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## **\$112 MILLION FOR 2012-13 TO PROGRESS KEY PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVES**

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure will be given additional resources to fast-track the assessment of major projects, with the potential to inject \$55 billion into the State's economy.

Planning and Infrastructure Minister Brad Hazzard said the 2012-13 Budget commits \$13 million to accelerating the assessment of significant state developments, including the remaining development applications lodged under the now repealed Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.

"These projects have the potential to contribute \$55 billion to the NSW economy and supporting around 100,000 jobs, so it's important we finalise their assessments on merit as soon as possible," Mr Hazzard said.

"This additional funding will allow the Department to potentially assess twice as many projects in the same space of time and accelerate clearance of backlogs to major project applications."

Mr Hazzard said the 2012-13 Budget also provides \$75 million to acquire land for regional open space and transport corridors.

"This is about planning for the future needs of our children and their children," he said.

"The population of Sydney metropolitan area is growing, so we need to preserve areas today for tomorrow's parks, recreation areas and transport corridors."

Other key initiatives for the Planning and Infrastructure cluster include:

- \$8 million to help councils finalise local environmental plans (LEPs) using the standard instrument template to establish a simpler, more efficient and more consistent planning system
- \$5 million for the ongoing review of the State's planning system
- \$5 million to improve infrastructure planning and delivery including implementing Growth Infrastructure Plans, engaging Release Area Delivery Managers and reviewing development contributions
- \$3 million to implement the Upper Hunter and New England North West Strategic Regional Land Use Plans and release draft plans for the Central West and Southern Highlands that balance mining with the protection of valuable agricultural land
- \$2 million to resolve systemic planning impediments to housing supply, establish monthly reporting of dwelling completions and develop new modelling to improve housing supply and affordability, and
- \$1 million to expand exempt and complying development codes to include multi-unit housing and increase the range of commercial and industrial developments eligible for 10-day approval.