18 June, 2010

WAGGA WAGGA RIVERSIDE STRATEGIC MASTERPLAN

The NSW Government and Wagga Wagga City Council have extended their Riverside agreement to include planning for all Crown land in the city.

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, has today signed a Memorandum of Understanding to encompass forward planning for all public land managed by the Land and Property Management Authority in Wagga Wagga.

“The Riverside Strategic Masterplan, covering 100 hectares of open space Crown land along the banks of the Murrumbidgee River, has also been signed off by government and council,” the Minister said.

“This follows extensive community and stakeholder consultation over the past 18 months to gauge the community’s ideas and support for the masterplan.”

Country Labor MLC for Wagga Wagga, Tony Catanzariti, said community views were heeded and have influenced the masterplan which provides the blueprint for future action.

“The thrust of the strategy is to improve both visual and access links between the city and the river, including the citing and design of buildings to blend with the existing levee bank to minimise its impact,” Mr Catanzariti said.

“We will improve access through new pedestrian pathways to encourage use of the river amenities.

“This is a great example of state and local government working together to encourage economic growth and tourism and create better recreational facilities for the local community.”

Wagga Wagga City Council Mayor, Kerry Pascoe, said other elements of the masterplan include building a community facility in the vicinity of, and linking with, the existing Wagga Wagga City Precinct in Tarcutta Street.

“This is balanced by environmental enhancements to regenerate floodplain species at Wilks Park and Wiradjuri Reserve, while improving recreational amenities at these reserves,” Cr Pascoe said.

“The masterplan, and plan of management for the Riverside precinct, provides council with a basis to proceed with the detailed planning and design.”