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Housing stalls with councils in transition

Premier Gladys Berejiklian has justified continuing with forced council amalgamations in Sydney by saying this is needed to boost housing supply and to improve the planning system ("Merger plan to cut both ways", 15/2).

The council transition process, however, is leading to the opposite result as councils fight boundary changes and lose interest in the planning processes. There are at least 30 major housing projects stalled in the council planning processes that could add thousands of new homes.

If the Premier wants to increase

housing supply, she needs to take major housing projects away from squabbling councils and drive the planning process more efficiently.

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