PLANS TO SPEED UP SOUTH-WEST HOUSING PLACED ON EXHIBITION

The NSW Government today called for comment on plans to accelerate the release of a possible 3,000 new homes in the South West Growth Centre, accompanied by infrastructure.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said the Government is exhibiting a draft planning agreement to release 300 hectares of land in part of the Catherine Field precinct.

The agreement has been developed with the proposed developer Valad Property Group under the precinct acceleration protocol, which allows for the release of precincts to be brought forward if infrastructure is provided at no cost to government.

The agreement outlines how the precinct planning process will be undertaken, with the Valad Property Group to fund this work.

“The precinct planning process will be undertaken by the Department of Planning with due regard to the probity principles of impartiality, accountability and transparency,” Mr Kelly said.

“A future agreement is expected to outline how the developer will deliver essential infrastructure to support the Catherine Field precinct, including regional transport infrastructure and services infrastructure, in connection with the proposed future rezoning of the precinct.

“The exact nature of the development, including housing yield, will also be determined at a later stage.

“The precinct acceleration protocol is an important mechanism to allow the government to consider bringing forward precincts with infrastructure forward funded by the private sector.”

A copy of the planning agreement and related material is available at www.planning.nsw.gov.au for inspection and comment until February 7, 2011.

Mr Kelly said the government would also soon make its 4th call for proposals to accelerate the release of other precincts in the North West and South West Growth Centres under the protocol.

“This will give major landowners who are currently not next in line for release, a chance to bring forward their land for consideration,” he said.

The Marsden Park Industrial Precinct, in the North West Growth Centre, is the first precinct released under the protocol which has proceeded to a rezoning. Some 10,000 jobs and around 1,200 new homes are proposed in this area.

“This builds on Government initiatives that have already ensured record levels of new release land supply for housing on Sydney’s outskirts.”

Member for Camden, Geoff Corrigan, welcomed the announcement.

“Camden is a fast growing area and we need more land to come on line, so today’s decision provides a big boost,” Mr Corrigan said.