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**Shoalhaven residents save time and money with Electronic Housing Code**

Lodging a fast track complying development application in Shoalhaven will be more convenient thanks to a Department of Planning and Environment program that enables people to apply any time from any location.

Shoalhaven City Council has switched on the Department’s Electronic Housing Code, joining 115 other councils across the state.

The online system lets homeowners lodge straight-forward complying development applications on-line, without a development application as long as the application complies with all relevant building standards.

The Electronic Housing Code means:

- Faster planning approval times for straightforward home building or renovations.
- No more paper applications or queues at Councils with planning rules online, and applications can be submitted electronically twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.
- Conveniently-located and simple to understand information on what is allowed on a property without a development application.

“Home owners, builders, architects and other industry professionals are taking advantage of this tool all over NSW and it’s great that Shoalhaven City Council is now on board,” a Department of Planning and Environment spokesperson said.

Shoalhaven General Manager Russ Pigg said the Electronic Housing Code was a tremendous tool that offers a range of advantages the old paper system just can’t match.

“It’s a faster, easier way to get approval for certain types of development; including renovations, extensions, first floor additions and garages.

“You can also find out if some minor, low impact works such as cubby houses and carports can be done without any planning or building approval.

“This will reduce processing times and cut red tape,” Mr Pigg said.

The Department is working closely with Shoalhaven to implement the system.

For more information, please go to [www.electronichousingcode.com.au](http://www.electronichousingcode.com.au)

**Media contact:** 9228-6128