Green light for Cessnock to proceed with town centre improvement plans

The future is bright for the Hunter Valley town of Cessnock with the Department of Planning and Environment this week approving a strong new vision for its commercial centre.

Plans to support a flourishing and well-designed town centre in Cessnock can soon proceed to public exhibition, following a gateway determination issued by the Department.

Monica Gibson, Director Regions, Hunter, said the proposed changes would enliven the area, and recognise its significance as the entrance to the world-famous Hunter Valley vineyards district.

With a town square at its centre, the revitalised Cessnock central business district will benefit from a proposed traffic bypass; better safety and connected pathways for pedestrians; and greater building design.

“There is really strong potential for growth for the town as a retail, business, and civic hub,” Ms Gibson said.

“The Department appreciates the area’s capacity for progress and expansion, and has jointly funded, with the Cessnock City Council, the development of a masterplan and development control plan (DCP) for the town.”

“The proposed changes are a positive step for the town, and the DCP captures and reflects Cessnock’s changing role in the region.”

“If approved, this planning proposal would amend the council’s Local Environmental Plan by changing the zoning, maximum building height limits and allow improvements to the public domain.”

The next step is for Cessnock City Council to consult further with state agencies before they exhibit the changes, and seek public feedback on the proposal. A separate development application would need to be approved before any development can take place.

For more information visit: http://leptracking.planning.nsw.gov.au/

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