

## Our DAs `slowest in state'

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A PEAK property development group has slammed North Shore councils for taking too long to process development applications, saying it would be quicker to walk from Sydney to Perth than get a home extension approved by some.

NSW Urban Taskforce chief executive officer Aaron Gadiel was responding to last week's release by the State Government of the latest figures on development application processing.

He said the new figures showed that, for the first time, north side councils are some of the slowest in the State.

Mr Gadiel said it takes an average of four months for Lane Cove, North Sydney, Mosman and Warringah councils to issue an approval to homeowners.

"The reports shows that Warringah Council takes 88 business days, Lane Cove and North Sydney 83 business days, and Mosman 81 business days," Mr Gadiel said.

"You would be able to walk from Sydney to Perth in the time it takes these councils to approve a simple change to your home.

"Nothing can excuse such a disappointing performance.

"This report demonstrates the need for immediate reform of the State's unwieldy planning system.

"There's no reason why approving a pergola, a home extension or a new kitchen should take more than seven days.

"Delays and disputes in the development application process are hurting the ordinary homeowner."

The NSW Urban Taskforce is a property development industry group, representing developers, builders and property financiers.