The involvement of local communities will be a crucial aspect of the Government's proposed new planning system.

Local communities will participate up front in decisions about where new development is located and the infrastructure needed to support it.

Councils and the community will also help set the rules - including height and size of buildings - for their areas in new Local Plans.

And this local involvement will be underpinned by effective, upfront community engagement, which will be enshrined in law.

Expanding the use of streamlined approval systems will unclog the assessment of smaller-scale developments, particularly housing, as long they meet clearly established local criteria.

And for any development applications that are not consistent with established strategic plans or which require an environmental impact statement (i.e. have the potential to impact the local environment), the community will be fully consulted.

The Government's commitment to engaging communities on the planning issues that affect them is evidenced by the unprecedented level of consultation undertaken over the past two years as the proposed new planning system has been developed.

We have visited more than 50 locations across the State, held 160 meetings and participated in hundreds more events organised by other stakeholders, including the Better Planning Network.

We have reviewed more than 4,500 submissions on the White Paper and are incorporating a raft of feedback to deliver the best possible planning system for NSW.