



Don Page MP

Minister for Local Government

Minister for the North Coast

MEDIA RELEASE

Embargo 5.30am Monday 8 October 2012

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MINISTER SAYS COUNCILS CAN BID FOR INTEREST SUBSIDY TO BUILD ON GREENFIELD SITES

Minister for Local Government Don Page today called on councils to take part in round two of the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme, which now includes a subsidy for councils wanting to develop housing on greenfield sites.

“While round two of the scheme now includes greenfield projects, councils wanting to address their normal infrastructure backlogs will still be eligible for assistance.” Mr Page said.

“There is a critical housing shortage in NSW, particularly in high growth metropolitan areas of the state, with Sydney taking in an extra 50,000 people each year – and finding affordable housing is increasingly difficult even in regional centres,” Mr Page said.

“This is the equivalent of the population of Wagga Wagga being added to Sydney each year and the Liberals & Nationals Government is working to ease the burden on families struggling to enter the housing market.

“The new subsidy will help clear one of the major bottlenecks to housing development – and make it easier for council to afford to provide infrastructure for new dwellings and services for residents on greenfield sites.”

Under the new guidelines for the scheme projects will be favoured if they are essential for new housing development to occur, including schemes involving roads, stormwater, water supply and sewerage.

“In addition to easing the housing crisis, providing new home builders access to greenfield sites will create additional jobs, stimulate the economy and provide new living room for our burgeoning and diverse population,” he said.

Mr Page said councils should say where a project fitted in with the State’s existing infrastructure or new schemes.

“For example, priority may be given to local road works that feed into a regional network if there is sufficient capacity in the regional network,” he said.

Under round one of the hugely successful scheme \$430 million was unlocked, making possible 82 infrastructure projects across NSW.

“Given the success of the last round of the scheme, there is potential for the next round of the scheme to unlock over \$700 million in infrastructure projects – including new infrastructure for greenfield housing sites,” Mr Page said.

In addition to housing infrastructure, the next round of the scheme provides councils with a 3 per cent interest subsidy for up to 10 years on loans to pay for backlog infrastructure projects such as roads, bridges, community halls, libraries, paths, parks and water facilities allowed to run down under Labor.

“In the first round I am delighted to say that 82 projects from 62 councils were able to proceed – a very good result,” Mr Page said.

“Under this first round of funding, from Waverley to Wyong; and from Brewarrina to Bega the NSW Government unlocked over \$430 million in funding for vital shovel-ready community projects.

“I urge councils to bid for the second round of the scheme, which I hope will be as popular as round one.”

With the first round of subsidies complete, over \$60 million still remains for further applications of the scheme for other vital infrastructure projects.

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