

Media Release



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UDIA DISAPPOINTED WITH INFRASTRUCTURE AUSTRALIA BID

The state government has missed a key opportunity to secure funding for much needed public transport upgrades in WA according to the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA).

“The state government’s latest proposals to Infrastructure Australia do not include any bids for potential public transport projects such as light rail or extensions to the existing rail network,” UDIA CEO Debra Goostrey said. “While we recognise the importance of the freight network and the regional projects that have been earmarked for funding, it is disappointing that public transport wasn’t prioritised.”

“The state government says it’s serious about increasing densities in activity nodes around the Perth Metropolitan Area to minimise urban sprawl,” Ms Goostrey said. “Public transport is a key ingredient for making this kind of development work by connecting people to activity nodes.”

“Consumers prefer to purchase higher density homes where access to transport and activity nodes is provided, otherwise they will continue to choose outer suburbs where they can get a larger lot,” Ms Goostrey said.

“A light rail connecting locations around Perth would be a great way to open up more areas for redevelopment,” Ms Goostrey says.

Examples of where the existing rail line needs extending are the northern line beyond Clarkson and the North East line to Ellenbrook.

“The people of Ellenbrook were promised a rail line many years ago and plans continue to be placed on the back burner,” Ms Goostrey said. “On top of that, the population in Brighton is growing rapidly and with the emergence of Alkimos as another growth area more public transport will be required.”

“Federal government funding could bring these extensions into reality sooner rather than later and provide more affordable transport options to residents,” Ms Goostrey said.

“With a need to ensure affordable land supply as the economy starts to ramp up again, public transport provision will be an imperative,” Ms Goostrey says.

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