Department of Planning and local councils’ roundtable meeting in Tamworth

The Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment, Carolyn McNally, will host the first of six Regional Council Roundtable meetings in Tamworth today, together with members of local councils from the New England North West Region.

Secretary McNally said the Regional Roundtable was an invaluable opportunity for robust discussion and collaboration with local councils.

“Roundtable meetings like this one give me the chance to hear from local communities personally,” Ms McNally said.

“We deliver our best results for the communities we serve when we collaborate, share ideas, and exchange thoughts on the planning challenges and opportunities of the future.

“From the landmark reforms to the EP&A Act to the release of the New England North West Regional Plan, the NSW planning system is better placed than ever to deliver great outcomes for regional communities.”

The Department’s Secretary Carolyn McNally, Chief Planner Gary White, Deputy Secretary Alison Frame and Deputy Secretary Marcus Ray will also be present for the exchange with council representatives.

The Roundtable will also provide an opportunity for councils to hear more about Local Strategic Planning Statements, which are new local strategic plans introduced under the updates to the EP&A Act.

The Department’s Chief Planner, Gary White, said there are many changes facing regional centres but they remain a vital part of the strategic vision of NSW.

“Tamworth and Armidale are regional cities with a 20-year New England-North West regional plan that sets out actions to create more jobs and homes, support local agriculture and industry, improve transport and provide better public facilities,” Mr White said.

“Local strategic planning statements are a new opportunity for the community to engage with and participate in the strategic visioning process that sets a vision for how an area may change in the future taking account of the vision in the regional plan and its priorities and actions together with the opportunities available to regional cities and local communities.

“Regional cities and local centres are important to the economic growth and prosperity of communities.

“The Tamworth roundtable is the first of six to be held in regional centres across the state and we are looking forward to discussing the vision for regional NSW with local representatives.”

Media: mediaunit@planning.nsw.gov.au