Tuesday, 9 June 2015

PLANNING FEES CUT IN HALF FOR WESTERN NSW

Deputy Premier Troy Grant and Planning Minister Rob Stokes today announced businesses in Western NSW will get a 50 per cent discount on planning applications for State Significant Development to encourage new jobs and investment in the region.

Mr Grant said the decision was a straight-forward way to open up the regional economies of the west and stimulate more local jobs.

“State Significant Developments valued at more than $287 million have been approved for Western NSW over the last decade that involve rural industries,” Mr Grant said.

“We know that it can cost more to run a business in the west, when you consider freight and transport. This will give country businesses a helping hand to grow and to create more jobs.”

Mr Stokes said the discount will operate in local government areas west of Parkes in the Central West, Wagga Wagga in the south-west and Moree in the north-west and only apply to rural industries.

“We’ve done the sums and can see that if we cut the application fee in half, we can encourage organisations to grow their business and help create more local jobs to keep communities thriving,” Mr Stokes said.

“We hope that this decision will also attract newer industries to the region, such as renewable energy, and give a real boost to the region west of the Newell Highway.”

Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Resources and Regional Planning Rick Colless said this move would benefit a range of industries such as agriculture and livestock.

“This decision will help encourage developments like the Deniliquin Abattoir to grow their business and provide a stronger future for Western NSW,” Mr Colless said.