

# Media Release

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## Senate Must Resolve One Stop Shop Standoff

The peak body representing Australia's development industry is urging Senators to reconsider a deal reportedly done to block the necessary legislation for the Government's environmental One Stop Shop policy in the Senate.

Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) National President Cameron Shephard said that the One Stop Shop would reduce costs for businesses, facilitate new housing supply, and create jobs without compromising existing stringent environmental standards.

"Australia has a unique natural environment, and it's critical that we take the necessary measures to protect it. No one is suggesting that we should reduce existing levels of environmental protection," he said.

"What the One Stop Shop will do is uphold our current high levels of protection, while reducing the unnecessary duplication, delays and regulatory burden that hurts business and costs jobs."

"Australia continues to suffer from a critical undersupply of housing, and we've seen that reflected again recently in rapidly escalating housing costs. The red tape created by the current environmental assessment and approvals system adds to those costs, and is exacerbating our existing housing supply problems."

A report released by the Productivity Commission late last year endorsed the One Stop Shop approach, and found that the existing environmental assessment and approval system created unnecessary duplication and regulatory complexity, lengthy delays, and reduced certainty.

The most recent meeting of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), which was held late last week further supported the One Stop Shop approach, and reaffirmed "the importance of addressing duplication in environmental approvals, while maintaining high environmental standards."

"The One Stop Shop isn't removing a layer of environmental protection, as many suggest, it's removing a layer of costly red tape," said Mr Shephard.

"Implementing the One Stop Shop is in Australia's best interest, and the Senate needs to recognise that by passing the necessary legislative reforms," he concluded.

**For further information please contact:**

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