

# Media Release



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## UDIA Announces New National President

Grant Dennis has been elected as National President of the Urban Development Institute of Australia, the nation's premier industry association for the urban development sector.

For the last two decades, Grant has been employed by the Dennis Family Corporation, a family-owned builder and developer employing over 200 people and building more than 1,000 homes annually in Queensland, Victoria, New South Wales, and China. He is Chairman of the Dennis Family Corporation's operations in China and Executive Director of the company's Australian operations.

Grant Dennis and his father Bert have a long association with the UDIA. Bert is a past National President and was awarded an OAM earlier this year for his services to the industry and to a number of charities. Grant is the Immediate Past President of UDIA Queensland and has served on the UDIA's National Executive for several years. He obtained a degree in business management from Georgia Southern University in 1984, attending the university as one of the first Australians to win a baseball scholarship to the United States.

Grant is excited about the challenges associated with taking the UDIA helm at this time.

"Across Australia, the UDIA has never been in greater shape. We have record membership in each of our five state divisions, and our record of engaging with and influencing urban policy at local and state levels is rapidly growing. At a time when several states are implementing major planning policies for their cities and regions, the UDIA is effectively representing the views of its developer members and encouraging the creation of sustainable development initiatives.

"At a national level, however, there is still much to do. Since the Howard Government is yet to establish any significant interest in urban policy, I will be seeking to promote several of the core recommendation of the Sustainable Cities report. In particular, The UDIA strongly affirms the view that the Federal Government provide a 'holistic national vision and establish a framework approach to integrate the components of a sustainable city'.

"There is also much to be done on a number of other issues. Our inefficient state-based planning systems can no longer be supported in their current form. The regulatory context for urban planning must be rationalised and harmonised across the nation. We need to get serious about population policy, with higher levels of immigration essential if we are to maintain an appropriate age mix as our population ages. Home affordability has been diminishing across the nation for some time. A national approach to the burden of taxes and charges on new home buyers is sorely needed, particularly given the reality that the Feds take so much in GST without any significant return in urban services and infrastructure.

"I look forward to working with the UDIA National Council, our National Executive Director Dr David Poole, and our soon-to-be-appointed National Policy Director to bring these and other issues to the attention of the Federal Government".

### Media Comment

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### Media Enquiries

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### About the UDIA

*The Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) is Australia's peak representative body for all segments of the urban development industry. Our mission is to promote innovation and best practice for sustainable environments and communities. The UDIA was established in New South Wales in 1963 and operates as a non-profit institute for the benefits of its member's*

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