



Brad Hazzard MP

Minister for Planning & Infrastructure

Minister assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

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PLANNING OVERHAUL TO REACH NEW GOALS

The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Brad Hazzard has today announced a new unit called the Housing and Infrastructure Delivery Office will be established in the Department to drive housing delivery in greenfield and urban renewal areas and report on housing supply.

“This unit is part of a restructure to deliver on the Government’s commitment of providing more housing and jobs across the state,” Mr Hazzard said.

“A new executive structure will also allow the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to provide sustainable housing growth, business and infrastructure investment in NSW.

“The Government is in the process of overhauling the NSW planning system, moving from a complex, over-regulated system to a simple, strategic and more flexible system focussed on outcomes and orderly growth.

“These reforms will ensure the community is better engaged in changes to their regions and local area with planning becoming easier to understand, more transparent and accessible online.

“Delivery of this system will require not only legislative reforms but a fundamental cultural change in the planning profession.

“A new departmental structure will help us deliver on planning priorities, respond promptly and efficiently to community and business concerns,” Mr Hazzard said.

Key features of the structure include:

- Expanded online planning outcomes, fast-tracked development approvals and long-term planning for resource issues (such as coal and coal seam gas) through new dedicated teams
- Delivering new long-term rural and regional strategies – in line with a government priority to drive regional growth
- Improving the culture of planning, both at the department and across the profession – to focus on outcomes rather than process, under the guidance of a specialist Deputy Director General; and
- Improving community and industry engagement by placing communication staff within project teams as major initiatives are developed.

“I would like to thank the department’s staff and the Director General for their dedication and now look forward to a new era for planning across the state,” Mr Hazzard said.

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