

Media release



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From horses to homes in Western Sydney

The rezoning of a former dancing stallion venue in south-western Sydney has helped the NSW Government deliver record levels of land for new homes in Sydney in the first three months of 2013.

The Government rezoned major new release sites with the potential to create 21,476 new homes during the quarter, according to a new Department of Planning and Infrastructure report.

Both released and rezoned land stocks are now at the highest levels since land release programs began in the early 1980s.

One of the sites rezoned was the former El Caballo Blanco dancing stallion entertainment venue and adjacent historic Gledswood complex at Catherine Field near Camden.

Up to 860 new homes could be built on the 207 hectare site, located close to the growing Central Hills business park and the Smeaton Grange industrial area, along with the South West rail link which is currently under construction.

The site sits beside Camden Valley Way which is being widened to four lanes by 2015 and was one of the 10 projects backed in the 2012-13 State Budget's Housing Acceleration Fund.

Andrew Jackson, the department's executive director for infrastructure and planning strategies, said the latest Sydney housing figures have been released in the Metropolitan Development Program March quarterly and April monthly reports.

"These new figures show the Government is creating a pipeline of new land ready to meet the city's building demands for decades," Mr Jackson said.

"We are unlocking vital housing land for new homes in Sydney to meet the demands of the city's growing population, delivering on our commitment in the Metropolitan Strategy to provide homes supported by transport and job opportunities."

At the end of March 2013, 160,000 homes have the potential to be built on land which has been released into the Metropolitan Development Program. Of the total stock, 105,000 homes have been rezoned.

The high rate of rezonings augers well for Sydney's medium to long-term development pipeline. Other important rezoned land release areas during the quarter included sites at Austral and Leppington North (potential for nearly 15,400 new dwellings) and at East Leppington (potential for more than 3,250 new dwellings).

Mr Jackson said the department's latest monthly housing monitor confirmed the increased numbers of housing approvals in Sydney.

With 2,844 housing approvals recorded in April, the number of approvals in 2012-13 is now sitting at 23,824, just 566 homes below the entire amount of 2011-12 (24,390) with two months of the year to go.

The number of home completions for the first nine months of 2012-13 exceeded the entire amount achieved in 2011-12.

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