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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Housing Industry Welcomes New Suburbs

HIA has warmly welcomed the Planning Minister's decision to expand Melbourne's Urban Growth Boundary for housing development.

Housing Industry Association Regional Executive Director Gil King said the announcement today by the Hon Matthew Guy of an additional 6,000ha of land to be brought into the UGB would improve certainty for the residential building sector.

"The announcement of new land being earmarked for housing construction is good news for the Victorian community," said Mr King.

"Victoria needs a sensible and forward looking expansion policy that caters for the growing population's need for housing."

"This will assist in reducing pressure on housing prices, and providing more affordable housing – meaning first home buyers might be able to enter the market".

"Today's announcement by the Minister is also significant to the residential building industry as it demonstrates a willingness of the government to review the Urban Growth Boundary, which we argue should be occurring on a regular basis."

"This welcome initiative is only part of the solution which, as the Minister has acknowledged, includes development opportunities for vacant land in the inner suburbs close to the CBD," said Mr King.

However, Mr King cautioned that while availability of land was one part of the equation, ensuring that the timeliness of the planning process and the level of associated development charges and levies are consistent with the goal of providing affordable housing.

"Even when land is set aside for housing in Melbourne's Growth Corridors – it can't be built on straight away," said Mr King.

"Victoria needs a planning regime that brings land to a development-ready stage in a timely manner, not only for the newly incorporated areas, but also for existing sites within the UGB."

For further information

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