



# **Brad Hazzard MP**

## **Minister for Planning & Infrastructure**

### **Minister assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW**

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#### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **NURSING HOME SPRINKLER STANDARDS**

Aged care facilities will be required to give more information to residents and prospective residents as to whether sprinklers are installed under a suite of proposed changes on public exhibition by the NSW Government.

“Feedback is being sought to help implement automatic sprinklers in NSW aged care facilities as announced in August. This is to help protect the elderly and vulnerable residents,” Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Brad Hazzard said.

The proposed regulation will begin on 1 January 2013 and provides:

- Facilities can install automatic sprinklers by August 2014 without a need to lodge an implementation plan;
- Facilities which need longer to adjust have until February 2016 (with a potential extension by one year in exceptional circumstances) to develop an implementation plan and install sprinklers.

“As of April 2013, facilities without installed sprinklers will need to display signs and place information on their website, informing visitors this is case,” Mr Hazzard said.

“Nursing homes without sprinklers will need to provide six-monthly progress reports to a proposed implementation committee and these reports will be posted on the Department of Planning and Infrastructure’s website.

“Proposed changes will allow most aged care facilities to get approval from an accredited certifier for sprinkler systems within ten days, without needing to submit a development application.

“Nearly 600 buildings containing 24,000 beds do not have sprinklers installed according to a survey of nationally-accredited facilities in NSW completed earlier this year. This represents an estimated 55 per cent of existing residential aged care buildings in NSW.

“Sprinklers help reduce the intensity of a fire and can help buy critical time to safely evacuate residents,” Mr Hazzard said.

Proposed changes to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation and two State environmental planning policies are on exhibition until November 14 and can be found at: [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals)

Submissions can be emailed to [sprinklers@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sprinklers@planning.nsw.gov.au)

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