MAJOR URBAN REDESIGN FOR GOSFORD

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, today announced the Rees Government and Gosford City Council are calling for design proposals for a new city centre to stimulate a prosperous future for Gosford and the Central Coast.

Mr Kelly was joined by Minister for the Central Coast, John Della Bosca, Member for Gosford, Marie Andrews, and Gosford Mayor, Clr Chris Holstein.

“As part of the Gosford Challenge, we are inviting urban planners, architects, developers, local businesses and all parties interested in the future of Gosford to respond to this exciting challenge,” Mr Kelly said.

“Gosford is an important urban centre with a remarkable waterfront but it faces significant challenges as a legacy of the past piecemeal approach to planning.

“The Department of Lands (Lands) and council have signed a Memorandum of Understanding committing to the development of a Masterplan, the first stage of which will be this call for proposals.

Member for Gosford, Marie Andrews, said the Masterplan will see the community work alongside planning professionals to produce a vibrant and sustainable city centre that will deliver major benefits to the region.

“Gosford is the regional capital for the Central Coast.

“This plan dramatically charts a way forward for Gosford to meet the challenge of providing a city centre that contributes to the economic health and social well-being of the entire region.

“It is an opportunity for Government and the community to work together to take advantage of this magnificent location and finally have connect between the natural and built environment,” Ms Andrews said.

Mayor, Clr Chris Holstein, said the Gosford Challenge is to revitalise the urban centre and waterfront, providing the community with a waterfront that can be utilised and enjoyed on a daily basis, helping to foster civic pride.

“This is a rare opportunity to redesign and renew a whole city centre.”

“As partners in this important project, Lands and council bring separately owned parcels of land that, when combined, deliver critical scale and make comprehensive urban renewal possible,” Mr Holstein said.

Mr Kelly said as a committed partner with council, Lands will act as the conduit for other State Government agencies to encourage investment and spending on public domain improvements in Gosford City and to ensure any redevelopment is managed holistically.

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“In line with the State Plan, the Rees Government is committed to generating investment that will help drive and fuel the economic growth of the city centre with improved public infrastructure, new job opportunities, as well as cultural and residential growth.

“Together we will ensure the revitalisation complements the overall planning framework for the city, takes into account the needs of harbour users and the broader community, and delivers the Central Coast a sustainable economic future.

“There will be an extensive consultation process where the community will be able to meet developers and designers face-to-face to exchange ideas,” Mr Kelly said.

The call for proposals will close on 29 January 2009.

It is anticipated an urban design team will be selected by the end of the first quarter 2009 and developers will be short-listed soon after.

Full details of the call for proposals, partner selection and the planning process are available on the project web site: www.thegosfordchallenge.com.au.

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