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Final Better Apartment Standards a notable improvement from draft version

The Urban Development Institute of Australia (Victoria) has welcomed changes in the final Better Apartments Design Standards, which are a “notable improvement from the draft standards proposed earlier this year,” said Danni Addison, Victorian chief executive of the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA).

“We are pleased to see that UDIA’s message to Government was well-received and implemented to a certain degree, resulting in apartment standards that have come closer to achieving a healthy balance between amenity and affordability.

“We are especially supportive of the decision to enable alternative design solutions, which puts a clearer focus on good design outcomes rather than prescriptive structural outcomes that stifle innovation, limit housing diversity and place upward pressure on prices,” said Ms Addison.

While being generally supportive of the standards, UDIA maintains a level of concern around how they will be implemented.

“We caution the Government against taking a rigid approach to implementation, which would have a negative impact on market activity and apartment affordability,” said Ms Addison.

The UDIA will work closely with the Government to deliver the right supporting tools to enable alternative design outcomes for better apartments that promote flexibility, liveability and affordability in Victoria.

“We will talk to Government to about implementation of the standards, with emphasis on the way they will impact on development feasibilities, future investment, and the employment pipeline across the Victoria’s residential development industry,” said Ms Addison.

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MEDIA RELEASE

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 350 member companies across Victoria including developers and a range of other professionals involved in producing, financing and marketing residential property.

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