6 October, 2010

EUROBODALLA HOUSING PLAN REJECTED

The NSW Government has rejected a planning proposal that would have allowed 90 permanent residential dwellings to be constructed half way between Batemans Bay and Moruya.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said the proposal had been earmarked for the privately-owned Oaks Ranch and Country Club at Mossy Point.

“The project, put forward by Eurobodalla Shire Council, had been carefully assessed by the Department of Planning through the Government’s ‘Gateway’ system for local environmental plans,” the Minister said.

“It has been deemed unacceptable and the proposal will now not progress any further through the plan-making process.

“The location is too isolated from local infrastructure and services such as shops and does not fit with the strategic planning policies of the council and the NSW Government.”

The Department of Planning carefully assessed the merits of the project and found:

- The proposal is inconsistent with both council’s Eurobodalla Settlement Strategy and the NSW Government’s South Coast Regional Strategy;
- The site is an inappropriate location for urban residential development due to its isolation from basic social and retail services; and
- It has not been demonstrated the associated tourism development requires permanent residential development.

Mr Kelly said the Government has consistently refused to support the location of permanent residential development in isolated locations aimed at supporting tourism development.

“The current zoning allows for tourism and a golf course with the consent of Eurobodalla Shire Council and I would be happy for it to discuss with the Department of Planning any other approaches for redevelopment of the tourism facility,” the Minister said.

“However, the location is simply not appropriate for a permanent urban housing development.

“This decision shows the benefits of the Government’s Gateway system which weeds out inappropriate rezoning proposals early in the plan-making process.”