



The Hon Brad Hazzard MP

Minister for Planning & Infrastructure

Minister assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

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Minister returns planning powers to the Wagga Wagga community

In accordance with the NSW Government’s key election promise to empower local communities, Planning and Infrastructure Minister Brad Hazzard has moved to dissolve interim planning panels at Wagga Wagga – and hand planning powers back to the local community.

Minister Hazzard has recognised efforts by Wagga Wagga Council to reform its internal procedures and is confident the Council is now fit to manage its own planning processes, in conjunction with the Southern Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP).

“Two external planning panels were created to take over planning processes at Wagga Wagga following concerns about the Council’s performance. There have since been significant reforms to the Council’s internal procedures, and a commitment to ongoing improvement,” Minister Hazzard said.

“A few months ago local MP, Daryl Maguire had me visit Wagga Wagga to talk with council staff and the business community to hear the issues and progress being made firsthand.”

“In light of what I saw at Wagga Wagga and what I believe is a commitment to reform, there is no longer a need for the independent panels to operate; planning decisions will now be made by Council and the Southern JRPP.”

The Southern JRPP will extend its jurisdiction to include the Wagga Wagga local government area.

Minister Hazzard has recommended the JRPP take over planning proposals for the Cartwrights Hill and Estella areas.

“The NSW Government is committed to returning planning powers to local communities, and the decision not to appoint an administrator and dismiss the interim panels is a demonstration of this commitment.”