

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW MINISTER FOR CITIES ELEVATES IMPORTANCE OF PERTH'S FUTURE

The appointment of Australia's first federal *Minister for Cities and the Built Environment* has the potential to elevate the national debate on the need for greater strategic direction as we plan for growth in our major urban centres according to QWest Paterson Chairman Warwick Hemsley.

"For Perth in particular, this new appointment comes at a time when the discussion on how Perth will accommodate up to 3.5 million people by 2050 is high on the state government agenda," Mr Hemsley said.

"Not only considering where people will live, but how they will move around are important issues that we are facing as a society," Mr Hemsley said.

"A coordinated approach to future planning, in particular public transport and infrastructure is critical to ensuring affordable and appropriate housing supply," Mr Hemsley said.

"By appointing a new Minister for Cities, the federal government is acknowledging the importance of Australian cities in the context of our future," Mr Hemsley said.

"With close to 90% of the population living in urban areas, best practice in sustainability and keeping up with the latest in technology and new development techniques is critical," Mr Hemsley said.

"Proper planning for Perth and all Australian cities ensures that we have efficient and appropriate housing supply to accommodate changing lifestyle needs, Mr Hemsley said.

"The new Minister will need to consider our ageing population and shrinking household sizes in his consideration of the issues affecting our major cities and urban centres," Mr Hemsley said.

"The challenge will be taking a coordinated approach between federal, state and local government and ensuring that another layer of bureaucracy does not stand in the way of positive outcomes for Perth's development," Mr Hemsley said.

"The Prime Minister has said himself that cities have been overlooked at a federal level and it is important that the federal government work in cooperation with other levels of government and our community to create wonderful cities to live in."

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To find out more or to arrange an interview with Warwick, please contact:

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