

Media Release



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Creating a better system UDIA NSW Policy Agenda 2009

The President of the Urban Development Institute of Australia NSW (UDIA NSW), Ms Judy McKittrick launched the 2009 Policy Agenda in Sydney today at an industry briefing with The Hon. Tanya Plibersek, Minister for Housing.

The agenda outlines UDIA NSW's key policy priorities, and articulates the Institute's position on a number of core issues that impact the development industry.

Ms McKittrick said that "the Policy Agenda contains 10 key advocacy priorities that will assist in the revitalisation of the urban development sector and support much needed growth in the NSW economy.

"As an essential major contributor to the NSW economy, there has never been a more important time to ensure the recovery of the NSW residential property market.

"Consistently underperforming that of the other major states, housing production in NSW has fallen dramatically in the last five years to consecutive levels of 75 per cent of the historical average. The record low production of new housing continues despite strong population growth and low rental vacancy rates demonstrates that housing in NSW, and Sydney in particular, remains unaffordable for the majority of new purchasers", said Ms McKittrick.

UDIA NSW has welcomed recent Government measures such as the review of Development Levies, the doubling of the First Homeowners Grant, and the economic stimulus package, however advocates that there is still much more to be done.

Mr Nick Duncan, UDIA NSW Chief Executive Officer said that the market recovery in NSW will require a coordinated approach to reforming the economic and regulatory framework for renewed urban investment in this state.

"UDIA NSW contends that the road to recovery of the urban development sector will need a sustained, coordinated and consistent strategic approach by Government to attracting investment. This includes providing a competitive cost structure for investment, a commitment to delivering key transport infrastructure to support growth, and a positive approach within all sectors of Government to facilitating the delivery of new housing", said Mr Duncan.

The Policy Agenda emphasises the importance of the Commonwealth Government's engagement in urban policy issues with a focus on housing affordability and infrastructure. The Agenda also calls for the further simplification of the NSW planning system, and the development and maintenance of a credible strategic policy framework to secure economic development.

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The Policy Agenda 2009 was compiled by the UDIA NSW Council in consultation with its members and is a comprehensive representation of the views of the urban development industry.

To download a copy of the Policy Agenda, go to www.udia-nsw.com.au and click on the 'Advocacy' button.

UDIA NSW represents the leading participants in the urban development industry with over 550 member companies. A quarter of these members are based in regional NSW.

UDIA NSW's advocacy is focussed on three key themes for the development industry:

- affordability;
- investment certainty; and
- sustainability.

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