



Hon Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Planning
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister for Lands
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Leader of the House in the Legislative Council

MEDIA RELEASE

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HOUSING BOOST FOR CAMDEN

The state's fastest growing local government area will be provided with additional funding to process more residential development applications and help families move into their new homes much sooner.

Planning Minister, Tony Kelly, said **Camden Council would receive \$2 million** from the Development Assessment Acceleration Fund, part of the Government's Comprehensive Housing Supply Strategy.

"Camden is a very popular area for young families and people from nearby suburbs who wish to buy or build a new home," the Minister said.

"The extra funds will enable Council to assess more development applications and keep up with the growing demand for new homes."

The population of Camden LGA is projected to grow to 219,700 by 2031 up from 50,900 in 2005 – the biggest increase of any LGA in NSW and fastest growing in percentage terms (332%).

Mr Kelly said to accommodate this growth, the number of homes in Camden will need to increase from 17,100 in 2006 to 79,700 by 2031 – an average that will grow over 25 years to 2,500 additional homes each year.

"While the Government's NSW Housing Code, with its streamlined 10-day approval process for new homes that meet certain design criteria, will be utilised by many new home builders, Council's workload will no doubt grow substantially over the next two years," the Minister said.

The \$2 million Development Assessment Acceleration Fund will allow Council to:

- Undertake an initial review of its existing assessment procedures and requirements;
- Fund additional staff, such as planners and engineers, to reduce any existing backlogs and meet current resourcing needs in preparation for the expected increase in workload;
- Deliver further increases in staffing levels and associated resources in the medium-term as the increased flow of development applications enters the system; and
- Maintain and fund an appropriate level of service from its own income streams after the two year funding period.

In 2005/06, there were just 144 new homes built in the Camden LGA and approval granted for a further 235 dwellings.

Approvals jumped to 519 by 2009/10 and are likely to exceed 900 in 2010/11, 1,300 in 2011/12 and around 1,600 in 2012/13.

Mr Kelly said nearly all the new homes forecast for Camden will be in new release areas where engineering works need to be approved and constructed before homes can be built and occupied.



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“This means, in addition to the development applications for actual housing, applications for subdivision of the new release areas – including infrastructure such as new roads, drainage, water, sewer and electricity and telecommunications services – also need to be assessed by Council,” the Minister said.

Member for Camden, Geoff Corrigan, said as a relatively small council, Camden clearly needs more resources to assess escalating levels of applications in a timely manner.

“This two-year assistance package should allow Camden to process the forecast growth in development applications each year which is great news,” Mr Corrigan said.

“It will also allow Council to maintain a satisfactory level of service for the area’s existing 50,000 residents, while all the additional work on new housing is taking place.”

A funding agreement between the NSW Department of Planning and Camden Council is currently being prepared and will include a requirement for Council to report regularly to the Department on the funding’s implementation.

It will also include qualitative and quantitative benchmarks that Council must meet as funding is delivered throughout the two-year program.
