Urban renewal key to revitalisation of Newcastle city centre

Amendments to the planning controls that will determine the shape of the Newcastle city centre show how transport infrastructure can support urban renewal.

Planning and Infrastructure today placed on public exhibition amendments to the Local Environment Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP), which will guide the revitalisation of the city centre while protecting the unique character of NSW’s second city.

The amendments follow feedback received during the community consultation period which concluded in 2013.

Planning and Infrastructure and the City of Newcastle have worked closely with the community, land owners and businesses to develop a vision for the city centre with transport improvements at its heart.

Deputy Director General of Planning and Infrastructure Stephen McIntyre said one of the biggest concerns raised during the community consultation was around public transport.

“Planning and Infrastructure is working with communities to renew suburbs and cities across NSW around major transport infrastructure hubs,” Mr McIntyre said.

“The community raised concerns in June last year around transport in the Newcastle CBD and we are incorporating a plan for urban renewal around the plans for the new light rail link interchange from Wickham to the beach, which are progressing.

“Combining urban renewal with public transport is smart planning for the future of Newcastle and we welcome the community’s feedback on this.”

Mr McIntyre said the detailed plans would provide the planning footprint for the city centre for the next 20 years.

“These planning regulations will provide the community and the business sector with certainty about the future growth of the city centre,” he said.

“Once in place, development approval times will be improved as the City is provided with long-term planning controls.

“These plans allow capacity for an additional 10,000 jobs and 6,000 homes to be created in the city centre by 2036 – homes and jobs that will be supported by new and renewed transport infrastructure.”

Planning and Infrastructure received 420 submissions in response to the draft strategy and proposed amendments are based on that feedback, developed in consultation with the City of Newcastle.
Changes to the earlier draft LEP include allowing more floor space and higher buildings on some sites, following submissions from the University of Newcastle and UrbanGrowth NSW.

Public exhibition of the draft amendments to the LEP continues until 21 March 2014 and the DCP until 4 April 2014. Copies of the plans are available for viewing at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/revitalisenewcastle or at Planning and Infrastructure’s offices in Newcastle and Sydney and the City of Newcastle Council Administration Centre.

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