

Brief comments received

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1	Build non-bus public transport before the residential developments occur. Consider building in a way that reduces car dependency. Compromising risk management controls isn't acceptable. Additional infrastructure requirements are still important. Health and climate protections should be maintained.
2	Australia's housing challenge is not simply a supply problem. It is a delivery system problem. Capital, land, demand and manufacturing capacity already exist, yet housing outcomes remain constrained by fragmented approvals, procurement, infrastructure coordination and project delivery processes. Reform should focus on improving the conversion of policy, funding and approvals into completed homes through more coordinated delivery frameworks, standardised pathways and program-based approaches that increase housing throughput at scale.
3	From a life member of HIA and builder / in the construction and residential housing industry for 45 years . Need reforms to Taxation on Housing to be reduced not increase we need a brave government to reduce GST on housing, give the GST back to first home buyers over three years thru their person Tax returns (not inflationary) In 25 years with HIA there is not one single policy produced from all levels of government to reduce the cost of housing. Need regional trainers thru TAFE IN REGIONAL AREAS FOR SUB TRADES bricklayers tilers scaffolders etc At some point young people will realize that a trade is not a dirty word and AI can't take over the trade sector in Housing , even MMC requires a strong labour force. Review BIO diversity overlays in Regional areas and account for revegetation in suburbs that reestablish trees and greenery in most cases more significant than the brown field sites that developments start at. Make the sellers /land holders pay for the BIO diversity costs out of the sale of the land ,they are getting off scott free with contributions of the BIO diversity credits required . The developers only pass these costs onto the consumers whereas the initial landowner who has made the decision to sell the land to the developers in the first place at over inflated prices takes 100% of the money with them and doesn't contribute a cent back to the BIO diversity fund. Encourage sovereignty of Australian manufacturers and disable with levies the flooding of dump products and substandard products on the Australian market. We are seeing this with windows and glazing markets imported masonry and AAC products, it seems we will go down the path of the fuel crisis and breaking of supply chains under external decisions from industry is very dangerous. There are a number of claims at ACCC at the moment from major manufactures in dumping on the market , and seems to take an extraordinary amount of time for a judgement , not sure even what a favorable decision looks like for the applicant in Australia Happy to expand further.
4	The number one issue government needs to address is inflation. Not just because it impacts the price of building materials, but because it impacts the price of everything, reducing confidence and creating desperation. The number two issue government needs to address is the skyrocketing rental prices. A moratorium for two years - exactly as was done for the last crisis during COVID - would prevent rents continuing to rise, thereby putting a brake on inflation,

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	but also providing some breathing space for renters who are arguably struggling the most. The number three issue the government needs to address is the "million vacant homes" identified during the alst Census, and the lielthood that most of these are being deliberately ket vacant as 'short term lets' under one or other of the online agencies (e.g. AirBnB and Stayz) [NB: This does not constitute a need to reduce the *hosted* BnBs, as the number of these has scarcely risen. Just 'whole house' rentals converted from long-term market rentals to short-term lets.] According to the recent reports this amounts to anywhere between 1% and 8% of total rentals in any given LGA across Australia. In my own research for the local Council in my own LGA I determined they were 4% of total rentals, which puts serious pressure on rent pricing, due to unavailability, higher demand and shortage of supply driving up rentals. If the short-term letting market were curbed, even slightly, many regions with extremely tight rental vacancy levels would see immediate easing and availability increases. And over time, reduction in rents overall. While this will probably be seen more as a "States rights" issue, National Cabinet perhaps should be discussing how this can be tackled. Homes withheld from the open market is NOT productive. Especially when rental vacancy rates are already unreasonably low. The number four issue government needs to tackle is its responsibility to build actual physical bricks and mortar homes. It is evidently clear from recent research that all levels of govt have abandoned their clear responsibility to actually build homes, and in so doing, provide not just homes for the poor or disadvantaged, but also to provide actual competition for developers. In the absence of this *actual* competition, it's clear developers and land bankers have been deliberately withholding land and/or completed homes from the open market in order to maximise prices and margins. Classic 'Capitalism 101', for sure, but not helpful for our population, who need cost-effective homes at affordable prices. Whilst providing only stocks of *unaffordable* homes, in dribs and drabs to meet the capacity to pay of cashed-up buyers, is great for developers margins, it doesn't help supply more affordable housing. One thing that could help achieve an increase in affordable homes would be for government - in conjunction with the States - to require the National Construction Code to provide an ancillary dwelling category specifically for what are called 'Tiny Homes', either 'on wheels', or not. Many of these are being built by desperate home buyers unable to afford anything else, and also by those choosing to downsize and declutter. Yet the industry and the regulators are in complete denial about this as a necessary addition to our housing stock. While many are being built at present utilising the caravan regulations, they are expressly NOT caravans - except in basic shape and having wheels under them. The issue with this approach (forced on builders by lack of ACTUAL regulations enabling and guiding such construction) is that the 'caravan rules' are at cross-purposes with the NCC dwelling rules. Some simple changes - such as enabling Tiny Homes *provided* they comply with NCC rules for ventilation, insulation, minimum floor to ceiling height, and glass area, would definitely help. And then people will CHOOSE to build Tiny Homes that WILL comply with State planning rules. A Tiny Home is NOT, repeat not, a caravan. They only *appear* to be such given the lack of ACTUAL rules and regs that could enable them to be built to an NCC regulation. For example, a THOW (Tiny Home on wheels) is built on a steel 'caravan type' chassis, with axles, brakes etc, in order to comply with *something*. Unfortunately, the highway codes and ADRs restrict the height of "caravans" to 4.3m, which makes it almost impossible to build a THOW with a "habitable mezzanine" due to the floor-to-ceiling height restrictions in the NCC. If this could be expanded, and specified, to 2.1m floor to ceiling - the minimum height in doorways under NCC rules - (for either main floor or mezzanine) then a THOW *could* be built to a taller maximum height, but of course would then NOT be able to be a caravan as per ADRs and highway regs. But *could* be an 'overheight' load. Especially if built on a normal steel frame and then simply hauled on a low loader as a 'load' not a free towing 'vehicle'. (i.e. built without axles and wheels of its own). The reason THOW are built as narrow as they are is to comply with the highway code maximum width of 255cm. Yet the highway regs allow 300cm maximum for the 'first step' in "Overwidth" rules, which requires only signage on the corners of the load and 'Overwidth' signage on the tow vehicle. So, potentially, Tiny Homes could be built on-site, or off site and hauled to

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	site on a standard truck trailer, to be craned onto site where they *could* provide an alternate, but much needed 'first step' into home ownership, or a downsize for older singles needing something smaller and more affordable. Please note that such a Tiny Home as I've described could be built as a DIY project, on site, for less than \$100K. It could alternately be built by a registered builder of such homes, hauled to site as a 'wide load' and installed with a crane between \$150K and \$200K. This is 20% of the cost of an average house in Australia. So very, very "affordable" even for those with limited means. And based on my research into those already living (often illegally) in such ancillary dwellings here and world-wide, a very fun, desirable and perfectly appropriate form of dwelling for a single person, a single parent, or a couple. Even small families can live in them comfortably, with the addition of decking and external additional storage, such as a small garden shed. If government is serious about making housing affordable, they should seek to make Tiny Homes legal, and buildable, and so provide an alternative to the 'studio apartments' people with less capital are often forced into. Note that a pretty standard Tiny Home could have an internal floor area of at least 33sqm - more than a 'studio apartment' - and with external decks and storage could even have a usable living area in excess of 50sqm - similar in area to a two bedroom apartment. While the HAFF is budgeting for \$550,000 for a single home, building Tiny Homes could easily quadruple the number of homes being built for the same outlay, and government would not need to spend a cent, as the homeowners would outlay the capital themselves. But banks would need to see Tiny Homes as a "legal dwelling" in order for finance to be amde available. At present it's only thjose with a wad of cash who can even afford to commission one. Hence why the NCC definitions need to be broadened to include Tiny Homes as a legitimate category of dwelling. You want MORE homes built? Enable the construction of ancillary dwellings, especially Tiny Homes. People will build what they can afford. And every couple or single household so served frees up another flat, or house, somewhere else, for a family that does not choose the Tiny Home lifestyle. It's what the corporates call a triple win. More housing, cheaper to build, and no cost to govt. Now THERE'S a slogan.... ;)
5	Submission to the Productivity Commission – Housing Supply Regulation Inquiry GTT is an advanced Australian prefabricated timber manufacturer based in Orange, NSW, operating Australia's largest automated timber prefabrication facility. We currently supply precision-engineered wall, floor and roof panel systems across multiple medium density housing sites in Greater Sydney and are actively engaged in large-scale residential delivery. Government procurement caps genuine supply capacity The most significant barrier GTT faces is not planning regulation — it is government procurement policy. Current frameworks are structurally biased toward piecemeal, project-by-project tendering that prevents manufacturers with genuine volume capacity from deploying it. GTT can manufacture and deliver at scale. Procurement rules prevent us from doing so. The result is slower delivery, higher cost, and underutilisation of the sovereign manufacturing capability the government says it wants to build. If the objective is 1.2 million homes, procurement must be redesigned to reward volume commitments and long-term pipeline certainty — not just lowest-cost single-project bids. The planning system is not the problem — capability is GTT operates across multiple NSW jurisdictions and consistently finds that the existing planning framework, while imperfect, is workable for experienced developers who understand it. The loudest complaints about regulatory burden often come from underprepared or inexperienced developers who misattribute their own capability gaps to systemic failure. The Commission should consider this carefully. Rather than further simplifying a system that competent operators navigate effectively, policy should create positive incentives for proven developers — faster pathways, priority assessment, preferred supplier status — that reward track record and delivery performance. This would create competitive pressure on underperforming developers to lift their standards rather than blaming the rules. Domestic prefabrication is being undermined by cheap imports Australian-manufactured prefabricated housing solutions offer demonstrably high quality, sovereign supply chain security, and genuine construction productivity gains. However, the segment is being damaged by low-quality imported prefab product that fails to meet

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	community expectations and taints buyer and government confidence across the board. Policy should distinguish between genuine advanced manufacturing — certified, code-compliant, Australian-made — and imported product that does not meet the same standards. Procurement frameworks and government housing programs should explicitly favour sovereign, quality-assured supply.
6	Australia's housing challenge is not only a shortage of dwellings. It is increasingly a shortage of places where people want to live and stay. Regulatory reform focused exclusively on speed and volume risks producing housing stock that generates its own long-term social and economic costs: neighbourhoods people leave when they can afford to, communities without identity, and dwellings that depreciate because they belong nowhere in particular. A more complete definition of productivity in housing must include durability, community cohesion, and the long-term value of place. [Redacted] have argued persuasively that the neighbourhood, not the dwelling unit, is the fundamental unit of a successful city, and that housing disconnected from local material culture, street life, and shared civic space produces places that people endure rather than love. This thinking is gaining significant traction internationally and is actively taught to a new generation of architects and urbanists through programs such as the INTBAU Utrecht Summer School. It deserves a place in Australia's housing reform conversation. A house built in Brisbane should not be indistinguishable from housing stock in Melbourne or Perth. Planning codes and procurement frameworks that default to generic construction methods, imported materials, and designs indistinguishable from housing stock anywhere in the country are not neutral. They actively undermine the long-term value of the communities they produce. Reform should instead create positive incentives for housing that reflects regional character, uses locally available materials, and draws on the knowledge of local tradespeople. One of the most practical reforms available is the creation of a comprehensive national residential pattern book: pre-approved dwelling designs organised by climate zone, lot type, and dwelling typology, qualifying automatically for code-assessed fast-track approval. This model already exists in the health sector through the Health Facility Guidelines, where pre-approved layouts are known to comply with relevant standards, can be built with available materials, and are familiar to local contractors. Applied to housing, it would dramatically reduce the design and documentation burden before lodgement, shorten assessment timelines, and make quality design accessible at the small-project and owner-builder scale. Critically, these designs should reflect regional character and specify locally available materials and construction methods rather than produce a new generation of placeless housing delivered faster. Chilean architect Alejandro Aravena's Elemental model, which delivers a well-designed structural shell for incremental completion by residents using local labour and materials, offers a compelling typology for inclusion in such a pattern book, particularly for government-supported housing. Regulatory settings should also actively encourage dwellings above commercial premises in established activity centres. Ground-floor retail and hospitality activates the street, creates walkable neighbourhood life, and supports shared public space, while upper-floor dwellings contribute density without requiring new greenfield infrastructure. Planning codes that separate residential and commercial uses, impose excessive car parking requirements, or restrict building heights in established centres are a direct barrier to this form of housing supply and should be reformed as a priority. The Commission should also consider recommending a national register of traditional and vernacular tradespeople: bricklayers, stonemasons, timber framers, lime plasterers, and other craft-based practitioners with place-specific skills. Paired with targeted apprenticeship grants, this register would make specialist local labour accessible to builders and designers, strengthen regional construction workforces, support the use of locally sourced materials, and generate sustained local economic activity. A house built by local tradespeople using local materials and methods they know well is also faster and cheaper to build than one dependent on imported supply chains and unfamiliar systems. This is a productivity argument as much as a cultural one. Finally, planning codes should actively support

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	shared spatial arrangements such as co-housing courtyards, community-scaled plazas, and mixed-tenure clusters that reduce long-term social infrastructure costs and produce the kind of neighbourhood life that makes people want to stay. The most liveable and economically resilient neighbourhoods in Australia, and internationally, are built around what people love about where they live, not just around the minimum required to occupy a dwelling. In summary, this submission recommends: - A national residential pattern book with fast-track approval pathways, designed to reflect regional character and specify locally available materials and methods - Reform of planning codes to actively encourage and streamline mixed-use dwellings above commercial premises in established activity centres - A national register of traditional and vernacular tradespeople, paired with apprenticeship and mentorship grants - Planning code recognition and support for co-housing, shared courtyard, and community-activated spatial arrangements - A publicly accessible architectural design review and advice service at the small-project scale, to improve design quality before lodgement and reduce downstream approval burden
7	I have a gardening and landscaping company in Sydney that services the higher end of the market. I employ a staff of 6-8 people. I pay my team above award wages so that I can keep my staff committed to the business. Over the last few years I have really tried to develop myself in terms of financial education and stay ahead of the costs of running the business. For last few years in I have felt particularly suffocated by the amount of money that I constantly pay in Tax (usually around \$5-\$7K a month IAS) and then Super, Workers comp, Insurances just keeps going up faster than I can put my rates up. I recently put my hrly rate for general maintenance up to \$90 plus GST (from \$80 plus) because it was essential but after further financial analysis it really needs to be between \$110-\$120 which is too much of an ask for existing clients to pay. It would be extremely helpful if there was a 20% reduction in the monthly tax payment. I would have more resources to grow the business and have the capacity to make “bigger moves” including hiring more people and buying more equipment. Currently it feels in this country like the productive people are being penalised and the government is being forced to squeeze us further as more irresponsible fiscal policy is implemented. We went from a balanced budget in the early 2000s and I can’t understand why I have to be very careful about how I manage money in my business for it to keep going but the government doesn’t have to. The government should run their finances like a business (even if that means having to make unpopular decisions) so that we as a country are living in reality of what we can and can’t do. I say this because I know that moves like borrowing more and printing more money are just going to wind up with myself and my son paying more “down the road”, we are already seeing this trend across the west broadly. I can admit that the infrastructure in this country is amazing and the government has done a wonderful job of keeping Australia beautiful and running well, I would just like some REAL breathing room and incentives for small businesses to prosper. Thank you for your time and attention.
8	Australia's housing shortage is often discussed as a problem of insufficient land supply, restrictive zoning or inadequate infrastructure. While these issues are important, my experience suggests that significant housing supply gains could be achieved by improving the administration of the planning system itself. One of the most significant shortcomings in the current system is the way success is measured. Planning performance is often assessed through determination statistics, assessment timeframes and appeal rates. While these are useful indicators, they do not capture the housing that is never built.

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	Governments should seek to better understand how many projects are abandoned, reduced in scale or rendered unviable due to regulatory burden, uncertainty and delay. The housing that is never built rarely appears in official statistics, yet it may represent one of the most significant consequences of an inefficient planning system. Future planning reforms should focus not only on measuring process efficiency, but also on measuring housing outcomes. The key question should not simply be how many applications were processed, but how many homes were ultimately delivered. Planning authorities should be encouraged to work collaboratively with applicants, provide clear guidance, focus on practical solutions and adopt more standardised assessment pathways where risks can be effectively managed. A planning system that delivers certainty, transparency, accountability and timely decision-making would reduce costs, improve productivity and enable more homes to be delivered more quickly while maintaining appropriate environmental protections, infrastructure standards and community safety outcomes. Ultimately, the success of Australia's planning system should be judged not by how effectively it manages paperwork, but by how effectively it facilitates the delivery of safe, sustainable and well-located housing for current and future generations.
9	The Brisbane City Plan 2014 is enormous, resulting in a warning when you try and download it. While land may be 'zoned' to allow housing development, there are significant constraints on what can be built across the city (no townhomes, no 3 storey houses (preventing inter generational homes) in low density areas etc) especially once a development approval is required. More types of development should be 'accepted development'. Many people need to seek town planning advice and obtain consultancy reports (bushfire, stormwater, ecology, civil) to add even an extension to their homes. Council planning officers often impose significant costly development conditions on approvals too - an approval isn't worth much if you can't then afford to undertake the development. These conditions can seem reasonable in isolation (protect tree, undertake earthworks in specified manner) but can add hundreds of thousands in compliance costs. This is particularly problematic for families trying to subdivide or build a second dwelling - it's only possible if you are a developer and doing it as a business enterprise.
10	Allow tiny homes widely in Bega Shire (& every shire!) as long as they can show responsible water and sewerage management.
11	Our family's 2024 - 2025 DA experience with the [Redacted] Council included conflicting advice within their professional officers about storm water drainage requiring us to pay for a civil engineer to submit multiple plans and failure of the Council to record the plans of a large storm water drainage project they themselves had installed, with our permission, on the property two years earlier. Communications from the Council were a puzzle piece of officers' responses rather than a coherent response to the proposal. A preconceived idea of the type of housing guided the conditions the Council placed on the property. The purpose of the subdivision was to create 3 building envelopes for family members on land we have owned for over 50 years, working with the existing bush. The Council established conditions for large concrete monoliths, requiring substantial cut and fill. The Council did not respond to our request for changes to conditions with a statement of reasons but more of 'a computer says no'. The Council approved the DA because they thought they were going to fall foul of their regulatory timelines, so amendments to plans we were making and for which we paid were overlooked. We did submit them as part of our request to change conditions but no considered response to them was provided. We were advised on 9 December 2025 that we could appeal by a date in early January 2026. This timing made it very difficult to secure legal representation to undertake the appeal. We have a DA approval with such

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	onerous conditions that it is too expensive for us as a family. The property size is about 4,000 square metres 5km from the [Redacted] CBD but due to environmental overlays placed on the property by the Council only 3 building envelopes could be created. In 1975 when the property was purchased there were 6 similar blocks, three have been subdivided resulting in 5 large building envelopes on each of those blocks. Our block is described as remnant bush. Families seeking development approvals to create homes for their next generations are at a disadvantage in these processes versus developers. At no point did the Council ask us any questions about who we are, our intentions in relation to the property and what we are hoping to achieve in terms of the dwellings in which we wished to live.
12	My comments are primarily directed towards regional NSW and the issues that are obstacles to the development process: 1. Fees and charges from state and local government are increasing in value and the imposition of new charges on a regular basis. At the very least they should be frozen, ideally discounted to bring the development equation back toward reality. 2. There is a severe shortage in most areas of serviced residential zoned land. In 2000 the target by the then planning Dept was that each LGA had a minimum of 10 years identified residential zoned serviced land. This has dwindled to near zero in many cities. This must be addressed. 3. Wind back the star rating imposition on new houses. Currently all new homes must be 7 star rated which adds thousands of dollars in cost which cannot be easily funded by purchasers. If we can purchase a 3, 4 or 5 star refrigerator, surely we can build 4, 5, 6 and 7 star homes that will assist incredibly with reducing actual house cost. Sure they may consume a bit more energy, but at least the initial capital cost will be lower and people will at least get a foot on the ladder with a new product. 4. Rationalise all requirements for quotas or contributions toward the supply of affordable housing being levied on new homes. This issue is surely a whole of community issue and should not be dumped totally on the mortgage of new home buyers. 5. Government needs to participate in the provision of essential trunk services and infrastructure and not levy the full cost a few. The government receives windfall stamp duty and then rates without any upfront investment. This must be redressed plus any recovery spread over time via a rates levy. 6. Expedite the Biocertification of regional development land to reduce the compliance costs associated with the Biodiversity Conservation Legislation. The time delay and actual compliance cost is high, but the fear of not knowing the likely outcome has led to regional development land simply not even being purchased for the lack of certainty under the regulations. It costs a great deal to find out how much you will need to pay by way of offsets, and in all likelihood, the project will be unfeasible. Developers are simply not prepared to invest to find out and landowners are unwilling to do the work as in all probability it will reduce their sales realisation. In fact many farmers are now preferring to enter stewardship agreements than attempt to sell the land for development. I trust these few points are of some use, and I look forward to the next stage. Apologies for the slightly late submission.
13	In the meantime there is the camping option The opportunity for 'free camping' ended when caravan park regulations were introduced in the 1970's. Caravan parks tend to be mostly along the coast. Over time many a caravan park has been upgraded to resort status to cater for a richer clientele. If you camp illegally, some busybody will be in touch with a ranger with the idea of moving you into a licensed caravan park. But camping is not a bed of roses. Local authorities in coastal towns like Busselton insist that park home parks and caravan parks must be located in residential zones or close to the coast where the land is expensive. As few as 15% of the sites in a caravan park may be available for occupation for more than three months. Most caravan park proprietors will want to take advantage of the 'high season' and require a resident to vacate when its least convenient to do so. Regulation created a licensed monopoly. Fifty years of acceptance has sanctified the rules. Nevertheless, the State Government with compassion in mind, moved In September 2024, to allow 'Camping' on any private property for up to two years, renewable at the discretion of the health department of the local council or failing that, the minister. In addition The state government moved in April 2024 to allow a second dwelling to be built wherever it is lawful to locate a house. These two concessions amount to a vital 'relief valve'. Will the camping concession be supported at the local authority level? A caravan or a 'tiny home' is a

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	prefabricated dwelling capable of being moved from place to place. Neither its construction or placement requires a building permit or planning permission. More than one such dwelling can be located with the permission of the Health Department of the local authority of failing that, the Minister for Local Government. Under the bushfire regulations its possible for moveable dwellings to be located under the shade of trees where fire risk is managed by means other than the provision of an 'asset protection zone' in line with a 'performance principle'. This is the right sort of ambience for a 'tiny home community'. Everyone prefers to live in a bush garden rather than a treeless suburb. We aspire to have space to breathe and a safe place for kids to play. In any case, an existing exemption to the ban on clearing of native vegetation enables a structure to be located in bushland provided that the clearing is no larger than required. The smaller the dwelling, the more important is shade and shelter from the sun and the wind. There is no fire risk in winter. The fire risk in summer can be ameliorated by installing sprinklers on the roof as in multi story buildings. A guaranteed stay of two years and occupation during the 'high season' is an attractive proposition. Many people would jump at the chance to live in what amounts to a 'rural residential' setting that otherwise requires bags of cash to purchase a two hectare block and build a castle on it. Lawyers are now having a field day writing regulations for local governments that want to deny granny flats, tiny homes and caravans on privately owned land in defiance of these initiatives of the state government. Town planning is in the hands of Local Governments. Town planning caters for the desire of householders to see the value of their property increase. The owners are referred to as NIMBYS. These people will maintain that what looks like a 'good idea' is fine as long as it is not located in their backyard. Their concept of a backyard includes the properties next door, down the street and around the corner. This pattern of behaviour is built into 'town planning' that invites public comment. By this means town planning becomes a vehicle for control and enslavement. Resistance Local governments like Busselton are not strong on compassion. The check list for applications to camp on private land states that only the intending camper can apply to the health department for approval. But, it's simply not realistic to expect a person who wants to live in a tiny home to be able to finance its purchase together with a vehicle to tow it, in the fond hope of finding a landowner willing to lay on the power and water, and convince the local health department and his numerous neighbours that this is a good idea. The 'reform' that allows camping on private property will come to nought unless landowners can take the initiative. The onus for securing permission should be on the landowners who are the adults in the room. Health Departments should be evangelists for tiny home living, not opponents. It is the responsibility of the Health Department to ensure that people are adequately housed, for the good of their physical and mental health. A clause in the Local Government Act enjoins local authorities to act in the best interest of the people they govern. I presume that means all of them. If both the local authority and the Minister obstruct there should be civil disobedience, Mahatma Gandhi style. Desirability of self-regulation in respect to camping on private property If camping comes to be regulated under the planning system all will be lost. When a planning department mandates a 100 metre setbacks on rural blocks it does so despite the fact that they are OK with no setback in the residential area. Planning will insist on an Asset Protection Zone to cater for the possibility of fire. But clearing would destroy native vegetation so, sorry it can't be done. There will be possums and cockatoos to consider. Deep setbacks require the clearing of more vegetation, unnecessary roadworks and an increase in the cost attached to the provision of services and protection from fire. None of this should be seen as deterministic in the context of a housing crisis. You and I are part of nature. Like the bush critters we need a certain amount of green space for our mental health. Green space is no longer available in suburbia. At most the Local Governments should develop a 'code of conduct' for camping and step aside. Set minimum standards and publicise them. Let landowners choose the site for the dwelling on the basis of practicality. Let them create an ambience that will please the owner and the occupants. Utilise the services of a mediator to resolve disputes. Aim for a solution that respects the needs and rights of

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	all, not least the intending tenant who should be present during any discussion between neighbours and the local authority. Hosting should be automatic and non revocable. Only by increasing the supply is it possible to take the pressure off the housing market and restrain an increase in prices and rents.
14	The Productivity Commission should recognize that housing affordability is fundamentally a fiscal and monetary problem. From a Georgist perspective, rising land values are largely created by community growth, infrastructure investment, and public services—not by the efforts of individual landowners. Taxing labour, enterprise and construction while allowing windfall land gains to accrue privately encourages speculation and pushes up housing costs. A more efficient fiscal framework would progressively shift taxation away from productive activity and onto land values through a broad-based Land Value Tax. This would discourage land banking, bring underutilized sites into productive use, and lower the speculative component of house prices. The resulting public revenue could be used to reduce distortionary taxes and fund infrastructure without further inflating land prices. From a Gesellian monetary perspective, housing booms are amplified by banking systems that create abundant credit for land purchases rather than productive investment. Monetary policy should therefore focus not merely on consumer-price inflation, but on asset-price inflation and land speculation. Prudential measures such as tighter lending standards for speculative property purchases, limits on leverage, and policies that direct credit toward productive enterprise rather than existing land assets would help stabilize housing markets. In short, the Productivity Commission should examine how fiscal policy can capture economic rent from land while monetary and banking policy limit speculative credit creation. By reducing incentives to hoard land and leverage rising land values, Australia could lower housing costs, improve economic efficiency, and shift investment toward genuinely productive activity rather than rent-seeking.
15	Our towns need to reflect the diversity and history of people and times that are there. The ABC recently reported on your plans to reduce council requirements to empower developers. It is with a strongly worried response that I ask you to reconsider the removal of certain requirements. Some aspects that need to remain in housing developments and plot plans include sufficient trees on median strips and near footpaths. One tree every five square metres would allow tree canopy and reduce the 'heat island effect'. Houses must be set back from fences, to enable egress in case of a fire or intruder near the front door. This is because garages are often filled with excess storage or modern oversized vehicles. Would you want at least 1.5 metres either side of your home to quickly leave, especially if you had to push an elderly or disabled family member out with you? What about young children in a pram to push as you left the property? I would also like to see more dedicated green spaces in housing developments. This is due to the fact that many houses no longer include sufficient front or back yards. Long gone is the Hills Hoist out the back for the kids to swing on. Now, a small fold out washing line is attached to the house, or many use a dryer. Many people have pets, but ignore any rules for a minimum square footage of garden needed to support a dog. Community green spaces also provide a 'third space', where friends can meet, people can relax after a long day, or talk to a distant loved one in nature. A third space in nature can also allow arrangements to leave a domestically violent situation without children who will automatically repeat what they hear or a partner who controls communication. We need our new or expanded suburbs to include the services residents will need. This includes childcare, schools, bus routes, a library, post office, sports facilities, and room for small businesses rather than international brands like fast or junk food. In Melbourne's west we can see regional trains continue to service growth suburbs. For years, people have asked for metro line extensions, such as to Wyndham Vale and Rockbank, much like the

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	electric line extension to Sunbury. These communities would also like some heritage replaced at train stations, rather than have them look like giant concrete box carparks. Victoria has unique Victorian and Edwardian designs, like Queensland has classic Queenslanders, and South Australia has stone builds with sand and blue materials. If we built more homes from stone, brick, wood, tiles, glass in copious styles, we might have less reluctance for more housing estates that stretch for hectares. More houses do not equal more affordability. Each house can take many hundreds of thousands of dollars to build. Thus, I do not believe that homes will suddenly become affordable or at about five times an annual average wage again. In many areas, prices sit at about 10 times an average wage still. For affordability, one needs a stable or full-time job. Increasingly, this has been hard to secure, such as for domestic graduates. Even mature aged graduates, with decades of work and volunteer experience, great English skills and high grades have struggled to begin professional work. Recently, in Victoria fellow domestic university students have seen large percentages of visa holders in classes, many of whom do not want to improve their English, learn about the profession or genuinely work in it. These students do not intend to return home either, so place higher demands on our housing stock. Often, these visa holders become employed, by businesses who can take advantage of these worker's desperation for sponsorship and money. As you can see, we must design our communities responsibly. Housing demand or density can be influenced by visa holders, like students and workers. I would strongly urge you to insist that a visa student returns at the end of their course, so that another student from another country can be given the opportunity to learn and return with their new skills. I would ask that new estates are not overcrowded with foreign owners, who have been seen to rent out rooms for \$400 a week and more for internet and a carpark. This can earn them over \$60,000 a year, that I'm sure the ATO would be interested to know. I would love to see more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander presence in new estates, like public art, events and acknowledgements. We also need to preserve a certain percentage of new housing for vulnerable people, like disabled, older, and low income (below average wage or income support). Another factor in new estates has been a lack of emergency services stations. Tens of thousands of new people need wider roads to enable an ambulance, fire truck or police van to attend an incident. Often, roads are like narrow lanes, and residents need to park on nature strips that could be filled with native trees or shrubs than large cars. We also must source Australian materials and workers to build houses. We cannot depend on imported goods and insufficient trades to build our communities. We need local apprentices, of all genders and ages. If any workers are internationally born or trained, they must do 1-2 years of an Australian equivalence at our Tafes, especially if they are from a non-English background or younger (under 40). I would also like to see ecological standards upheld in new builds or renovations. In this day and age solar panels, insulation, passive heating and cooling, energy efficient fixtures, and water tanks all need to be mandatory. Our communities deserve nothing less.
16	I welcome the opportunity to make this submission regarding unnecessary regulatory and legal burdens affecting Australian homeowners. I submit that perpetual restrictive covenants imposed by residential property developers should be reviewed and reformed. While such covenants may serve a legitimate purpose during the establishment and marketing of a residential estate, they often continue indefinitely, binding not only the original purchaser but every subsequent owner of the property. This creates an unnecessary and ongoing legal burden that can restrict the efficient use of housing without delivering a corresponding public benefit. The Problem Across Australia, many residential developments are sold subject to restrictive covenants registered on the title. These may prohibit: * Second-storey additions. * Granny flats or secondary dwellings. * Extensions beyond arbitrary limits. * Alterations to external appearance. * Particular fencing, roofing or landscaping. * Other building works already regulated through state planning systems. Unlike contractual

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	obligations between the developer and the original purchaser, these restrictions often remain on the land indefinitely, continuing to affect future owners decades after the developer has completed the estate and ceased to have any ongoing interest in the development. The result is a permanent private planning system operating alongside public planning laws. Why Reform is Needed Duplication of Existing Regulation Australia already has comprehensive planning and building legislation administered by state governments and local councils. These systems regulate matters such as: * Building height. * Setbacks. * Privacy and overlooking. * Overshadowing. * Streetscape and neighbourhood character. * Heritage protections. * Safety and building standards. Where restrictive covenants regulate the same matters, they duplicate existing public regulation while creating additional legal complexity. Reduced Housing Productivity Australia faces significant housing challenges. Many homeowners wish to adapt existing homes by: * adding bedrooms, * constructing a second storey, * building accommodation for extended family, * or improving the efficiency of existing housing stock. Perpetual restrictive covenants can prevent these changes even where they satisfy every planning and building requirement imposed by government. This unnecessarily limits housing flexibility and the efficient use of residential land. Ongoing Legal Costs Removing or varying a restrictive covenant can be expensive, uncertain and time-consuming. Homeowners frequently require: * specialist legal advice, * title searches, * negotiations with parties who may no longer have a genuine interest, * or court applications to modify or extinguish the covenant. These costs represent an unnecessary regulatory burden that produces little broader economic benefit. Burden on Future Owners Successive purchasers inherit restrictions they did not negotiate. Many buyers only discover the practical impact of a covenant when they later seek to renovate or extend their home. While the covenant may be disclosed during conveyancing, its long-term implications are often poorly understood and difficult to assess. Public Interest Considerations Developer-imposed restrictive covenants may have a legitimate purpose during the initial sale and establishment of an estate by: * maintaining consistent presentation, * protecting the developer's marketing objectives, * and preserving purchaser confidence while construction is underway. However, once an estate is complete and the developer's commercial interest has ended, the justification for perpetual private restrictions becomes significantly weaker. Long-term regulation of residential development should primarily occur through democratically accountable planning systems rather than private agreements that remain enforceable indefinitely. Recommendations I recommend that governments consider reforms including: 1. Restrictive covenants imposed by residential developers should automatically expire after a defined period (for example, 10–15 years after registration or once the development has been completed). 2. Covenants regulating matters already controlled by planning legislation should become unenforceable once the development is established. 3. State governments should establish a simplified administrative process for removing obsolete developer covenants without requiring costly court proceedings. 4. Future developer covenants should only be permitted where they serve a clear and ongoing public purpose that cannot reasonably be achieved through existing planning laws. Conclusion Perpetual developer-imposed restrictive covenants impose ongoing legal, financial and practical burdens on Australian homeowners while often duplicating existing planning controls. Although these restrictions may have value during the development and sale of an estate, there is little justification for them to continue binding future owners indefinitely. Reforming these arrangements would reduce unnecessary legal complexity, improve the adaptability of Australia's housing stock, lower transaction costs, and ensure that long-term regulation of residential development occurs through transparent public planning systems rather than perpetual private restrictions. Such reform would improve both regulatory efficiency and housing productivity while maintaining appropriate planning safeguards through existing government frameworks.

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17	A build mindset requires both enabling infrastructure and enabling institutional behaviour. Housing cannot proceed without timely water and sewerage services, while regulatory reform will not endure unless governments, utilities and communities can see a credible path from growth to better places and greater opportunity. In Victoria, this also requires the State Government to examine the constraints it imposes on its own water corporations. These include tax-equivalent and dividend payments, so-called capital repatriations, imposed “efficiency dividends” that may bear little relationship to genuine efficiency, and a pricing system weighted towards minimising near-term customer bills rather than investing ahead of growth. Each measure may be defended separately, but their cumulative effect can weaken the capacity and incentives of water corporations to build the infrastructure needed for new housing, climate resilience and future prosperity. The Productivity Commission should examine this as a potential misalignment of incentives. Governments cannot reasonably expect publicly owned water corporations to enable rapid housing growth while extracting capital, constraining operating capacity and rewarding the lowest immediate cost. A genuine build mindset would preserve affordability while enabling prudent investment ahead of demand, assessing water infrastructure by its long-term value, resilience and capacity to support better communities.
18	I live in North Balgowlah. I can't agree with the way approvals are being given to granny flats & the like, specifically in single dwelling suburban areas. Examples; One approval given to a granny flat that didn't comply with boundary req's, resulting in particular loss of privacy. Another is at the base of a cliff 10m high, with only access via a stairway. This can't be acceptable for e.g. fire or ambulance? Both cases have increased noise. Such increased density forces more cars parked on narrow streets e.g. making them less safe etc.. All these approvals should increase revenue in council rates however we don't seem to see a commensurate benefit, rather we have less amenity, why is that?? In essence, why try to cram more people into every nook & cranny of Sydney? Another example; every time a new facility is built or an existing one is renovated there's not enough car parking (as well as parking bays being undersized - pushed by the anti-family lobby or misguided green fanatics), all the result of squeezing more into smaller spaces. My local swimming pool didn't even get enough bike parking space! Why not build up new cities elsewhere?
19	How was housing supply managed in the decade after WWII, if during WWII no housing was built and in the 10 years after WWII i.e. 1945-1955 , some 200,000+ refugees, displaced persons, stateless, immigrants landed in Australia and had to be housed. Are there any lessons learned by Labour and Liberal Government's during the decade after WWII when it came to housing an influx of "New Australians" en-masse, that could still apply today? Did manufacturing jobs in Australia (now largely gone overseas) provide a clue to the housing supply in Australia? Are there opportunities for short to medium term housing using vacant office blocks (post COVID 19) with some refurbishment, especially for foreign students here for several years while they study? Are authorities looking closely enough at past practices that saw housing made available for large influxes of new comers to Australia? What are housing supply strategies missing from past practice that today are invisible in plain sight?

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20	Please consider practical implications of rubbish collections - 3 bin system - if minimum parking requirements are relaxed and on street parking is fully utilised. Collection trucks need access and minimum clearances. Also, consider, with an aging population - multi level developments - with stairs - may prove to be unsuitable for large cohorts of the population in the future.
21	Between 1982 and 1994 the Urban Land Authority (VIC) amended planning schemes to remove minimum lots sizes for vacant lots. Councils approved building envelopes and required registration with the subdivision at the Titles Office. New owners provided a copy of title to their Building Surveyor with building plans for approval. Proof of Concept was not promised to the private developers. The ULA was abolished in 1997.
22	Dear PC Congratulations on a great interim report and thank you for referencing some of the National Growth Areas Alliance's work. For the follow-up engagement, I would recommend consulting with Novoplan, which develops software that supports the management of developer contributions. While they are not housing developers themselves and may not see themselves as a fit for the developer survey, they have a strong understanding of infrastructure funding requirements and the way developer contributions operate different states. [Redacted] would be an excellent person to speak with regarding these issues. His contact details are: [Redacted] Thank you. Kind regards [Redacted] National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA)
23	hi TOD bella vista and kellyville rezoning. why rezoning to R4 only happened on one side the metro line. LAW shall apply all side equal, isnt it? rule of 400m or 800m has to be same on both side of the metro or train line. Not-In-My-Backyard works when people protest, not fair. all side equal rezoning, consider this in your amendment. Thank you!
24	The Productivity Commission's push for land-use de-regulation must include the complete removal of all local heritage lists. True de-regulation cannot occur while restrictive local heritage listings remain in place. As a local heritage property owner, I experience firsthand how these listings strip away underlying development rights, creating massive capital destruction and devaluing properties by millions of dollars compared to unlisted neighbouring lots. It is economically unjust to mandate that individual owners bear the immense financial burden of preserving historical assets for the public good, especially when the surrounding context is being radically altered. Allowing three-to-four-story flat developments on surrounding land while keeping individual properties locked under local heritage restrictions completely destroys the home's aesthetic value, privacy, and living standards. If the community and the Commission are committed to widespread land-use de-regulation to solve the housing crisis, the state cannot selectively enforce preservation laws on a handful of heavily penalised owners. Local heritage lists must be abolished entirely to ensure property rights, economic fairness, and land-use rules are applied equally to all. If a heritage item is truly of such vital importance that its preservation overrides basic property rights, it must be designated as a State Significant

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	Heritage item and be fully owned, funded, and maintained by the government. The public public should pay for public assets. Local heritage lists must be abolished entirely to ensure property rights, economic fairness, and land-use rules are applied equally to all