Media Release

Peter Chandler, Member for Brennan
Minister for Lands, Planning and the Environment

Planning for Darwin’s future

18 November 2014

After 12 months of consultation, stakeholder meetings and public feedback the Darwin Regional Land Use Plan has now been placed on its final public exhibition before being included in the Northern Territory Planning Scheme.

The NT Planning Commission, established in 2012 by the Country Liberals Government, has developed this document with comprehensive public consultation. Government has now reviewed, amended and endorsed the plan and is proud to place it on exhibition for public comment.

Minister for Lands, Planning and the Environment Peter Chandler said the Darwin Regional Land Use Plan will guide the future development of the Greater Darwin region for decades to come.

“The Northern Territory will experience immense growth in the coming decades and it’s important we plan well to accommodate this growth,” Mr Chandler said.

“The consequences of not planning for growth are evident today. The former Labor Government failed to implement a land use plan for Darwin, despite the Department sending up a Ministerial briefing 22 times trying to initiate action.

“This failure to plan saw housing prices skyrocket which has had a disastrous impact on Territorians cost of living.”

The Country Liberals Government has made two notable changes to the plan presented by the Planning Commission. The proposed ‘Lake Elizabeth’ has been removed and the site for the future city of Weddell has been moved slightly inland closer to the Stuart Highway.

“During the consultation process it became clear that there were mixed views on the damming of the Elizabeth River to create a lake, with many stakeholders indicating that they were opposed to the concept”, Mr Chandler said.

“While the Planning Commission maintains this was good planning, government must respond to public opinion accordingly.
“Contrary to the rhetoric from the Opposition, Weddell is still very much on the government’s plans for future growth. Slightly moving the site of Weddell better aligns the future city with existing transport corridors and services.

“Weddell is a plan for the long-term, right now the Country Liberals are dealing with the strong demand for land by fast tracking existing land and opening up new opportunities near existing services like Berrimah Farm and Holtze.”

To view the Darwin Regional Land Use Plan, go to https://www.ntlis.nt.gov.au/planning/hta.dar.list#amendments

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