

TOD Tour must be seen as an investment

I refer to the article by Kim Wheatley in the Advertiser on Friday 18 December 2009, with heading "\$350,000 jaunt – now that's mass transit".

The Urban Development Institute of Australia (SA) [UDIA] played a prominent role in organizing the TOD tour in May 2009; the majority of non-Government delegates were UDIA members all of whom paid their own way.

I participated as your UDIA representative, having worked with DTEI and DTED staff to arrange an itinerary suitable for UDIA members on the tour.

The tour of TODs in several sites in the company of Government ministers and department leaders was an outstanding success. The benefits in terms of shared understanding and improved relationships to discuss matters relevant to higher density communities in SA were considerable.

The free seminar arranged for UDIA members within a fortnight of our return from the tour was a great success. More information has been shared with various members by tour delegates and speakers at the UDIA State Conference.

The 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide calls for 258,000 additional dwellings over the next 30 years, by that time 70% to be infill. Any investment by our Government leaders that enhances their knowledge to effectively apply spending on TOD developments must be assessed against the substantial funds those leaders will control over the next 30 years.

The article featured on page 1 of the newspaper was shortsighted and contained inaccuracies. The UDIA was a willing supporter of the tour and would support similar ones in the future.

Terry Walsh
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