MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW NUMBER ONE AGAIN FOR HOUSING APPROVALS

Minister for Planning Pru Goward said Australian Bureau of Statistics figures released today show NSW housing approvals in December 2014 have increased 27 per cent from the previous month, signalling a positive start to 2015.

“For the first time since March last year, our monthly housing approval figures have pipped Victoria at the post and cemented our position as the number one economy in Australia,” Ms Goward said.

“A strong economy means we can deliver better local services like roads, schools and parks – helping to create the lively local communities we love.

“This makes the 2014 figures the highest annual approval figures since 1999 for NSW, and the December monthly figures are 44 per cent higher than the monthly average of the last five years under the previous Labor Government.

“These figures are further proof this Government is continuing to meet its commitment to the people of NSW to provide the jobs, homes and services we need to keep the title of the country’s top performing State.”

Official statistics from the ABS released today show that:

- NSW recorded 5,157 dwelling approvals (public and private sector seasonally adjusted figures);
- That is an increase of 27 per cent from the previous month (4,065 dwellings);
- This is 5.8 per cent more than Victoria (4,872) for the same month; and
- This month’s approvals are up 17 per cent when compared to this month in the previous year (December 2013).

Ms Goward said the figures show the NSW Government plan to increase housing supply was working.

“We are forging ahead to unlock housing potential, making sure there’s more land available for people to buy a home, and more opportunities in existing suburbs to live close to work and transport,” Ms Goward said.

“Increased housing supply means there are more options for home buyers, and puts downward pressure on the cost of a new home.

MEDIA: Nick Tyrrell 0467 733 876