



# Media Release

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## DEVELOPMENT INDUSTRY WELCOMES PM'S CITIES ANNOUNCEMENT

The Prime Minister's announcement that the Commonwealth would take a leadership role in the future planning of Australia's cities has been strongly endorsed by the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA). UDIA National President Stephen Holmes said that, "The Rudd Government has committed to re-engaging with the engine room of the economy, our major capital cities."

"This is a good outcome for our cities and a great outcome for the nation. Productive, efficient, and sustainable cities means a strong economy. Australia is the most urbanized country in the world and the Government's initiative underlines the national importance of creating efficient and productive cities."

UDIA has consistently advocated for greater Commonwealth Government leadership on urban policy and broader planning reform through COAG. Mr Holmes said that, "urban planning in Australia desperately needs leadership, commitment, and credibility. The Rudd Government has taken up the challenge and has the strong support of the urban development sector."

At the core of the Prime Minister's announcement is the commitment to establishing national criteria for strategic planning across major cities – linking the delivery strategic planning objectives with infrastructure funding. Stephen Holmes said that, "introducing greater accountability for Governments to deliver on strategic planning objectives will provide greater certainty for private sector investment and more efficient urban outcomes."

"The Government's commitment to re-engage in urban policy is timely, given the increasing population pressures and the increasing struggle to meet Australia's housing demands. An immediate and consistent focus of the Rudd Government must be to increase housing supply to meet demand. "

"Housing - on both infill and fringe land, planning, and the provision of critical infrastructure are intrinsically linked, and housing Australia's growing population will be a key challenge in the coming decades. Housing affordability, intergenerational equity and the creation of quality and sustainable lifestyles are essential outcomes that must be delivered by this initiative."

"The Prime Minister's announcement is a major initiative that can only be achieved in partnership with of the State and Territories. It is an initiative that Australia cannot afford to fail", Mr Holmes concluded.

For Comment:

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