

4 January 2011

Council to seek ideas for Nowra riverfront Masterplan

Shoalhaven City Council will be seeking information from all citizens on the Shoalhaven Riverfront Gateway Precinct Masterplan in the New Year.

Council will be holding an initial information session for government agencies during January 2011 and would like all interested citizens and businesses to comment on the future uses of the precinct during January or February 2011.

Council has engaged consultants – Cox, Humphries, Moss Pty Ltd – to develop a comprehensive Masterplan for the Riverfront Gateway precinct (bounded by Bridge Road, Shoalhaven Street, Scenic Drive and Hyam Street, Nowra). The area includes the Nowra Olympic Pool.

Director Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Peter Adams said Council is keen to hear from people who are interested in creating a vibrant city.

“Council looks forward to hearing from all citizens, businesses and associations in the city on the future uses and future ideas for the gateway precinct that are proposed in the draft masterplan, which includes Nowra Olympic Pool,” Mr Adams said. “Council needs to hear ideas from all citizens on issues such as the need to replace or retain the Nowra Pool or whether the area should include a botanical garden, or a major playground area, in combination with any redevelopment opportunities. The draft Masterplan is compatible with various options for the Nowra pool.”

Mr Adams added that: “Council needs to make some strategic decisions about the future of the Council land in the precinct and will welcome feedback from the community on the future of the pool site. We are looking for ideas and concepts that will enhance the gateway to Nowra and also help to define this area as an enticing place to live and visit while in the city.”

When the draft Masterplan is released for public comment all landowners within and adjoining the area and user groups will be advised in writing of the exhibition arrangements, Council staff will also hold an information session and drop in sessions that will be advertised.

The Riverfront precinct is identified in the Nowra Bomaderry Structure Plan (which was endorsed by both Council and the Department of Planning, and is recognised as a key strategic planning document in the South Coast Regional Strategy) and is a strategic precinct for the future development of Nowra.

Council began working on the Riverfront Precinct in 2007 and embarked on the Masterplan process following advice from the NSW Department of Planning in early 2008 that there was in principle support for the rezoning of the area, subject to more information being provided on the “strategic purpose” of the land to be rezoned or reclassified.

Key dates in the project include:

- 2006-2008 – Nowra-Bomaderry Structure Plan adopted by Council and subsequently endorsed by the State Government. The structure plan was prepared with detailed public comment and identifies the need to activate the Riverfront Precinct.
- 30 October 2007 – Council resolved to reclassify Council land (Nowra Pool site) in the precinct
- 4 January 2008 – Council notified the Department of Planning [DoP] about its intention to prepare a Masterplan for the precinct
- 12 February 2008 – DoP recommended consideration of zoning
- 3 March 2008 – Council resolved to rezone the precinct for mixed use
- 31 May 2008 – DoP supported rezoning, but said the ‘mixed use’ option is too open. DoP recommended Council clarify strategic outcomes
- 25 March 2009 – Council engaged consultants Cox Humphries Moss to begin a master plan process
- March & August 2010 – Councillor briefing held on master plan proposals
- 14 December 2010 – Landowner information session held

The release of the draft Masterplan for comment in early 2011 will be advertised through local media and directly to interested parties. Information will also be available in due course through Council’s internet site at www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au

CONTACT: Director Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Peter Adams

(02) 4429 3470