

Media Release



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50% refunds for delayed development assessments

The Urban Development Institute of Australia NSW (UDIA NSW) has today called for strong incentives to encourage the streamlined assessment of development applications by consent authorities, particularly projects assessed by local councils and Joint Regional Planning Panels (JRPPs). UDIA NSW calls for a 50% reduction in the development application fees for all projects if prescribed timeframes are not met by a particular consent authority.

“The streamlined delivery of key regionally significant projects in this economic climate is vital”, said UDIA NSW President, Ms Judy McKittrick.

“It is necessary to provide local councils and JRPPs with an effective incentive to deliver projects, 50% of a proponents application fees should be refunded if a project is not assessed in a timely manner.”

“There are currently too many delays in the approval process and NSW can not afford any more. Our proposal would offer a financial incentive for consent authorities to ensure the streamlined assessment of development applications whilst securing the broader success of the Government’s planning reform agenda.”

UDIA NSW recommends that once the assessment application exceeds the deemed refusal period, the consent authority, including local councils, must refund 50% of the cost of the fees. This would provide a performance incentive for consent authorities unwilling or unable to meet prescribed timeframes.

UDIA NSW Chief Executive, Mr Stephen Albin said, “if the consent authority cannot perform to a reasonable expectation then a 50% refund would provide an effective incentive to lift their game.”

“An incentive such as this would apply a real world performance measure for local government.”

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