Streamlined planning process for development in Upper Hunter

Upper Hunter Shire Council is now operating with a single set of planning rules, making lodging a development application easier for homeowners and business in the area.

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment provided funding of $33,000 and worked with the council on the project, which involved the development of a new plan to replace a number of outdated policies and Development Control Plans (DCPs) of the former Merriwa, Murrurundi and Scone Shire Councils.

“Developing a single set of planning rules will help the council capitalise on efficiencies it gained through its amalgamation a decade ago, delivering even better outcomes for the community,” a spokesperson for the Department said.

“This new and improved, single Development Control Plan ensures that the rules are consistent across the Upper Hunter Shire Council area – making life simpler for homeowners and businesses.”

Upper Hunter Shire Council General Manager Waid Crockett said the change was a win-win.

“This streamlining and updating will ensure Council is taking a consistent, standard approach, providing certainty for applicants,” Mr Crockett said.

“I’m pleased Council was able to work with the Department as well as the community and stakeholders to deliver the new DCP,” Mr Crockett said.

Media contact: 9228-6128