MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Brad Hazzard MP
Minister for Planning & Infrastructure
Minister assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW

Thursday June 16, 2011

Labor’s destructive Part 3A ends

The NSW Government has today honed its pre-election commitment to repeal Labor’s destructive Part 3A legislation, which led to the stench of corruption in planning in NSW.

Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Brad Hazzard says it’s an historic step forward in the Government’s commitment to clean up planning and make NSW number one again.

“Under the new legislation around half of the projects previously assessed under Part 3A will be returned to local councils.

“To guarantee transparency and independence, as Planning Minister I will delegate determination of remaining private developer projects to the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) or in non-controversial cases, to senior officers at the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

“The new system will ensure the Government only gets involved in projects of genuine state significance and returns everything else to local government.”

Projects considered to be of state significance will include: major port and wharf facilities, rail projects, coal mines, water supply works, large-scale manufacturing and industrial processing factories, as well as, major health and education projects.

“Importantly, residential, retail, commercial developments, coastal subdivisions and marinas will now be assessed by local councils.”

Local government will also be better represented on Joint Regional Planning Panels (JRPPs), through a more consultative chairperson appointment process.

With an increase in threshold from $10 to $20 million for JRPP determinations, councils will now be responsible for determining significantly more projects.

“This is an exciting time for local communities – the start of a new planning approach, characterised by transparency, integrity and respect for local government and residents.”

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