Peter Chandler, Member for Brennan
Minister for Education

Willem Westra van Holthe, Member for Katherine

**Development in the plan for Katherine**

18 June 2014

Katherine remains a priority for the Country Liberals Government with the Katherine Land Use Plan being the first major piece of work from the NT Planning Commission to be included in the NT Planning Scheme.

The Minister for Lands, Planning and the Environment, Peter Chandler, signed off on the plan to become part of the Planning Scheme which will influence the planning decisions that will shape Katherine into the future.

“Katherine will grow as a regional hub for mining, agriculture and defence and it is important this growth is underpinned with good planning,” Mr Chandler said.

“The plan makes specific mention of the importance of protecting the conservation, heritage and landscape values of the region.

“Evidence of the plan’s priorities are already happening on the ground with a development agreement for a new residential subdivision in Katherine East signed earlier this month with local company Downes Graderways.

“This development, when completed, will accommodate for well over 1500 people, boosting Katherine’s population by almost 25 per cent with this development alone.”

Local Member for Katherine, Willem Westra van Holthe said this plan is a blueprint for the growth of Katherine as the community looks to further engage with new and traditional industries.

“I’ve often said Katherine is the centre of the universe, and this plan certainly supports that with predictions of great things to come to the region,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

In preparing the Katherine Land Use Plan, the Planning Commission considered comments to a Consultation Paper and insights from local stakeholders in a series of targeted Land Use Forums in 2013.
“Community views played an important role in the development of this plan. I saw the NT Planning Commission at the Katherine Show last year talking to people about how they wanted to see Katherine grow, and that input has been invaluable to the plan,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

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