MEDIA RELEASE

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LABOR’S PLANNING VANDALISM

Amendments to new planning legislation put at risk the NSW Government’s plan to return local planning powers to communities, provide a framework that is corruption resistant and to get on with providing housing and jobs.

“The Liberals and Nationals State Government promised to empower local communities, remove corruption and create jobs, but Labor and cross bench MPs have put all that at risk,” Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Brad Hazzard said today.

“Two and a half years of community consultation across NSW has been destroyed by two and a half days of legislative vandalism.

“Major changes that would have guaranteed up front community consultation as to how an area would evolve (Code Assessable Development) have been removed by Labor and the cross bench.

“Code Assessable Development means that communities get their say in detail upfront and allow consideration of infrastructure needs and cumulative impacts and would have been a first for NSW.

“Queensland and Victoria have used similar systems for years and their communities have benefitted from the upfront consultation and the certainty as to what development will occur where.

“NSW currently has only limited complying code provisions which sees 27 per cent only of developments approved this way.

“Queensland has 80 per cent of developments approved through codes and Victoria has 76 per cent.

“Labor, in an unholy alliance with the Greens – aided by the Shooters and Fishers – has destroyed the opportunity for NSW to implement what has clearly worked in Queensland and Victoria.

“Labor has also destroyed the possibility of tens of thousands of jobs in the mining sector by seeking to remove a planning policy that brought the economic significance of a resource into being a principle consideration (along with the environment and social issues).

“Through its amendments Labor has destroyed much of the new planning framework and the Government will now consider its position before Parliament resumes in 2014 in its determination to make NSW Number 1 again,” Mr Hazzard said.

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