

Media Release



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Reinstated South West Rail Link a Victory for Common Sense

The Urban Development Institute of Australia NSW (UDIA NSW) has today strongly welcomed the NSW Government's recommitment to delivering the South West rail link. UDIA NSW Chief Executive Stephen Albin said, "this is a win for the current and future residents of the South West. It's a win for common sense."

"The South West of Sydney for too long suffered from public transport disadvantage. This decision rights the wrong made by the Government in its mini-budget and is a victory for principled, rational, merit based decision making."

"We hope this decision will restore some confidence in the Government's public transport decision making – where major investments are determined and prioritised on a needs-basis and are clearly linked to strategic planning for current and future land use".

Stephen Albin said that, "public transport is critical for the creation of sustainable and affordable communities. With the first major housing release for the South West Growth Centre now well underway and the second project to be launched very shortly, this announcement while overdue, has come at a good time for future residents. It will provide confidence for new home buyers in these release areas that they can enjoy the access to employment and lifestyle opportunities that other areas of Sydney already have."

Stephen Albin cautioned that, "while there is now a light at the end of the tunnel for South West Sydney, the future of Sydney's North West remains under a cloud of public transport uncertainty. The revival of the South West rail link is a great outcome - we hope that the Government also reverses its decision on the North West rail link. The North West remains chronically under-serviced and the situation will only deteriorate as more people move the area – consistent with the Government's own Metro Strategy."

"UDIA NSW maintains that public transport investment decisions must support planned housing and employment outcomes. We hope that the current and future residents of North West Sydney too benefit from a more strategic and considered approach to public transport investment."

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