



Hon Tony Kelly MLC  
Minister for Planning  
Minister for Infrastructure  
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Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council  
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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Rezoning to support 240 new homes in the Hunter Valley**

Rural land at Gillieston Heights, near Maitland in the Hunter Valley, has been rezoned to allow around 240 new homes, NSW Planning Minister Tony Kelly announced today.

Mr Kelly said 24 hectares adjoining the existing Gillieston Heights village had been rezoned following a request by Maitland City Council to amend its local environmental plan (LEP).

Gillieston Heights has been identified for residential development in the Maitland Urban Settlement Strategy and Lower Hunter Regional Strategy.

“Eventually, the Gillieston Heights urban release area will provide around 2,200 new homes,” Mr Kelly said.

Member for Maitland Frank Terenzini welcomed the opportunities the rezoning would mean for the people of Maitland, in particular the local housing construction industry.

“This is a timely response to the increased demand for housing by the region’s growing population and highlights the popularity of Maitland as a place people want to live.

Mr Kelly said developing this area for new homes is consistent with the regional strategy, which is focused on providing new residential areas close to existing urban centres, services and infrastructure.

“This amendment to the Maitland local environmental plan rezones 24 hectares of rural land for residential use and is the latest rezoning for the Gillieston Heights urban land release area.”

The 24 hectares has been declared part of the Urban Release Area in the LEP, ensuring a focus on providing regional transport infrastructure and state public infrastructure.

“Gillieston Heights is in a good location, strategically positioned in proximity to existing services and infrastructure, particularly the nearby Maitland CBD, which make it ideal for urban development,” Mr Kelly said.

Mr Kelly said the Department of Planning had worked closely with Council on the amendment to the LEP.

“Detailed environmental studies had been undertaken and there had been extensive consultation with the community, stakeholders and government agencies,” he said.

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