

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Housing Delivery Authority Announced!**

Urban Taskforce CEO, Tom Forrest said today that the major announcement at today's Bradfield Oration, by NSW Premier Chris Minns and Planning Minister Paul Scully was a massive shift in planning policy reform.

The new 'Housing Delivery Authority' will be housed within the DPHI, but independent from it, and designed to fast-track high-stakes development projects across the State.

This newly established state-led approval pathway will wield significant power, independently assessing projects worth over \$60 million in Greater Sydney and \$30 million in Regional NSW. It can also deal with spot rezonings sought by applicants, with these rezonings amending existing council planning controls. In a move to streamline approvals, Planning Minister Scully will personally make determinations.

The authority is set to hit the ground running in early 2025, with a high-calibre team, including Secretary of the Premier's Department, Simon Draper, Chief Executive of Infrastructure NSW, Tom Gellibrand and Secretary of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, Kiersten Fishburn (who has been central to the creation of this new body). These experts will be tasked with speeding up the pipeline of planning proposals and development applications.

This is a massive step forward and has the potential to effectively reverse the "hand it all over to the Councils" philosophy of the former Government which delivered us the crisis.

The Premier emphasised that the biggest problem for NSW is the planning system. Time and the cost of money in interest payments are too high and the system needs to speed up. Too many young people are leaving NSW.

This is a big and bold reform. The new Authority is welcomed by Urban Taskforce members.

Congratulations are in order for the Premier Minns and the Planning Minister Scully.

The Government, led by Premier Minns and Planning Minister Scully, has taken big steps to overcome a broken planning system. They are taking responsibility and pushing through the NIMBY attitude of many councils which has held us back. This is the bold reform we have been waiting for.

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The comments and analysis above can be attributed to **Tom Forrest**, CEO, Urban Taskforce.

*The **Urban Taskforce Australia** is a property development industry group, representing Australia's most prominent property developers and equity financiers.*