



NEWS RELEASE
18 October 2017

Removing flexibility not the answer

The Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) SA is concerned about the proposed reduction in flexibility for assessment of multi-level dwellings announced by the Opposition as part of their planning policies ahead the next State Election.

UDIA Chief Executive Officer Pat Gerace said he is looking forward to more details on the Opposition's planning policies but also cautioned that the focus of policies should be on the delivery of good developments that benefit the entire community, rather than ruling things out.

"Each development area is different and has unique challenges; we just don't think there should be a cookie cutter approach," Mr Gerace said.

"It's important that we focus on good development outcomes and that they aren't jeopardised just to appease the vocal minorities.

"There is a community of silent voices out there who shouldn't be ignored, first home buyers' and those who want to downsize in more appropriate accommodation close to where they already live need a choice as well.

"Our members know that there is a demand for certain types of product otherwise they wouldn't be building them."

The UDIA has consistently called for better community engagement focused on policy development and not on individual assessments.

“The community has a right to have their say on how they want their suburbs to look and feel, but this needs to be the wider community and early on,” Mr Gerace added.

“If we have the brakes put on Adelaide growing out as well as up, then there is only one place for housing affordability to go - unfortunately that’s up.”

ABOUT THE UDIA

Established in 1971, the UDIA (SA) represents the interests of the development industry in South Australia in collaboration with all levels of government. It represents all sections of the urban development sector, including developers, councils and service providers such as engineers, planners and surveyors.

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