



Rob Stokes
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

MEDIA RELEASE

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PLANNING ASSESSMENT TIMES SLASHED BY 25 PER CENT

Assessment times for regionally significant development applications across Greater Sydney and beyond will be slashed by at least 25 per cent thanks to a \$4.5 million pilot program unveiled by the NSW Government.

Minister for Planning and Public Spaces Rob Stokes said the program will allow councils to appoint and upskill staff, improve technology, develop guidelines and engage Planning Panels earlier in the assessment process.

“We’ve given 13 councils from Lake Macquarie to Sutherland \$350,000 each to speed up assessment times for regionally significant development applications (DAs), including those valued at more than \$30 million,” Mr Stokes said.

“This will enable complex projects to get up and running more quickly by cutting determination times from an initial baseline of 366 days to 275 days by June 2023.

“More resources for local councils means better outcomes for the community. This program will help get shovels in the ground sooner to deliver new homes, vital infrastructure and create more jobs.”

Planning Panels are made up of independent experts and local representatives who determine regionally significant DAs that are assessed by councils, ensuring the best decisions are made for communities.

Development is considered of regional significance when the value is more than \$30 million, or more than \$5 million in cases where it is council related or lodged on behalf of the Crown.

Councils were chosen to be part of the pilot program, based on the number of regionally significant DAs received or their assessment times to allow the program to have maximum impact. If successful, the program will be rolled out throughout NSW.

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