



NEWS RELEASE
The Hon. Kristina Keneally MP
Member for Heffron
Minister for Planning
Minister for Redfern Waterloo

Wednesday 12 August, 2009

CREATING AUSTRALIA'S BEST PLANNING SYSTEM: COUNCILS GET FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE SUPPORT FROM NSW GOVERNMENT

NSW Councils receive an additional \$1.4 million and support from the NSW Government to complete important planning work.

NSW Planning Minister, Kristina Keneally, today announced 26 councils would share in \$1.4 million from the Planning Reform Fund and 67 Councils would benefit from increased support to finalise their comprehensive Local Environment Plans.

Ms Keneally said the 26 councils would receive funding for 24 separate strategic planning projects in the sixth round of the NSW Government's Planning Reform Fund.

"These funds will greatly assist council's to progress their Local Environment Plans, complete strategic studies and implement the Metropolitan and Regional Strategies for their area," Ms Keneally said.

"Councils know their local area better than most which is why the NSW Government is providing additional funding and support to help them complete these important planning projects.

"This is another significant step in creating Australia's Best Planning System, where decisions are made at there most appropriate level and deliver certainty to local businesses and community.

"These important planning projects will provide the capacity for New South Wales to take on much-needed job creating investment once complete.

"Proper and effective land use planning is vital to ensuring an economically viable and sustainable future for each of the State's 152 Local Government Areas."

Ms Keneally said these funds would also assist councils implement particular work that facilitates significant:

- Greenfield residential or employment land release;
- Employment proposals;
- Affordable housing opportunities, particularly in a high growth location; or
- Urban renewal proposal, particularly in a high growth location.

"The Government, through the Department of Planning has been and will continue to work with councils in both metropolitan and regional areas to streamline the delivery of these projects," Ms Keneally said.

"This latest financial allocation from the Planning Reform Fund brings the total amount delivered to councils to \$23 million since 2003.



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“And two councils, Cootamundra Shire Council and Mosman Council, have received funding for the first time under the Fund in this latest round.”

A full list of funded projects is attached.

As well as the allocation of funds to 26 councils 67 councils will receive increased support to fast track the completion of their comprehensive Local Environment Plans.

Ms Keneally said the Government had recently conducted a survey of councils regarding the prioritisation of their comprehensive Plans.

“In April this year the Minister for Local Government, Barbara Perry and I wrote to all councils asking about the status of their comprehensive Local Environment Plans,” Ms Keneally said.

“The responses received have allowed the Government to supply additional support to 67 councils whose plans are well advanced, economically important and in high growth areas.

“This is a major planning initiative being undertaken in partnership between the State Government and every council in NSW. It is also another step in creating Australia’s Best Planning System.”

Ms Keneally said the Government is working hard to complete these 67 councils comprehensive Local Environmental Plans (LEP) by 2011, with all other LEPS to be completed as soon as possible.

“Clearly this is a job that won’t happen overnight which is why the Government is focusing a number of important planning resources and energies more specifically,” Ms Keneally said.

“I want to highlight that councils not on the priority list will continue to receive support and advice from the Government through the Department of Planning as they progress their Plans.

“In fact, thanks to additional funding allocated to the Department of Planning in the recent 2009-10 State Budget the preparation of these non-prioritised plans will be able to continue as before.”

A full list of the 67 prioritised councils is attached.

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What is a Local Environment Plan

Local environmental plans (LEPs) guide planning decisions for local government areas. Through zoning and development controls, they allow councils and other consent authorities to manage the ways in which land is used. LEPS are the primary planning tool to shape the future of communities and also oversee the estimated \$20 billion worth of local development that is determined each year.



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Planning Reform Fund Allocations

Council	Project title	Project summary *	Funding (ex GST)
Bellingen Shire Council	Preparation of new principal local environmental plan (LEP)	Prepare the new council-wide LEP including mapping in accordance with the standard template.	\$40,000
Blacktown City Council	Develop the Blacktown LEP	Project 1: Preparation of a heritage map which plots the location of heritage conservation areas (which includes places of Aboriginal heritage significance). Projects 2 and 3: Conduct detailed planning for two urban renewal precincts (urban and residential) identified in council's housing strategy. Project 4: Verify all current mapping data for eventual transference to a new system that matches the standard template's mapping requirements.	\$100,000
Botany Bay Council	Preparation of new LEP 2010	Draft the new council-wide draft LEP, using an existing planning strategy which provides a framework for growth and development over the next 25 years.	\$70,000
Cabonne Council (in conjunction with Blayney Council)	Development of comprehensive LEP for the Councils of Blayney and Cabonne	This project will be a collaboration between two rural Councils that will result in the development of a common LEP for their region which can be adapted to include the local variations to produce individual comprehensive LEPs for the two Councils LGAs.	\$60,000
Cootamundra Shire Council	Local planning Instrument review and preparation of the new Cootamundra comprehensive LEP	Carry out of review and creation of a new council-wide LEP.	\$50,000
Dungog Shire Council	Dungog Shire Council Comprehensive LEP 2011	Carry out of background studies and creation of a new council-wide LEP. The background study includes a rural lands study (including a shire wide vacant holding assessment).	\$80,000
Eurobodalla Shire Council	Eurobodalla Economic Development and Employment Lands Strategy	Enable completion of an employment lands review to identify opportunities to diversify and strengthen the local economy and identify planning and infrastructure requirements to support this aim.	\$40,000



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Gosford City Council	Employment Lands Investigation with a focus on a Somersby Industrial Park extension	To investigate future demand for employment lands in the city, including a scoping investigation for expansion of Somersby Industrial Park.	\$60,000
Great Lakes Council	Karuah Growth Strategy	Prepare a growth strategy for Karuah.	\$40,000
Gunnedah Shire Council	Gunnedah land-use strategy bridging report	Prepare a report bringing together Gunnedah's 2003 LEP, 2004 Rural Strategy and the 2008 Commercial and Industrial Land Use in preparation for a new LEP.	\$6,500
Hornsby Council (in conjunction with Parramatta Council)	Epping Town Centre Study	Prepare a report exploring Epping's potential growth as an employment and residential centre and the improvement of planning controls covering the area.	\$125,000
Lake Macquarie City Council	Update of Lifestyle 2020 in preparation for new comprehensive LEP	Review and ground-truth council's Lifestyle 2020 strategic planning document following publication of the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy and recent land-use rezonings and development in the city, to ensure the forthcoming Lake Macquarie LEP has a sound basis.	\$60,000
Leichhardt Council	Floor space ratio review	Prepare a report reviewing the floor space ratio and landscape controls currently contained in its LEP, by evaluating 800 development applications from the last eight years. This will provide information to guide the development of councils new comprehensive LEP in 2011.	\$30,000
Marrickville Council	Continuation of employment of additional strategic planners to complete new, comprehensive LEP	Continue the employment of contracted strategic planners to deliver a comprehensive Marrickville LEP and a consolidated development control plan.	\$100,000
Mosman Council	Preparation of new LEP	Prepare and implement the new council-wide LEP in a way that engages the community and to undertake a planning study for the Civic Centre site.	\$65,000
Murray Shire Council	Review of Murray LEP	Complete the new council-wide LEP, following a review of the existing LEP.	\$40,000
Nambucca	Nambucca LEP 2008	Prepare the new council-wide LEP and assist in	\$70,000



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Shire Council	and Valla Urban Growth Area	studies for a major urban/employment area release (Valla urban growth area).	
Newcastle City Council	Residential Development Strategy Review and Industrial and Employment Lands Review	Complete the Residential Development Strategy review, including establishing residential zones and zone boundaries and density controls. Review and consolidate the Newcastle Industrial Lands and Employment Survey 2004 and Newcastle Industrial Lands Analysis 2005 into a new strategy.	\$65,000
Pittwater Council	Ingleside Urban Land Release	Commence investigations to release 450 hectares of potentially developable land for urban purposes in Ingleside.	\$115,500
Port Stephens Council	Raymond Terrace Growth Strategy	Prepare the Raymond Terrace Growth Strategy to provide clear direction for the future growth of the commercial area, having regard to targets projected in the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy	\$65,000
Randwick Council	Planning provisions for Randwick Education and Health Specialised Centre	Undertake detailed investigation, testing and drafting of a site-specific LEP and development control plan provisions for the Randwick Education and Health Specialised Centre, which is earmarked as an important precinct in the Sydney Metropolitan Strategy.	\$50,000
Snowy River Shire Council	Environmental protection zone mapping for Snowy River Shire	This project will provide up to date environmental protection zone mapping to support the new council-wide LEP.	\$45,000
Wagga Wagga City Council	Completion of Wagga Wagga local environmental plan 2008 and Wagga Wagga development control plan 2009	Funding to complete preparation of the draft new council-wide LEP and development control plan.	\$30,000
Wyong Council	Planning provisions and development controls to support implementation of The Entrance Peninsula Planning Strategy	Develop planning provisions and development controls to implement The Entrance Peninsula Planning Strategy and inform planning for other centres in the shire in line with the broad objectives of the Central Coast Regional Strategy.	\$45,000

* The text in the project summary column is a Departmental summary of the council project – for a full description of the project please contact the relevant council.



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Prioritised Councils

Rural and Regional	Metropolitan
Hunter Central Coast (8) Cessnock, Gloucester, Gosford, Greater Taree, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Newcastle & Wyong	Sydney Region West (9) Auburn, Blacktown, Camden, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Holroyd, Parramatta, Penrith, Wollondilly
Northern (13) Ballina, Bellingen, Byron, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Kempsey, Kyogle, Lismore, Nambucca, Port Macquarie Hastings, Richmond Valley, Tamworth, Tweed	Sydney Region East (14) Botany Bay, Burwood (Town Centre), Hurstville, Lane Cove, Leichhardt, Marrickville, Mosman, North Sydney, Rockdale, Ryde, Sydney City, Warringah, Waverley (Bondi Junction Town Centre), Willoughby
Southern (14) Albury, Bega Valley, Coolamon, Eurobodalla, Kiama, Queanbeyan, Shellharbour, Shoalhaven, Temora, Tumbarumba, Upper Lachlan, Wagga Wagga, Wingecarribee, Wollongong	
Western (9) Balranald, Bathurst, Dubbo, Forbes, Mid Western, Murray, Orange, Wentworth Bland	
Rural and Regional = 44	Metropolitan = 23
Total = 67	