

media release

Help shape Howard Springs Rural Activity Centre

10 November 2016

Protecting the valued rural lifestyle and planning for long-term population growth will be the focus of community consultation which begins today with the release of a discussion paper *Towards an Area Plan for the Howard Springs Rural Activity Centre*.

The Northern Territory Planning Commission chairman, Mr Gary Nairn, said the Commission would seek input from the rural community, local land owners and residents about options for a draft Area Plan for the Howard Springs Rural Activity Centre.

Mr Nairn said the Area Plan would build on previous work and studies done for the Litchfield Subregional Land Use Plan and focus on current and future land uses, and transport and infrastructure planning, as well as protecting the rural and environmental features so valued in the rural area.

“We all want to maintain the amenity and lifestyle of the rural area, ensure there are reticulated services available to the growing population and protect the rural area from ribbon development.

“To assist us in preparing options for the Howard Springs Rural Activity Centre we will be listening to the community, including local land owners, businesses and residents, to gather feedback and to provide information on ways they can be involved.

“Land owners within the proposed boundaries and the transitional zone of the area plan will be contacted in coming days and invited to discuss future land uses for their property, which we will consider along with the needs and aspirations of the wider Howard Springs community.

“We are also looking forward to engaging with the Howard Springs Community Advisory Group members, once Litchfield Council’s appointment process has concluded,” Mr Nairn said.

The Litchfield Subregional Land Use Plan was recently included in the NT Planning Scheme, a major step in establishing a strategic land use framework for the Litchfield area. The plan identified four rural activity centres - Howard Springs, Coolalinga/Freds Pass, Humpty Doo and Berry Springs - to focus on providing future housing options and to plan for transport and infrastructure services which would include reticulated water. Planning for the other three rural activity centres will continue during 2017 and 2018.

“I really encourage the Howard Springs community to take this opportunity to be involved in the development of the draft Area Plan to ensure workable options are developed for further consultation in 2017,” Mr Nairn said.

The discussion paper is available on the Planning Commission’s website
www.planningcommission.nt.gov.au

Media – for further information contact Helen Farquhar 0437 458213

Mr Nairn is available for interviews today.

The Northern Territory Planning Commission is an independent, advisory statutory authority tasked with setting the strategic framework for better integrated land use, transport and infrastructure planning, delivering more sustainable and cost-effective outcomes for the community, with sensitivity to environmental and heritage values.