MEDIA RELEASE

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COUNCILS BEING CONSULTED ON MAJOR HOUSING SITE PROPOSALS

Local councils are being and will continue to be consulted on all major housing proposals and will be responsible for assessing plans to permit construction, Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Brad Hazzard confirmed today.

Mr Hazzard said it was necessary to clear the record on this issue following incorrect statements from Opposition leader John Robertson who was part of a Government that gave NSW the rotten Labor Part 3A provision and very poor housing outcomes.

“Labor gave us the lowest housing starts in 50 years and planning laws that destroyed community confidence in the entire planning process,” Mr Hazzard said.

“Part 3A was scrapped by the Coalition because it lacked transparency, raised a corruption risk and steamrolled local councils.

“With our housing review, we will collaborate during the entire planning process with local councils in regard to 43 potential housing sites nominated to us. All nominated sites have been put transparently on the Department of Planning and Infrastructure website – something that never happened under Labor!

“Once the rezoning stage is complete, then it will be up to local councils to assess detailed development applications to begin housing construction.

“During Labor’s Part 3A days, councils didn’t have this role – decisions were often made by a Labor Minister behind closed doors.

“The Coalition approach will mean the council staff report will be considered by either local councillors or the Joint Regional Planning Panel (which includes council representatives) depending on the size of the proposal.

“We want to get more affordable housing on the ground and lower prices but we must ensure developments take place either where infrastructure is already in place or where it will be delivered by the property owners.

“What we are doing is being open, consultative and innovative – trying to ensure a housing stimulus in the context of infrastructure already being available or developers providing the necessary infrastructure.”

MEDIA: Lee Dixon 0467 742 993