



Brad Hazzard MP

Minister for Planning & Infrastructure

Minister assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

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BILL TO REMOVE HOUSING ROADBLOCKS PASSES THROUGH NSW PARLIAMENT

New laws designed to ensure greater housing supply for the residents of NSW has passed through NSW Parliament today.

“This delivers on the O’Farrell Government’s agenda to ensure local community voices are heard at the same time as impediments to housing supply are diminished and tougher controls on private certification are introduced,” Planning and Infrastructure Minister Brad Hazzard said.

“Following the introduction of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment Bill to Parliament in October, the NSW Government consulted heavily with local councils, community and industry groups who had supported the majority of the Bill but expressed concerns about changes to Development Control Plans (DCPs) and heritage provisions.

“The Government worked with Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore to try to achieve the balance needed.

“The Government proposed amendments to ensure heritage areas will continue to be protected and that planning controls in certain DCPs would be safeguarded.

“The O’Farrell Government has again demonstrated its commitment to engage with the community, councils and industry groups on planning issues and expresses thanks to those who raised concerns, discussed the issues and assisted in achieving a balance.

“The Bill delivers on the Government’s agenda to remove time-wasting planning duplications, improve affordability and ensure greater housing supply for NSW.

“These changes will remove conflicts between Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) and DCPs which have contributed to roadblocks delivering housing,” Mr Hazzard said.

Other key changes include:

- Allowing the Rural Fire Service to more easily update bushfire maps and issue a single approval for development at the subdivision stage.
- Clarifying the process for releasing existing ‘paper subdivisions’ for urban development.
- Broadening the Building Professionals Board’s powers so it can launch investigations into certifiers at any time without requiring a specific complaint.

“The O’Farrell Government is committed to improving the planning system and this Bill along with the development of the White Paper are important steps,” Mr Hazzard said.

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