MEDIA RELEASE

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Despite Greens Games - Part 3A is abolished

Despite Greens in the Legislative Council playing silly games, the Liberal and Nationals Government has legislated to get rid of the horrendous Part 3A of the Planning laws.

“Today was a great day for transparency, integrity and openness in the NSW Planning system,” said the Minister for Planning Brad Hazzard.

“The NSW Government has delivered one of its most anticipated pre-election promises and honoured its commitment to the community.

“Part 3A was introduced by Labor in 2005 and has haunted the NSW public for too long.

“With the arrival of Part 3A came the stench of corruption.

“The Labor era of corruption allegations and dirty deals is over.

“Today is the start of a NSW planning system that empowers local government and affords local residents the respect they deserve.

“The new system will ensure the Minister for Planning is at arm’s length from State Significant Development (which relates to private development only) and there will be no more Ministerial meddling as there was under Labor.

“To facilitate the arm’s length processing of development applications, all State Significant Development will be determined by the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) or at the recommendation of the PAC (under Part 4 of the Act).

“The Minister’s consent role will be only retained for State Significant Infrastructure, such as roads, rail projects, which will be dealt with under Part 5.

“There will also be changes to the Joint Regional Planning Panels including:
- increasing the threshold from $10 to $20 million (almost doubling the DA’s considered by elected councils)
- ensuring chairpersons of the JRPPs are appointed in consultation with the Local Government and Shires Association.

“Communities across NSW can now have confidence in the new planning framework,” said Brad Hazzard.

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