

Media Release



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Triumph of Pragmatism over Procrastination

“The passage of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment Bill 2008* through the upper house today was a triumph of pragmatism over procrastination. It was another defeat to the do nothing option,” said Mr Scott Woodcock, Chief Executive Officer of the Urban Development Institute of Australia NSW (UDIA NSW). “The people have asked for improved housing affordability not upper house inquiries. Parliament has responded to that message.”

“UDIA NSW welcomed the formation of the Implementation Advisory Committee,” Mr. Woodcock said. “The legislation provides the tent poles to a solution so that people may build homes. The Committee will provide the practical polish and paint.”

“UDIA NSW raised this issue with the Government in December 2006. For too long Councillors have been treating the planning system like their own private art gallery. ‘I don’t know anything about planning but I know what I like.’ The industry argued that it was time to put independence and objectivity back into NSW. That time is here.”

Mr. Woodcock said that “for every week that Bill sat before Parliament another 1,000 people arrived in NSW. The speed at which the Minister for Planning acted in delivering genuine reform is testament to his ability to offer real solutions to the housing affordability crisis in this state.”

Mr Woodcock added that, “what we need now is comprehensive tax reform and alternative infrastructure financing methods. The NSW Government has made available land and reformed the planning system. A reduction in the total tax burden may give new homebuyers a fighting chance at building their house.”

For Media

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