Monday 27 July 2015

Heathcote Ridge rezoning confirmed in amended proposal

Planning for a new community within three kilometres of Menai town centre is progressing following the rezoning of 23 hectares of the West Menai Heathcote Ridge site.

A spokesperson for the Department of Planning and Environment said this proposal was around 10 per cent the size of the original Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council proposal.

“The Department did not support the original proposal, because a guarantee had not been secured for substantial investment in regional roads that would have been required,” the spokesperson said.

“This significantly smaller proposal will still allow for new homes without putting pressure on existing roads.

“Importantly, the approved smaller proposal minimises any impacts on important Aboriginal cultural heritage as well as the local environment – especially very sensitive native bushland.”

The spokesperson said that Sutherland Shire Council had indicated its support for the smaller proposal.

“It’s a good location close to the shops, cafes and services that Menai town centre offers,” the spokesperson said.

“The amended proposal is a much more appropriate and responsible approach. It better reflects the terrific local lifestyle Sutherland Shire residents expect.

“Locals have been consulted during the rezoning process, with a community reference group including councillors and land users meeting three times to assess the proposal.”

Current land use controls under Council’s local environmental plan will continue to apply to the land that has not been rezoned.

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