MEDIA RELEASE
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LANDMARK NEW PLANNING BILLS PASS LOWER HOUSE

The NSW Government has welcomed the passage of the new Planning Bills through the Legislative Assembly, the first step towards a world class planning system which balances social, economic and environmental considerations while delivering the housing and infrastructure NSW needs.

“I commend the many Members of the House who spoke on the Bills and who have delivered on the NSW Liberals and Nationals election commitment – to overhaul NSW’s broken planning laws and to return local planning powers to local communities.

“I thank the community, industry, local government and other stakeholders for their input over the past two and a half years.

“The consultation which has accompanied the new planning system is unprecedented.

“The new Planning system will enable Australia’s number one State to flourish.

“Everyone gets a say in the new system and everyone knows the rules.

“Where there is confusion in the old used and abused system, the new Planning Bills deliver certainty in the planning process.”

Mr Hazzard said the focus on upfront strategic planning meant communities and councils could sensibly plan for where growth would occur.

“The new system is a true collaboration between State and local government and the community and ensures local planning for local communities.

“NSW will have an extra two million people over the next 20 years, mostly our children and grandchildren.

“The Bills provide the necessary legislative reforms to help overcome the barriers to the delivery of new housing, jobs and infrastructure.

“My hope is that the Government and all stakeholders’ significant efforts in this process will see the Bills passed in the Legislative Council and the new planning system operational in 2014.

“This is a once-in-a-generation transformation of planning in this State which will serve us well for the 21st Century,” Mr Hazzard said.

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