

# Media release



Planning &  
Infrastructure

Friday, 24 May 2013

## **Dubbo to host regional Board meeting for senior planning executives**

Senior management from the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure will visit Dubbo next week as part of a renewed emphasis on regional planning from the department's new executive team.

The department's May Board meeting will be held in its Dubbo office on Monday morning with Board members to then spend the afternoon meeting Mayors and representatives from 16 local councils to discuss regional planning issue and priorities.

The department's Director-General Sam Haddad said the visit was part of an ongoing program of regional Board meetings, which enabled senior management to hear from councils face-to-face.

"The Government's new planning system is all about engaging with local communities and placing consultation at the heart of everything we do," Mr Haddad said.

"The department has recently revamped its executive structure and every single member of the team is on board with that vision.

"That's why, as a Board, we're visiting Dubbo and other regional centres. I'm really looking forward to hearing from councils on Monday and filling them in on the Government's latest regional planning initiatives.

"The rest of the community will then also have their chance to participate on Wednesday evening when the department hosts a community information session on the new planning system at Dubbo RSL.

"Regional communities can be assured that planning for their areas is a very high priority in the department's work program."

The department's Regional Director for the Western Region, Ashley Albury, said key planning priorities in the region included:

- Finalising new council-wide planning controls for each of the region's 43 local government areas, to help deliver sustainable growth and vibrant communities.
- Balancing increased mining activity with other important regional land uses such as agriculture.
- Managing the strong growth of regional centres such as Dubbo, Bathurst, Mudgee, Orange and Griffith.

"We have a great partnership with all our local councils and, in consultation with them, we're making great progress on important regional issues," Mr Albury said.

"We've finalised new local environmental plans for 27 out of the 43 council areas and the remainder are also progressing well.

“And of course, regional areas have an important perspective to give on the creation of the State’s new planning system.

“I look forward to continuing to work closely with all our regional communities and their council representatives.”

Other members of the department’s Board who will be in Dubbo on Monday include:

- **Richard Pearson** – Deputy Director-General for Planning Operations & Regional Delivery
- **Stephen McIntyre** – Deputy Director-General for Planning Strategies, Housing & Infrastructure
- **Jill Reich** – Deputy Director-General for People, Culture & Business
- **Stephen Payne** – Chief Financial Officer
- **Marcus Ray** – Executive Director for Planning Reform & General Counsel
- **Neil McGaffin** – Executive Director for Rural and Regional Planning
- **Chris Wilson** – Executive Director for Development Assessment Systems & Approvals

For more information on, or to register for, Wednesday evening’s consultation event on the new planning system, please visit [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/newplanningsystem](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/newplanningsystem)

#### **Notes for media:**

- Director-General Sam Haddad will be available to speak to the media from 1:45 to 2pm at Dubbo Council chambers – Church St, Dubbo.
- Board member Marcus Ray will also be available at that time to discuss Wednesday evening’s consultation event.
- Media will also be invited to take photographs or video footage of the first 10 minutes of the Board’s meeting with councils from 2pm at Dubbo Council chambers.

#### **Departmental media contacts:**

Paul Searle – (02) 9228 6295 or 0429 153 425

or

Mark Skelsey – (02) 9228 6275 or 0439 931 098