

# Media Release



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## LEGISLATION WILL SAVE NEW HOME BUYERS \$\$

The development process will be improved and the big winners will be new homebuyers according to the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) following the passing of legislation to reform the approvals process in WA.

“The Approvals and Related Reforms (No 4) (Planning) Bill was introduced to Parliament last November as part of the state government’s approvals reform agenda,” UDIA CEO Debra Goostrey said. “Now that it has finally passed we hope to see some real improvements to the system.”

“Streamlining the approvals process for residential land development will save on the costs associated with delays and that means less cost to the end purchaser,” Ms Goostrey said.

UDIA figures show that a six month delay in final approval can add approximately 7% to the end price of an average priced block of land.

“Based on today’s average price that is about \$17,000,” says Ms Goostrey.

“The legislation is critical to the reform agenda, including the head of power for Development Assessment Panels.”

DAPs are made up of independent experts who will make decisions on relevant development applications on behalf of local government and the WA Planning Commission.

“A smoother approvals process will allow developers to move through the development process in a more timely and efficient manner, avoiding unnecessary delays,” Ms Goostrey said. “DAPs and a number of other aspects of the legislation will assist with this.”

“This issue is directly impacting on new home buyer’s hip pocket,” Ms Goostrey said.

“With a population set to grow exponentially and a booming resources sector, we need to act now to ensure there is enough land on the market to satisfy demand and maintain affordability,” Ms Goostrey said.

“The passing of this legislation is a positive step forward for land availability and affordability in WA,” Ms Goostrey said.

“We now hope the government will continue to implement the further reforms that are in the pipeline to improve efficiencies and save on unnecessary delays.”

**End.**

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