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UDIA releases blueprint for a better Victoria

The Victorian division of the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA Victoria) has today launched its 2018-19 Advocacy Agenda, which will drive UDIA Victoria’s advocacy in the lead up to the 2018 Victorian State Election.

“The Advocacy Agenda covers many of the hot-button topics affecting the lives of every Victorian – housing affordability, population growth, and the economy,” said Danni Addison, CEO of UDIA Victoria.

“The reform we’re calling for is more than the development industry’s wish list; it’s a blueprint that will help us deliver the homes, jobs, infrastructure, services and amenities required for current and future Victorians,” said Ms Addison.

Couching the big issues in three pillars – Our Homes, Our Communities and Our Economic Future – the UDIA Advocacy Agenda puts forward a raft of recommendations for government, regulators and key industries.

Our Homes

“Whether you are a renter, buyer or owner, our homes are a main contributor to the cost of living pressures affecting an increasing number of households across the state.

“Increasing the supply of new housing to meet current and future demand is the necessary solution to our affordability crisis, but to do that we must embrace new opportunities for innovation and modernisation, and address the key factors hindering the delivery and production of new homes,” said Ms Addison.

UDIA Victoria Advocacy Agenda

- Ensure policy and planning decisions **prioritise housing affordability** by facilitating, rather than hindering development.
- **Modernise the planning system** so it can drive the efficient and cost-effective delivery of new housing.
- Encourage **more homes and more housing options** to accommodate the growing population and unlock opportunities for renters and first home buyers.

Our Communities

“Our communities are growing faster than expected, placing pressure on our existing infrastructure and compromising Victoria’s liveability. This is not the result of growth in itself but rather a symptom of poor planning and lagging infrastructure provision.

“Fortunately, the Victorian economy is in a strong position supported by our increasing population and a robust development sector. We can get back on track for our communities through strategic planning and the proactive, cost-effective delivery of infrastructure,” she said.



UDIA Victoria Advocacy Agenda

- **Speed up infrastructure delivery** to ensure infrastructure stops lagging population settlement.
- **Keep a lid on development costs** by delivering the most cost-effective value to our communities and the state, particularly in the context of rising house prices.
- Invest in capacity-building infrastructure to create broader connectivity and **increase Victoria's livability**.

Our Economic Future

“Our economic future relies on the ability of local, national and international businesses to confidently commit to projects.

“With approximately 47 per cent of Victoria’s tax income derived from property, our industry is without a doubt the most fundamental plank of our economic future. We must maintain healthy business conditions that enable industry to fund and build the projects that will continue to underpin Victoria’s liveability, economic growth and jobs pipeline,” said Ms Addison.

UDIA Victoria Advocacy Agenda

- **Protect Victoria as an investment destination**, enabling the property sector to commit to the projects that will improve the state.
- Accurately forecast and **future-proof population growth**, recognising that it goes hand-in-hand with economic growth and jobs.
- **Activate the tax system** to recognise the role of property investors in creating new housing supply and providing rental stock at a time when Victorians need it most.

“We’re hopeful that with industry and government collaboration, we can drive meaningful change that will advance the homes, communities, and economic future of all Victorians,” said Ms Addison.

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UDIA (Victoria) Media Release



ABOUT

Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA)

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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