MEDIA RELEASE

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Labor’s Straightjacket on Planning Loosened

After state-wide frustration among NSW Councils over the former state Labor Government’s approach to ‘template’ Local Environmental Plans (LEPs), there will be more flexibility offered by the new Liberal Nationals Government.

“This Government is committed to empowering local communities and flexibility at the local level in developing LEPs is critical,” said Planning and Infrastructure Minister, Brad Hazzard today.

“To bring about that flexibility I have established a Local Planning Panel which will engage with local councils and report back to Government on how the standard instrument LEP can be improved.

“Communities will welcome the opportunity to have local issues reflected in development of planning documents – particularly as there has been mounting concern about the translation of some zonings (including environmental) into the new template framework.

“The Government is aware councils are struggling to incorporate local issues into the LEP template.

“We want these councils and their communities to speak up and assure them they will be heard.

“Councils and their communities are now urged to make use of the opportunity to have their say on a more appropriate standard instrument LEP.

“The Government is particularly interested in feedback on:
- The delivery and preferred timing of standard instrument LEPs
- Impediments to finalising standard instrument LEPs
- Implementation issues relating to standard clauses, definitions and policies
- Opportunities for greater flexibility to reflect local conditions

“An independent chair will be appointed to the panel on the recommendation of the Local Government and Shires Association and the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

“A successful planning system relies on transparency and consultation. The NSW Government intends to deliver where the former state Labor Government failed.”

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