New planning controls approved for Bland Shire

New planning controls have been approved for Bland Shire which establish individual zones in the existing West Wyalong/ Wyalong village and provide residential land to cater for growth over the next five to 10 years.

The Bland 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 Bland Shire Council.

The new LEP brings Bland Shire into line with the NSW Government’s standard planning template whilst retaining most of the Shire’s previous development standards.

Bland Shire General Manager Ray Smith said approval of the LEP was the culmination of four years of planning and preparation.

“Council wishes to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of its planning staff to get the Bland LEP to the approval stage," Mr Smith said.

“The assistance from the department was also much appreciated.”

The department’s Deputy Director-General Tom Gellibrand said the LEP was prepared 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 Bland LEP and appreciate Council’s co-operation in delivering this plan," Mr Gellibrand said.

Key outcomes of the plan include:

- Maintaining the existing subdivision and minimum lot size for agricultural land of 200 hectares;
- Preserving and promoting public and private recreation by applying recreation zones;
- Identifying appropriate commercial and industrial zones for employment and economic growth;
- Providing enough residential land to meet demand for at least the next 5-10 years;
- Applying individual zones within the existing West Wyalong/ Wyalong Village to reflect the existing/ future land uses and reduce land use conflict.

The new LEP updates planning controls from 1993.

Bland Shire Council received $50,000 from the department through the Planning Reform Fund, to assist in the preparation of the new LEP.
Mr Gellibrand said the new LEP included specific clauses to manage the shire’s natural resources, particularly with respect to protecting environmentally sensitive land.

“Preparation of the new Bland 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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