

Friday, 21 December 2012

### **Additional funding for strategic planning projects across NSW**

Councils are being invited to apply for a share in \$1.2 million in NSW Government funding for strategic planning projects to help deliver new housing, jobs, economic benefits or other important planning outcomes.

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure today called for councils across the State to apply for grants under Round 8 of the Planning Reform Fund.

“Around \$20 million has already been awarded to councils through this fund to help achieve strategic outcomes in their regions, including work on updating their planning controls and bringing them into the standard format for local environmental plans (LEPs),” the department’s Director-General, Sam Haddad, said.

“Since 2003, the Planning Reform Fund has been supporting the development and implementation of planning system reforms. These reforms are helping to make the planning process more strategic, efficient and transparent, whilst increasing community involvement.

“In the last round of funding, 18 councils shared in \$1.2 million in funding for projects including urban renewal initiatives, enterprise corridor plans and planning for urban land release areas.”

Applications in 2012-13 will be considered for a range of projects, including those which assist in:

- Implementing subregional and local planning strategies, which may identify areas for future housing, employment or conservation;
- Implementing economic development strategies;
- Releasing new housing or employment lands; or
- Improving delivery of council services and performance through innovation or planning reforms.

Information and application forms are available on the department’s website at [www.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au)

Applications close on Friday 22 February 2013.

**Department media contact:** Laurel-Lee Roderick, (02) 9228 6128 or 0429 153 139