



# **Barry O'Farrell MP**

## **Premier of NSW**

### **Minister for Western Sydney**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Saturday 16 March 2013

### **SYDNEY'S SUPER SATURDAY: IMPROVED HOUSING AFFORDABILITY & BOOSTING CONSTRUCTION**

The NSW Government today announced one of the State's biggest ever housing supply programs - with up to 171,700 new homes to be delivered across Sydney, NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell and Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Brad Hazzard said today.

Mr O'Farrell was in Box Hill in North West Sydney to unveil sites in 31 new and existing suburbs with capacity for 111,700 homes and announced the investigation of a further 13 sites with the potential for an extra 60,000 homes.

"This massive program will see a wide range of housing types built to suit all budgets in existing suburbs and in new release areas – with jobs, shops, schools, parks and transport all close by," said Mr O'Farrell, who was joined by local MPs Ray Williams and Kevin Conolly.

"We understand people are concerned about rising housing costs in Sydney and the delivery of these tens-of-thousands of new homes will assist in improving housing affordability.

"Before the election, I said I wanted to ensure owning a home wasn't a fading dream for young families. The massive super Saturday package will go a long way to delivering on that commitment.

"The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is ensuring these new houses are supported by our \$61.8 billion infrastructure program – including the North West and South West Rail Links, the light rail extension to Randwick and upgrades to roads including the M5 West widening, WestConnex, Camden Valley Way, Richmond Road and Schofields Road.

"We will not repeat the mistakes of Labor – who allowed houses to be built in Sydney long before the necessary infrastructure was in place to support them.

"Employment areas are also being created alongside this new housing to allow people to get jobs closer to where they live.

"When the Government came to office, housing delivery was near record lows – in 2009, just 13,752 new homes were built in Sydney.

"A new approach was needed to deliver the housing Sydney needs – and that's why we cut red tape, released more land and generally boosted confidence for builders and homebuyers.

“The steps we’ve taken have helped lift housing completions in Sydney in 2012 to 18,186 – the highest level since 2006.

“But that isn’t enough – we need around 27,400 additional homes in Sydney each year to keep up with population growth and to keep home prices affordable.

“That’s why today, we’re unveiling one of the biggest housing delivery programs this State - or any other - has ever seen.”

The program includes:

- 27,400 new homes and 49,500 new jobs in centres around the eight new railway stations along the North West Rail Link;
- 30,000 new homes across eight existing urban areas to be revitalised under the NSW Government’s new Urban Activation Precincts (UAP) program;
- Rezoning land for 30,250 new homes and 29,000 jobs across five precincts in Sydney’s Growth Centres near the new North West and South West Rail Links;
- The release of three additional North West Growth Centre precincts where planning will start for a further 8,200 homes;
- Immediate action to progress seven outer suburban greenfield sites with potential for 15,850 homes in response to the Government’s Potential Home Sites Program; and,
- Investigation of 13 additional sites with potential for 60,000 homes further down the track.

Mr Hazzard said Sydney’s population is expected to grow by 1.3 million over the next 20 years and the NSW Government is planning for that growth.

“As part of this massive housing program the NSW Government has announced 27,000 new homes will be built close to the rail stations on the North West Rail Link,” Mr Hazzard said.

“This vital new rail line will transform the Hills District - it is essential we ensure the current lifestyles of residents are maintained and improved, as well as catering for new residents and workers.

“We are also making more home sites available in the North West and South West Growth Centres – including at Box Hill where 9,600 homes will be built and 16,000 jobs created when the land is rezoned.

“Not all of the new homes we need in Sydney will be built on greenfield sites - the Urban Activation Precincts program will revitalise eight existing urban areas in consultation with local communities and their councils.

“Under this program, plans are well-advanced at the Epping and North Ryde locations – while planning has just begun on the other six precincts.

“The NSW Government has allocated \$50 million to help councils improve local amenities like parks and other public spaces in these eight locations.”

Mr Hazzard said the NSW Government had also released the Evaluation Report into the sites investigated under the Potential Home Sites Program and the Government’s endorsed actions in relation to these sites.

*Detailed information on each of the housing programs is available at [www.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au)*

**MEDIA: Brad Burden 9228 5239 (Premier) or Lee Dixon 0467 742 993 (Minister Hazzard)**