

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. *What is a Local Environmental Plan?*

A Local Environmental Plan is a legally binding plan created under the provisions of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979. It is used by a local Council to control development. It does this by zoning land for a particular use and establishing standards and controls to regulate the permissibility and extent of new development.

Q. *What are the main aims of the Draft Plan?*

There are a number of aims stated in the Draft Plan which cover both the broader and specific issues. However, without doubt there are two priority aims set out in the draft plan which are to:

- Conserve and enhance, for current and future generations, the ecological integrity, environmental heritage and environmental significance of Wingecarribee Shire; and
- Maintain the Shire's original settlement pattern of towns and villages dispersed throughout a rural and native vegetation landscape

Q. *What are the main components of the new draft Shire Plan?*

The Draft Plan is divided into 7 Parts, 5 Schedules and a Dictionary to define terms used throughout the Plan. These terms define many of the different sorts of land use activities and development regulated under the Plan.

Q. *Why is Council needing to reclassify public open space land?*

The parcels of land have been identified by Council as 'surplus land' which it wishes to sell principally in order to fund the development of the public leisure centre at Eridge Park. Other Revenue received from the sale of land will be allocated towards improved facilities and upgrades of existing parks and reserves throughout the Shire.

Q. *Does the Draft Plan protect the Shire's Rural and Built Heritage?*

It is proposed to list a significant number of new heritage conservation areas. Currently there are only a few heritage conservation areas recognised within the Shire including Berrima, Bowral, Mittagong, the remains of the Joadja Shale Mining Town and the Burradoo Landscape buffer between Moss Vale and Burradoo. New Heritage conservation areas are proposed in Moss Vale, Mittagong, Bowral, Bundanoon and Burrawang.

Q. How does the Draft Plan protect the Shire's Natural environment?

Many parts of the Shire play an important role in the movement of native fauna through the extensive web of wildlife habitat corridors. A significant regional wildlife corridor has been mapped on the western side of the Hume Highway. This corridor plays an important linkage between the Morton NP which extends down to the NSW South Coast and the National Parks along the Central Tablelands.

In order to protect the environmental qualities of the Shire, all rivers, streams and other natural water bodies have been mapped including the adjoining riparian land. These significant environmental assets are mapped on an Environmental layer to the Draft Plan.

Commencement and conclusion dates

The exhibition of the Draft Shire Plan commences on 28 November 2007 and concludes on 1 February 2008. Public Hearings will commence on 5 February 2008 and conclude 20 February 2008. Public submissions will be received up until 22 February 2008.

Contacts

Telephone enquiries can be made on 4868 0761 Monday to Friday between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm and should be directed to the following Council staff who work within Council's Strategic Planning Branch

Susan Stannard Strategic Planner
Bennett Kennedy Strategic Planner
Kate Wooll Strategic Planner
James Shelton Strategic Planner
Mark Pepping Manager Strategic Planning