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**New planning controls approved for Weddin Shire**

New planning controls have been approved for Weddin Shire, which establish new residential, business and industrial zones for Grenfell, and confirm the village boundaries across the Shire.

The Weddin Local Environment Plan 2011 was approved by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, under delegation from the Minister, and is the result of significant co-operation between the department and Weddin Shire Council.

Weddin Shire Mayor Maurice Simpson welcomed the approval of the LEP.

“The new LEP brings Weddin Shire into line with the NSW Government’s standard template whilst retaining most of the previous development standards,” Cr Simpson said.

“Council will now carry out a rural land study to review matters such as the minimum lot size for rural properties. The assistance from the department was much appreciated and has accelerated the preparation of our new LEP.”

The department’s Deputy Director-General Tom Gellibrand said the LEP is in line with the NSW Government’s aim to encourage well-planned growth in regional areas.

“I commend Council for the work undertaken to prepare the Weddin Local Environmental Plan 2011 and appreciate Council’s co-operation in delivering this plan,” Mr Gellibrand said.

Mr Gellibrand said key outcomes of the plan included:

- The establishment of 12 distinct zones for the Weddin Shire, providing greater consistency with the zones which apply across NSW, while catering to local needs;
- The confirmation of village boundaries for Bimbi, Caragabal, Greenethorpe and Quandialla;
- Natural resource mapping that protects environmentally sensitive lands from inappropriate development.

The new LEP updates planning controls from 2002.

Mr Gellibrand said the new LEP included specific clauses to manage the shire’s natural resources, particularly with respect to flood planning, biodiversity, groundwater, wetlands and riparian corridors.
“Preparation of the new Weddin LEP has involved close community consultation and will place the council in a better position to plan for future development whilst facilitating sustainable growth,” Mr Gellibrand said.

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