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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA RELEASE

Local planning panels to improve confidence in development application process

HIA welcomes the introduction of legislation into Parliament requiring the establishment of local planning panels by metro councils that will be based on the very successful Independent Hearing and Assessment Panel (IHAP) format.

“Earlier this year the Government proposed the establishment of local planning panels in the planning legislation updates and the announcement of new legislation today will deliver on that initiative” said David Bare, HIA Executive Director NSW.

“For almost 20 years IHAPs have been operating in a number of councils, including Liverpool, Canterbury, Fairfield and Sutherland to provide the council with good advice on development proposals and are regarded as the benchmark for good practice in the assessment of development applications” said Mr. Bare.

“Establishing local planning panels to provide advice to councils on local development matters will complement the work of the Sydney Planning Panels which make decisions in respect to Regional Development” added Mr. Bare.

“Although IHAPs only consider less than 1% of all development application across the state, they do tend to deal with some of the most complex and controversial applications and allow elected councilors to focus on strategic issues and policy development” said Mr. Bare.

“HIA looks forward to this legislation being passed so that local councils can quickly get on with the task of establishing their planning panels”.

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For social media commentary from David Bare

