

Joint Media Release

Mike Kelly

Member for Eden-Monaro
Parliamentary Secretary for Defence
Support

Steve Whan

Member for Monaro
Parliamentary Secretary for Primary
Industries,
Regional Development, Rural Affairs &
Planning
Chairman of Country Labor

Friday, 12 December 2008

Approval opens the door for economic and residential development in Queanbeyan

The NSW Planning Minister's approval of Queanbeyan Council's amended residential and economic strategy has been welcomed today by Monaro MP Steve Whan and Member for Eden-Monaro Mike Kelly.

Steve Whan said the endorsed strategy will increase housing affordability levels and help kick-start much needed residential development in the Queanbeyan region.

"This is a big step forward for the Queanbeyan and Jerrabomberra communities. The strategy will guide the development of 10,000 dwellings over the next 25 years from new land release areas," Steve Whan said.

"This strategy will deliver two new areas of land release at South Jerrabomberra and Googong, which introduces competition into land supply making housing more affordable.

"But for the residents of Jerrabomberra, the strategy will be the catalyst for much anticipated community facilities such as a high school, a sports and aquatic centre, nature reserves and bushwalking tracks, a transport interchange, and even a youth centre.

"The South Jerrabomberra area has the capacity to provide over 400 hectares of residential land and over 130 hectares of employment land.

Mike Kelly said housing affordability has been a huge area of concern for the Queanbeyan area for quite some time.

"The number of affordable housing options in the region has been steadily declining, with the average cost of housing in Queanbeyan having increased by 25 per cent in the five years to September 2007."

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“More affordable and competitive land release is the key and now that the strategy has been approved, rezoning applications for new land release areas can progress, leading to significant new housing development, Mike Kelly said.

“The first stage of the South Jerrabomberra land release will include new housing and employment lands, as well as a much anticipated new high school.

“The Minister for Planning Kristina Keneally has recommended a target for an initial rezoning of Stage 1 lands within South Jerrabomberra by mid-2009, Mike Kelly said.

Local Jerrabomberra resident and JRA member Brian Brown welcomed the Planning Minister’s decision, saying the community was delighted with the outcome.

“This is fantastic news and a huge win for the residents of Jerrabomberra. The whole community can now look forward to growing and getting much needed community facilities, Brian Brown said.

“It will also bring with it planned improvements for the local environs by creating a huge expanse of conservation areas and recreation parks, including the rehabilitation of Jerrabomberra Creek.

“I’d like to thank our local MP’s for supporting the Jerrabomberra community throughout our push for continued growth and more community facilities, Brian Brown said.

The NSW Department of Planning has ensured the amended land-use strategy stringently meets new Australian Noise Exposure Forecast (ANEF) contours.

Under the strategy, residential housing will be outside the Canberra Airport’s own noise contours that it itself established.

No housing will be allowed in areas subject to higher aircraft noise levels.

The Department has also imposed a 250m buffer between the Hume industrial area and residential areas, to ensure land-use conflict is avoided.

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