Friday 8 May 2015

**Site Compatibility Certificate reissued for Berry Park seniors homes**

A development application for new seniors housing in Berry Park can be assessed by Maitland City Council after the Department of Planning and Environment reissued a Site Compatibility Certificate.

The Department reissued the certificate following a detailed examination of the application for compatibility for potential use as seniors housing. This is the second certificate, with the original having been issued in February 2013 under a separate determination.

A spokesperson for the Department said that, while the site is suitable for seniors housing, a development application would need to be lodged and approved by the Council before any construction could begin.

“Any development application lodged will have to be publicly exhibited so the community can share their views with the Council before it makes a decision on the proposal,” the spokesperson said.

“Maitland City Council raised some issues with the site around water and soil quality as well as bushfire safety.

“The Department’s examination found that these issues can be addressed. They will need to be considered in detail by the Council during its assessment of any development application.”

Given the estimated capital investment of the proposed development, the development application for the site is likely to be referred to the Hunter Joint Regional Planning Panel for determination.

The certificate limits the site to the southern portion of the site adjoining McFarlanes Road due to flooding and environmentally sensitive land constraints.

The proponent of the project reapplied for the certificate, as the original certificate lapsed after two years.

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