



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **HUNTLEE COURT DECISION A WIN FOR COMMON SENSE**

Today's Court of Appeal judgment which paves the way for the Huntlee New Town development in the Hunter to proceed is a win for housing production and affordability in this state, says the development industry.

The Urban Development Institute of Australia NSW says that the Court of Appeal decision is a victory for common sense for the Hunter region and NSW as a whole.

The judgement overturns a Land and Environment Court decision earlier this year to quash the approvals for Huntlee, a proposed 7,500-home development in the Hunter.

UDIA NSW Chief Executive Stephen Albin said the industry had been awaiting today's judgment which will have major ramifications.

"The main point is that it will give developers and government the confidence to negotiate Voluntary Planning Agreements with flexibility in security arrangements for financial contributions, rather than forcing developers to make up-front bank guarantees that threaten the viability of projects," said Mr Albin.

"The Huntlee case has caused shockwaves in the industry and we as an industry welcome today's court decision as a win for common sense."

"We have been monitoring the situation closely because it has massive ramifications for a range of developers who have also entered Voluntary Planning Agreements and will now have the confidence to proceed with their projects. It will also give those in the industry the confidence to enter Voluntary Planning Agreements in the future."

Mr Albin said it was also a major win for the Hunter region.

"There are major issues in the Hunter region with regards to land supply and this is really going to create more confidence in investment in the Hunter, and make housing more affordable."

For an interview with UDIA NSW CEO Stephen Albin, please call UDIA NSW Media and Communications Manager Kara Lawrence on (02) 9262 1214 or 0403 871 123.