

HIA Praises Big City Plans

The Prime Minister's grand vision for the future development of Australia's cities has won praise from Australia's largest residential building organisation, the Housing Industry Association.

"Australia will need to produce more than 6,000,000 new dwellings over the next 50 years, most of which will be located in Australia's capital cities," said HIA's Deputy Managing Director, Shane Goodwin.

"Achieving a step-change in housing supply that is affordable and sustainable presents massive challenges for all levels of government and the industry.

"Most of the responsibility for managing urban development has fallen on the shoulders of state governments, which have been hampered for years by a lack of funding support from the Commonwealth.

"The Prime Minister has offered a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to the States and Territories to partner with the Australian Government in forging a new deal for the funding and management of housing and infrastructure in Australia's major population centres.

"Closer integration of housing development with the provision of social and economic infrastructure in a path-breaking Commonwealth-State agreement offers the greatest opportunity for Australia to restore housing affordability by breaking the shackles of chronic housing shortages.

"Accommodating a marked expansion in Australia's population is an expensive operation. The housing industry applauds the Prime Minister's offer of a strategic alliance with the States and Territories to achieve affordable and sustainable growth of Australia's cities," said Shane Goodwin.

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