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MEDIA RELEASE

Development industry takes climate change lead

The development industry has today (31 March 2009) formally launched a policy on climate change to direct its future activities.

The Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) National Climate Change Policy Statement commits to facilitating more sustainable developments through greater industry education, accreditation and policy development.

The launch occurred at the annual gathering of the country's development sector – the UDIA National Congress – taking place in Brisbane this week.

UDIA National President Stephen Holmes said it was an important day for the development industry to step up and play its role in adapting to changing government policy and sensible environmental outcomes.

Mr Holmes said it was important to find the balance between economic feasibility, market pressures and the need to provide change leadership. He urged government to be mindful of legislative timelines and impacts on housing affordability.

"The development industry needs continuous incremental market evolution rather than major shocks which may impact on supply and affordability of land and housing products," he said.

"Whilst industry can provide leadership in the area of more sustainable development, it is ultimately workable government policy which will achieve optimal outcomes.

"Early consultation with industry and assurance that sustainability policy is evenly balanced between economic, social and ecological factors, will be critical in the long run."

The policy calls on government to deliver tax credits to industry leaders implementing change, consider making consumer rebates such as rain water tanks available to industry, and working cooperatively with industry in implementing policy change.

Ends.

Media:

The launch of the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) National Climate Change Policy Statement will take place on Tuesday at 3.30pm at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. Interested media should contact Susan McCosker on 0422 567 667.