Gerry McCarthy
MINISTER FOR LANDS & PLANNING

1 October 2010

National competition for Weddell masterplan

The masterplan for the new city of Weddell will be put to a national design competition based on the good ideas expressed at a week long forum at the Darwin Convention Centre.

Ideas raised at the Weddell: Tropical, Sustainable, Liveable – Territory 2030: Conference and Design Forum include public transport connections and reduced dependence on cars, environmentally friendly housing, jobs within close proximity to the city and other local facilities including schools and medical centres.

Lands and Planning Minister, Gerry McCarthy said the conference had generated real excitement for the future city.

“We have had 300 designers, planners, engineers, builders, government, and the community working together in open and transparent planning of Weddell,” Mr McCarthy said.

“They have been exposed to the latest ideas in urban planning from around the world and challenged interstate and international experts to adapt their expertise and experience to the unique characteristics of life in the tropics.

“The Government will use the best ideas and the most feasible options from this forum as the basis for a Weddell National Design Competition to be launched later this year.

“Weddell is a long term project to address long term growth and it is clear that people want it to be a community with character; that is accessible and sustainable with a range of housing options that will cater for seniors, people with disabilities, youth and young families.”

Mr McCarthy also announced Mr Stephen Thorne as the new Chair of the NT Urban Design Advisory Panel (UDAP), an internationally urban designer based in Melbourne.

“Mr Thorne brings a wealth of experience and talent to UDAP, including projects in Darwin and Alice Springs,” he said.

“He joins a team of local and national experts in the important role of assessing urban design and planning issues across the Territory.

“The first task of the newly reformed Panel is to evaluate the design outcomes of the Weddell Conference and make recommendations to Government for the Weddell National Design Competition.

UDAP includes representatives from the Urban Development Institute of Australia, The Property Council, the Planning Institute of Australia, The Institute of Architects and Landscape Architects, and the Territory 2030 Steering Committee. It will be chaired by Stephen Thorne, nationally recognised architect and urban designer.

Highlights from the conference can be found at www.growingnt.nt.gov.au
Membership of the NT Urban Design Advisory Panel:

- Mr Stephen Thorne, Chairperson;
- Mr Mark Doonar, independent Urban Planning expert;
- Mr Leonard Lynch, representing the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (NT Group);
- Mr Colin Browne, representing the Australian Institute of Architects (NT Chapter)
- Ms June D’Rozario, representing the Planning Institute of Australia (NT Division);
- Mr Ross Finocchiaro, representing the Property Council of Australia (NT Division);
- Mr Kerry Osborne, representing the Urban Development Institute of Australia (NT);
- Mr Luccio Cercarelli representing Darwin City Council;
- Ms Vicki O’Halloran, representing the Territory 2030 Steering Committee; and
- Mr Mark Meldrum, representing the Department of Lands and Planning.

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