MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 8 January 2015

SMART PLANNING LAYS THE FOUNDATIONS FOR MORE THAN 30,000 JOBS IN REGIONAL NSW

Minister for Planning Pru Goward and Minister for Local Government Paul Toole today revealed new figures showing that smart planning had paved the way for a potential 34,000 new jobs across regional NSW.

Ms Goward said that every regional NSW Council now has a standard planning scheme, which ensures the same rules apply across councils to make it easier for people to move or start a business in any part of NSW.

“All 111 Regional NSW Councils now have a standard planning approach – it’s a smart way to slash red tape and make the planning system simpler and more efficient for businesses to start up and create new jobs.

“These plans have identified land for thousands of new homes near services and infrastructure, on top of more land to give small business and commercial operators opportunity to grow and generate new jobs across the State.”

The news comes as the Department of Planning and Environment has approved plans by Inverell abattoir Bindaree Beef to modernise its operation with new technology to grow the business and open up new revenue streams.

“Bindaree Beef is a significant local employer, a home-grown business exporting to China, showing that regional Australia can compete on an international scale,” Ms Goward said.

“The new equipment means the abattoir can generate some of its own power from its waste products, reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and convert previously unusable parts of animals into saleable fat and protein products.

“The project will see another $43 million invested locally and an extra 60 jobs created during construction and installation.”

Across regional NSW land rezoned for potential jobs growth includes:

- Dubbo - an estimated 3300 hectares rezoned for new employment lands that will generate around 675 jobs, in addition to the $30m Orana Mall Shopping Centre expansion;
• Lithgow – around 2000 new jobs to be generated in the Marrangaroo industrial release area;
• Bathurst – 600 new jobs linked to the transport hub on Sydney Road;
• Broken Hill – an additional 400 hectares and around 400 jobs for large-scale mining and transport-related industrial uses;
• Narrabri - 138 hectares rezoned for new employment lands in Narrabri and Boggabri that will support up to 2700 jobs;
• Inverell - 59 hectares rezoned for new employment lands that will support up to 1170 jobs;
• Yass – 18 hectares rezoned in the Yass town centre for up to 3,000 new jobs and 130 hectares of industrial land between Yass and the Hume Highway for growth in freight and logistics jobs; and
• Queanbeyan - a 7 hectare expansion of the Jerabomberra shopping centre to generate 2,000 jobs and a new 30 hectare business park development to support 4,000 jobs at the Poplars.

Mr Toole said this was a significant milestone for the local government sector, with the approved LEPs reflecting the needs of a growing State.

“Not so many years ago, the NSW planning system had become highly confused and complicated, with about 5500 local planning instruments in place, along with 3100 zones and 1700 definitions,” Mr Toole said.

“We’ve worked hand-in-hand with every regional Council across the state to help them get to a point where they can have one planning language in the form of a Standard Instrument Local Environmental Plan.”

For more information go to http://leptracking.planning.nsw.gov.au/

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