

# Media Release



3 April 2008

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## Home Time

The Urban Development Institute of Australia NSW (UDIA NSW) today welcomed the tabling of the NSW Government's planning reform package in Parliament. Mr Scott Woodcock, UDIA NSW Chief Executive Officer said, "significant planning reform is way overdue. Councils have been taking on average 76 days and far too long to determine development applications. It's about time we got some certainty and transparency in NSW. This package is expected to decrease risk and costs from delays for homebuyers. It's time for some needed reform. It's home time."

Mr. Woodcock said "housing production in this state has fallen dramatically in the last five years. In the twelve months to July 2007, the number of new dwelling commencements in NSW fell to a near fifty year low of 29,300. Indecision and uncertainty have plagued the planning process sending families and investors interstate."

Mr. Blancato, President of UDIA NSW said that "Access Economics estimates that the cost benefit of the reforms to the state cost over next 5 years will be \$580 million. Mr. Blancato encouraged all members of Parliament to support this important bill. Parliament needs to speak with united voice for NSW homebuyers. This is Parliament's chance to start NSW on the road to affordability. "

### For Media

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