

Media Release



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Metropolitan Development Authority Critical to Sydney's Future: Developers

The Urban Development Institute of Australia NSW (UDIA NSW) has today welcomed the NSW Government's announcement that it will establish a Metropolitan Development Authority to 'drive future transit-oriented development and urban renewal'. UDIA NSW Chief Executive Stephen Albin said that, "the Government has suffered from a lack of focus when it comes to housing supply in Sydney. The new Authority, if managed effectively, should assist in bridging the gap between the Governments policies and new housing."

UDIA NSW has offered in principle support for the Metropolitan Development Authority provided it is fully funded and protected by legislation. Stephen Albin said, "we will need a lot more detail on how the Authority will operate and the kind of powers it will have but the initial indications are positive. What we don't want is for the Authority to be abandoned in a cost-cutting drive down the track, like the Growth Centres Commission. If the Government is committed to the Metropolitan Development Authority, let's see it legislated and funded for the life of the Metro Strategy."

UDIA NSW has consistently supported the Government's Metro Strategy but highlighted the lack of coordination and focus within Government to delivering the outcomes. Stephen Albin said that, "the Government has the right idea with the 2005 Metro Strategy but lacked the coordination to deliver the housing and employment targets. The creation of the Metropolitan Development Authority appears focussed on addressing the implementation issues and providing more direct accountability for delivering new housing and employment in Sydney."

Stephen Albin said that, "Sydney is facing some fundamental challenges in the near future with regard to population growth, housing, and transport. Challenges like strata reform will require strong leadership from both sides of parliament and a need to look beyond the short term election cycle."

Stephen Albin cautioned that, "while railway lines and bus routes are important, the only way to improve Sydney's transport is to link land use and transport planning. In this regard, the new Metropolitan Development Authority is critical."

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