

Friday, 8 October 2010

Support for employment lands in Newcastle

A Department of Planning review has supported largely retaining employment lands across five industrial precincts to the west and north of Newcastle's CBD – helping maintain jobs growth and investment in the region.

Deputy Director General Tom Gellibrand said the Department of Planning had delivered a review of 64 hectares of land across the industrial precincts to Newcastle City Council. The review covered precincts in:

- Carrington;
- Islington;
- Maryville;
- Tighes Hill; and
- Wickham.

Mr Gellibrand said the recommendations from the review have been incorporated by Newcastle City Council into its draft local environment plan (LEP) which went on exhibition on Tuesday.

The Department's review has been made available as part of the council's exhibition package.

"These lands are located close to the Port of Newcastle and the CBD, and are well-serviced by infrastructure, so should in the main be protected from residential and commercial development," Mr Gellibrand said.

"Newcastle Port recorded some 100 million tonnes of imports and exports last year and is the world's largest coal export port so we need to ensure it is supported by industrial lands.

"This recommendation is line with the NSW Government's Lower Hunter Regional Strategy, which outlines the need to create some 66,000 jobs in the 25 years to 2031.

"However, the review has also found that properties along Fern Street, Islington can be identified as a mixed-use zone – where residential, retail and commercial projects can proceed.

"This area is already predominantly residential in nature (despite being zoned for employment uses) and will integrate with a proposed urban renewal corridor for Islington supported in the regional strategy."

The Department undertook the review – known as the Throsby Industrial Lands review – to assist Newcastle City Council in the development of its new council-wide local environmental plan (LEP).

DWC de Witt consulting was engaged to undertake an independent peer review of the Department's report, with its comments incorporated.

The review found that urban renewal was best located around the Wickham area, rather than in the Throsby employment lands.

The review has been made available at

<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/PlansforAction/Regionalplanning/HunterRegion/tabid/187/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

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