

Media Release



14 MAY 2009

COMMITMENT TO BRIGHTON RAIL APPLAUDED

The Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) (WA) has welcomed the state government's commitment in today's budget to the extension of the Northern Rail Line to Brighton.

"The northern rail line to Brighton is essential for the future development of the northern corridor," UDIA CEO Debra Goostrey said.

"We would hope that this is the next step toward a further rail extension all the way to Alkimos, where development is expected to begin soon," Ms Goostrey said.

"Although we are experiencing tough economic times, it is imperative that we continue to plan for future population growth in the Perth Metropolitan Region," Ms Goostrey said.

"Confirmation of the rail funding will provide developers in the area with the certainty they require to go ahead with plans for higher density development around the proposed train station sites," Ms Goostrey said.

"Cottage lots, townhouses and even apartment style development in outer areas such as Brighton would not be feasible without a hub like the rail station," Ms Goostrey said.

Ms Goostrey said that while the Brighton rail is now confirmed, it was disappointing that planning for the Ellenbrook rail extension does not have any funding allocated until 2012.

"Ellenbrook is a fast growing area which a large percentage of residents who would really benefit from a train to the city," Ms Goostrey said.

"In respect to the overall affordability of living somewhere like Ellenbrook - the money saved by having access to a reliable train service would be significant, especially for those having to travel regularly for work."

End.

For further comment:	General Media Enquiries:
Debra Goostrey CEO UDIA(WA) Office Hours: 08 9321 1101 After Hours: 0439 380 266	Gemma Osiejak Communications Manager UDIA (WA) P: 08 9321 1101 E: gosiejak@udiawa.com.au