

Friday, 7 December 2012

Feedback sought on proposed planning changes at Wentworth Point

Feedback is being sought on a proposal for additional housing at Wentworth Point in conjunction with delivery of a 300m bridge across Homebush Bay.

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure is seeking comment until 15 February 2013 on a proposal presented to it by four Wentworth Point property owners.

The bridge will allow Wentworth Point residents to avoid the current 12km round trip to Rhodes to access shops, Rhodes railway station and office employment areas.

Under proposed changes, an increase in residential floor space will be permitted to allow approximately 1,300 dwellings in Wentworth Point, in addition to the currently proposed 7,000 dwellings.

The changes will allow four towers of 25 storeys to be built with eight surrounding towers limited to 16-20 storeys. At present, height limits on the site are limited to eight to nine storeys.

The additional floor space is proposed to fund the bridge between Wentworth Point on the west side of Homebush Bay and the Rhodes peninsula on the east, to be completed by 2016.

Department Director-General Sam Haddad said the department supported the proposal proceeding to community consultation.

“We want residents living around Homebush Bay to have their say about this important proposal,” Mr Haddad said.

“The bridge, if approved and built, will allow residents on the western side of Homebush Bay to avoid a long trip to access essential services on the Rhodes peninsula.

“Instead, they will catch the bus, cycle or walk across the bridge to access a railway station, major shopping centre and major business parks.

“The proposal also has the potential to respond to the need to boost Sydney’s housing supply, by providing up to 1,300 additional apartments.”

A series of documents have been placed on exhibition, including:

- Proposed changes to the Homebush Bay development control plan – which outlines the statutory planning controls for the site;
- A Transport Management and Accessibility Plan – a document which considers the potential transport implications of the increased residential floor-space and bridge;
- An urban design review - which outlines a series of urban design concepts showing how the new towers could look; and

- A summary of the proposed funding agreement – which outlines that a company acting on behalf of the four landowners (Fairmead Business Pty Ltd) will construct and provide funds to maintain the bridge.

Additionally, a question and answer sheet has been prepared to help local residents easily understand what is being proposed.

A community drop-in session about the proposal will be held in January 2013 at The Pulse Function Centre, 3 The Crescent, Wentworth Point, so residents can find out more about the proposal. Details for this session will soon be available on the Department's website.

More details are available at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals while the property owners have also established a website at www.homebushbaybridge.com.au.

Comments can be emailed to wentworthpoint@planning.nsw.gov.au or sent to Department of Planning and Infrastructure at GPO Box 39 Sydney NSW 2000 before 15 February 2013.

A separate application from Fairmead is before the Department of Planning and Infrastructure seeking planning approval for the bridge.

Fairmead has recently responded to submissions received during a public exhibition earlier this year. The department has now commenced its assessment of the bridge proposal.

Further information about this process is available at http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=4331

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