



# **Brad Hazzard MP**

## **Minister for Planning & Infrastructure**

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

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **LOCAL COUNCILS GIVEN REZONING POWERS**

Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Brad Hazzard today announced local councils will have the power to sign-off on various rezoning plans for the first time in 30 years.

“The O’Farrell Government is committed to returning local planning powers to local councils and their communities,” Mr Hazzard said speaking at the Local Government and Shires Associations’ NSW Annual Conference in Dubbo.

“Councils can finalise a range of Local Environmental Plan amendments, including spot rezonings, heritage proposals and the reclassification of some public land.

“Most importantly, councils will still be required to undertake community consultation for planning proposals that are delegated to them,” Mr Hazzard said.

Additionally, proponents seeking a rezoning can now request an independent review of decisions through the local Joint Regional Planning Panel if a council has refused or failed to respond to their rezoning request.

Also a council or a proponent can ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure to alter a decision made by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure. In these cases, the Minister would seek advice from the Planning Assessment Commission before making a decision.

“Currently, a person requesting a rezoning isn’t recognised at all by the planning system and has no rights to seek a review of any final decisions,” Mr Hazzard said.

“This means rezoning proposals which have merit – for instance those which are well-located, planned and will assist housing supply – may be supported after an independent review.”

The changes are explained in a Planning Circular to be issued to local councils today, as well as in two online publications – ‘*A guide to preparing local environmental plans*’ and ‘*A guide to preparing planning proposals*’.

More information is available at [www.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au)

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