

Media Release



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UDIA BACKS CHANGES TO STATE PLANNING SYSTEM

At an Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) luncheon yesterday the Planning Minister unveiled the government's blueprint for Planning Reform.

"UDIA welcomes moves to streamline the current planning system," UDIA CEO Debra Goostrey said. "*Planning Makes it Happen: a Blueprint for Planning Reform* is a promising next step following the *Building a Better Planning System Review*."

"UDIA has been working with the state government toward strategic reform throughout 2009 and we hope to see real change resulting from this process."

"The efficient roll out of affordable land to purchasers in WA is essential, especially considering the increase in demand that projects such as Gorgon will ignite in the coming few years," Ms Goostrey said.

Some of the key reforms include:

- The integration of planning and environmental approvals and appeals

"Currently, the dual planning and environmental approvals processes can cause delays and duplications in the path to development approval," Ms Goostrey said.

"As a first step in overcoming this, a Memorandum of Understanding between EPA, WAPC and DPI is welcomed by industry," Ms Goostrey said. "In the longer term, legislative changes to integrate the two processes would be supported."

- Integrated assessment of current and future land releases under the EPBC Act.

"It is essential that state level government agencies work with the federal government regarding assessment of developments under the federal government's EPBC Act," Ms Goostrey said.

"Over the years, dealing with the protection of species such as the Carnaby's Cockatoo and Western Ringtail Possum has been confusing and requirements ambiguous due to conflicting state and federal policies," Ms Goostrey said.

"An agreed strategic approach involving state and federal government agencies will ensure the best outcome for the protection of species such as the Carnaby's Cockatoo as well as streamline the development approvals process," Ms Goostrey said. "That would be a win for our environment and affordable land supply in WA."

- Review, reduce and simplify Model Subdivision Conditions

"To standardise and simplify model subdivision conditions is extremely important as the situation currently allows ambiguous, conflicting or duplicated conditions that are difficult to clear," Ms Goostrey says.

"The number of unnecessary conditions on subdivisions can become a 'red tape' nightmare and there are definitely ways to reduce these while still ensuring the integrity of the approvals system."

“Reducing timeframes for achieving development approvals will, at the end of the day, reduce costs for the developer and in turn for the end consumer,” Ms Goostrey said. “This is imperative to the affordable roll out of land in WA.”

- Development of a Vision for Perth

“Forward planning to ensure the appropriate infrastructure and services are available to accommodate increased growth in infill areas such as Perth City will be vital to achieving the state government’s vision for Perth,” Ms Goostrey said.

“UDIA supports the revitalisation of Perth to accommodate more residential and commercial areas and the opportunities that this provides for people living, working and recreating in and around our City.”

End.

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