



Hon Tony Kelly MLC
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MEDIA RELEASE

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MINISTER ACTS TO RESOLVE GROWTH CENTRE PRECINCT DELAY

Substantial progress has been made towards finalising the rezoning of two Precincts in Sydney's North West Growth Centre.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, toured the North West Growth Centre today with Blacktown City Council Mayor, Charlie Lowles.

"We discussed the rezoning of Riverstone and Alex Avenue Precincts for urban development so land for more than 15,000 homes and 45,000 residents can be made available over the next two decades," the Minister said.

"I explained the NSW Government's staged release of greenfield land must stay on schedule if we are to meet the challenge of Sydney's population growth.

"The North West Growth Centre will be home to an extra 200,000 people over the next 25 years and these two Precincts together will house almost a quarter of that population increase.

"We need to ensure there is enough zoned and serviced land in the North West Growth Centre for 70,000 additional homes and the necessary employment, retail, social and recreational activities those new residents will need."

Mr Kelly said the most pressing issue was the level of Section 94 contributions, the levy developers must pay to councils to fund delivery of new local infrastructure such as drainage works, parks, local roads, community centres and public libraries.

"State and local governments face the challenge of balancing housing affordability in new release areas with the need to deliver essential infrastructure," the Minister said.

"I believe we made substantial progress today in ensuring the Section 94 contributions set by Blacktown City Council will be fair and reasonable, yet still allow delivery of the local infrastructure and facilities communities expect.

"I am focused on ensuring families are able to afford homes in communities that are well designed and well serviced by suitable infrastructure."

Member for Riverstone, John Aquilina, said he appreciated Mr Kelly's intervention and hoped it would bring forward the rezoning of Riverstone and Alex Avenue precincts.

"The Riverstone area has a great history but it's also changing to meet the challenges of a growing population," Mr Aquilina said.

"It's important the State Government works closely with Council to ensure sustainable growth occurs and the community retains its essential character."
