23 September, 2010

SEVEN COUNCILS RECEIVE FUNDING FOR LOCAL PROJECTS

The delivery of 10-day online planning approvals has moved a step closer following the distribution of $280,000 in funding to seven NSW councils.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said Bankstown City Council, Blacktown City Council, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, Sutherland Shire Council, Tamworth Regional Council, The Hills Shire Council and Tweed Shire Council had been awarded funding.

This includes:
- $50,000 to increase the electronic data held in the Tamworth Regional Council area and engagement of local industry;
- $40,000 to improve the accuracy of Blacktown City’s electronic land information, the development of system training for staff members and the hosting of developer forums to promote the Electronic Housing Code;
- $40,000 so Sutherland Shire Council can manage a recommendation report for the Department of Planning’s attention, based on the participating councils’ experience of supplying data to Electronic Housing Code system;
- $40,000 to create a single definition of lots subject to flood controls to make it easier to implement the Electronic Housing Code;
- $40,000 to update Tweed Shire Council’s electronic land information resource;
- $40,000 to make land planning certificates available online at Bankstown City Council; and
- $34,300 to increase the capacity of electronically-available flood information and the introduction of an electronic fee calculation tool at Port Macquarie-Hastings Council.

In addition to this, $35,000 was allocated to Building Code Certifications, M.O.Hare Pty Ltd and Private Certifiers Australia, to assist them in their role in the pilot project.

Mr Kelly said these grants not only assist council’s with their involvement in the pilot project, but also provide a longer term benefit to their local government area.

“This project will develop an online shared, integrated platform for processing of complying development applications under the NSW Housing Code for lots 450m2 and above,” the Minister said.

“The system will reduce delays in planning approval times which in turn produces savings for home buyers.”

The pilot is being implemented by the NSW Government and the Local Government Shires Associations of NSW and is funded by the Federal Government’s Housing Affordability Fund.

“This pilot is a good example of the State, Local and Federal Governments working together on local projects, for the benefit of the community and local industry.