

## **SHOVEL READY PROJECTS TO BY-PASS REFUSAL BY COUNCILS UNDER NEW PLANNING LAWS BY EXTENDING POWERS OF PLANNING MINISTER TO OVERRIDE PLANNING DECISIONS**

The Minister to be granted unprecedented powers to override planning decisions made by local Councils through the normal planning process.

The Hon. Minister Rob Stokes Minister for Planning, announced on 3 April 2020 a new Planning System Acceleration Program which will fast track assessments of State Significant Developments, re-zonings and development applications, with more decisions to be made by the Minister if required.

See <https://twitter.com/RobStokesMP/status/1245932490369290245>

A Media Release in NSW Treasury recently approached the developer lobby group, Urban Taskforce, requesting a list of **'shovel-ready' projects** ready to go ahead. Currently on the planning system are **over 76 shovel-ready projects** which have been refused by local Councils and/ or Local or Regional Planning Panels. Check the Urban Taskforce website for a complete list of contentious projects across the Sydney region.

### **General community concern**

Many in the community are unhappy with the recently announced changes to the planning system. They believe that planning decisions should be community-led and that local Councils are best placed to make decisions about planning that are appropriate for their local area and constituents. Even in times of economic and health crisis, planning approvals should consider the impact of development on the environment, local communities and neighbouring residents. The Better Planning Network organisation and its members have also raised these concerns.

See <https://www.betterplanningnetwork.org.au> and BPN Facebook post-dated 19 April 2020.

**It is concerning that significant changes to the planning system are being done when communities are focussed on avoiding COVID-19 rather than protesting against the actions taken by NSW Treasury and the Department of Planning.**

### **Shovel ready projects :**

- **Double Bay 100-150 residential apartments unnamed location**
- **Little Bay -1900 apartments 75 storeys towers, including a hotel (from Meriton website)**

