable housing assets.

The AA- rating is the fourth highest rating possible and indicates BHC has very high credit quality and a low risk of credit default.

BHC CEO David Cant said the rating is the first step in providing BHC with options to diversify funding sources in order to grow the supply of affordable housing for those in need.

“BHC is always thinking creatively around how we grow the supply of affordable housing for the most vulnerable members of our community” said Mr Cant. “This rating is a strong vote of confidence in the way BHC operates and will enable us to consider alternative financing options. BHC aims to expand our portfolio significantly over the next decade to meet demand and we hope that the achievement of this rating will play a role in this process”.

Established in 2002 by the Queensland Government and Brisbane City Council, BHC has 40 developments housing 1,718 units, of which the bulk are located in Brisbane.

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