

Media Release

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Abolition of National Housing Supply Council a Retrograde Step

The peak body representing the Urban Development industry has criticised the Federal Government's decision to abolish the National Housing Supply Council (NHSC).

UDIA National President Julie Katz said that the decision to abolish the NHSC was very disappointing.

"The NHSC provides essential data and research to government and industry on housing supply, demand and affordability. It provides information that is absolutely crucial to informing the Government's approach to addressing Australia's ongoing housing supply crisis," said Ms Katz.

"The NHSC's annual State of Supply report was the first publication to comprehensively outline and quantify the extent of Australia's housing supply problem, and remains one of the best bodies of research available for informing housing supply and affordability policy"

The announcement to abolish the NHSC comes less than two months after the Government disbanded the Major Cities Unit (MCU).

"The Government has previously recognised the damage to the community and the economy that the massive undersupply of affordable housing in Australia is doing, but the disbandment of the NHSC and MCU raises concerns about how the Government intends to address these problems."

"The fact that the NHSC operates at arm's length from the Government and is comprised of key industry and community stakeholders allows the organisation to provide independent, objective, and highly credible advice."

"Prior to the establishment of the NHSC there was a severe lack of data and research on housing supply and affordability issues in Australia, and the information it has provided since has proven extremely valuable to policy makers at all levels of government, as well as community and industry groups.

UDIA is calling on the Government to work closely with industry to ensure that the valuable research and data provided by the NHSC will not be lost, and will continue to be available to inform critical decisions on housing supply and affordability policy in the future.

For further information please contact:

Julie Katz, UDIA National President – 03 8866 0288, 0413 307 030

Liam Foley, UDIA National, 02 6230 0255