NEW APARTMENT DESIGN GUIDELINES RELEASED

Planning Minister Rob Stokes today released new guidelines for apartments which will help ensure good design for communities across NSW.

The release of the policy, known as State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) 65, is part of the NSW Government’s goal to make planning rules simpler and it will provide clarity for the public and industry.

Mr Stokes said more people than ever before are living in apartments, with 30 per cent of Sydneysiders now falling into that category.

“For too long residential flats were stigmatized as a lesser style of living. New apartment design is about supporting the benefits this popular style of housing can provide,” Mr Stokes said.

“It’s critical the next wave of apartment living focuses on creating vibrant spaces and communities, close to shops, restaurants and parks.

“Last month we gave clarity to industry on minimum apartment sizes, today’s announcement builds on this by releasing updated standards for liveable apartments.”

“These guidelines are based on advice and consultation from experts and people living in apartments to make sure new apartment developments provide enough light, ventilation, open space and a sensible approach to parking.”

Following public feedback and consultation with councils, the final policy reflects that not requiring car spaces within 400 metres of a train station is not viable in some situations.

“The guide is now consistent with the Roads and Maritime Services standards which allocate car parking based on proximity to public transport and the number of bedrooms in a home,” Mr Stokes said.

“Councils will have the flexibility to reduce parking requirements where alternatives exist, such as car sharing on-site. It is important that policies recognise car use habits are different in the inner city as compared to greater Western Sydney.”
The amended policy and new guideline under SEPP 65 introduces greater flexibility into the design process to encourage more innovation, and provide clarity and consistency in the way design issues are dealt with for apartments.

For more information visit - www.planning.nsw.gov.au/betterapartments