Jobs and Housing Boost Proposed for Coffs Harbour

New planning documents that aim to deliver 2,000 new jobs and cater for an additional 5,000 residents in Coffs Harbour are being placed on public exhibition.

NSW Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, today joined Coffs Harbour City Council Deputy Mayor, Bill Palmer, to launch the Coffs Harbour city centre plans and encourage locals to have their say.

“The plans have a 25-year timeframe and will focus on boosting job-creating investment, sustainably housing the region’s growing population and injecting new vitality into the heart of Coffs Harbour,” the Minister said.

“They identify a number of key precincts across the city where redevelopment opportunities exist, particularly in relation to tourism-based investment.”

Key features include:

- Development incentives in the CBD to encourage business investment and a greater mix of residential and commercial uses;
- Establishing the jetty precinct as a centre for outdoor dining and recreation;
- Revitalising Park Beach as a tourist centre, including upgrades to Ocean Drive and Park Beach Road and improved facilities and amenities at Park Beach reserve;
- Establishing Coffs Creek as the green heart of the city through upgraded recreational facilities, pedestrian walkways and cycleways;
- Retention of existing planning controls for the Jetty Foreshore areas to recognise their contribution to Coffs Harbour's cultural heritage and tourism; and
- Continued public access along the foreshore and walkways.

The public exhibition starts on Thursday and runs for two months, with documents available at Coffs Harbour City Council chambers and on the council's website.

The community has until October 8 to have its say and help shape the future of the city.

Exhibition information

The documents being exhibited include:

- A Vision – which sets a strategic direction for the city’s growth, with particular emphasis on:
  - celebrating Coffs Creek as the green heart of the city;
  - improving the quality of the public domain;
  - creating an attractive, liveable and socially inclusive city for residents, workers and visitors;
  - establishing Coffs Jetty as a centre for outdoor dining recreation; and
  - revitalising Park Beach as a tourist centre.
A Local Environmental Plan (LEP) – which establishes the statutory planning provisions across the city such as zonings, heights and floor space ratios. The LEP allows for:
  o increased development to provide for anticipated job and housing growth; and
  o development incentives to encourage office development and high quality design.

The LEP is designed to promote:
  o a built environment that encourages pedestrian use and active street frontages;
  o consideration of environmental impacts such as sustainable design, overshadowing, solar access, wind and reflectivity;
  o access and improvements to the quality and amenity of public places;
  o attractive, walkable and active streets; and
  o continued public access along the foreshore and waterways.

A Development Control Plan (DCP) – which outlines the more detailed planning provisions such as building setbacks, solar access and pedestrian amenity. Key features of the DCP include:
  o an emphasis on the public domain including the creation of active street frontages;
  o provisions which address the impacts of flooding; and
  o development controls specifically tailored for special areas such as City Square, the Jetty Village and the former Coffs Hospital site.