



Brad Hazzard MP
Minister for Planning & Infrastructure
Minister assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

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Bold new planning system for New South Wales unveiled

Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Brad Hazzard MP today unveiled the Green Paper – *A New Planning System for NSW*, outlining the Government’s bold vision for a more transparent, effective, and efficient planning system for NSW.

Delivering on an election commitment to completely overhaul the 30-year-old Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the Government is placing community participation at the forefront of the new planning system for NSW.

“We are developing a planning system that for the first time will put community participation at the forefront of planning decisions about how our cities and towns will grow and develop. Communities are the best at shaping their future, and our planning system will enshrine in law their involvement in planning for growth and change,” Mr Hazzard said.

Mr Hazzard stressed that the new planning system must work for all the community in order to be successful.

“We want our cities and towns to be great places to live, with planning outcomes that reflect the expectations of the community and help make housing more affordable.

“From managing our agricultural land to reserving land for biodiversity and to developing urban renewal sites, the planning system must work effectively and efficiently for all users.

“The new planning system will have a strong focus on good, upfront strategic planning – which involves making evidence-based decisions about how our cities and regions will grow over time. This will give communities confidence and certainty about how their neighbourhoods will grow over time.

“Good strategic planning also provides the right signals to industry about where to invest and will help ensure that the site specific wars about individual developments become a thing of the past.”

Mr Hazzard said that the Green Paper outlines 23 changes which will place NSW back in contention for the leading planning system in the country.

- Development applications (DAs) for swimming pools, garages, new houses, changing a shop’s use and other routine proposals will be considered and dealt with faster by the local council or an accredited certifier.
- Council staff are currently responsible determining some 97 per cent of development applications. Councillors decide around 3 per cent.

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- The legislation has been modified over 150 times to try to keep up with changes in the community.
- Each year there are up to 109 changes to Local Environmental Plans across the state.

“These bold reforms will help break the shackles of 16 years of a deals-for-dollars culture and red tape that has been strangling investment in NSW.

“We are creating a planning system of which the people of NSW can be proud. A planning system that places community interests first and a planning system that will lead the nation in innovation and reform,” Mr Hazzard said.

Communities have two months to have their say until 14 September 2012.

An online consultation forum has been set up at
www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/newplanningsystem

Further information can be found at the Department of Planning and Infrastructure website:
www.planning.nsw.gov.au