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MEDIA RELEASE

House Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities

Inquiry into the Australian Government's role in the development of cities

Issue date: Monday, 13 November 2017

Sydney's housing stress

As the cost to rent or buy a house in Sydney continues to rise, moderate to low income families are forced to the city fringe where access to services and employment opportunities is limited.

The city risks pricing out essential workers like teachers and nurses, reducing its productivity and damaging its standing as one of the world's most liveable cities.

The [House Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities](#) is conducting a public hearing in Sydney tomorrow to discuss the city's housing affordability crisis as part of an inquiry into the Australian Government's role in the development of cities.

Committee Chair, [Mr John Alexander OAM MP](#), said the Committee is concerned about increasing spatial inequality and decreasing housing affordability in Australia's major cities.

"Cities like Sydney are doing their best to deliver additional houses, but we are already behind the eight ball," Mr Alexander said.

"Increasing housing supply alone will not improve affordability and as long as prices remain high, spatial inequality will not improve. We need to identify more innovative strategies for providing housing at a price bracket accessible to everyday Australians."

The University of Technology Sydney said, "...the housing crisis in Australia's major cities is entrenching social inequality, making life in our cities increasingly untenable for many citizens".

It quoted research suggesting that the Australian Government could address poor housing affordability by introducing, "a changed taxation structure which provides support for those who are least able to afford homes, increased investment in social housing and support for alternative housing models that don't rely on speculative development".

Public hearing details: 9.30 am – 3.30 pm, Tuesday, 14 November 2017, Macquarie Room, NSW Parliament House, Sydney

9.30 am: [GoGet Carshare](#)

10.10 am: [Urban Taskforce](#)

11.10 am: [Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council](#)

11.50 am: [University of Technology Sydney](#)

1.30 pm: Sydney Water

2.10 pm: [Urbis](#)

2.50 pm: [Uber](#)



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3.30 pm: *Close*

The hearing will be broadcast live at aph.gov.au/live

Further information on the inquiry, including the full [terms of reference](#), is available on the [Committee website](#).

Media enquiries:

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Interested members of the public may wish to track the inquiry via the Committee's [website](#).

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