MEDIA RELEASE

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STREAMLINING RURAL AND REGIONAL PLANNING

Planning Minister Rob Stokes today announced home owners and businesses in 110 rural and regional council areas can now fast-track their building projects.

Mr Stokes said builders and renovators will now be able to get on with their construction projects through changes to the complying development process.

Complying development allows quick approval for straightforward works provided they meet pre-determined criteria assessed by a council or private certifier. Approvals can be issued on average within 18 days, compared to the average determination time for a full development application of 70 days.

“People who take advantage of the new rules will save time and money, and be able to deliver their projects faster,” Mr Stokes said.

“We listened to councils, industry and businesses who told us previous notification requirements made complying development in regional and rural areas more expensive, time consuming and confusing.”

The changes to the existing Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 will:

- remove the 14 day pre-approval neighbour notification for residential complying development
- reduce the pre-construction neighbour notification for new buildings and additions.

Applicants are still be required to notify their neighbours two days before construction starts, and people are still encouraged to have an open dialogue with their neighbours to ensure everyone’s aware of works going on.

Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Planning Richard Colless said the changes will benefit householders in rural and regional NSW.

“These changes mean people in rural and regional NSW can make straightforward modifications to their properties quickly and easily,” Mr Colless said.