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MORE THAN \$20 MILLION FOR NEW PLANNING SYSTEM

The NSW Government has allocated **\$20.9 million** to implement the State's new planning system in 2013-14, including up to **\$3 million** to build a new culture of community participation.

A White Paper outlining the new system and draft legislation is being exhibited until 28 June, with the State's new planning laws to be established during the upcoming financial year.

"This Government is not just overhauling the State's planning laws - we're delivering an entirely new approach to how planning is done in New South Wales," Planning and Infrastructure Minister Brad Hazzard said.

"For too long, local communities have been sidelined in the really important decisions about the future of their neighbourhoods, suburbs and regions.

"Communities will work with councils and state agencies to create a shared vision for the housing, jobs and infrastructure in their regions with upfront strategic planning.

"New guidelines and templates for community participation will be one of the first planks put in place during this first year. These important tools will assist both State and Local Government to work with local communities right from the outset."

Further information on the Government's new planning system and how to get involved can be found at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/newplanningsystem

In addition to extra funding for the State's new planning system, the 2013-14 budget has also committed **\$5.3 million** to the ongoing work of the Planning Assessment Commission and Joint Regional Planning Panels.

These independent expert panels make decisions on State and regionally-significant development proposals, taking the politics out of planning decisions across the State.

"This latest funding will continue to underpin this robust and independent system during the transition to a new planning system," Mr Hazzard said.

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