

Need for speed at tribunal

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UP to \$1.5 billion worth of stalled planning cases will be cleared through a VCAT blitz.

Frustrated at year-long delays at the tribunal, Planning Minister Matthew Guy will order VCAT to create an extra six weeks of sitting days to determine an extra 800 cases and clear some of the \$3 billion backlog of cases waiting for a hearing.

There are 1824 smaller cases in limbo, many of them applications made by families and small developers with a value under \$5 million.

Four out of five cases take more than six months just to get a hearing date and then wait months longer for the actual hearing to take place, resulting in delays of up to 54 weeks.

Mr Guy today will announce a one-off \$1 million boost to VCAT to hire more members and set aside hearing times to clear the backlog, as well as a review of long-term finances for VCAT to avoid a repeat of this situation.