

# Media Release

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## BETTER INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING CRITICAL TO PERTH'S FUTURE GROWTH

The Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) says new powers to be given to the WA Planning Commission's Infrastructure Coordination Committee must happen immediately in order to deal with a lack of strategic infrastructure planning across government.

"Perth is a growing city and we must ensure that we can provide quality, affordable housing in places where people want to live," UDIA CEO Allison Hailes said.

"In order to achieve that goal, a coordinated strategic approach to planning for roads, public transport, power and water infrastructure is essential so that there is an orderly roll out of services to priority growth areas both in existing and new locations," Ms Hailes said.

"A key step is for the state government to move forward with implementing changes that have been recommended following a review of the Infrastructure Coordinating Committee (ICC) which currently has a structure that is unwieldy and has not operated as successfully as it could," Ms Hailes said.

"The ICC's past operations have resulted in a fragmented approach to infrastructure planning and development across government agencies and between levels of government," Ms Hailes said.

"UDIA is seeking a commitment from the state government that the ICC will now be afforded the powers to compel all infrastructure agencies to align their investment and works plans," Ms Hailes said.

"UDIA is supportive of allocating powers to the ICC so that it can coordinate land use and infrastructure planning across government agencies and develop much needed five to ten-year strategic plans for key areas," Ms Hailes said.

"Not only does this kind of planning ensure that the state's declining revenue is invested wisely, it also attracts much needed private sector investment to the city," Ms Hailes said.

"A strategic approach to infrastructure provision would provide a blueprint for potential investors as to where land will be properly serviced," Ms Hailes said.

"Currently there are many areas that are earmarked for significant growth according to the government's *Perth and Peel @ 3.5million* plan that simply do not have the necessary infrastructure to support the demands of an increased residential population," Ms Hailes said.

"Perth is a growing city and we can't get caught up in talking about the future, we need to actively plan for it," Ms Hailes said.

"The sustainable and affordable provision of housing both in infill and new areas is what will ensure our city continues to be a great place to live long into the future," Ms Hailes said.

**Ends.**

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