**Richmond Valley residents save time and money with Electronic Housing Code**

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

Richmond Valley Council switched on the Department’s Electronic Housing Code this month, joining more than 80 other Councils across the State.

The online system lets you lodge a complying development for a new home or home renovation. A complying development is a straightforward project that meets all the buildings standards for complying development, without the need for a development application.

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 Richmond Valley Council is now on board," the spokesperson said.

"The Electronic Housing Code is 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.”

Along with all Councils participating in the Electronic Housing Code project, the Department is working closely with Richmond Valley to implement the system including providing IT support and training for Council staff.

For more information, please go to www.electronichousingcode.com.au

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