

Media Release

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URBAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA WELCOMES APPOINTMENT OF MINISTER FOR CITIES

The peak body representing Australia's development industry has welcomed the appointment of Prime Minister Turnbull's first Ministry, and is looking forward to a renewed focus on policy issues such as tax reform, and driving economic growth and productivity in Australia's cities.

UDIA National President Cameron Shephard said that the appointment of a Minister for Cities was a particularly welcome change, given the critical importance of cities to the Australian economy and quality of life.

"Cities are the engine rooms of the Australian economy, and are home to the vast majority of Australians. They are the drivers of national productivity, employment, and generate the majority of Australia's economic output."

"UDIA has long advocated for a specific cities portfolio, so it's great to see cities given the prominence they deserve within the Government's policy agenda, and we look forward to working with Minister Jamie Briggs in this area."

UDIA has also welcomed the appointment of Scott Morrison and Kelly O'Dwyer as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

"Tax reform remains a critical issue for the Australian economy and business community, and this is particularly the case in the urban development and property industries, where inefficient and burdensome taxes are holding back jobs and economic growth".

"I'm optimistic that Ministers Scott Morrison and Kelly O'Dwyer will bring a renewed drive to the Government's Tax White Paper Process, laying the groundwork for changes such as the removal of inefficient stamp duties on new housing, and a broader based GST."

"On behalf of Australia's development industry, I'd like to welcome the Government's new Ministry and congratulate the new Ministers on their appointment, and we look forward to working with them."

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