

Tuesday, 13 September 2011

NSW planning system review heads to Blue Mountains and central western NSW

A comprehensive two-month listening tour across NSW, being held as part of the NSW Government's planning system review, will head to the Blue Mountains and central western NSW next week.

The review is being led by former Environment Minister Tim Moore and former NSW Public Works Minister Ron Dyer.

Mr Moore said more than 150 meetings with stakeholders and the community were being held, including community forums in at least 43 locations over the next two months. Already, 45 stakeholder meetings have been held around Sydney.

The second week of the statewide tour will begin with two community forums in Katoomba on Monday, 19 September.

"We will be traversing all corners of the State to listen to the community as part of the most comprehensive review of the NSW planning system in 31 years," Mr Moore said.

"This is a once in a generation opportunity for people to have their say about a planning system which affects every parcel of land in the State.

"We urge people to come along and tell us what they think should be the principles and objectives that should form the bedrock of this planning system."

During week two of the listening tour, the two review chairs will visit the Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Bathurst, Orange and Parkes.

Two public information sessions are being held in each location:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
Monday, 19 September	Blue Mountains	Katoomba RSL Club	3:00 – 5:00pm 6:00 – 7:30pm
Tuesday, 20 September	Lithgow	Lithgow Workers Club	3:00 – 5:00pm 6:00 – 7:30pm
Wednesday, 21 September	Bathurst	Bathurst RSL Club	3:00 – 5:00pm 6:00 – 7:30pm
Thursday, 22 September	Orange	Orange Golf Club- Duntry league	3:00 – 5:00pm 6:00 – 7:30pm
Friday, 23 September	Parkes	Parkes Services Club	3:00 – 5:00pm 6:00 – 7:30pm

There is no need for people to pre-register.

Mr Dyer said the tour of NSW followed on from a Ministerial planning forum held in Sydney in July, which officially launched the consultation phase of the review. Video of the forum can be accessed from www.planningreview.nsw.gov.au.

“We recognise that the areas we will visit during this week will have their own unique needs and issues which should be reflected in a new planning system,” Mr Dyer said.

“I encourage everyone to come along and provide input into how our planning system can best deliver for the people of NSW.”

After the listening and scoping stages are completed, the next steps will include:

- The preparation of a Green Paper – outlining options in regard to the future planning system and the basis of a legislative scheme.
- A White Paper – setting out the Government’s new framework for the NSW planning system, including new draft legislation which will re-write the current Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Further information is available on the planning system review website www.planningreview.nsw.gov.au. Notes from each community forum will be posted on the website.

NOTE TO MEDIA:

Audio of Ron Dyer is available for radio. Additional interviews can be arranged on request.

All media are invited to attend the community forums, along with interviewing the panel chairs before or after the event. To organise interviews, please call (02) 9228 6128 and we’ll put you in contact with the panel chairs.

Media and members of the public can also follow feeds on Twitter and Facebook – more details are at www.planningreview.nsw.gov.au

Media contacts: Laurel-Lee Roderick, 0429 153 139 (14-16 September)
 Stephanie Karamanoglou, 0407 857 271 (19-23 September)