

Media release



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AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME EXTENDED TO FIVE MORE COUNCILS

The NSW Government has extended a successful housing scheme to five more Sydney councils, to encourage the development of affordable housing.

Amendments to the State Environment Planning Policy 70 (SEPP 70) will enable the five councils to prepare schemes requiring developer contributions to provide affordable housing.

The Department of Planning and Environment's Deputy Secretary of Policy and Communications, Alison Frame, said the new councils are Randwick City, Inner West, Northern Beaches, City of Ryde, and City of Canada Bay councils.

"The inclusion in SEPP 70 will simplify the process of development for the five local government areas, offering surety and a consistent approach to providing affordable rental homes, where they are needed," Ms Frame said.

"Affordable rental housing underpins economic productivity and connects workers to jobs and people to services.

"In the City of Sydney affordable housing schemes in operation in Ultimo/Pymont, Green Square and the Southern Employment Lands have resulted in 739 affordable rentals, with a further 314 in the development pipeline."

Each individual council's affordable housing scheme must consider feasibility to ensure it does not negatively impact the general supply of housing in the local area.

"Affordable housing schemes prepared by each council will undergo a rigorous assessment and be publicly exhibited as part of the existing Gateway process," Ms Frame said.

The Department is currently preparing guidance to assist councils to prepare the affordable housing schemes.

After a council is included within SEPP 70, and the scheme is referenced in its local environmental plan, council can begin requiring contributions for affordable housing.

The Department publicly exhibited an Explanation of Intended Effect on the SEPP 70 amendment from 14 December 2017 to 31 January 2018. A total of 45 submissions were received.

For more information about the expansion of SEPP 70, please visit <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/SEPP70>

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