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**Gundagai residents to save time with online Electronic Housing Code**

Building a new house or doing a simple renovation will be easier in the Gundagai area thanks to a Department of Planning and Environment program that allows homeowners and businesses to lodge applications any time from any location.

A complying development application is for straight-forward projects that meet all the buildings standards for a complying development, without the need for a development application.

The program, known as the Electronic Housing Code, has been officially switched on today at Gundagai Shire Council.

The Electronic Housing Code online system provides:
- faster planning approval times for straightforward home building or renovations;
- no more paper applications or queues at councils; and
- applications can be submitted electronically 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

A departmental spokesperson said home owners, builders, architects and other industry professionals were taking advantage of this tool all over NSW.

"With the introduction of the tool for Gundagai Shire Council, there are now 118 councils offering the system live for their local government area," the spokesperson said.

Gundagai Shire Manager Urban and Rural Services, Tulshi Shrestha said the Electronic Housing Code was a modern online tool that offered a range of advantages the old paper system couldn't match.

"It's a more efficient way of getting approval for certain types of development including extensions, first floor additions, garages, cubby houses and carports," Ms Shrestha said.

"The Electronic Housing Code will reduce processing times and cut red tape."


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