

# News release



NSW GOVERNMENT  
**Department of Planning**

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## **Planning vision for city centres awarded**

The NSW Government's push to boost the economic and residential role of six regional cities has received a prestigious property industry award.

Long-term planning visions for Wollongong, Penrith, Parramatta, Liverpool, Gosford and Newcastle have been honoured by the NSW branch of the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA).

The planning visions won the UDIA's 2007 Awards for Excellence prize for "Public Sector Leadership for Urban Development", at a gala dinner held in Sydney on Friday, September 14.

Department Director-General Sam Haddad said the Cities Taskforce plans beat four nominees in the category to scoop the award.

"This award is recognition of an excellent program that involves setting out city centre plans for the six regional cities, with a particular emphasis on job creation, in partnership with the relevant local council," he said.

"The project moves to drive investment and vitality into these cities, where an estimated extra 80,000 new jobs and 80,000 more people are proposed to be located over the next 25 years."

"A key part of each of the city centre plans is improving the quality of open space and public plaza areas along with funding community infrastructure improvements.

"This award also acknowledges the hard work being done by the Cities Taskforce unit within the Department of Planning, which has driven this particular program, along with each of our local council partners."

The Cities Taskforce project will help implement two key State plan priorities – jobs closer to home and housing affordability.

The award judging panel stated that the project is a "very significant example of public sector leadership".

"The plans present real opportunities for each centre and have generated keen local interest with broad debate," the judges declared.

The UDIA's award for "Public Sector Leadership for Urban Development" sought nominations from public sector organisations that have demonstrated leadership and innovation in terms of customer service, communications, resolving planning and development problems and advancing industry consultation.

Partnerships between the public and private sectors for the provision of affordable housing, or which achieve improvements in affordable housing, were also encouraged to nominate in the category.

The Wollongong planning vision has been finalised, with work underway to finalise the other five planning visions.

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