

# CAMDEN COUNCIL

## Media Release

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30 May 2014

### **Camden Council is One of the Fastest Council's for Processing DA's Despite Rapid Growth**

Camden Council has been identified as one of the fastest Council's in assessing development applications in New South Wales.

The recently released Department of Planning 2012/13 Local Development Performance Monitoring indicated that an increasing number of home builders were getting faster and cheaper approvals for new homes and renovations if they met certain conditions that made them eligible for a 'Complying Development Certificate'.

Over the 2012/13 period, Camden Council approved over \$450 million worth of development and almost 1100 DAs. This placed Camden as one of the ten Council areas with the highest levels of development activity (approvals). Despite this, the mean DA determination time with 'stop the clock' was 31 days and the median DA determination time with 'stop the clock' was 22 days.

During this period, Council approved 636 new dwellings with a mean gross determination time of only 33 days. The 'gross determination time' is the time taken from the day the DA is lodged to the day the DA is determined – with no days excluded.

Mayor of Camden, Cr Lara Symkowiak said the results are fantastic news for our citizens and new residents wanting to move into our community.

"In the past 12 months, we have listened to our customers' feedback and have responded with a variety of initiatives. These included reviewing the structure of our development area, employing additional senior staff in our planning and building teams, placing a greater focus on meeting with customers to iron out issues prior to lodgement of their DA and staff employing their best endeavours to mediate issues as they arise between neighbours."

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“I am proud to lead a Council that, in spite of the pressures that consistent development and population growth places on it, seeks to proactively improve our service for the benefit of our customers and our community.”

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**Words: 315**

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