



# **The Hon Brad Hazzard MP**

## **Minister for Planning & Infrastructure**

### **Minister assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **PLANNING REPORT CARD RELEASED**

Development application processing times worsened during the final year of former Labor government – highlighting the need for a complete re-write of the State’s planning system.

Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Brad Hazzard today released the 2010-11 Local Development Performance Monitoring report.

“This report backs our view that the piecemeal reforms made by Labor haven’t worked and the planning system needs a complete overhaul,” Mr Hazzard said.

The report shows that:

- Development application (DA) determination times averaged 68 days in 2010-11, up from 67 days in 2009-10
- State agencies took 47 days to comment on DAs – up from 43 days in 2009-10
- More than one third of DAs had their assessment suspended due to incomplete information from the applicant – the same proportion as in 2009-10
- The overall number of development proposals fell by 2,745 in 2010-11, although the value of development activity increased by \$1.23 billion; and
- Just 18.5 per cent of developments were approved via the fast-tracked complying development approach, well below the former Labor government’s target of 50 per cent.

However there were several bright-spots – in particular from planning policies retained by the Coalition government. This included:

- A reduction in assessment times for higher-valued development applications, possibly due to the contribution of Joint Regional Planning Panels
- A spike in ‘granny flat’ approvals; and
- A jump in developments approved using the NSW Government’s Housing and Commercial and Industrial Codes.

“This is a comprehensive report which will assist our work to get new planning legislation into Parliament this year,” Mr Hazzard said. “I’d like to thank the councils which improved their performance and am keen to work with all councils to strengthen the planning system’s efficiency.”

The report is available at [www.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au)

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