



The Hon Brad Hazzard MP

Minister for Planning & Infrastructure

Minister assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

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Kelly's changes to Senior Living SEPP reversed

The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Brad Hazzard has moved to reverse a change made to the Senior Living State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) by the former Minister, Tony Kelly.

“Community concern about Minister Kelly’s changes made in the dying days of the former Labor Government demand action, and that is what the new Government is delivering,” said Mr Hazzard today.

“On March 2 this year, the former Minister amended the Senior Living SEPP to prohibit consent authorities from re-assessing a project’s ‘Site Compatibility Certificate’ once it had been issued by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

“It is argued that Mr Kelly’s change prevents councils from refusing a senior living development on grounds already addressed in the ‘Site Compatibility Certificate’ which includes compatibility with the surrounding area.

“I have today directed the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to prepare the necessary legal documentation to reverse the change made by the former Planning Minister and undertake a comprehensive review of the Senior Living SEPP.

“At the same time I will ensure an open, transparent and comprehensive review of the planning issues around delivery of retirement villages through the Affordable Housing Taskforce that I announced a few weeks ago.

“As a result of reversing Mr Kelly’s change to the law, any development application which has not yet been determined will have to comply with the arrangements that existed prior to the former Minister’s changes – until the review is complete.

“Existing applications that have been refused by a consent authority (usually the local council or Joint Regional Planning Panel) will still have the normal rights of appeal through the Land and Environment Court.

“This government is determined to deliver positive planning outcomes in a transparent, open system. We will not tolerate any decisions that may have been made without such consideration under the former government,” Brad Hazzard said today.

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