

UDIA Victoria Media Release

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Ormond Station redevelopment decision undermines integrity of our planning system

The Victorian Division of the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA Victoria) has expressed concern over a recent precedent set by Parliament when the Legislative Council revoked the planning amendment approving the residential redevelopment over Ormond Railway Station.

“The decision sets a very dangerous precedent, which severely undermines the integrity of our planning system,” said UDIA Victoria President Damien Tangey.

A Planning Advisory Committee appointed by the Minister for Planning heard evidence and submissions from all stakeholders including the community and council over a number of days, and came to an informed decision for the Minister. That process and advice should be respected.

“Our planning system allows strong community participation with a thorough due process. In a robust planning system all stakeholders need to accept the umpires balanced verdict. Parliament should not be used to overturn a decision for political reasons. Housing Victoria’s population is an important shared responsibility,” said Mr Tangey.

“Parliament should not become a planning authority. Section 38 of the Planning and Environment Act should only be used by Parliament in the most exceptional of circumstances where there has been, for example, a clear breach of probity, or of natural justice. It should not be used for political reasons, or in cases where the merits of a proposal have been assessed, appropriately modified and then recommended by a Ministerial Planning Advisory Committee,” he said.

“This precedent by Parliament increases the uncertainty and risk associated with our planning system and will add to the pressure on housing affordability and choice, particularly in inner and middle suburbs.

“Additionally, the provision of finance to the property industry is fundamentally dependent on a robust and conclusive planning process. The use of Parliament to overturn the recommendations of a planning committee has the potential to create significant uncertainty if it becomes a feature of the future landscape,” said Mr Tangey.

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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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