

30 October 2009

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## NSW Premier Encouraged to Recast Sydney's Strategic Planning

The leading industry body for the urban development sector, the Urban Development Institute of Australia NSW (UDIA NSW) has today encouraged the NSW Government to recast Sydney's Metropolitan Planning and infrastructure frameworks to take advantage of the Commonwealth Government's commitment to engage in urban policy.

Speaking at the UDIA NSW State Conference in Sydney today, NSW Premier, The Hon. Nathan Rees MP said in response to the Rudd Government announcement this week that the population challenge facing our major cities could not met by the state alone and required Federal funding. The Premier indicated that up until now, the States had all the financial responsibility for accommodating growth.

"We've shouldered the burden alone."

"By and large the cities have been denied federal funding to accommodate growth."

The Premier indicated that NSW was ready and willing to engage with the Rudd Government, "On the great urban infrastructure challenge, NSW is ready to engage with the Commonwealth – we are committed to getting this right."

UDIA NSW Chief Executive Stephen Albin said, "this week we have seen a commitment by the Commonwealth Government to show more leadership on planning and infrastructure investment in our major cities. We agree with the Premier that the challenge is too big for the states alone."

Stephen Albin stressed that now is the time for NSW to recast its strategic planning frameworks to position itself to constructively engage with the Commonwealth. "What we need now is focus on reviewing and recasting the Sydney Metro Strategy. The Rudd Government has made it clear that infrastructure funding will be tied directly to strategic planning and housing delivery – it is critical that NSW is adequately prepared to leverage this investment."

The NSW Premier today indicated that the NSW Government was well placed because of recent reforms to benefit directly from increased Commonwealth engagement in urban policy. The Premier said that "I'm happy to put our planning regime and our incentives up against any other state."

"I'm convinced that the planning system is more than adequate to the task."

"As we engage with the Commonwealth, we do so knowing that we have a planning system that is fundamentally reformed."

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