GOVERNMENT LISTENS TO COMMUNITY AND COUNCILS ON PLANNING BILL

The NSW Government has listened to the community and local councils and a number of changes to the Planning Bill 2013 are currently being drafted.

“This legislation, when passed, will be the backbone of the planning system in NSW for the next 30 or more years so it is critical that we get it right,” Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Brad Hazzard said.

“The NSW Government wants to make sure the new planning system reflects community needs for protecting the environment and heritage.

Whilst returning local government and communities to the centre of the planning system we must cut red tape that blocks increasing housing supply ensuring the dream of owning your own home is a reality for NSW families,” Mr Hazzard said.

Amongst the changes the Government is now implementing are:

- Allowing councils to modify the State-wide codes to better reflect their local area
- Code assessable development will only apply in nominated growth areas (for example around the North West and South West train lines or areas nominated by councils)
- The target for code assessable developments has been removed entirely
- Councils will be made to prepare Neighbourhood Impact Statements if they intend to implement code assessable development
- The full range of current land zonings will remain as they are
- Appeal rights will remain as they are and
- Local and State heritage protections will continue.

“As a result of this work, the Bill will not be introduced to Parliament this week as previously intended,” Mr Hazzard said.

“When the original planning Act was introduced in 1979, it took four years to reach that stage – the NSW Government has taken just over two years to reach the same stage.

“We would like to thank everyone who has had their say so far – from councils, to industry and community groups as we work to deliver a planning system for the 21st Century,” Mr Hazzard said.

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