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Online applications to streamline process for State significant development

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure has launched a range of new website tools to improve the transparency of the State significant assessment system and enable proponents to lodge applications online.

The department's Director-General, Sam Haddad, said the new tools would streamline the application and assessment process for applicants and make information more accessible to the public.

The launch of the online lodgement system follows the introduction of the NSW Government's new assessment system for State significant infrastructure and development, which commenced on 1 October 2011.

The new system includes a range of enhancements to the department's major projects website. Applicants will now use the online system to begin the application process for State significant infrastructure and development, including to request Director-General's Requirements (DGRs).

The department is working on expanding the online system, including to enable applicants to request modifications to their development consent online.

"The system will make lodging an application simpler for proponents and will streamline the department's receipt of the proposal by requiring proposals to be lodged online, allowing the assessment process to get underway more quickly," Mr Haddad said.

A number of other enhancements to the major projects website have also been activated in recent weeks, including:

- Additional searching capabilities including the ability to search by the type of project, decision maker and status;
- The ability to see a list of all projects where the department has completed its assessment and referred them to the Planning Assessment Commission for determination;
- An RSS feed to make it easier to get updates on particular types of projects or in a specified LGA;
- A flowchart for each SSD and SSI application, which provides a visual indicator as to where the project is up to in the assessment process; and
- Publishing details of projects on the major projects website earlier in the process, namely at the point when DGRs are being prepared, rather than waiting until DGRs are issued.

"We already publish a proponent's project documentation, public submissions and the department's assessment report on the website, and these enhancements provide an added layer of transparency and access to information," Mr Haddad said.

“These enhancements are about making it easier for the public, and applicants, to track progress of State significant development proposals from the time when Director-General’s Requirements are being prepared, right through to the determination of the application and the reasons for the final decision.”

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