

Media Release

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GOVERNMENTS SHOULD TAKE INFRASTRUCTURE AUDIT AS A WARNING

The Australian Infrastructure Audit Report provides a stark warning for governments to start improving investment in urban infrastructure, or face the consequences, says the Urban Development Institute of Australia.

The report, released today, cautions that without action, growing congestion and infrastructure constraints will cause Australia's largest cities to grind to a halt.

UDIA National President Cameron Shephard said that insufficient infrastructure was already a major problem for urban Australia.

"Most people living in any large Australian city would have experienced first-hand how transport and other infrastructure is failing to meet demand," he said.

"The Australian Infrastructure Audit Report shows that without action, that's only going to get much worse."

"Congestion currently costs us \$13.7 billion per annum, and the Audit estimates that this could increase to \$53.3 billion by 2031."

"Such an outcome would be disastrous for the Australian economy, and the quality of life of tens of millions of Australians living in our major cities."

"The report also estimates that demand for public transport will double by 2031, showing that Government can't limit its investment to road infrastructure."

"New infrastructure proposals should be selected based on their economic merits, and subject to rigorous cost benefit analysis to ensure that tax payers get good value for money."

"This audit must be the first step in a concerted effort by government at all levels to plan for and fund the infrastructure Australia's cities need to grow and prosper," concluded Mr. Shephard.

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