

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Historic planning laws a win for housing in NSW

CEO of Urban Taskforce Australia, Tom Forrest, said that the passing of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment (Planning Systems Reform) Bill 2025* through both Houses of NSW Parliament was great news for everyone in the community wanting more housing, cheaper rents and more affordable housing options.

Late last year the Urban Taskforce pushed for both parties to come together and embrace commonsense and practical reforms to the *EP&A Act 1979* many of which are now enshrined in law.

The Act now gives clarity to decision makers, while also delivering legislative foundation for the Housing Delivery Authority and the Development Co-ordination Authority. We now have sharper, better planning tools to help address the housing supply crisis.

The insertion of two key objects into the Act – “housing”, as well as “proportionately” in planning decision making (where the benefit of housing is given appropriate weighting compared to other considerations) establish a sensible and solid foundation that in time will ensure planners and decision makers are required to take into account the economic and social benefits of housing.

For too long housing has been treated almost as a byproduct of the NSW planning legislation. These reforms help put housing front and centre of the *raison d’etre* of planning laws in NSW.

The enshrining of the Housing Delivery Authority in law and the establishment of the Development Coordination Authority are two positive reforms that institutionally focusses the Government on delivering more state led approvals for high value, high yield in a timelier fashion, while establishing a one stop shop for dealing with the myriad of NSW Government agencies who all want a say on housing development.

There'll be more complying development and targeted assessment pathways which will also help speed up the planning system when it came to housing.

The Government and the Opposition are to be congratulated for seeing this bipartisan reform through. It shows that age old problems, like the most unwieldy planning system in the nation, can be addressed if there is a common commitment from the sensible centre in politics.

With the legislation passed, the Government now needs to turn to the enabling regulations to ensure the spirit of the laws are embedded in the fine detail. These changes won't solve the housing supply crisis, but they are a solid step in the right direction after years of going backwards.

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

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