TOWARDS CLEAR AND SIMPLE TOWN PLANNING

Planning Minister Rob Stokes today released a proposal to repeal 16 state planning policies and return those powers to local government.

Mr Stokes said the review of these state planning policies is one of the first stages in decluttering the planning system and making it easier to understand.

“I’ve said before that I don’t understand many aspects of the planning system, and I have been studying it since last century. It’s no wonder builders, planners, architects, home owners and anyone else interacting with the system feel the same way,” Mr Stokes said.

“Our initial review of these policies uncovered 16 policies that were no longer needed. The more complex policies will now be reviewed and we will look for further improvements.

“This decision will remove unnecessarily confusing rules that add nothing but complexity to the planning system.

“Having redundant regulation in place makes building new homes and businesses more costly and less efficient.

“The proposal I’ve released today shows that we can abolish some of these policies that have served their purpose, or transfer the parts that are still required into modern policies – all the while reducing the system’s red tape.”

The proposal is a first stage in the NSW Government’s wider review of State Environment Planning Policies (SEPPs). The review will examine more than 60 planning policies and consider if they are still necessary and how they can be improved.

The review's aim is to reduce duplication, make the system simpler while ensuring existing standards are maintained.

Community feedback on the proposal is now open. For more information visit www.planning.nsw.gov.au/onexhibition

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