

Media Release

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UDIA Welcomes National Infrastructure Fund Proposal

The Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) has welcomed Infrastructure Australia's recommendation to establish a National Infrastructure Fund.

The recommendation is part of sweeping infrastructure reforms outlined in Infrastructure Australia's recent report to COAG, which warns that without an overhaul of the way infrastructure is funded, Australia will face a "chronic undersupply of infrastructure", which will seriously impact on Australia's economic growth and productivity.

"Most people living in any large Australian city would have experienced firsthand how road and public transport infrastructure is failing to meet demand. If we don't rethink how we fund infrastructure, congestion and bottlenecks in our cities will only worsen", said UDIA National President Julie Katz.

The proposed National Infrastructure Fund would consolidate a variety of existing commonwealth funding sources into a single fund, providing a pool of \$100 billion to be allocated to critical infrastructure projects backed by a sound economic case.

A recent UDIA survey of public and private sector professionals in the development industry revealed that the provision and funding of public infrastructure was the most significant challenge to developing property; ahead of planning and regulations.

UDIA has consistently argued that a consolidated infrastructure fund and rigorous cost benefit analysis are necessary to meet Australia's infrastructure needs. Most recently, as a member of the Urban Coalition, UDIA recommended the establishment of an "Urban Infrastructure Fund" which would help leverage private funds for key infrastructure investment.

"Addressing Australia's infrastructure problems must be a key priority for the next Federal Government. Communities all across Australia are in desperate need of productivity enhancing infrastructure. Failure to take action risks condemning the next generation of Australians to reduced living standards", Ms Katz concluded.

For further information please contact:

Liam Foley, UDIA National, 02 6230 0255