

# Media Release

Tuesday, 7 July 2015

## Report Reiterates the Critical Importance of Australia's Cities

The Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) has welcomed the release of the 2014-15 State of Australian Cities Report, which outlines the critical role of cities in driving the Australian economy, and ensuring Australia's high quality of life.

UDIA National President Cameron Shephard said that creating economically productive and liveable cities would be essential for ensuring Australia's future prosperity.

"Cities are the engine rooms of the Australian economy. They are the drivers of national productivity, are home to most of Australia's jobs, and generate the majority of Australia's economic output," he said.

"Given the growing economic challenges facing Australia, it will be essential for governments to do what they can to ensure that Australia's cities are attractive and competitive places to live, work, and do business."

The report notes that in addition to a strong economy, cities are also essential to the standard of living and quality of life of most Australians, with over 75% of the country's population residing in our 20 largest cities.

"Unfortunately, as many Australians would have experienced first-hand, investment in key city infrastructure has struggled to keep up with growth in recent years, creating congestion and resulting in inadequate access to services, housing, and other opportunities. Together with burdensome red tape and inefficient and dysfunctional planning systems, the productivity and quality of life in our cities is being put at risk."

"The 2014-15 State of Australian Cities report makes a valuable contribution by bringing cities back into the policy spotlight, and highlighting to governments where our cities can be improved to secure Australia's economic prosperity, and the quality of life for most Australians," concluded Mr. Shephard.

**For further information or comment, please contact:**

**Cameron Shephard, UDIA National President – 0418 934 399**

**Liam Foley, UDIA National – 02 6230 0255 or 0431 338 458**