



## UDIA Victoria Media Release

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### *Urban development industry in Melbourne to tackle Australia's housing issues*

On Tuesday March 20, Melbourne welcomed global, domestic and local experts as they gathered to kick off the 2018 UDIA National Congress, hosted by the Victorian division of the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA Victoria). Over three jam-packed days, the urban development industry heard from the sector's brightest minds, and workshopped bold solutions to modern-day problems affecting Australia's housing market.

**Former Federal Treasurer, Peter Costello AC** officially opened the UDIA Congress with a revealing look at the real status of the Australian economy and what the future holds in the global marketplace. Mr Costello warned that interest rates; which inevitably must rise; will have "painful" consequences for the housing market, but the situation will be most distressing for Australia's deeply indebted households the longer it is held off. His keynote presentation set the scene for the UDIA Congress, where the cost of living, population growth, planning for change and social equality were hot button topics.

Chipping away at the nation's homelessness crisis was another key issue explored throughout the UDIA Congress. **Homes for Homes Advisor Peter Danks** shared alarming statistics that highlight the need for change through innovation and cross-sectoral collaboration. He told us that Australia has 116,000 homeless every night and a chronic shortage of 200,000 social and affordable houses. Due to a severe lack of funding, the shortage is projected to grow to over 600,000 houses by 2030. To put these figures into context, Victoria's largest urban renewal opportunity – Fishermans Bend – is expected to house circa 80,000 people when complete. But Australia's shortage of social and affordable housing is more than 10 times the size of Fisherman's Bend. Mr Banks went on to explain how *Homes for Homes*; a social enterprise by *The Big Issue*; enables property owners to make a modest yet meaningful contribution to help others less fortunate. By registering your property with *Homes for Homes*, you can donate 0.1% when you sell it to help fund the pool of money required to solve one of Australia's biggest social issues. For more information on *Homes for Homes*, [please click here](#).

**Futurist and Business Technologist Sam Sammartino** challenged our established living and working conditions, questioning why we need to be in the office together five days a week and highlighting how additional work-from-home options would ease congestion, promote decentralisation and free up space in where current office buildings and car parks are located. Mr Sammartino also provided a glimpse into drone technology, which he says will be accessible to the general public before autonomous vehicles, and will open up a world of new employment opportunities.

**Social Researcher Mark McCrindle** provided a fascinating snapshot into the changes transforming Australia now and towards 2030, introducing us to the #KIPPERS (kids in parent's pockets eroding retirement savings) and detailing why Australia, with 26 per cent of our population born overseas, is truly a 'Migration Nation', with a greater percentage of migrants than in the US, Canada, United Kingdom or New Zealand.

"Society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in," said the **Treasurer of Victoria Tim Pallas** when he addressed the challenges and opportunities presented by population growth. He spoke



of government and industry's responsibility to get communities on board with population growth, so that we can deliver the infrastructure and housing development required to create a positive future for generations to come.

**CEO of ANZ Bank Shayne Elliott** told the UDIA Congress that Australia's economic outlook is "pretty decent", given low unemployment rates, low interest rates and high business performance. However, he did agree with Mr Costello's comments that rising interest rates will be the source of pain for some, as Mr Elliott tipped a "soft landing" for the Australian housing market.

The **2018 UDIA State of the Land report**, launched on the final day of the UDIA Congress, highlighted how Australia's residential developers have continued to respond to the national housing supply challenge with near record levels of lot releases in residential greenfield land estates and record levels of completions of multi-unit/infill developments across the 2017 calendar year. To access the 2018 UDIA State of the Land report, [please click here](#).

The UDIA Congress was topped off with an incredible celebration of industry brilliance at the **UDIA National Awards for Excellence**, where over 800 delegates from across the country came together to recognise the best urban development projects of 2017. Eight winning projects across nine categories, and two outstanding individuals were honoured at the national awards ceremony. To learn about the 2018 UDIA national award winners, [please click here](#).

UDIA Victoria thanks all the 2018 UDIA Congress participants, including attendees, sponsors, partners, and all our wonderful speakers who were gifted a donation to our charity partner the Property Industry Foundation to help make a difference to the serious and persistent problem of youth homelessness.

To see a video of the key 2018 UDIA Congress highlights, [please click here](#).

To see photos of the 2018 UDIA Congress – Day 1, [please click here](#).

To see photos of the 2018 UDIA Congress – Day 2, [please click here](#).

To see photos of the 2018 UDIA Congress – Day 3, [please click here](#).

To see photos of the 2018 UDIA Congress – National Awards Gala Ball, [please click here](#).

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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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