Monday, 14 September 2015

ONLINE PLANNING EXPANSION TO MAKE LIFE EASIER

Planning Minister Rob Stokes today announced a $3.3 million expansion of the NSW Government’s online planning system, to help make planning more accessible and easier to understand.

Mr Stokes said the NSW Government has engaged ICT specialists XVT Solutions to build, deliver and manage the new Planning Portal, a fully integrated website which will be a single point of contact for all NSW planning matters.

“We want to make the NSW planning system more transparent, easier to understand and capable of providing greater certainty and access to the public,” Mr Stokes said.

“The public have been enthusiastic in taking up our current online ePlanning tools, which have had more than 300,000 hits since their launch a year ago. We want to improve public access to the planning system, and that’s what the expanded online capabilities in the Planning Portal will do.”

New features to be rolled out over the next two years will include:

- Online lodgment of development applications for State Significant, regional and local developments including commercial, residential and industrial.
- Powerful new search tools allowing users to type in their address and see all State Environmental Planning Policies, Local Environment Plans, Development Control Plans and advice on exempt development relevant to their property. Users can also search by Local Government Area.
- The ability to customise the Planning Portal settings allowing users to find information most relevant to them, whether they are property owners, planning professionals or community groups.

Current ePlanning tools include the Planning Viewer, showing planning rules on properties across NSW; Interactive Buildings for information on exempt development, or minor works that don’t require planning permission; and Local Insights, for people to see what’s happening in their neighbourhood. These tools will all be part of the new Planning Portal.

The Planning Portal contract is part of the Government’s $19.9 million investment over two years for the NSW Planning Portal.