

Monday, 30 July 2012

### **Regional tour to discuss proposed new planning system**

Residents in 10 locations across the state will have the opportunity during the next month to discuss proposals to completely overhaul the NSW planning system.

State planners will be hitting the road to discuss proposals outlined in the NSW Government's Green Paper.

These proposals include:

- Involving the community earlier in guiding planning decisions that will shape the growth and future of our cities, towns and neighbourhoods;
- Reducing red tape and delays for the assessment of development applications for all types of proposals;
- Ensuring that infrastructure is planned and delivered to support new and existing communities; and
- Promoting a 'can do' culture in the planning system and ensuring that councils and the government are accountable for delivering results.

During August, staff from the Department of Planning and Infrastructure will be hosting community discussions at Wollongong, Queanbeyan, Sydney, Newcastle, Armidale, Parramatta, Wagga Wagga, Dubbo, Coffs Harbour and Ballina (see attached schedule).

Community members at each location will be invited to a roundtable discussion on the Green Paper's ideas between 6.30pm and 8pm.

"The NSW Government is creating a planning system for the 21st century that places people and their choices at the heart of planning decisions about their future," the department's Director-General Sam Haddad said.

"This is a great opportunity for residents to have direct input into the crafting of a new planning system for this state.

"We need to create a planning system which is far more inclusive and easier to use and understand, so it is crucial we get input from communities across the state.

"The purpose of the state's planning system is to provide outcomes for communities – whether these are housing, environmental outcomes, employment or infrastructure."

Mr Haddad said the existing Environmental Planning and Assessment Act had been amended more than 150 times since 1979 to keep up with community expectations and changing economic conditions.

"Unfortunately, the system has become complex and legalistic, focused heavily on process and not on the outcomes that users of the system are seeking to achieve," Mr Haddad said.

The Green Paper is an initial response to an independent review of the state's planning system conducted by former Environment Minister Tim Moore and former Public Works Minister Ron Dyer.

It represents the first time the government has outlined its proposals for the planning system and is on exhibition until 14 September 2012.

Following the exhibition period, the government will release a White Paper for further consultation, before introducing new legislation into NSW Parliament in early 2013.

Community members should register for the events at [www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/newplanningsystem](http://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/newplanningsystem) to assist the department to plan for the events. Further information is available on the website.

The events are part of broader consultation being carried out on the Green Paper, which includes an opportunity for the public to take part in online discussions and comment on each of the proposed changes to the system. Submissions can be lodged online or by mail to New Planning System Team, Department of Planning and Infrastructure, GPO Box 39, Sydney 2001.

#### COMMUNITY CONVERSATION SCHEDULE

Location	Venue	Day/Time
Wollongong	<b>Wollongong City Diggers</b> 82 Church Street, Wollongong	Tuesday 7 August 6.30pm-8pm
Queanbeyan	<b>Queanbeyan Bowling Club</b> Campbell St, Queanbeyan	Thursday 9 August 6.30pm-8pm
Sydney	<b>Justice and Police Museum</b> Corner Albert and Phillip streets, Sydney	Tuesday 14 August 6.30pm-8pm
Newcastle	<b>Newcastle Panthers</b> Corner King and Union Street, Newcastle West	Thursday 16 August 6.30pm-8pm
Armidale	<b>Armidale City Bowling Club</b> 92/ 96 Dumaresq Street, Armidale	Thursday 16 August 6.30pm-8pm
Parramatta	<b>Parramatta Leagues Club</b> 13-15 O'Connell Street, Parramatta	Tuesday 21 August 6.30pm-8pm
Wagga Wagga	<b>Wagga Commercial Club</b> Nathan Room, 77 Gurwood Street, Wagga Wagga	Tuesday 21 August 6.30pm-8pm
Dubbo	<b>West Dubbo Bowling Club</b> Corner of Wylandra Street and Newell Highway, West Dubbo	Thursday 23 August 6.30pm-8pm
Coffs Harbour	<b>Coffs Harbour Ex-Services Club</b> Vernon Street, Coffs Harbour	Tuesday 28 August 6.30pm-8pm
Ballina	<b>Ballina RSL Club</b> 240 River Street, Ballina	Thursday 30 August 6.30pm-8pm

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