22 September, 2010

PENRITH LEP APPROVED

The NSW Government has approved the first stage of a new Penrith local environmental plan, which sets out the vision for the St Marys town centre and updates existing plans which date back 42 years.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said the LEP replaces 12 different documents, the oldest of which dates back to 1968.

“This is a single plan making it easier to understand Penrith’s town planning framework,” the Minister said.

The LEP reflects a significant body of strategic planning work undertaken by Penrith City Council in the past few years, including strategies for:

- Rural lands;
- Employment planning;
- St Marys town centre; and
- Heritage.

Stage two of the LEP will address existing and proposed future residential areas.

Mr Kelly said the plan seeks to implement Council’s vision for St Marys Town Centre, by supporting additional retail, commercial and residential space within the existing town centre boundaries.

“It will assist St Marys to become a more vibrant, active town centre, in line with the Government’s Metropolitan Strategy vision to build the role of such centres,” the Minister said.

“The new LEP provides greater clarity for landowners and the community about what can be proposed within the town centre and outlines the city’s long term urban growth limits by clearly defining areas for agriculture and rural living opportunities.

“The LEP has been designed in line with the standard template which provides consistency in the format and layout of council-wide LEPs, while allowing councils the flexibility to address specific local planning issues.”

The council has carried out extensive consultation, including referrals to government agencies and several public meetings.