NEW VISION FOR PARRAMATTA NORTH

Significant changes to plans to revitalise Parramatta North’s heritage precinct were today revealed following 12 months of consultation on a 2014 rezoning request.

Planning Minister Rob Stokes said the Department of Planning and Environment has approved UrbanGrowth’s revised application to rezone the precinct.

“We have listened to the community and made changes to the rezoning, to protect the unique heritage values of Parramatta North,” Mr Stokes said.

“This is a great opportunity to open the area to the public, while also ensuring the former Female Factory and other heritage buildings are properly maintained for future generations to appreciate.

The changes as a result of community feedback include:

- Reducing allowable height of proposed new buildings next to the Female Factory and the Norma Parker Centre;
- Reducing height of proposed new buildings along the eastern side of the site to minimise impact on surrounding areas, including the North Parramatta Conservation Area;
- Adding a design excellence clause into the Parramatta Local Environmental Plan to ensure future buildings contribute to the architectural quality of the area; and
- Deferring part of the site for later consideration to ensure potential heritage issues are properly addressed.

Heritage Minister Mark Speakman said the Heritage Council has been consulted on the new plan and it was vital heritage assets within the precinct are preserved.

“These buildings are significant to the history of NSW and this plan identifies an exceptional opportunity to fund conservation of the area’s historic buildings through sales of residential sites in the area,” Mr Speakman said.

Dr Lee said the project will provide around 3,000 new homes and 2,000 new jobs over the life of the project.

“This project will be an important boost to the local economy and a wonderful addition to the social fabric of our community,” Dr Lee said.
“We have consulted widely and listened carefully to the community to refine our plan, and we’ll continue to do so throughout this process. We want to create a precinct that the whole community and future generations can be proud of.”

Key heritage buildings include the former Female Factory and Roman Catholic Orphan School. UrbanGrowth NSW will start repair works in early 2016 to ensure buildings are structurally sound. Consultation will occur on future uses for the buildings.

Over coming months UrbanGrowth will:
- Hold an information session and consult stakeholders about next steps including on the potential uses of buildings in the core heritage precinct;
- Begin to repair heritage listed buildings;
- Finalise and lodge a Development Application for roads and the public domain.