Tuesday 23 June 2015

**New Sutherland LEP provides protection and potential**

The Department of Planning and Environment released the finalised Sutherland Shire’s standard Local Environmental Plan, paving the way for new local jobs and preserving the lifestyle loved by locals.

The Sutherland Shire Local Environment Plan 2015 was approved by the Department of Planning and Environment as part of a state wide program that makes the planning system easier to use and understand.

A spokesperson for the Department said the Sutherland Shire boasts a wealth of natural beauty.

“The new plan protects the environment and strengthens the existing community by paving the way for new services and job opportunities,” the spokesperson said.

“The LEP strikes the right planning balance for a community with so much potential as well as environmental heritage that will be preserved.”

Business areas at Taren Point, Caringbah and along the Princes Highway can now be revitalised with expanded employment opportunities in bulky goods retail, offices, cafes and eateries.

Planning rules will be improved around Taren Point’s long time maritime hub strengthening the existing boat building and repair industries.

The highly-valued National Parks, natural waterways and local biodiversity are recognised and protected in the new LEP through zoning regulations and landscaping rules.

The plan includes a new health precinct around Sutherland Public Hospital and Kareena Private Hospital by allowing medical facilities to be built on nearby or adjacent land.

New homes will be provided around Sutherland’s transport hubs giving future residents access to convenient bus and train connections, shops and restaurants while the character of the Shire’s suburbs is preserved.

The LEP standardisation process has been underway since 2006 simplifying planning guidelines in more than 99 per cent of Local Government Areas in NSW.

**Media contact:** (02) 9228 6174