GOOD NEWS FOR NSW BEER LOVERS

Premium beer lovers of NSW will be proposing a toast following approval of a $7 million modification of the Tooheys brewery at Lidcombe.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said the modification will allow the company to meet the growing demand for Heineken.

“Five new fermentation vessels can now be installed on the site, enabling the brewery to produce the required volumes of Heineken as market demand shifts to premium brands,” the Minister said.

Member for Auburn, Barbara Perry, welcomed the announcement.

“This is also great news for Western Sydney and the 700 residents who have jobs at the brewery,” Ms Perry said.

The modification follows the approval of a major upgrade of the brewery in 2007 that has significantly reduced the facility’s energy consumption.

That 2007 approval allowed for a major upgrade of the brewery’s operations, making it a more modern and sustainable industrial facility, brewing local and overseas beers.

Mr Kelly said Heineken has a longer brewing time, meaning some additional fermentation vessels are required to produce the increased volumes required by the growing market for premium beers.

“Their installation enables Tooheys to increase local Heineken production by 45%,” Mr Kelly said.

“Once the fermentation vessels are installed, the Tooheys Lidcombe plant will produce all bottled and draught Heineken sold in Australia.

“The proposal has been assessed by the Department in consultation with Auburn City Council and the NSW Environment Department to ensure it would not result in any adverse impacts on the environment or the amenity of the local area.

“The Department’s assessment found the modification would comply with existing noise limits for the site and traffic from the 12-week construction period would have minimal impact on surrounding streets.

“The new equipment is also not expected to have any adverse odour or visual impacts, particularly as four of the new fermenters will be located on the site of the existing waste earth handling facility, which is no longer required and will be removed.”