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MEDIA RELEASE

We must work towards a better NSW, not a smaller one

The key to managing Sydney's and our State's growth is sound infrastructure investment, a better planning system and long-term engagement with the community on key issues, according to the Property Council of Australia.

Immigration has brought NSW great economic and social benefits over many years, however it is poor planning and a sticking our head in the sand on growth that has placed additional pressure on Sydney.

"Sydney is not full, however it is suffering from the sins of our past, a past where growth was unplanned and infrastructure not prioritised. We are now on the right track with strategic planning in place and a big infrastructure investment," Property Council NSW Executive Director Jane Fitzgerald said today.

"The choice is not between growth or no growth. The choice is between planned and unplanned growth. Our State has always grown however the challenge we face is how to better deal with our growing pains such as congestion and building high amenity communities with engaged citizens.

"The timely provision of economic, transport, social and green infrastructure is critical. Key components of the liveability of any successful city – access to jobs, education and community services – rely on the infrastructure to get us there.

"The plans to deliver a liveable and sustainable Sydney were delivered by the Greater Sydney Commission earlier this year – they now need to be translated into local community planning.

"NSW and particularly Sydney should not be denied the benefits population growth provides – jobs, the establishment of new and innovative industries, urban renewal focussing on creating great places as well as the scope to attract the cream of talent from around the world.

"These are the things that have made our State great and mean we can continue to grow economically and richer culturally; Our State is attractive because of the education, employment and lifestyle opportunities it provides; That is something to be encouraged for the benefit of everyone in our State.

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