Potential new Parkwood community passes NSW planning check point

A unique proposal to create a new community across the ACT-NSW border has passed the first checkpoint of the NSW planning system.

The Department of Planning and Environment has given the green light for Yass Valley Shire Council to submit a proposal to rezone land for the NSW portion of the area known as Parkwood, west of Belconnen.

This means that the Council can now start working on the detailed plan needed to take the concept to the community for feedback.

A spokesperson for the Department said the NSW component of the Parkwood proposal is made up of a 206 hectare nature conservation area with around 394 hectares for community space and homes.

“It’s a unique proposal, but one the Department and Council believe could bring benefits to both sides of the border,” the spokesperson said.

“The next step is for the Council to prepare a detailed proposal to take to the community so they can share their views on the idea.”

Once the Council has received and taken into account the feedback it receives from the community, it will provide a report to the Department.

The Department will then assess the proposal with the community’s feedback and decide what planning rules are most appropriate for the area.

The spokesperson said that before any proposal can proceed, arrangements will need to be in place for the ACT Government to provide services on both sides of the border.

“We want to make sure that any new community has access to the local services it needs – from schools and health services to basic things like bin pick up,” the spokesperson said.

“The Department and Council can now consult with relevant agencies on both sides of the border to assess the proposal, particularly in terms of supporting infrastructure and services.”

The Parkwood proposal would mean 5,000 new homes in NSW and 6,500 in the ACT that would be part of a single cross-border land release.

For more information visit www.leptracking.planning.nsw.gov.au/

Media contact: (02) 9228 6174