Wollongong CBD planning proposal to be reviewed by independent panel

The independent Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP) has been appointed as the relevant authority to assess a planning proposal for a key site in Wollongong’s CBD.

The proposal seeks to rezone the “Gateway Site”, a precinct bounded by Wollongong’s Flinders, Keira and Campbell streets, to allow mixed-use development – including an increase in the building height controls from 24m to 60m and an increase in density controls over part of the site.

The rezoning would allow development applications to be submitted for a $116 Million project comprising around 280 residential units and 3,700m² of commercial floor space – with the potential to generate 111 permanent jobs.

The 14,681m² Gateway Site is largely owned by Wollongong City Council, which has signed a contract to sell its land to developers Gateway Pty Ltd if development approval is granted.

Council requested that the JRPP be appointed as the relevant planning authority to prevent any potential conflicts of interest – and Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Brad Hazzard signed off on the appointment.

Planning and Infrastructure Southern Region General Manager Brett Whitworth said the JRPP will assess both the planning proposal to amend the planning controls at the site and Gateway’s draft masterplan for the site, which was exhibited by Council last year.

“An independent review of the planning proposal is necessary, given the significant increases sought to planning controls, the size of the proposed development and the potential for Council to have a real or perceived conflict of interest,” he said.

Previous development approval granted for the Gateway Site, previously known as the “Quattro Site”, was overturned in court following the 2008 Independent Commission Against Corruption investigation into corruption allegations affecting Wollongong City Council.

Further information about the JRPP’s review can be viewed at: http://www.jrpp.nsw.gov.au/

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