

# Media Release



13 May 2011

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## NSW Government Sticks to Election Commitments on Part 3A.

The Urban Development Institute of Australia NSW (UDIA NSW) today recognises the announcement by the NSW Government on the process for considering applications presently lodged under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act is consistent with the Government's pre election commitments.

Part 3A allows the Minister for Planning to be the sole consent authority for State Significant projects.

"The Government made its intentions clear during the election campaign with regards to Part 3A and it was one of the first announcements made by Premier Barry O'Farrell. Since the announcement the industry has been in limbo awaiting a decision on projects presently going through the Part 3A process. Today's announcement provides certainty." Stephen Albin, Chief Executive of the UDIA NSW said.

The Planning Minister announced that projects that had reached the issuing of Director General's Requirements will proceed through the process and be considered by the Planning Assessment Commission. It is understood there are 32 major projects that will not proceed through the process and will be handed over to Councils or Joint Regional Planning Panels (JRPP's).

Mr. Albin said "The real test will be how those projects that missed out will be handled by Councils and the JRPP's. We will be closely monitoring the situation – especially the projects in coastal areas where Councils are strapped for resources."

"The Minister has announced that he will be taking the politics out of the planning system by delegating his power of consent to the Planning Assessment Commission and the Director General. It is now up to local Councils and their representatives to take the politics out of local planning and judge projects on their merits." Mr. Albin said

This is the first major announcement relating to the planning system, since the Premier announced the changes to Part 3A.

Mr. Albin said "The industry wants the planning system fixed. The announcement today is the first step but we need to get on with the job of providing transitional arrangements for the treatment of State Significant projects and a rewrite of the Planning Act. It is going to be a full reform agenda and it needs to be implemented quickly so as not deny NSW further investment in housing and property."

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