

Media Release

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Urban Coalition Announces New Deal for Urban Australia

A new plan to improve infrastructure funding and strategic planning in Australian cities has been released today by the Urban Coalition, a diverse coalition of built environment groups including the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA).

The plan, titled a *New Deal for Urban Australia*, seeks to address the major problems facing urban areas around the country, such as congestion, inadequate planning, and the lack of funds available for investment in community infrastructure.

“Investment in critical urban infrastructure is failing to meet demand in most Australian cities, especially those affected by areas of high population growth” said UDIA’s National President Julie Katz. “Without new investment, we are putting national productivity and our quality of life at risk”.

The plan calls for the establishment of a new “Urban Infrastructure Fund”, which would raise money for infrastructure projects by issuing infrastructure investment products to both retail and institutional investors.

“The Urban Infrastructure Fund has the potential to raise billions of dollars for infrastructure funding at minimal cost to the government, whilst providing an attractive and low risk return for investors” said Ms Katz. “It’s a win-win for investors, the government, and Australian cities”.

The Urban Coalition also recommends the establishment of a new Federal Government Department for Cities and Urban Development, and strengthening the role of Infrastructure Australia, to ensure better strategic planning of cities and value for money.

“Infrastructure Australia already does an excellent job advising the government on priority infrastructure projects, and giving it a greater role and resourcing will help the government get the best value for money on its investments” Ms. Katz said. “The creation of a new department focused on urban issues will also help the Federal Government to better coordinate, develop and implement policies for Australia’s cities”.

For further information or comment, please contact:

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