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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **DesignWA paves the way for apartments**

The Housing Industry Association, Australia's peak residential building industry association, has welcomed today's release of a policy supporting apartment design in WA.

"Today's release of DesignWA and the apartment design policy by the Minister for Planning Rita Saffioti provides welcome certainty for industry," said HIA Executive Director Cath Hart.

"Apartment living in Western Australia is not as common as we see in other states, but apartments offer a great housing option for many, whether as renters or buyers.

"Ensuring builders and designers have a clear set of guidelines for these buildings can reduce the potential for conflict with local government when seeking an approval and improve the community's expectation of what future development will look like.

"While the policy promotes a design focus, it will be essential for local governments approving developments to be mindful of the impact on housing affordability. This is particularly relevant to small apartment developments which have been captured by this policy.

"Both universal access and energy efficiency requirements have been increased above the requirements set by the Building Code of Australia. HIA will continue to work with policy makers nationally to identify the best settings for these parameters.

"HIA welcomes the further commitment to developing guidance for precinct and medium density development which will support the changing housing needs of the community and promote housing affordability."

### **For further information please contact:**

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