

Wednesday, 16 February, 2011

Calderwood project application to go to Planning Assessment Commission

The NSW Department of Planning has confirmed that a project application for the first stage of the Calderwood release area will be sent to the independent Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) for decision.

This application for 320 residential lots, infrastructure, landscaping, open space and a village centre, is currently being assessed by the Department.

The PAC is a NSW Government body made up of independent planning experts.

The PAC will be the consent authority for this application because Delfin Lend Lease did attach a reportable political donation statement when it originally requested its proposal be considered as a major project in February 2009.

It was a Departmental oversight that this donation statement was not placed on the website. This has now been rectified.

Project applications (which generally seek to begin construction) that include a donation statement are required to be sent to the PAC.

However, concept plan applications where a donation statement has been attached are not required to be referred to the PAC, as they do not give approval for any construction to commence. As approval has only been granted for the Calderwood concept plan, a reportable political donation in this instance would have made no difference to the planning process.

Moreover, the Department's assessment of all applications is based on merit, and merit alone, with the existence or otherwise of a political donation being an irrelevant planning consideration.

Department of Planning media contact: Laurel-Lee Roderick (02) 9228 6128