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NSW Launches New Design Guide to Boost Housing Supply

July 16, 2025

— Categories: Real Estate



The government of New South Wales (NSW) has introduced a new housing pattern book aimed at accelerating the delivery of diverse, well-designed homes across the state.

The New South Wales (NSW) government has released a new housing pattern book to help deliver more homes across the state quickly and efficiently. This initiative is part of a broader plan to address the housing supply shortage in the region while promoting high-quality, diverse housing designs.

The NSW Pattern Book offers a set of pre-approved architectural designs that can be used for low- and mid-rise housing types, such as duplexes, townhouses, terraces, and small apartment buildings. These templates are intended to simplify and fast-track the planning and construction process, making it easier for developers, councils, and architects to bring new homes to market.

By offering ready-to-use designs, the government hopes to cut through red tape and reduce the time and cost typically associated with housing approvals. The pattern book also aims to improve design consistency, ensure livability, and encourage the use of well-planned housing across a range of urban and suburban settings.

The new guide was developed in collaboration with architects, planners, and local councils to ensure that the designs meet both community needs and local character. These designs are flexible enough to be adapted for different locations and are aligned with the government's existing planning codes.

This move supports the government's broader urban infill strategy, which focuses on increasing housing in already developed areas with good access to transport, schools, and jobs. By concentrating growth in these locations, the state aims to avoid overdevelopment in outer suburbs while making better use of existing infrastructure.

The housing pattern book is also expected to benefit smaller builders and community housing providers by giving them access to high-quality designs that meet planning standards. This levels the playing field and helps a wider range of participants contribute to solving the housing crisis.

NSW Planning Minister Paul Scully said the pattern book is a practical step toward unlocking more housing supply while maintaining quality and character. He emphasized that the guide is not mandatory but serves as a helpful tool for those looking to streamline their housing projects.

This new approach reflects a shift in how the state government is tackling housing issues focusing not just on numbers but also on the design, livability, and long-term sustainability of homes. As housing demand continues to rise, the pattern book could play a vital role in shaping the future of residential development in New South Wales.