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MEDIA RELEASE

Working together to improve planning in NSW

"The NSW planning system can be improved by more collaboration and greater transparency," Chair of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Planning, Mr James Griffin MP, said today.

Mr Griffin tabled the Committee's report into land release and housing supply in NSW in the Legislative Assembly today.

"The NSW planning system is complex," Mr Griffin said. "Demand for land and housing, and for infrastructure to support communities, is high. Our planning resources are stretched and the politics of local planning can be fractious."

The report found that the Greater Sydney Commission has changed the planning landscape for the better.

"The Commission has been well received," Mr Griffin said. "It is setting patterns and practices for community engagement, interagency collaboration and transparency which we believe can help improve all levels of planning assessment and decision making, throughout the state."

The report recommended that the planning system should be simplified and improved through a consultative process.

"Infrastructure funding in particular is too complex and opaque," Mr Griffin said. "We have recommended an audit so that everyone knows the current status of funding and what projects can be supported."

The report recommends that the NSW Productivity Commissioner be asked to examine alternative infrastructure funding models.

"To ensure infrastructure funding is effective, timely and equitable, we must make sure that the right people are contributing the right amount at the right time in the planning cycle," Mr Griffin said.

The Committee identified much goodwill across professionals, developers and the community to get things done.

"The enthusiasm people have for working together to achieve the right outcomes, whether in providing affordable housing, or protecting local character, or building communities should be harnessed," Mr Griffin said.

The report made 11 recommendations to improve land release and housing supply in NSW.

Further information about the inquiry and report can be found on the Committee's website: <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/environmentplanning>, or by contacting the Committee on (02) 9230 3095.

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