

# Media Release



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## **UDIA NSW welcomes financial and resource support for Councils -calls for efficient and effective use of funds**

The Urban Development Institute of Australia NSW (UDIA NSW) has today welcomed the Minister of Planning's announcement that some NSW Councils are to receive an additional \$1.4 million from the Planning Reform Fund and resource support from the NSW Government to complete their Local Environment Plans (LEPs). UDIA NSW is now calling for this significant sum of money to be used efficiently and effectively by the Councils to deliver genuine reform to local planning.

"This money has been collected in DA fees so the industry is very keen to see that it is well spent", said Mr Stephen Albin, UDIA NSW Chief Executive. "Developers with cutting edge, innovative projects are continually frustrated by LEPs that were written twenty years ago. It is important that the LEPs are up to date and reflect what the community and the Councils want for the area", he said.

Mr Albin said that "there are 52 Councils in Sydney, all of which have their own plans, and their own particular definitions and clauses. Every council in NSW believes they are unique and their LEPs should reflect that. What the template does is introduces some fundamental similarities in planning for different areas – it will make the system a lot easier for everyone to use".

UDIA NSW acknowledges that the Government has tried to do the right thing by bringing in the LEP template, however notes that the progress with getting it in place has been very disappointing. Mr Albin said, "there really hasn't been the focus within Government to putting the new measures in place. The take up of the template has been very, very slow. It certainly hasn't helped developers, or new homebuyers."

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