An infrastructure funding agreement has been negotiated for the first residential subdivision in the new West Dapto urban release area.

NSW Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said under the proposed voluntary planning agreement (VPA), developer Stockland Development Pty Limited would contribute up to $2.2 million towards provision of State and regional infrastructure for West Dapto.

“The contributions will help pay for vital upgrades to the State and regional road network, and to purchase land for schools,” the Minister said.

The VPA is consistent with the Government’s proposed Special Illawarra Infrastructure Contribution (SIC), which is on public exhibition until February 25, with the VPA contribution working out to be $73,219 per hectare of developable land – the same contribution proposed under the SIC.

Mr Kelly said the Government is implementing a more consistent and efficient system of funding State and regional infrastructure for new release areas in the Illawarra, rather than negotiating site-by-site agreements for around 200 land owners in West Dapto.

“But based on the advanced negotiations for this VPA, and consistency with the proposed SIC, the Department has allowed the proposed agreement to be notified,” the Minister said.

“Public notification of this VPA signals planning for the first stages of the West Dapto urban release area is moving forward, and that includes planning for the provision of infrastructure.”

Stockland currently has an application for a 295-lot residential subdivision under assessment by Wollongong City Council but, before it can be determined, the company must demonstrate it has ‘satisfactory arrangements’ in place to contribute towards provision of State and regional infrastructure that will be provided by the Government.

Member for Wollongong, Noreen Hay, welcomed the announcement.

“I urge residents to take a look at the voluntary planning agreement for West Dapto which is available for public inspection for a month from today,” Ms Hay said.

The proposed Stockland VPA, along with an explanatory note, can be viewed until Tuesday, March 1 at:

- Department of Planning information centre, 23-33 Bridge St, Sydney;
- Department of Planning regional office, 84 Crown St, Wollongong; and