

e udiasa@udiasa.com.au
t 08 8359 3000
w www.udiasa.com.au

Urban Development Institute of Australia
(South Australia) Inc.
Level 7, 81 Flinders Street
Adelaide SA 5000



Jeremy Conway,
Chief Executive
Infrastructure SA
Level 15, Wakefield House
30 Wakefield St,
Adelaide

6th August 2019

RE: 20-Year State Infrastructure Strategy Discussion Paper

About the UDIA

The Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) has been active in South Australia since 1971 and has over one hundred and fifty companies.

Many imminently qualified members of the UDIA are involved through policy development on committees, professional development, event attendance as well as other activities, all aimed at improving the outcomes for our sector and State.

It is through these members that UDIA provides an important voice on development matters, particularly in relation to initiatives for homebuyers, urban developers, professionals and others who are involved in the sector.

UDIA's Response to the 20-Year State Infrastructure Strategy Discussion Paper

Thank you for the opportunity for the UDIA to provide feedback in response to the 20-Year State Infrastructure Strategy Discussion Paper.

The co-ordination of infrastructure for good urban development is imperative to the overall well-being of a community. Whether it is through the coordination of open space, transportation links, reliable and affordable services, just to name a few.

Learning from the mistakes of many other cities who now struggle under the pressure of significant population growth, we believe that it is imperative that as Adelaide grows, there is a long-term co-ordinated approach for the planning and delivery of this key infrastructure. While undoubtedly there is the requirement to continually invest more funding, there is also much scope for increased benefit through better coordination and the leveraging of existing investment. This includes the better coordination of private and public partnerships and where appropriate, the use of schemes.

We have prepared this correspondence providing our preliminary views on the 20-Year State Infrastructure Strategy Discussion Paper with the objective of establishing a permanent and constructive dialogue with Infrastructure SA in relation to infrastructure as it relates to urban development. Many of our members have commented on the clear omission of the urban development sector within the Discussion Paper.

We see Infrastructure SA as an important body, who together with the State Planning Commission, can ensure the appropriate policy levers and infrastructure coordination strategies are in place to encourage further growth and a better quality of life for South Australians.

Because UDIA members regularly interact with major infrastructure providers as well as state and local government, they are uniquely placed to understand the challenges and issues that arise day-to-day which impact better and more affordable urban development. As a thought leader on this issue and in the lead up to the recent State Election, the UDIA called for Infrastructure SA to be created in its **GROW | REFORM | BUILD** advocacy document. More information about critical matters that Infrastructure SA should address is contained in this work.

One key area that requires attention is the coordination of core urban infrastructure. Earlier this year in January the UDIA led an Infrastructure Roundtable with Minister Knoll and the State Planning Commission to highlight the need for a more collaborative and coordinated infrastructure delivery. While the main focus in that forum related to utilities infrastructure, what was evident in the discussions that took place is that there are multiple strategies and plans across government which are not always aligned. These often impact on the most efficient infrastructure delivery and in turn, the supply of affordable housing.

The UDIA also believes that there is a massive scope for better Government coordination through the leadership of Infrastructure SA who could bring these disparate agencies and plans into better alignment.

To illustrate this, right now the State Planning Commission is delivering a Metropolitan Growth Management Plan, the Department of Transport and Infrastructure is responsible for the Integrated Transport and Land Use Plan, the Department of Environment and Water are implementing the Green Adelaide Plan. All of this is in the context of the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide under the new Planning Act, while at the same time, the South Australian Housing Authority is developing an Affordable Housing Strategy. While all these plans include important policy objectives, it is clear that many of the initiatives are inherently inconsistent. One common aspect however, is that they all ultimately rely on the delivery and coordination of infrastructure.

In light of the above, we believe the Discussion Paper requires more focus on how Adelaide operates as a city, and particularly, the significant role urban development has in respect to infrastructure.

Once again thank you for the opportunity to comment on the discussion paper. The UDIA will be in contact to discuss the above matters and more. We look forward to further engagement with Infrastructure SA in the future.

Yours sincerely

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Pat Gerace

Chief Executive