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Rezoning paves the way for West Dapto town centre

A new town centre for West Dapto – the Illawarra’s biggest new housing release area – is a step closer after a rezoning approved by the NSW Government.

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure recently approved a rezoning proposed by Wollongong City Council which permits a clay shooting range to be considered at Huntley, subject to further development approval.

This will allow the Illawarra Clay Target club to move from its current location at the site of the proposed Bong Bong Rd town centre, helping to pave the way for the creation of the town centre.

The Bong Bong Rd town centre is one of two town centres planned as part of the biggest new land release in the Illawarra region. It is expected to incorporate 15,000 square metres of retail space, including a supermarket and specialty shops, as well as up to 80 dwellings.

The Department of Planning’s Regional Director, Southern Region, Brett Whitworth, said the town centre would cater for an estimated 15,000 future residents.

“West Dapto is set to become one of the state’s largest release areas, attracting new residents and jobs, and strengthening the economy of the Illawarra,” Mr Whitworth said.

“As part of the masterplan for West Dapto, the Bong Bong Rd town centre will become a focal point for the local community, with a shopping precinct to support the everyday needs of the existing Horsley population and the future residents of West Dapto.”

The West Dapto land release area covers about 4700 hectares. It is expected to accommodate about 7000 new dwellings during the first two stages, with an estimated total potential of 17,000 dwellings over the next 40-plus years.

Forty-five submissions were provided in support of the proposal to change the permitted land use at the Huntley site. Five submissions, including four objections, were received during the exhibition period.

Mr Whitworth said the council had responded to the issues raised in the submissions and has flagged the issues that will need to be addressed in any future development application to ensure the operation of the clay target range addresses factors including noise, contamination and environmental impact.

Any new shooting range facility would be subject to development consent and NSW Police approval.

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