

# Media Release

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018



## No shortcuts in population debate

The Urban Development Institute of Australia has welcomed a renewed federal focus on settlement planning while reinforcing the long-held view that transport congestion is the result of poor infrastructure planning.

UDIA National President, Darren Cooper, welcomed today's announcement from Cities, Urban Infrastructure and Population Minister, Alan Tudge, of proposed new visa conditions that would require selected migrants to settle outside of Sydney and Melbourne for up to five years.

"Our smaller cities are calling out for the growth and economic prosperity delivered by immigration. They should not be held hostage to complaints of transport congestion in Sydney and Melbourne. Minister Tudge's proposal finds a sensible position." said Mr Cooper.

"More broadly, a national settlement policy could ensure the enormous benefits of immigration are more evenly shared across Australia - but the main problem is insufficient strategic infrastructure planning and timely delivery, not too many people.

"Overseas cities with bigger populations have less transport congestion and shorter commute times. While settlement planning can deliver substantial benefits the key issue for all governments is to work together towards better strategic planning and better delivery of infrastructure in a more timely way."

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