



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**The Hon. Kristina Keneally MP**  
Member for Heffron  
Minister for Planning  
Minister for Redfern Waterloo

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*Tuesday 8 September, 2009*

**NSW PLANNING SYSTEM DELIVERS 62,000 JOBS IN ONE YEAR**

**Since September 2008 the NSW Government has approved 447 Major Projects, creating nearly 62,000 jobs and more than \$19 billion worth of investment in NSW.**

Planning Minister, Kristina Keneally, today released the fifth monthly update of Major Project figures marking one year in the Planning Portfolio.

**Ms Keneally said 2,258 jobs will be created as a result of Major Project approvals in August, taking the total to 61,974 jobs created in the past 12 months.**

**“In the last year the Government, through the Major Project assessment system, has approved the total of 447 major projects creating \$19.7 billion of investment for NSW,”** Ms Keneally said.

**“These projects will create 24,441 construction jobs and 37,533 operational jobs which is fantastic news for families and the economy.**

“The increasingly streamlined NSW planning system is contributing toward efforts to boost the NSW economy in the face of the global economic downturn.” Ms Keneally said that during August 2009:

- **35 Major Projects had been approved, creating 1,220 construction jobs, 1,038 operational jobs and over \$2.2 billion of capital investment in NSW while 1 project was refused.**
- **Of these 35 approvals, 6 were approved by the Minister under Part 3A and 1 was approved under Part 4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.**
- **The Somersby Fields Quarry proposal was refused by the Minister in August.**
- **The Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) independently determined 1 Part 3A Project Application in July.**
- **The remaining 27 were approved by the Department of Planning under relevant Parts of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.**

“The Government is working to create Australia’s best planning system to help counter the effects of the global financial crisis,” Ms Keneally said.

“Ensuring decisions are made efficiently, transparently and at their most appropriate level provides the community and businesses with certainty and makes NSW an attractive state to invest in.”

A full breakdown of approvals is attached.



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**Major Projects - State Wide Update - July 2009**

1 to 31 August 2009					
	Approvals	Jobs – Construction	Jobs – Operational	Jobs – Total	Capital Investment Value
Minister					
Part 3A					
Concept	2	0	0	0	\$1,700,000,000
Project	4	877	925	1,802	\$443,192,940
<i>Total Part 3A</i>	6	877	925	1,802	\$2,143,192,940
Part 3A Mod	0	0	0	0	\$0
Part 4	0	0	0	0	\$0
Part 4 Mod	1	0	0	0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>1,802</b>	<b>\$2,143,192,940</b>
Department					
Part 3A					
Concept	0	0	0	0	\$0
Project	7	302	107	409	\$102,075,000
<i>Total Part 3A</i>	7	302	107	409	\$102,075,000
Part 3A Mod	10	10	0	10	\$5,750,000
Part 4	0	0	0	0	\$0
Part 4 Mod	10	16	0	16	\$13,505,181
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>\$121,330,181</b>
Planning Assessment Commission					
Part 3A					
Concept	0	0	0	0	\$0
Project	1	15	6	21	\$890,000
<i>Total Part 3A</i>	1	15	6	21	\$890,000
Part 3A Mod	0	0	0	0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>\$890,000</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>1,038</b>	<b>2,258</b>	<b>\$2,265,413,121</b>

**Note: As 1 Part 3A project approval by the Minister was double counted last month, the figures have been adjusted in the cumulative figures. 8 Departmental Part 4 Mod approvals were counted as Part 4 approvals; this has also been rectified in the cumulative figures. 1 Departmental Part 4 and 2 Departmental Part 4 Mods were not included in the June figures, these have been included in the cumulative figures.**



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8 September 2008 to 31 August 2009					
	Approvals	Jobs – Construction	Jobs – Operational	Jobs – Total	Capital Investment Value
<b>Minister</b>					
Part 3A					
Concept	19	7,383	11,401	18,784	\$7,047,818,630
Project	85	12,765	12,204	24,969	\$9,571,546,074
<i>Total Part 3A</i>	<i>104</i>	<i>20,148</i>	<i>23,605</i>	<i>43,753</i>	<i>\$16,619,364,704</i>
Part 3A Mod	7	2,500	12,087	14,587	\$2,536,594,000
Part 4	9	1	0	1	\$3,086,760
Part 4 Mod	8	3	0	3	\$6,885,858
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>22,652</b>	<b>35,692</b>	<b>58,344</b>	<b>\$19,165,931,322</b>
<b>Department</b>					
Part 3A					
Concept	1	0	0	0	\$0
Project	18	527	539	1,066	\$193,347,494
<i>Total Part 3A</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>527</i>	<i>539</i>	<i>1,066</i>	<i>\$193,347,494</i>
Part 3A Mod	102	123	81	204	\$38,996,500
Part 4	87	126	70	196	\$21,480,354
Part 4 Mod	107	188	45	233	\$88,300,181
<b>Total</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>1,699</b>	<b>\$342,124,529</b>
<b>Planning Assessment Commission</b>					
Part 3A					
Concept	1	550	600	1,150	\$120,000,000
Project	3	275	506	781	\$81,890,000
<i>Total Part 3A</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>825</i>	<i>1,106</i>	<i>1,931</i>	<i>\$201,890,000</i>
Part 3A Mod	0	0	0	0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>1,106</b>	<b>1,931</b>	<b>\$201,890,000</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>24,441</b>	<b>37,533</b>	<b>61,974</b>	<b>\$19,709,945,851</b>

**Note: The Planning Assessment Commission has determined 4 projects and reviewed and provided independent advice to the Minister on 14 projects since 8 September 2008.**



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**Glossary of Terms**

**Major Projects**

Major Projects are proposals that come to the State Government for assessment and determination under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (the Act). The Major Projects State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) provides a list of the types of development which can be considered major projects, along with relevant thresholds or location. If the Minister forms the opinion that a particular proposal meets the criteria outlined in the Major Projects SEPP, then it is declared a major project. This is sometimes referred to as a 'non-discretionary' project. The Minister also has the power to declare a proposal to be a Major Project by order in the Government Gazette should the Minister consider the project to be of State or regional environmental planning significance. This is sometimes referred to as a 'discretionary project.'

**Part 3A**

Part 3A of the Act sets out the steps which must be followed in the assessment of major projects such as public exhibition of the proposal and factors to be considered in the assessment of the project.

**Concept plan**

A concept plan provides a broad overview of the proposed development and establishes a planning framework for the site. Once a proposal has been declared a major project the Minister may also decide whether to authorise or require the proponent to lodge a concept plan for the project. If a concept plan is approved, further approvals may be required before the project can proceed to actual construction and future project applications for the site must be consistent with the approved concept plan.

**Project application**

While concept plans can be useful for some larger or more complex sites, the majority of proposals assessed as major projects are 'project applications'. Rather than providing a broad overview, a project application is an application to actually construct something, for example: a power station, tourist facility or hospital. Approval of a project application means that the proponent is able to proceed to the construction phase of the project, subject to the imposed conditions of approval.

**Part 4**

Part 4 of the Act is that part of the legislation under which the vast majority of development applications (DAs) are assessed across the State, including applications to local councils for matters such as residential unit blocks or commercial buildings. While most proposals dealt with by the State Government are handled under Part 3A of the Act, the Government continues to be the consent authority under Part 4 for certain types of development – most commonly in the alpine area of the State.

**Part 3A & Part 4 Modifications**

Proponents may apply to have their approval modified to allow for a project to be varied or to proceed in a different manner than originally approved. In order to have a proposal considered as a modification the proponent must demonstrate that the proposal, once modified, will remain substantially the same as the development that was originally approved. If this is not the case, the proponent is required to lodge an entirely new project application under 3A or DA under Part 4.

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