



UDIA Victoria Media Release

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Uncertainty on apartment design standards undermines housing delivery

The Victorian division of the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA Victoria) has called out today's announcement by the Andrews Labor Government that it will review apartment guidelines if re-elected, as playing politics with planning.

"The Apartment Design Guidelines for Victoria have only been in operation for 18 months, and industry has not been consulted on the implications of these proposed changes," Danni Addison, Victorian chief executive responded.

"Victoria's housing industry is being slammed from all sides with regulatory barriers - rigid design standard and construction restrictions will only hamper the industry's ability to deliver much needed housing in areas where it is most appropriate," said Danni Addison, Victorian chief executive of the UDIA.

"It is critically important that good design outcomes remain front and center when delivering apartments and creating places people want to live. However, a consumer-led approach is the way to achieve this."

"Home buyers should have the opportunity to vote for what they want with their buying power. If government regulation removes the power of consumers to choose where and how they want to live, this will be a sorry tale for affordability and livability," she said.

The development industry is a core part of Victoria's economy, expected to provide 185,000 jobs and more than \$22 billion of value this financial year. Today's announcement is yet another blow to investment certainty at a time when the pipeline of new investment in the apartment market and new projects is already weakening.

"The Andrews Government must rethink its attitude toward the development industry and recognise the vitally important benefits the housing sector delivers to the overall state economy, and its budget position. The housing industry is focused on delivering the 137 new homes we need in Victoria every day, every year to 2051 to meet the demands of population growth."

"The UDIA Victoria hopes for a genuine consultation process despite the clear predetermined outcomes indicated today by the Planning Minister."

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ABOUT: URBAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

The Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) is a nationally recognised body that advocates for Australia's urban development industry. In Victoria, UDIA informs and engages government and industry members, **enabling better policy and better business decisions**. With a primary focus on the residential property sector, UDIA protects and promotes over 320 member companies across Victoria including developers and a range of other professionals involved in producing, financing and marketing residential property.

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