Submissions still invited for Litchfield Subregional Land Use Plan

28 April 2016

The Litchfield Subregional Land Use Plan has now entered its third phase of consultation and the NT Government is urging residents in the rural area to have their say about its recommendations.

Lands and Planning Minister David Tollner said the Litchfield Subregional Land Use Plan has been placed on exhibition as a proposed amendment to the NT Planning Scheme.

“The Litchfield Subregional Land Use Plan provides a long term framework for accommodating population growth while maintaining a valued rural lifestyle and considers the needs of the community for the next 40-50 years,” Mr Tollner said.

“The Plan aims to protect the established rural lifestyle in tandem with increasing population in the area by focusing development to rural activity centres and well planned urban areas, which will allow for the rest of the rural area to be left untouched.

“Development in the rural activity centres would have town water and sewerage, and town water extending out to rural residential transition areas.

“In all phases of consultation the NT Planning Commission has and continues to consider the views and needs of the rural community.”

The Litchfield Subregional Land Use Plan has undergone three stages of consultation:

- Stage One – two months of consultation from 29 September to 30 November following the release of a discussion paper seeking upfront input from the community

- Stage Two – one month of consultation from 16 February 2016 until 14 March 2016 following the release of a draft Plan, including planning principles specific to the Litchfield subregion and land use concept plans to guide the long term future development of rural activity centres in Howard Springs, Humpty Doo, Coolalinga and Berry Springs

“The former Labor Government failed to plan properly for more than a decade for population growth with land release coming to a standstill and the cost of housing skyrocketing,” Mr Tollner said.

“Since coming to office, the Country Liberals Government has worked hard to ensure there is better planning in place to meet the needs of a growing Territory.

“Planning for future lands use is important to ensure that infrastructure and services keep pace with the changing needs of a growing community.

“The Litchfield Subregional Land Use Plan is the first step in providing certainty as to where development will occur over the long term.”

More detailed Area Plans will be prepared in consultation with the community to guide development of the identified rural activity centres, including essential water and sewerage infrastructure upgrades.

The exhibition package can be viewed from the Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment’s website (refer PA2016/0158).

Comments on the Area Plan can be made directly to the Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment by emailing planning.dlpe@nt.gov.au or making an online submission at Development Applications Online.

Submissions are welcome until 20 May 2016.

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