

# Media Release

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## UDIA Welcomes Labor's Plan for Cities

The Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) has welcomed Labor's plan to boost infrastructure and jobs in the outer suburban areas of Australian cities. The plan proposes the appointment of a Minister for Cities, and the establishment of an Outer Suburban Growth Taskforce to develop a ten year jobs and growth strategy.

Outer suburban areas are the growth powerhouses of Australian cities, and have experienced considerable expansion in recent years. Unfortunately investment in jobs, community facilities, transport and other infrastructure has often failed to keep up with population growth in these areas, reducing the productivity of our cities and resulting in a reduced quality of life for residents.

"Investment in critical urban infrastructure is currently failing to meet demand in most Australian cities, especially those affected by areas of high population growth" said UDIA's National President Julie Katz. "This new plan should help to alleviate some of the pressures facing outer suburbs, as well as cities more broadly."

UDIA has long supported the appointment of a Federal Minister for Cities, which will give urban issues a higher profile within government, and will help influence policy across multiple agencies and departments.

The establishment of an industry-led Outer Suburban Growth Taskforce within the Major Cities Unit is also very welcome, and should allow better long term planning of outer suburban areas, as well as better cooperation between industry and all levels of government. The Major Cities Unit itself has played an important role in urban policy and planning since it was established, so an expanded role is a positive step forward.

The problems facing Australia's cities have received very little attention over the course of the election campaign, so the plan's announcement is an encouraging development. Hopefully the Coalition will also outline their plan for improving the livability and productivity of Australia's cities in the coming days.

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