Media release

Monday, 23 December 2013

**More jobs for Leichhardt**

The NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure has approved new planning controls for Leichhardt which will support the creation of an additional 6,500 jobs.

Deputy Director-General of the Department Richard Pearson said today the new Leichhardt local environmental plan (LEP) would also create capacity for an extra 2,476 homes.

“Leichhardt is a unique and much sought-after part of Sydney,” Mr Pearson said.

“People want to live and work in Leichhardt because of its proximity to the CBD and the area’s access to services.

“We worked closely with Leichhardt Council to make sure the LEP strikes the right balance between supporting new jobs and homes and maintaining the character of the area that makes it so popular.”

The NSW Government provided $280,000 to Leichhardt Council to develop the new LEP which transforms it into the contemporary format for NSW planning controls – known as the Standard Instrument.

The funding went towards a strategic residential and employment lands study to identify housing and job opportunities in the area.

Mr Pearson said this report was used as the basis of the LEP.

“This is how we plan for the future of local communities in NSW. We approach planning for more homes and jobs in a strategic way that is based on evidence,” Mr Pearson said.

“This plan is a terrific example of that. It directly implements the outcomes of the council’s study – it’s evidence-based planning at work.”

The department has deferred the zoning on the Balmain Tigers site in Rozelle as part of the LEP, meaning the existing zoning and density controls for the site, contained in the 2000 Leichhardt LEP continue to apply.

The draft LEP sought to significantly change the zoning of the site from what is currently allowed.

This was done to avoid pre-empting a major project application which is still under assessment.

“This is the appropriate course of action given a major project application for the site which is still under assessment by the department,” Mr Pearson said.

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