



Brad Hazzard MP

Minister for Planning & Infrastructure

Minister assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

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PLANNING CODE CHANGES TO BOOST NSW

A streamlined planning code will assist new housing by allowing development approvals in just 10 days under changes proposed by the State Government.

“We need to cut through red-tape and fast-track simple development applications in order to get new housing built as quickly as possible,” Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Brad Hazzard said.

“The O’Farrell Government is committed to getting NSW housing substantially increased well beyond the inadequate level under the former Labor government (which hit a record low of 26,982 in 2009).”

Under the proposed changes now open for discussion:

- privacy provisions for private residences would be strengthened;
- privacy screens would be more widely required for second storey windows;
- Building single-storey detached studios at the rear of properties without rear lane access would be permitted.

“The O’Farrell Government’s reforms will require neighbours within 50 metres to be given notification five days before a certifier is able to approve the development.” Mr Hazzard said.

“Whilst complying/code (set height, width and length limits) approval development was possible under the former Labor government’s 2008 code, notification to neighbours for new construction was only required two days before commencement.

“This change will encourage neighbours to discuss the proposals which hopefully will lead to better neighbourly relations.”

Under proposed changes for 10 day approvals to commercial properties:

- New industrial buildings up to 20,000 square metres, such as warehouse and distribution facilities, on land already zoned for industrial development;
- Additions and alterations to allow existing shops to increase floor-space by 50% up to 1,000 square metres and 2,500 square metres for commercial premises;
- More than 240 different combinations of building use changes, such as from a shop to a medical centre or light industrial building to self-storage premises.

The proposed changes are being exhibited by the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure until **9 November 2012**.

Submissions can be made: codes@planning.nsw.gov.au

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