

Media Release



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Appointment of NSW Planning Assessment Commission

“Today’s appointment of the NSW Planning Assessment Commission is expected to be a significant milestone on the path to a more transparent and certain decision making framework for state-significant development in this state, said Mr Scott Woodcock, Chief Executive Officer of the Urban Development Institute of Australia NSW (UDIA NSW). “UDIA NSW supports the appointment of Ms Gabrielle Kibble as chair of the Commission. Efficient and effective decision making by the Commission will play a vital role in the recovery of the NSW economy.”

UDIA NSW President Mr Ross Blancato said, “the composition of the Commission represents a variety of planning and related disciplines but UDIA NSW is disappointed that there is no representation from those that invest and deliver at the production end of the process. UDIA NSW believes that balancing assessment expertise with commercial experience in decision making will show investors that the NSW Government is determined to stimulate the economy.”

Mr Woodcock said, “now that the framework for expert and transparent decision making has been provided for state significant decisions, it must be reasoned that the same principles be extended to all complex applications. The appointment of the Commission reinforces the view held by UDIA NSW that planning reform is about resourcing the planning system with the necessary expertise to provide consistent and precise decision making. This should be the right of all users of the planning system.”

“South Australia is similarly undertaking levels of planning reform. UDIA NSW understands that the Development Assessment Panels may move from majority independent representation to wholly independent representation providing councillors with the opportunity to focus exclusively on strategic planning.”

“The Planning Assessment Commission and panels go beyond the political election cycle and offer a degree of independence and consistency. UDIA NSW believes that the use of independent panels at a local level ensures that expert and consistent decision making is not the exclusive domain of major developers but a fundamental platform for certainty, transparency and accountability available to all.”

For Media

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