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RENOVATION RULES TO BE OVERHAULED

Planning Minister Rob Stokes today announced the rules for building and renovating homes would be rewritten to make them more user-friendly.

The announcement comes as the NSW Government released an online video to promote early discussion between neighbours when they are planning a new home or an extension.

Mr Stokes said the planning system needed to be simplified and made easier to understand.

“I want to make our planning laws easier to understand for everyone. You shouldn’t need a degree in planning to add an extra bedroom to your house,” Mr Stokes said.

“Rules should be plain and simple for the basic renovations people want to make to their home or investment property.”

The first step will be rewriting the Housing Code, which governs home building and renovation, so people wanting to undertake simple complying developments understand what they need to do.

Mr Stokes said talking to a neighbour before starting any project was a quick and easy way to share your ideas and make sure you can keep your neighbour happy.

“Having a chat over the fence, or just knocking on the front door to let your neighbour know about the new extension should always be first on your ‘to do’ list,” Mr Stokes said.

“Along with the rewrite of the Housing Code, we hope this video encourages people to have that talk early on, to make sure your neighbours are kept in the loop with any home improvements you have planned, before construction begins.”

To view the video clip visit: https://www.youtube.com/user/nswplanning