

Media Release



16 October 2009

MOVE TO CREATE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SUPPORTED

The creation of a stand-alone Office of the Environmental Protection Authority has received in principle support from the property development industry's peak body.

"The Urban Development Institute of Australia is encouraged by the Minister for Environment's acknowledgement that proper resourcing is required to ensure the EPA can effectively carry out its role," UDIA CEO Debra Goostrey said.

"If the creation of this new office means that we can achieve a streamlining of the Environmental Impact Assessment process then this will be a positive step for environmental decision making and the property development industry overall," Ms Goostrey said.

"Currently the EIA process can be unnecessarily delayed and this is often due to the under resourcing of the EPA to be able to effectively carry out the assessments," Ms Goostrey said.

"What will also need to be ensured is that the environmental agencies (EPA and DEC) have complementary decision making processes to ensure we avoid any duplication in the approvals process or even contradictory advice," Ms Goostrey said.

"UDIA supports the coordinated and sustainable roll out of land to the market in WA," Ms Goostrey said.

"In the best interest of affordability and environmental responsibility, we must continue to work toward a streamlined environmental approvals process."

UDIA is represented on the Environmental Stakeholder Reference Group.

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