Urban Taskforce
AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

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Housing Supply depends on co-ordination with infrastructure

Urban Taskforce CEO, Tom Forrest, today called on the NSW Government to establish a strong, cabinet-based forum to co-ordinate the clearing of critical infrastructure bottle necks preventing housing supply and jobs in Western Sydney.

The Minns Government has done a good job to focus the Department of Planning on housing supply and the National Housing Accord, but DPHI and the Planning Minister need the support of the entire cabinet if it is to overcome the obstacles presented by delays in the delivery of critical water, roads and transport projects.

Achieving housing supply targets requires a collective effort. The Housing supply crisis will only be overcome if there is a "whole-of-government" approach which is co-ordinated and monitored from the top.

New South Wales needs a cabinet led process if it is to be, once again, known as the economic powerhouse of the nation.

The effective delivery of infrastructure that supports employment and the development of new communities is vital, but it has been missing in NSW.

Something needs to be done to ensure that the Government's plans are translated into action. DPHI's fresh drive to deliver housing supply is being frustrated by the lack of support from senior public service colleagues. This is all too evident to those in private industry seeking approvals from government for new housing and employment precincts.

A crisis demands strong leadership. To ensure that the government gets the full support of all agencies, the cabinet committee should be led by the Premier.

The focus should be on the co-ordination of, and advice regarding the delivery of major jobs and housing related infrastructure projects.

Roads, rail, metros, water, sewerage, and hospitals - to name a few.

The Cabinet committee should not oversee all infrastructure projects, this can be done by Infrastructure NSW. It should focus on those projects that have fallen behind or are holding up housing supply. The Cabinet Committee should be charged with responsibility for removing the bottle necks in infrastructure delivery and for making things happen. It should set milestones, benchmarks and targets.

Where these are not being met - the Committee should pull all those responsible together at short notice and action is taken to ensure projects are delivered.

The comments and analysis above can be attributed to Tom Forrest, CEO, Urban Taskforce.

*The **Urban Taskforce Australia** is a property development industry group, representing Australia's most prominent property developers and equity financiers.*

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