Media release

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Green light for West Dapto Urban Release Area water services

The NSW Government has given planning approval for the construction of the water and wastewater network to service the West Dapto Urban Release Area (WDURA) and adjacent development areas, a crucial step towards meeting the Illawarra’s future housing needs.

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure recently approved Sydney Water’s $210 million overall water and wastewater servicing concept plan for West Dapto and a separate project application allowing the construction of infrastructure at the north end of the urban release area.

Department Executive Director for Development Assessment Systems and Approvals, Chris Wilson, said the approvals lay down the groundwork for the Illawarra’s largest urban release areas.

“The areas approved for servicing cover more than 5,000 hectares – with scope for 30,000 dwellings in existing and future development areas over the next 40-plus years,” Mr Wilson said.

“Providing the water and wastewater services to the area will help deliver 7,000 new houses in the first stages of West Dapto as part of the Government’s commitment to housing the Illawarra’s growing population over coming decades.”

Approval of the infrastructure in the project application, which will service the Sheaffes/Wongawilli, Kembla Grange and West Horsley precincts of the WDURA, means staged work can now start on the:

- Construction and upgrade of 70 km of drinking water and wastewater pipelines, connecting into the existing Sydney Water networks;
- Upgrade of an existing wastewater pumping station at Kembla Grange; and
- Construction of four drinking water reservoirs at Avondale and Marshall Mount.

The approval of the overall concept plan, which lays out the water and wastewater strategy for the broader West Dapto Urban Release Area and adjacent growth areas will allow further infrastructure project applications to be made as the area develops over time.

Sydney Water expects the overall project to cost $210 million and generate 100 full-time jobs at any given stage of the construction phase and an additional five ongoing full-time operational jobs.

Under the approval of the concept plan and project application, the department has required Sydney Water to meet a variety of conditions, including the development of measures to offset biodiversity impacts and procedures for community engagement, complaints and reporting.

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