Thursday, 12 January 2012

Letter to the Editor of the Wollondilly Advertiser

Your story about new housing estates for Wollondilly (‘Brace for growth explosion, Wollondilly Advertiser, 11/1/12) incorrectly reports that plans have been drawn up for 10 new housing estates and that these plans have been stamped confidential by the NSW Government.

Last year, the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure extended a general invitation to the owners of large lots, interested in developing their land for housing. This resulted in 43 sites being nominated by landowners, including 10 in the Wollondilly local government area.

A formal review of the landowner nominated sites is now being undertaken to identify sites in appropriate locations that could increase the production of new housing in the short term at no additional cost to Government.

No plans have been drafted and information about the process and nominated sites is publicly available at www.planning.nsw.gov.au.

Council input is integral to evaluating the housing potential of landowner nominated sites, which is a whole of government process. This is why relevant councils, including Wollondilly Shire Council, were contacted in December 2011 and invited to comment on sites in their area.

This is just the start of the consultation process and if any of the nominated sites progress beyond this initial stage, there will be further opportunities for councils, and the community, to comment on any proposals.

Yours sincerely,

JIM HANNA
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NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure