



**CELEBRATE:** David Richardson and Joy Griffith with Housing Minister Richard Wynne. Photo: ANDREW PERRYMAN

# Tea marks end of upgrades

**HOUSING** Minister Richard Wynne shared morning tea with local Loddon Mallee Housing Service tenants this week to celebrate the completion of maintenance work in the area.

About \$30,000 worth of work was carried out on the Hicks Street, Eaglehawk property, as part of the federal government's Nation Building program.

LAMHS received almost \$500,000 as part of Victoria's \$1.58 billion allocation.

The Hicks Street maintenance included internal and external painting, bathroom and kitchen refurbishment, new gutters and down pipes and replacement of internal and external doors.

Mr Wynne said the Eaglehawk property was one of 40 in the region to share the money.

"The Brumby Labor government is working together with the Commonwealth to create jobs and improve affordable housing in Bendigo and across the Loddon Mallee region through this economic stimulus," he said.

"This investment will have a direct impact on the quality of people's lives in Bendigo and from Kyneton to Mildura, whether they live in these homes or are employed to work on the improvements."

Mr Wynne said upgrading Loddon Mallee's social housing was part of the plan to create jobs and beat the economic downturn as well as to improve the quality of affordable housing stocks in the area.

Mr Wynne said maintenance work would include internal and external painting, plumbing as well as bathroom and kitchen upgrades.

"Investing in repairs and maintenance will prolong the life of the homes and improve life for the tenants," he said.

"It's good to see these infrastructure projects which show governments and the community working in partnership."

The maintenance upgrades aim to extend the life of housing by up to 15 years and enable about 5600 homes statewide that would have been lost to public and community housing to be retained.