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MEDIA RELEASE

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HOUSING SUPPLY ISSUES IDENTIFIED, POPULATION BIG PICTURE NEEDED

COAG's Housing Supply and Affordability Reform report released today correctly identifies the key issues impeding housing supply and affordability in Australia, the urban development industry says.

The Urban Development Institute of Australia has welcomed a national approach to addressing the barriers that are keeping the dream of home ownership beyond the reach of an increasing number of Australians.

UDIA National Vice President Michael Corcoran said the report contained some constructive debate and findings on matters of key concern. These included infrastructure funding for new development, and strata laws that prevented the redevelopment of aged and unsafe buildings.

"The report also recognises that the time frames surrounding rezonings and development applications need to be improved, and that the increasing use of code-assessable development could stimulate housing supply," he said.

"What we hope to see now is more work on translating these findings into meaningful reforms that deliver more housing on the ground. As a nation our housing shortfall is increasing every year so we don't have time to waste in creating agreement amongst the states about the solutions."

Mr Corcoran said while the report dealt with the micro issues of impediments to housing supply and affordability, it lacked a big-picture approach to how much housing Australia would need to meet the future demands of a growing population.

"What we lack as a nation is a properly robust long-term population forecast for Australia. We cannot deliver the housing and infrastructure needed for the future if we are flying blind on what our future demand will be."

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