MEDIA RELEASE

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LABOR PLAYS POLITICS ON PLANNING BILL – NSW RESIDENTS PAY THE PRICE

The State Labor Opposition, addicted to the corrupt practices of its 16 years in government is now playing politics on the Planning Bill, a Bill which is designed to put communities front and centre in strategic planning for NSW.

“Under the former Labor government, housing ground to a halt, communities were locked out of the planning process and there was a continual parade of Ministers at the ICAC,” Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Brad Hazzard said today.

“Shadow Planning Minister Luke Foley yesterday said he wanted to discuss amendments – just before he left the Parliament to attend a function instead of listening to the debate.

“As at today – three months after draft legislation was put on exhibition - Luke Foley has failed to make available to the Government or the community any proposed amendments whatsoever.

“The Opposition must put amendments out for public discussion in keeping with the public consultation the Government has conducted with the community for two and a half years.

“For two and a half years, Labor has been briefed by the Government but Labor has made no suggestion for change and has not made any submissions in the process.

“It is therefore astounding that Luke Foley now plans on blocking the Planning Bill – a Bill that with the Independent Commission Against Corruption’s input will reduce corruption risks, with Heritage Council input will protect heritage and will involve locals in every level of strategic planning and on any developments that are proposed outside the community’s agreed parameters.

“So who wants more of the same – Answer: Labor, the Greens and affiliated groups.

“And who has worked to get the best planning system possible? Answer: The Liberals & Nationals amongst others, the Independent Commission Against Corruption, Local Government NSW, the Planning Institute of Australia, the Urban Development Institute of Australia, the Property Council, the Urban Taskforce (CEO, Chris Johnson who was the former Government architect), the Sydney Business Chamber and the Committee for Sydney.

“Today the Sydney Business Chamber said, ‘The NSW Government was elected on a mandate to reform the system, it has undertaken extensive consultation to reach this point and no one in the Parliament has a mandate to stop the reform.’

“It’s time for the State Labor Opposition to show the colour of their money – something they are very familiar with doing – and pass the Planning Bill to assist in making NSW number one again,” Mr Hazzard said.

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