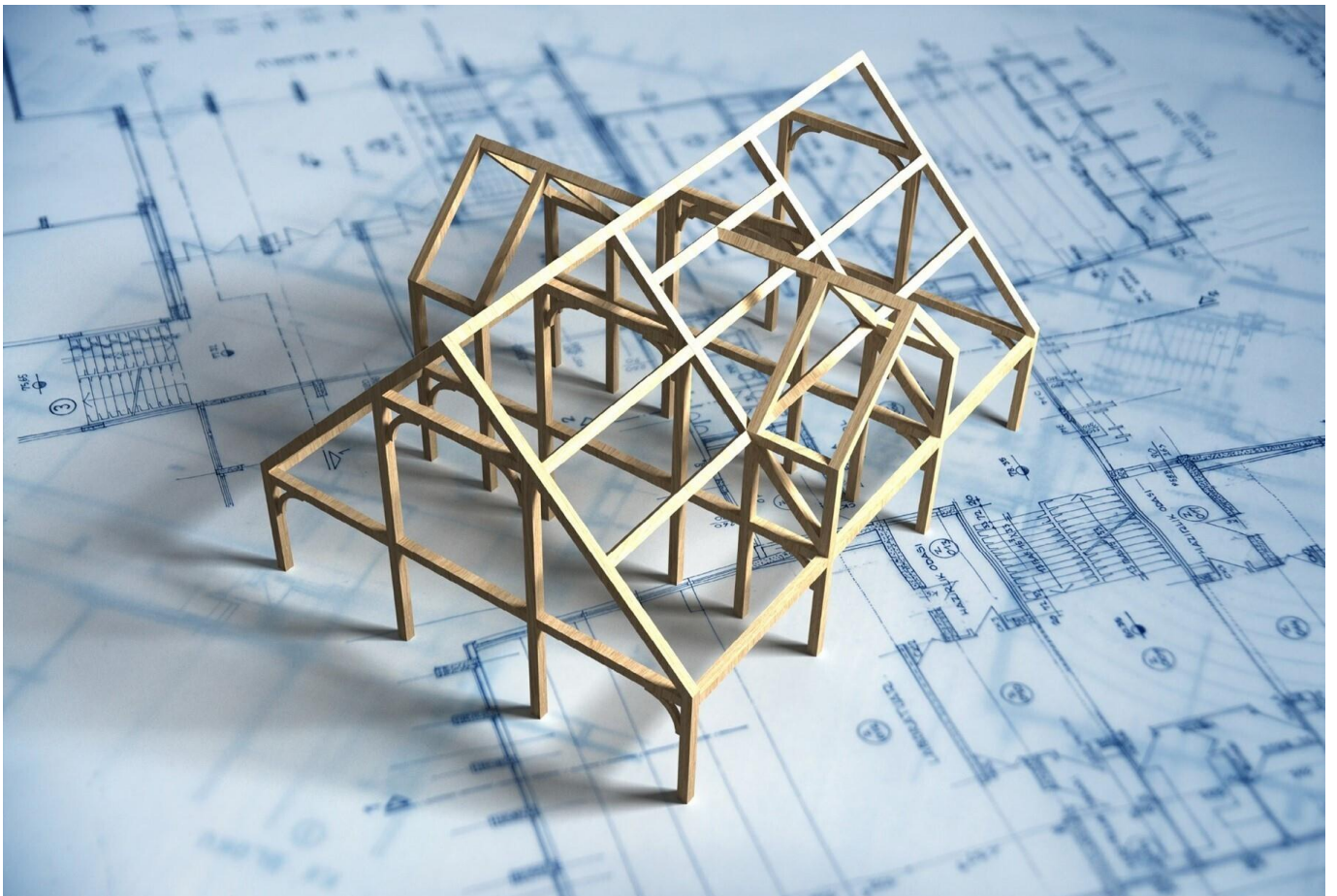




# National Planning Reform Blueprint

## New South Wales progress report

September 2024



# Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land, and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

Published by NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

[dphi.nsw.gov.au](http://dphi.nsw.gov.au)

National Planning Reform Blueprint

First published: 2024

## Copyright and disclaimer

© State of New South Wales through the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure 2024. Information in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing, September 2024, and is subject to change. For more information, please visit [nsw.gov.au/copyright](http://nsw.gov.au/copyright)

# Contents

<b>Acknowledgement of Country</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Contents</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Background</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Measure 2</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Housing supply targets .....	5
<b>Measure 3</b> .....	<b>6</b>
Summary of planning, zoning and land release reforms .....	6
<b>Measure 4</b> .....	<b>10</b>
Identify well-located ‘development ready’ land .....	10
<b>Measure 5</b> .....	<b>11</b>
Zoning, planning and other amendments to support dense, well-located housing .....	11
Reforms to non-planning barriers .....	13
<b>Measure 6</b> .....	<b>17</b>
Reforms to social and affordable housing approval pathways .....	17
Reforms addressing barriers to the timely issuing of development approvals .....	18
Initiatives to share planning data .....	20

# Background

In August 2023, National Cabinet agreed to a National Planning Reform Blueprint to outline planning, zoning, land release and other reform measures to improve housing supply and affordability. The Blueprint's measures include:

- Updating state, regional, and local strategic plans to reflect housing supply targets.
- Promoting medium and high density housing in well-located areas close to existing public transport connections, amenities and employment.
- Streamlining approval pathways.

This is the second report for New South Wales summarising progress against Measures 2 through 6 of the National Planning Reform Blueprint to September 2024. The first report covered the period to March 2024.

More information on the National Housing Accord can be found at <https://treasury.gov.au/housing-policy/accord>

# Measure 2

Planning Ministers will report to National Cabinet on state, regional and local strategic plans before 1 March 2024 that reflect their jurisdiction's share of housing supply targets agreed by National Cabinet and links with infrastructure pipelines.

---

## Housing supply targets

### LGA housing completion targets

*Announced May 2024*

NSW released 5-year LGA housing completion targets for each of the 43 Local Government Areas across Greater Sydney, Illawarra-Shoalhaven, Central Coast and Greater Newcastle regions, and one target for regional NSW. The new 5-year housing targets set the trajectory for NSW to meet its commitment of delivering 377,000 new homes, aligning the targets to the commitment of local, state and federal governments to the National Housing Accord.

A robust evidence-base was used to inform the targets, that rebalance growth towards areas of Sydney, deliver diverse and well-located housing close to existing centres and transport connections and align with existing, available infrastructure capacity.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/policy-and-legislation/housing/housing-targets>

# Measure 3

Planning Ministers will undertake planning, zoning, land release and other reforms, such as increasing density, to meet their jurisdiction share of housing supply targets agreed by National Cabinet.

---

## Summary of planning, zoning and land release reforms

### Transport Oriented Development Program: Accelerated Precincts

*In progress*

Draft state-led rezoning proposals for seven TOD accelerated precincts were exhibited from July to August 2024. The precincts are: Bankstown, Bella Vista, Crows Nest, Homebush, Hornsby, Kellyville and Macquarie Park. Rezoning for these precincts will be finalised by late 2024. Community consultation for the Bays West TOD accelerated precinct will occur with the exhibition of a masterplan in mid-2025.

To support growth in these local communities, the NSW Government is investing \$520 million for community infrastructure, such as critical road upgrades, active transport links and good quality public open spaces.

Estimated capacity for 61,855 new homes over 15 years, including 6,000 affordable homes.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/policy-and-legislation/housing/transport-oriented-development-program/accelerated-precincts>

### Transport Oriented Development Program: New planning controls

*In progress*

The first stage of the TOD planning reforms was implemented through an amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) in April 2024. The amended planning controls apply within 400m of 37 station precincts across 13 Local Government Areas to deliver more affordable, well-designed and well-located homes. 6 additional stations were included (from an initially proposed list of 31 stations).

The new planning controls commenced on 13 May 2024 and were applied to 18 stations, with 5 more stations added on 31 July 2024. The remaining locations will have new planning controls rolled out progressively until June 2025.

Estimated capacity for 170,000 new homes over 15 years.



<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/policy-and-legislation/housing/transport-oriented-development-program/transport-oriented-development>

## **Diverse and well-located housing**

*In progress*

The first stage of low and mid-rise housing policy reforms has been introduced, following public consultation in late 2023 and early 2024. The changes to the policy will be done in stages, with the first changes starting on 1 July 2024 to align with the start of the National Housing Accord.

Amendments made to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) permit dual occupancies and semi-detached homes in all R2 low-density zones across NSW. These types of homes are important to help NSW deliver the housing our communities need. This first stage of changes will provide more opportunity for families who might live on larger lots in suburbs across Sydney and the regions to deliver an additional home or split their property in half to provide a new home for their children or older family members.

Estimated capacity for up to 112,000 new homes over 5 years.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/policy-and-legislation/housing/diverse-and-well-located-homes>

## **Development of a pattern book of endorsed designs for low-rise and mid-rise buildings**

*Announced July 2024*

An international pattern book design competition launched in July 2024, allowing architects and designers from around the world to redefine the future of housing in New South Wales.

The competition is led by Government Architect NSW and aims to engage the best architectural minds to develop housing ideas to support more diverse housing choice and help fill the gap between detached homes and high-rise apartment buildings. Selected competition winners in the professional category will have the opportunity to have their designs brought to life and built on a selection of government owned sites.

The competition-winning designs will be announced in late 2024 and the low-rise pattern book will be launched in mid-2025.

Developers who use the endorsed pattern-book designs will have an accelerated approval pathway. This means builders can get on site faster, and people can move into new homes sooner.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/government-architect-nsw/housing-design/pattern-book-of-housing-design/pattern-book-design-competition>

## Interactive map to showcase existing well-designed low- and mid-rise homes

*Announced May 2024*

The NSW Government published an interactive Good Design for Housing map to showcase some of the best well-designed low and mid-rise homes already in NSW. The map highlights why good design is important, and also showcases examples of these homes that are already adding value to their neighbourhoods and complementing the existing heritage and surroundings. The map supports the Government's reforms to low- and mid-rise housing and the development of the design pattern book to drive the delivery of dual occupancies, townhouses, terraces, manor houses and smaller apartment buildings.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/government-architect-nsw/housing-design/good-design-for-housing>

## State-led strategic planning and rezoning to deliver additional housing in well-located areas already serviced by major infrastructure

*In progress*

This includes:

- Completed rezoning to allow for 420 new homes in Riverwood.
- Progressing the rezoning to allow for 850 new homes near Central Station.
- Progressing rezoning for an additional 7 state-led rezonings and 8 state-assessed planning proposals. Examples include:
  - Rezoning proposal for Macquarie Park Innovation Precinct Stage 1 to allow for 3,060 new homes including affordable housing plus an additional 5,040 homes build-to-rent, depending on market demand.
  - Rezoning proposal for Explorer St Eveleigh to allow up to 400 new homes with 30% allocated for social housing and 20% for affordable housing.
  - State-assessed planning proposal at Appin (part) precinct approved to enable 12,900 homes.
  - State-assessed planning proposal pilot program delivering up to 3,700 homes across Kanwal, Schofield, Wagga Wagga and Warrawong.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/plans-for-your-area/rezoning-pathways-program>



## Leveraging well located surplus government land for housing

*Announced July 2024*

The NSW Government will deliver up to 30,000 well-located homes, close to infrastructure and transport, with amenities and work opportunities, with surplus land to be made available for housing over the next four years. Following a comprehensive statewide audit of government land, four initial sites were identified as being suitable to deliver new social and affordable housing stock. The sites in Greater Sydney are:

- The historic Clothing Store sub-precinct of the Carriageworks Precinct in North Eveleigh will allow for approximately 500 new dwellings, 50 per cent of which will be social and affordable homes, to be delivered by Homes NSW.
- 301 Samantha Riley Drive, Kellyville located adjacent to Rouse Hill Metro station is expected to deliver between 75-83 new homes, 50 per cent of which will be social and affordable, to be delivered by Homes NSW.
- 72, 84 and 86 Menangle Road, Camden will deliver approximately 10 social and affordable homes, to be delivered by Homes NSW.
- WestConnex Dive site, Parramatta Road, Camperdown is expected to deliver over 100 homes in a mixed use development, to be delivered in partnership with the private sector.

## Planning department resourced to deliver more homes and infrastructure

*Announced June 2024*

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure has undergone a functional review in 2024 to better align resources and skills to deliver homes and infrastructure for NSW. \$253.7 million was provided in the 2024-25 NSW Budget to bolster the State's planning system, including to assess more development applications and deliver additional state led rezonings.

<https://www.budget.nsw.gov.au/2024-25/budget-papers/overview>

# Measure 4

Planning Ministers will identify well-located 'development ready' land before 1 March 2024, having appropriate regard to the protection of land with key attributes e.g. environmental or economic.

---

## Identify well-located 'development ready' land

*In progress*

The Urban Development Program (UDP) is the NSW Government's program for monitoring and coordinating housing supply and infrastructure delivery. It helps to inform NSW Government planning and infrastructure investment priorities to support housing supply.

The Department of Planning, Housing, and Infrastructure (DPHI) is working with State agencies, local councils, and industry through the UDP to establish an evidence base on housing supply at a granular level and to develop the first Infrastructure Opportunities Plans, that outline the long list of infrastructure to effectively support housing and productivity growth.

The UDP operates in 9 regions across the State including in Eastern, Central and Western Sydney, Illawarra-Shoalhaven, Greater Newcastle, Central Coast, Mid-Coast and Upper Hunter and Capital Region.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/policy-and-legislation/housing/urban-development-programs>

## Improving planning and infrastructure coordination

*Announced June 2024*

The NSW Government has expanded the responsibilities of Infrastructure NSW as Infrastructure Co-ordinator General to support the coordination, review and monitoring of infrastructure projects. In addition to supporting the Government's employment and energy transition priorities, Infrastructure NSW will support housing development as per NSW housing targets and housing reforms, as well as the National Housing Accord.

# Measure 5

Planning Ministers will streamline approval pathways and prioritise planning control amendments to support diverse housing across a range of areas, including promoting medium and high-density housing in well-located areas close to existing public transport infrastructure connections, amenities and employment.

---

## Zoning, planning and other amendments to support dense, well-located housing

### Co-funding local infrastructure projects with councils

*Announced May and June 2024*

An additional \$147.61 million has been allocated under the Accelerated Infrastructure Fund Round 3 to fast-track critical infrastructure in five growing regional communities to support the delivery of new homes. This investment is in addition to co-contributions of \$68.6 million from councils to deliver 10 key projects, helping to unlock over 26,900 new homes. The funds will deliver projects including wastewater and road upgrades to unlock development and bring more high-quality neighbourhoods to life faster.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/plans-for-your-area/infrastructure-funding/accelerated-infrastructure-fund/round-3>

### Fast-tracking infrastructure in growing regional communities

*Announced June 2024*

\$19.9 million has been allocated to Wollongong City Council for construction of the Cleveland Road upgrade to support the delivery of over 3,000 new homes by connecting the West Dapto Urban Release Area to the Princes Highway and the M1 Motorway and \$6.6 million has been allocated to the Yass Valley Water Treatment Plan to improve quality of drinking water and support up to 1,580 new dwellings in Murrumbateman and Yass. The two projects are being delivered under the Housing Acceleration Fund program which provides grants for critical infrastructure projects which help accelerate the delivery of housing. Projects funded under the HAF include transport, water, wastewater, drainage and community infrastructure.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/plans-for-your-area/infrastructure-funding/housing-acceleration-fund>

## Infrastructure investment that supports new housing and employment lands

*Announced April 2024*

\$62.5 million in funding was announced under round 4 of the State Voluntary Planning Agreement program. The program uses developer contributions to deliver state and regional infrastructure in growing areas. Grants to councils and state agencies will go towards building and repairing roads, improving stormwater drainage, building new parks and improving local environments in growing communities.

Announcement of successful projects is scheduled for late 2024.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/plans-for-your-area/infrastructure-funding/state-voluntary-planning-agreements>

## More green space to support better communities

*Announced August 2024*

\$3.25 million was awarded to metropolitan councils to fund new and improved parks, community gardens, wetlands, active transport and trails. The funding was awarded to projects under the Metropolitan Greenspace Program and Places to Roam – Community Garden programs and will provide new or improved open space for more than 30,000 homes in the greater Sydney region.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/plans-for-your-area/infrastructure-funding/metropolitan-greenspace-program>

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/policy-and-legislation/open-space/open-spaces-program/places-to-roam>

## Progress on Modular Housing Trial

*In progress*

The NSW Government has invested \$10 million to explore and trial the use of modular housing to deliver much needed social homes for the people of NSW.

The first sites to trial modular social housing were announced July 2024. Following a comprehensive assessment, sites in Wollongong and Lake Macquarie have been identified as suitable locations to deliver the first modular social homes. Three sites in Wollongong will host three modular social homes, whilst four sites in Lake Macquarie will host five modular social homes. A procurement process for the delivery of these homes has begun, with completion expected by early 2025.

<https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/land-and-housing-corporation/plans-and-policies/modern-methods-of-construction>

## Build-to-rent program expansion

*In progress*

Following the announcement of the first project on the South Coast, Landcom has expanded its Build to Rent program to the Northern Rivers and Greater Sydney.

As part of the \$65 million commitment to build-to-rent trials to enable more long-term, diverse housing in regional markets, Landcom released the design concept for 50 build-to-rent apartments in East Lismore and consulted on a concept plan for 60 build-to-rent apartments in Bomaderry. Expected completion of both build-to-rent projects is 2026.

A further investment of \$450 million for a Key Worker Build-to-Rent Program will enable acquisition of four new sites in Greater Sydney to build more than 400 new build-to-rent dwellings over the next three years. Landcom will select sites with a preference for surplus government land identified as being suitable for housing with the specific locations to be determined. The homes will be offered to essential workers at a discount to market rent, through a separate subsidy program.

<https://www.landcom.com.au/about/housing/buildtorent>

## Key worker accommodation for rural and regional NSW

*Announced June 2024*

The NSW Government committed \$200.1 million to increase key health worker accommodation across rural and regional areas of the state as part of the 2024-25 NSW Budget. Early assessment has identified a number of possible future locations including in Lismore, Eurobodalla, Tweed Heads and Lake Cargelligo. The program builds on the existing Key Worker Accommodation Program which provides access to modern and fit-for-purpose housing to help attract and retain much needed staff to regional areas.

---

## Reforms to non-planning barriers

### Further investment in the NSW Building Commission

*Announced June 2024*

Following its establishment in late 2023, the NSW Government has further invested in the NSW Building Commission in the 2024-25 NSW Budget to help ensure quality home builds and renovations. The funding will support the commission's work to:

- adopt new digital capabilities to use data, intelligence and analytics to track high risk builders, watch them closely and act to get them out of the sector
- provide personnel on the ground to examine the quality of buildings and force developers to fix substandard construction work

- build on Construct NSW and working with industry to design courses that supercharge the capability of the construction industry
- get people into homes faster by digitising compliance certificates.

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/building-commission>

### **Productivity Commissioner Review of non-planning housing supply barriers**

The Review, requested by the NSW Premier, will investigate critical non-planning housing supply barriers, noting that planning system challenges are being considered through other processes. This includes housing construction industry challenges and barriers to delivering different housing or development types, and to delivering the housing types sought by NSW renters and owner-occupiers. The final report, with recommendations and suggested prioritisation of actions, will be provided to the Government by the end of August 2024.

<https://www.productivity.nsw.gov.au/review-of-housing-supply-challenges-and-policy-options-for-new-south-wales>

### **Pilot project to assist construction industry financing**

*Announced June 2024*

The NSW Government is investing in a finance guarantee pilot to examine how the state can more directly support the housing industry to secure finance, increase the viability of housing projects and speed up the construction of new homes. Options to be explored include:

- Whether the state government should act as guarantor for some development loans when projects are assessed by financial institutions to satisfy debt requirements.
- Whether a government commitment to pre-purchase a specified number of houses could provide confidence to lenders, developers and builders to fund and start construction.
- Other options the state might adopt to support access to finance and improve materials supply and affordability.

### **Extension for fee-free apprentice training**

*Announced June 2024*

\$16.3 million was allocated in the 2024-25 NSW Budget to continue fee-free training for apprentices and trainees across the state, which will fund more than 20,000 new apprentices and 19,000 trainees.

The program is critical to build a future workforce in areas such as carpentry, plumbing and electrical – all critical skills to increase housing supply in NSW.



This investment sits alongside the joint Commonwealth and NSW Government Fee-Free TAFE initiative which has delivered over 156,000 enrolments in vocational education since April 2023.

## **Boost to NSW timber products for construction**

*Announced April 2024*

The Big River Group Grafton timber factory re-opened in April 2024 following a major upgrade supported by Commonwealth and NSW Governments under the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund. The factory will support the supply of high-quality timber products to the construction industry across NSW, producing 8,000 cubic metres of timber products each year. This will contribute to increasing supply of critical building materials.

## **Adjustment to foreign investor surcharges and land tax threshold indexation**

*Announced June 2024*

Foreign investor surcharges will be adjusted to ensure the NSW Government can deliver more homes for more people. From 1 January 2025, the foreign purchaser duty surcharge will increase from eight per cent to nine per cent in NSW. From the 2025 land tax year, the foreign owner land tax surcharge will also increase, from four per cent to five per cent.

There are an estimated 20,000 foreign-owned residential properties in NSW, which is equivalent to around 0.6 per cent of the state's stock of properties. The increase is expected to encourage more properties to be made available to NSW residents and to ensure that overseas investors buying homes in NSW are also contributing to the cost of building other homes and the necessary infrastructure to support them.

NSW land tax thresholds will also be increased for the 2024 land tax year as planned, and then maintained at that level going forward. This applies to both the tax-free threshold and the premium rate threshold.

These measures are expected to return additional revenue of approximately \$1.68 billion over the next four years, funds which will be directed to addressing the housing crisis.

## **Establishment of a NSW Rental Taskforce**

*Announced June 2024*

\$8.4 million was allocated in the 2024-25 NSW Budget for the NSW Rental Commissioner to establish a NSW Rental Taskforce to help deliver a fairer rental market.

The Taskforce will be given a mandate to crack down on poor quality rental homes and bad behaviour from dodgy agents and owners. The Taskforce will conduct targeted inspections and work with Fair Trading to act on breaches. It will use intelligence and market analysis to inform its work.

## Reforms to improve strata outcomes

*Announced June 2024*

\$11.8 million was allocated in the 2024-25 NSW Budget for the Strata and Property Services Commissioner to educate owners' corporations and hold strata agents to account, including \$3.5 million over 2 years towards the Strata Hub online platform to centralise information for those who live in or own a property in a strata scheme.

In addition, the NSW Government is proposing new strata laws to be considered by Parliament later in 2024. Key changes proposed include:

- increasing the maximum penalties and penalty infringement notice amounts for existing agent obligations to disclose information about commissions
- strengthening the conflict-of-interest disclosure requirements
- banning agents from receiving a commission on insurance products when they don't play a role in finding the best deal for residents
- strengthening NSW Fair Trading's enforcement and compliance powers.

## Improved regulation for land lease communities

*Announced June 2024*

The NSW Government passed new laws in June 2024 to improve conditions for more than 40,000 people living in residential land lease communities in NSW. Changes include:

- Improving transparency of fees and charges: with rules to require operators to make it clear to prospective residents how much fees and charges will be and to make future increases more predictable.
- Fairer electricity pricing: protection from excessive price rises in communities with embedded networks so residents and operators have more certainty about energy prices.
- Letting residents make a house a home: with a right to make minor changes like adding window locks or screens without seeking approval.

# Measure 6

Planning Ministers will create accelerated development pathways and streamline approval processes for eligible development types, particularly in well-located areas, including to support the rapid delivery of social and affordable housing.

---

## Reforms to social and affordable housing approval pathways

### State-led social and affordable housing rezoning pathway

*Announced May 2024*

A new state-led rezoning pathway was introduced in May 2024 to accelerate rezoning proposals from NSW housing agencies including Homes NSW (NSW Land and Housing Corporation and Aboriginal Housing Office) and Landcom. A newly dedicated team within the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) will manage the applications from concept review to lodgement, exhibition and final assessment.

Under this new pathway, rezoning timeframes are set to halved. This also takes pressure off councils to allow them to focus on the assessment of local development applications.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/plans-for-your-area/rezoning-pathways-program/rezoning-pathway-for-social-and-affordable-housing>

### Community Housing Concierge pilot program

*Announced May 2024*

The Community Housing Concierge program will assist Community Housing Providers to build planning capability and efficiently work with the planning system to support the delivery of more than 3,600 affordable homes over five years. During the 12-month pilot, the program will offer 20 Community Housing Providers end-to-end project support, policy and planning system navigation and case management for stalled planning projects.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/policy-and-legislation/planning-reforms/planning-delivery-unit/planning-concierge>

# Reforms addressing barriers to the timely issuing of development approvals

## Faster Assessments Program – Financial incentives for councils

*Announced May 2024*

The NSW Government's Faster Assessments program includes \$200 million of financial incentives for councils to help achieve housing completion targets and improve planning performance. The funding will help deliver infrastructure including roads, open spaces and community facilities.

Further detail on the council incentive program will be available later in 2024.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/policy-and-legislation/housing/faster-assessments-program/financial-incentives-for-councils>

## Updated Statement of Expectations Order

*Announced July 2024*

As part of the NSW Government's Faster Assessments Program, an updated Ministerial Statement of Expectations Order came into effect on 1 July 2024 setting new benchmarks for council timeframe performance for development assessment, planning proposals and strategic planning. The expectations require councils to improve their development assessment performance over the next 4 years. A public Council League Table dashboard provides transparent performance monitoring against the new expectations. The Department can provide support to councils that are underperforming, or in cases where expectations are consistently not met, ministerial intervention can be exercised.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/policy-and-legislation/housing/faster-assessments-program/statement-of-expectations-order>

## Artificial Intelligence in NSW Planning project progresses

*Announced July 2024*

Grants have been awarded to sixteen councils to trial technologies to speed up development assessment timeframes, as part of the NSW Government's \$5.6 million investment into introduce artificial intelligence into the planning system.

The successful councils applied for grants under the State's Early Adopter Grant Program to trial technologies that will improve the quality and accuracy of information when a development application is lodged, such as by quickly identifying administration and data input errors. Each Council grant recipient will be supported to trial their nominated new technology for a year. The technologies have been provided by Adaptovate Pty Ltd

'Development Assessment Intelligence System (DAISY)', Archistar Platform, and Propcode CDC.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/assess-and-regulate/development-assessment/artificial-intelligence-in-nsw-planning>

## **Strong Start Cadetship Program**

*Announced April 2024*

The mentoring program for 2024 opened for any student or graduate planner working at a council in NSW. Under the program, students and graduates are paired with experienced planners at the department or NSW councils, who share knowledge and expertise, provide coaching, expand professional networks, and support professional development. The program offers personal support when starting out in your career.

The mentoring program runs from May to December 2024.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/policy-and-legislation/planning-reforms/planning-delivery-unit/strong-start#cadetship-program->

## **Diploma of Local Government (Planning)**

*Announced April 2024*

The brand-new Diploma of Local Government (Planning) will support school leavers and future planners on their way into paraplanning, a role that manages a lot of the initial assessment, research and review to provide valuable support to planners.

The new Diploma was developed through a collaboration between the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, TAFE NSW, Local Government NSW and the Planning Institute of Australia. The Diploma has been adapted from TAFE SA's curriculum to reflect planning practices in NSW.

This will help to address the shortage of planners, which has been found to contribute to an increase in the average number of days taken to determine local development applications in NSW. The diploma will also meet strong demand: in a recent survey, more than 85 per cent of council respondents indicated they would consider upskilling existing staff with the qualification or employing planning cadets currently enrolled in the diploma.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/policy-and-legislation/planning-reforms/planning-delivery-unit/strong-start#diploma-of-local-government-planning->

## **Increasing the capacity of the Office of Local Government and councils**

*Announced June 2024*

An additional \$37.4 million from 2024-25 will enable the Office of Local Government to put in place better regulation and enhance its ability to intervene quickly when governance and

financial issues are identified across the state's 128 councils. This will improve councils' ability to effectively assess and determine housing applications.

---

## Initiatives to share planning data

### Council League Table

*Announced July 2024*

The NSW Government's Council League Table was published in July 2024 to improve transparency and accountability for planning timeframe performance, for both councils and the NSW Government. The league table includes data on council timeframe performance for lodgement and assessment of development applications, as well as data on NSW agency timeframes for concurrence and referral processes. Performance will be monitored regularly by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure in line with the updated Ministerial Statement of Expectations Order.

In addition, a new regionally significant development dashboard tracks how long councils take to refer assessment reports to Sydney and regional planning panels.

The league table will be expanded over time to include State Significant Development assessment timeframes for infill affordable housing and TOD accelerated precinct assessment timeframes.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/policy-and-legislation/housing/faster-assessments-program/council-league-table>

### NSW Planning Portal improvements

*Announced June 2024*

The NSW Government allocated \$20.4 million in 2024-25 Budget (\$13.7 million in 2024-25) to deliver improvements to the NSW Planning Portal.