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INFORMATION SHEET

NSW Planning System Review Issues Paper Released

Questions have been asked of the community and industry stakeholders as to the direction that the NSW Planning system should take and has recognised that the legislation requires an innovative approach to shaping the NSW Planning system into a flexible and uncomplicated document.

HIA believes that the Independent Panel established to undertake the Planning Review is on the right track. It is exploring the value of giving more weight to strategic planning to facilitate greater availability and access to land for housing. The same principle is raised for development assessment. There are countless ways in which the practice of lodging a development application with Council can be decisive in the outcome. The Issues Paper gives emphasis on 'simplifying the process', which often involves delay in the development assessment, resulting in significant costs to the applicant.

HIA supports the notion of future legislation that promotes objectives such as 'economic growth', 'innovation and flexibility', 'timely outcomes' and 'housing affordability'.

To ensure that members have a say in the changing face of planning and building, HIA's Planning and Environment Committee will be convening two meetings in the New Year to prepare a formal response to the Issues Paper. The closing date for exhibition is 17 February 2012.

To review the Issues Paper on exhibition go to <http://www.planningreview.nsw.gov.au/>

DISCLAIMER - The above is intended to provide general information in summary form. The contents do not constitute specific advice and should not be relied upon as such. Formal specific advice should be sought by members with respect to particular matters before taking action.

phone 1300 650 620 | fax 1300 655 953 | enquiries@hia.com.au | hia.com.au