

Media release



Planning &
Infrastructure



Friday, 9 December 2011

New planning controls to support growth in Moree Plains Shire

New land has been zoned for business and rural-residential development in Moree's new council-wide local environmental plan (LEP), which has been approved by the NSW Government.

The Moree Plains LEP 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 Moree Plains Shire Council.

The department provided \$64,000 in funding through the Planning Reform Fund, to support the preparation of the Moree Plains LEP.

The department's deputy director-general Tom Gellibrand said preparation of the new Moree LEP had involved extensive community consultation and would position Moree to reap the benefits of future development, whilst facilitating sustainable growth.

"In recognition of the growth in Moree, 5 hectares of additional land adjoining and adjacent to the existing business district has been zoned for business uses," Mr Gellibrand said.

"The new LEP balances the expanded business district with projected growth outside Moree with up to 150 hectares of land rezoned for new rural residential housing."

Moree Plains Shire Council Mayor Cr Katrina Humphries said she was pleased the LEP had been approved and commended the work of Council's Planning and Development Department.

"Our Planning and Development Department put a lot of effort over a long period of time into getting our LEP through to this stage," she said.

"I'm delighted their work has finally come to fruition."

To retain the unique rural character of the Moree Plains Shire, a minimum rural lot size of 100 hectares in the RU1 Primary Production zone has been maintained.

Mr Gellibrand said the Moree LEP is in line with the Government's aim to encourage well-planned growth in regional areas.

"The plan replaces the existing planning controls that are more than 15 years old, dating back to 1995," Mr Gellibrand said.

Other key outcomes of the LEP include:

- The introduction of measures to manage and protect culturally significant sites within the Shire, including places with Aboriginal cultural significance;
- The introduction of controls on development that will ensure the continued effective operation of the Moree Meteorological Station, including the establishment of a building height within its immediate vicinity and requiring consultation with the Commonwealth for any building within the radar vector of the station; and
- Updating Council's flood planning controls to be consistent with the NSW Floodplain Development Manual 2005.

The LEP is consistent with the extensive strategic planning work Council has undertaken in the Moree Plains Growth Management Strategy and Aboriginal Heritage Study, Koala Habitat Mapping Project and the Flood Prone Mapping Project which were endorsed by the department in 2009. The draft LEP attracted 25 submissions when it was placed on public exhibition in September 2010.

Council media contact: Kerri-Anne Hare, 6757 3266

Department media contact: Brendan Berecry, 9228 6257