

Media Release



11 December 2008

NSW Housing Code – A Positive Step for Home Buyers

The Urban Development Institute of Australia NSW (UDIA NSW) has commended the NSW Government on its launch of the first NSW Housing Code. UDIA NSW Chief Executive Officer Nick Duncan said that, “the Housing Codes will play a role in delivering reform to the NSW Planning System and provide greater investment certainty for new homebuyers.”

“NSW is currently producing fewer homes than we were fifty years ago, but it still takes 75 days on average to get an approval through Council. The Housing Codes will remove the unnecessary complexity of the planning system and bring NSW up to speed with the rest of the country. There was never a need for such a complex system to approve a house. It is now critical that the Government expedite the completion of the next round of complying codes which will cover housing on land less than 450 square metres in size.”

Nick Duncan said that, “while finalising the first Housing Code is a key milestone in the planning reforms and a genuine achievement for the new Planning Minister, the real winners are new homebuyers. There are some great opportunities at the moment for new homebuyers. The introduction of the Housing Code will mean that new homebuyers can take advantage of low interest rates and the First Home Owners Grant without waiting two and a half months to have their house approved by Council.”

Nick Duncan added that, “long delays from approval times are impacting on housing affordability. The Housing Codes will remove unnecessary and expensive risks from the planning system for families and investors and will allow Councils to focus their scarce resources on more complex applications.”

“In producing the Housing Codes the Government have sought to address one of the impacts of the planning system on housing affordability. Unfortunately, the greatest impediment to the development of new housing in NSW remains the prohibitive cost of the highest regime of levies and charges in Australia. The Government must now finalise its review of development levies and provide a sustainable and equitable solution to the NSW housing crisis.”

UDIA NSW is a proud advocate of the urban development industry and its customers, the people of NSW. We represent over 500 organisations and our members include developers, regulators, and affiliated professionals. Our advocacy efforts are directed towards three major issues:

- housing affordability;
- investment certainty; and
- sustainability.

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