

23 June 2020

The Hon. Tim Pallas MP  
Treasurer of Victoria

By email:  
[tim.pallas@parliament.vic.ov.au](mailto:tim.pallas@parliament.vic.ov.au)

The Hon. Richard Wynne MP  
Minister for Planning

By email:  
[richard.wynne@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:richard.wynne@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Dear Treasurer Pallas and Minister Wynne,

**Building Victoria's Recovery Taskforce**

On behalf the Board and wider membership of UDIA Victoria, I am pleased to commend and congratulate the Victorian Government on the work done by the Building Victoria's Recovery Taskforce.

The Taskforce has played a critically important role in fostering a collaborative approach between Government and the building, construction and development industry, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Taskforce was established in mid-April by the Victorian Government following UDIA Victoria's letter to Minister Wynne on 6 April 2020, and our work to facilitate an in-depth discussion between yourselves and members of the building, construction and development industry on 19 March 2020.

These industry representations were crucial to informing the Victorian Government's approach and we commend the Andrews Government for listening to the industry in such a meaningful way, as we all came to terms with the immediate and longer-term impacts of the pandemic.

I acknowledge and commend the Taskforce Co-Chairs for their leadership and the enormous workload they have undertaken since commencing in April. Their engagement with the industry and their numerous stakeholders has been exemplary and has engendered enormous confidence in the process and in their advice to the Government.

UDIA Victoria is grateful for the opportunity to represent our members and to provide the Victorian Government with expert advice as a member of the Steering Committee and the three Industry Working Groups. We trust that our advice and assistance has been helpful and has assisted the Government's decision-making at this important time.

The advice we have provided during the term of the Taskforce has included:

1. COVID-19 Action Plan for Industry and Government;
2. Call for Local Government and State Government agencies to remain open for business;
3. Issues Paper: Securing Statements of Compliance to Get Lots to Purchasers;
4. Submission: Keep Worksites Operating in Greenfield Development Areas;
5. Submission: Keep Commercial Construction Worksites Operating;
6. Guidelines: Industry, Union and Worksafe Guidelines for Keeping Worksites Safe;

7. Call for Councils to extend worksite hours to keep sites safe and productive;
8. Virtual briefing with UDIA Victoria Research Partner EY on the challenges faced by the Victorian economy and building, construction and development sector;
9. 'Helping Australia Bounce Back' – UDIA National Plan for the Commonwealth Government;
10. Submission: Shovel-ready projects sample and call for Development Facilitation Pathway;
11. Proposal: Shovel-ready project criteria for consideration by the Victorian Government;
12. Major Submission: In collaboration with the Housing Industry Association to the Taskforce representing the major issues and proposed solutions on behalf of industry members;
13. Detailed advice on proposed fiscal stimulus measures for consideration by the Victorian Government;
14. Call for VCAT and Planning Panels Victoria to continue operating effectively;
15. Call for the Victorian Government to introduce a moratorium on planning and development charges, and to stop the introduction of any new charges;
16. Call for Display Homes, Sales Offices and Sales Suites to be reopened safely as restrictions eased;
17. Detailed advice regarding the governance model for Melbourne's Priority Precincts;
18. Position paper and detailed advice on the challenges in achieving electricity connections to new dwellings in Melbourne's Greenfield areas;
19. Virtual briefing with UDIA Victoria Research Partner Research4 on the state of the Greenfield land market;
20. Roadmap to Recovery for the Victorian Economy: detailed plan and measures for consideration by the Victorian Government;
21. Detailed advice on the forecast impact of the Commonwealth's HomeBuilder package; and
22. Submission: A bold plan for Social and Affordable Housing with the Affordable Housing Industry Advisory Group.

### ***Going Forward***

With the term of the Taskforce due to end in late June/early July, being three months since its commencement in April, UDIA Victoria is eager to ensure that the momentum achieved by the Taskforce is maintained and accelerated within Government beyond the current term of the Taskforce.

UDIA Victoria strongly encourages the Victorian Government to consider **extending the term** of the Building Victoria's Recovery Taskforce for a period of 6 months with a revised Terms of Reference focussed on delivery and implementation of the following:

- Planning and development approvals pipeline through the Project Fast Track Team in the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning;
- Major planning reform including the Red Tape Commissioner's recommendations;
- Fiscal stimulus measures if introduced by the Victorian Government; and
- A bold plan for Social and Affordable Housing as part of the recovery effort.

The Steering Committee and Industry Working Groups should be retained to continue to provide advice and on-the-ground expert feedback to the Taskforce. The Inter-Departmental Committee should also be retained to secure cross-collaboration within Government.

Following this extension, we strongly encourage the Victorian Government to formalise the Taskforce as a **Standing Advisory Committee** to the Treasurer and Planning Minister on the Building, Construction and Development Industry. This Advisory Committee could operate in a similar way to the Building Advisory Council which reports to the Minister for Planning, and comprise the peak industry bodies including UDIA Victoria, Property Council, Housing Industry Association and Master Builders Victoria.

I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss these issues with you further in coming week. Please contact me directly at [danni@udiavic.com.au](mailto:danni@udiavic.com.au) to arrange a suitable time.

We look forward to working with you and the Taskforce in an ongoing capacity and to playing an important role in Victoria's recovery beyond COVID-19.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Danni Hunter'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping underline that loops around the bottom of the name.

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