

UDIA Victoria Media Release

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Industry calls on Parliament to exercise the common sense needed to guarantee Victoria's economic and housing future

The use of parliamentary processes to overturn planning decisions for political reasons will have significant consequences for Victoria's economic and housing future, says the Victorian division of the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA Victoria).

"The integrity of Victoria's planning system is critical to growing the state's economy, creating employment opportunities, and to attracting investment in the housing and infrastructure we need," said CEO of UDIA Victoria Danni Addison.

"We have a serious problem when members of State Parliament deliberately use parliamentary processes and voting to thwart planning decisions which have already been assessed and approved through the planning process.

"Community consultation is a fundamental principle of Victoria's planning system and one that is adequately facilitated through the third-party notification process, the panel and judicial processes and the approvals process."

In late 2017 the Victorian Parliament voted to overturn approval for two Planning Scheme Amendments – the redevelopment of Ormond Railway Station and the development of Markham Estate. This concerning trend looks set to continue with parliamentary moves in motion to revoke the planning approval for the Federation Square Apple store and that for the West Gate Tunnel project.

Ms Addison said today that, "this Parliamentary action has introduced unprecedented risk and uncertainty into the planning system, and is now a very real threat to Victoria's housing and economic future. Our community deserves better from our elected officials."

"Melbourne is Australia's fastest growing city and one of our nation's most important economic hubs. Our liveability and competitiveness relies on an efficient transport system which can connect fast-growing communities with jobs, link regional centres and producers with the central city and the port, and continue to support Victoria's economy.

"Victoria's economic growth and jobs pipeline relies on the ability of business to confidently commit to projects without the ongoing threat of political interference. This applies to city shaping infrastructure and new housing projects alike," she said.

"Parliament is not a planning authority and should only be used to overturn planning decisions in the most exceptional of circumstances, for example where there's been a clear breach of natural justice.

"The volatility caused by recent revocations of Planning Scheme Amendments have the potential to compromise Victoria's attractiveness as an investment destination, and Melbourne's position as a global city," said Ms Addison

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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, the Institute 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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