

MEDIA RELEASE

Meredith Hunter MLA, ACT Greens Treasury spokesperson

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Sustainable development incentives needed

The ACT Greens have called for ACTPLA to introduce a sustainable development program to provide incentives for commercial and residential developers, including the waiver of fees and Change of Use Charges (CUC) for eligible sustainable developments.

“Creating very straightforward incentives are key to facilitating better sustainability innovation and design. We are proposing a simple financial incentive of a \$1000 rebate for 7 star and above energy efficiency rated residential houses. We also propose that eligible developments gain waivers of DA and Change of Use fees,” Meredith Hunter MLA, Greens Treasury spokesperson, said.

“It is time that the ACT took its climate change emission reduction target of 40% by 2020 seriously, and actively helped developers focus on sustainability outcomes of new buildings - both residential and commercial.

“Developers are ready for this, but we do need to provide some real incentives to make it happen. These incentives can be a mixture of providing information and training support, financial incentives and fast-tracking of processes.

Our proposal is comprised of five key aspects:

- employing a Sustainable Design Officer within ACTPLA;
- adopting new tools for sustainable design assessment;
- creating and delivering a range of sustainable development training programs for the building industry;
- creating financial incentives, including a \$1000 rebate for 7 star and above energy efficiency rated residential houses and a waiver of change of use charges for commercial properties with 5 Green Stars and above and residential properties with 8 stars and above; and
- fast-tracking the application process and creating financial incentives for eligible developments. These developments must meet the sustainability criteria during the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2013.

“The Urban Development Institute of Australia supports proposals like this, which offer such incentives to encouraging more sustainable urban development.

“Similar programs have been very successful in Victoria, and it’s time the ACT, with our high development-related emissions worked harder to shift our industry to be more sustainable,” Ms Hunter said.