



The Hon Brad Hazzard MP

Minister for Planning & Infrastructure

Minister assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

November 3, 2011

FINDING THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING SOLUTION

The NSW Government has taken another step towards developing an Affordable Housing strategy that meets the needs of families, while protecting the character of local communities.

Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Brad Hazzard addressed a gathering of 200 key stakeholders today at the State's first dedicated Affordable Housing Forum.

"The Forum brought together community housing advocates, developers, academics, state and local government for a frank and open discussion about how affordable housing is best delivered in NSW.

"Ideas from the Forum will be used by the Government's newly established Affordable Housing Taskforce to develop planning policy that strikes a balance between housing provision and the character of local communities.

"In May this year the NSW Government announced an Affordable Housing Taskforce to drive new planning policy to ensure an appropriate level of affordable housing is achieved.

"This forum reminds NSW residents that affordable housing is critical to ensure low to middle income workers can find accommodation close to the jobs the community relies on them to do.

"Public Housing is an important component of affordable housing – in 2010 more than 47,000 people were on waiting lists for suitable accommodation in NSW and 1500 households had been waiting more than two years.

"The Liberals and Nationals are determined to repair the critical housing shortage created under Labor and ensure communities have a say in the development which occurs in their local area.

"I thank all stakeholders for taking part in today's Forum and assure them their input will be used to develop a fair and effective affordable housing strategy.

"This Government is confident that through community consultation and the work of the Affordable Housing Taskforce, it can get the balance right," Mr Hazzard said.

MEDIA: Clementine Johnson 9228 5717/0467 740 915