

media release

Consultation key for Inner Suburbs Area Plan

3 February 2016

Following many months of community, government and industry consultation, the Northern Territory Planning Commission has recommended the Darwin Inner Suburbs Area Plan to the Minister for Lands and Planning.

It is anticipated that the Minister will exhibit the draft Area Plan for 28 days as a proposed amendment to the Northern Territory Planning Scheme.

Planning Commission Chairman Gary Nairn said the extensive consultation process enabled the Planning Commission to better understand the issues that are important to the community and where growth in the Inner Suburbs can best be accommodated.

“Our new upfront approach to consulting has provided an opportunity for stakeholders to influence and guide the preparation of the Area Plan. This has resulted in over 800 direct discussions with residents; briefings for 75 industry, government and community representatives and 110 formal submissions.

“This is a terrific outcome, and the Planning Commission has been impressed with the level of interest, knowledge and contribution, particularly from residents of these iconic Darwin suburbs.

“The cornerstone of the draft plan is a revitalisation of the Stuart Highway as the primary entrance into Darwin’s CBD and a focus on creating and developing vibrant, liveable and enhanced activity centres where people can work, rest and play.

“Significantly, there is wide-ranging support for these concepts, which will enable the inner suburbs to grow and develop in a planned way, and accommodate the growth we expect over coming years, while maintaining the very characteristics that make these suburbs so appealing.

Mr Nairn said the area planning process for the Inner Suburbs has been underpinned by extensive studies covering transport, social and essential infrastructure to ensure sustainability and liveability.

“The Area Plan is solid framework for the long term. It provides everyone with a guide for how the inner suburbs might develop, grow and revitalise into the future.”

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