



Australian Population Institute (SA) Inc.  
"A Vision of a Greater Australia"

## NEWS RELEASE

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### HOUSING AFFORDABILITY CRITICAL TO SA'S FUTURE

Housing affordability is slipping in South Australia and needs to be significantly improved to ensure it remains our key advantage in retaining and attracting people to Adelaide.

Australian Population Institute (APop) SA Chairman Michael Hickinbotham, who spoke at today's APop/Housing Industry Association presentation by international demographer Wendell Cox, said South Australia has an opportunity to lead the nation in housing affordability.

Mr Hickinbotham says Macquarie Bank research shows conclusively that affordable housing is a key driver of population flows and in attracting people to South Australia and retaining them.

"There are strong links between land supply, housing affordability and population and South Australia needs to act immediately to free up the constraints on land supply," Mr Hickinbotham said.

"South Australia has an opportunity to lead the way in driving affordability in housing by lifting restrictions on land.

"Other States are aggressively marketing themselves to boost population, and South Australia needs to continue to identify and make the most of our competitive advantages.

"Housing affordability is one area that South Australia has previously had a significant advantage over other States, but unfortunately the gap is closing fast.

"We must look at ways to make our planning system simpler and more efficient, keep housing prices down and lift artificial restrictions to land supply.

"If you restrict the supply of land and the demand remains the same, then the price goes up."

Mr Hickinbotham has welcomed the State Government's commitment to an urgent review of land supply in Adelaide.

"The State Government's review of land supply is an important step forward in identifying areas for change and delivering a simpler and more efficient system in the future."

Mr Hickinbotham said South Australia needs to do all it can to prevent people relocating interstate and encourage more ex-patriots to come home.

"We need to take action now to prevent a population decline within the next 20 years and ensure Adelaide does not become the backwater to the Eastern States.

"The only two ways to achieve population growth are by increasing immigration and through increased birth rate.

"We do not want businesses to close their State branches. We do not want shops and restaurants to disappear. We do not want our young people to have to move interstate for a career.

"Sustainable population growth will maintain our critical mass of people and will maintain the lifestyle that we all love in South Australia, for this generation and the next."