MEDIA RELEASE

March 14, 2012

ASHMORE ESTATE HEIGHTS CUT

The NSW Government today reversed Labor’s push to impose a 19-storey height limit at the Ashmore industrial estate at Erskineville.

Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Brad Hazzard, said he would be supporting the City of Sydney’s resolution to defer the Goodman site in the Ashmore estate from its current local environmental plan (LEP).

“Labor directed the City of Sydney Council in 2010 to increase height limits at the site from nine to 19 storeys and increase allowable residential floor space by nearly 60 per cent,” Mr Hazzard said.

“Last week I toured the site and came to the conclusion that a height limit of 19 storeys at this site is completely out of character with the nearby area.

“My decision will allow the rest of this important LEP covering the entire council area to progress and be considered by the NSW Government.

“In saying that, the Goodman site is capable of accommodating some infill development to help us meet the 25,000 homes we need each year in Sydney.

“The Coalition is all about working with responsible local councils to get good planning outcomes – not treating communities with contempt like Labor did.”

Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore MP welcomed the Minister’s announcement and said it would allow the council to finalise appropriate planning controls for the site.

“The City organised a public meeting on Ashmore and did the work to show how the previous government’s changes would affect residents, including increased traffic, loss of regional views and significant overshadowing,” the Lord Mayor said.

“I was extremely concerned about how the increased height and density would impact the area and the process by which the changes were made.

“We received more than 500 public submissions complaining about these impacts.”

“Our planning controls, developed after thorough research and community consultation, limit Ashmore’s buildings to nine storeys or less, and deliver new streets, bike lanes, a small supermarket and 15,000 square metres of open space.”

MEDIA: Mark Skelsey 0407 851 095