

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2016

## Government

### Baird resists push to replace stamp duty

The Premier moved last week to dampen reports that the state government had left the door open to replacing stamp duty with a new system of land tax on homes.

In a speech to the right-wing think tank the Independent Centre for

Studies last week, Finance Minister Dominic Perrottet said that a land tax would free up the property market for younger buyers.

The comments inspired media reports that the state government was flirting with the reform, just after the ACT government was re-elected on a platform of bringing in the tax and after the federal government had called for the issue to be considered.

But the Premier, Mike Baird, poured cold water on that idea.

"That idea of taking away stamp duty and putting in a land tax - that's not a consideration," he said.

Stamp duty from the state's growing housing market has ballooned in recent years and is worth more than \$8 billion to the state's coffers each year, but growth is expected to slow down in future

budgets. But the CEO of the Urban Taskforce, a group that represents property developers, Chris Johnson, called on the government to keep the door open to dumping stamp duties.

#### TRAINING DAYS

Newly elected councillors are being encouraged to undergo an induction before they enter public life. Workshops for new councillors are being held across the state following the September 12 elections.

"The workshops will provide guidance on standards of conduct, long-term planning, management of council resources and the workings of the Local Government Act," Local Government Minister Paul Toole said.

Meetings run throughout November. A schedule is available at [www.olg.nsw.gov.au](http://www.olg.nsw.gov.au).

