25 August, 2010

**HOUSING BOOST, JOBS & MORE SPORTS FIELDS FOR THE SHIRE**

Hundreds of new homes, more than a thousand jobs and new sporting fields are planned after a major rezoning of land at Kurnell peninsula.

NSW Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, today approved a State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) which rezones land for:

- Low density housing adjacent to existing residential areas of Cronulla - nearly 33 hectares;
- Public recreation and conservation purposes extending from Towra Point Wetlands in the west to the Pacific Ocean in the east, an area three times the size of the Royal Botanic Gardens - more than 91 hectares.

Sutherland Shire Council approached the Department of Planning seeking to rezone the land owned by Australand and Breen because it was covered by a NSW Government, not council, planning instrument.

Mr Kelly said development controls in the SEPP will result in the construction of *around 420 houses*, which will help Council meet its dwelling targets under the Metropolitan Strategy.

"With Sydney’s population set to increase by 1.7 million by 2036, it is important there is also the development of new regional recreational facilities to promote an active and healthy lifestyle," the Minister said.

“Council has entered into a voluntary planning agreement with the two landowners which sets out how the landowners will establish the open space, construct new sporting fields and transfer the land and facilities into public ownership.

“The total project cost is $700 million with the recreation facilities estimated at $25 million.”

These include:

- Ten playing fields, lighting and three amenities blocks;
- Internal access roads, walking and cycling tracks;
- Picnic areas and parking for more than 400 cars.

Member for Miranda, Barry Collier, said Australand and Breen can now lodge a development application.

“*Australand and Breen estimate 1,300 jobs will be created over the life of the project and hope to have the first of the playing fields ready for community use within 18 months,*” Mr Collier said.

Mr Kelly said the Department of Planning considered a range of issues in its assessment of this rezoning proposal.

“On the issue of aircraft noise, the Department found the land proposed to be rezoned for residential purposes was outside the Australian Noise Exposure Forecast 20 contour under Sydney Airport’s master plan,” the Minister said.