MEDIA RELEASE

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IMPROVED RANKING FOR NSW PLANNING

Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Brad Hazzard today welcomed an Australia-wide report card which backs the Coalition’s improvements to the NSW planning system while noting there are still issues to address.

The Residential Development Council, which represents major residential developers and investors, has released its analysis of State development assessment systems.

“This report supports the reform agenda of the NSW Government to make the development assessment system more transparent and efficient,” Mr Hazzard said.

The report-card states “NSW’s planning system’s reputation precedes it - it has a habit of generating heat in any planning discussion, but a lot has been done in recent times to improve its standing and a lot more is intended to be done.”

It increases NSW’s ranking due to a number of reasons, including that:

- “The NSW Government has committed to a wholesale review of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and has an opportunity to introduce first-class legislation that reflects national best practice”
- “Standard format planning schemes are being rolled out”
- “Independent assessment panels (regional panels and the Planning Assessment Commission) are now well-entrenched.”

“Importantly, we’ve been given a tick for making the planning system more efficient at the same time as we’ve introduced measures to work more closely with local government and improve consultation with the public,” Mr Hazzard said.

“This report card follows the release of the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics data which shows NSW was one of only two States to record an increase in dwelling unit commencements in the December quarter.

“I recognise we’ve got a lot more work to do to fix up the mess left to us by Labor but welcome this improved ranking and look forward to getting the system right.”


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