

Media Release

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Coalition Plan to Improve Regulation is a Step Forward

The Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) has welcomed the Coalition's policy plan to reduce the regulatory burden facing Australian businesses. The plan proposes significant changes to the public service to incentivise red tape reduction, and make deregulation a government priority.

"The development industry faces considerable and unnecessary regulatory burden, hindering development activity and reducing housing supply" said UDIA National President Julie Katz. "This drags on employment in the industry, and contributes to Australia's housing affordability problems."

Among other promising measures, the Coalition is proposing an audit of environmental legislation, minimisation of cost recovery fees, greater community consultation and reform of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to drive deregulation.

"The Coalition's proposed plan outlines a comprehensive, practical and common sense approach to cutting back on unnecessary and onerous regulation." said Ms Katz.

Particularly promising is the Coalition's plan to simplify the environmental approvals process via their "One Stop Shop" approach. This would create a single approvals process via the State approvals system, and reduce duplication between State and Federal Systems.

"It's pleasing that the Coalition has recognised the need to reduce duplication and streamline the environmental approvals process for major projects. If implemented, this would considerably reduce costs and delays for many major developments, whilst still maintaining stringent environmental standards." said Ms Katz.

In addition to cutting unnecessary environmental regulation, UDIA is calling on all political parties to reduce red tape by addressing development bottlenecks in state and territory planning systems through a national benchmarking process.

"State and Territory planning systems are often inconsistent and function in ways that disadvantage both the community and the development industry. National benchmarking is necessary to identify best practice in Australia's planning systems" concluded Ms Katz.

For further information please contact:

Liam Foley, UDIA National, 02 6230 0255