



Mayors Message

15 April 2008

PROPOSED PLANNING LEGISLATION

The Minister for Planning is continuing with his push forward to introduce new planning laws that will take away significant rights of neighbours and remove Council's ability to collect developer contributions to fund new facilities.

While we in Harden Shire have limited ability to raise these funds currently, we will have no ability into the future to request any developer make contributions to libraries, parks or playgrounds.

Harden Shire are supporting the Local Government & Shires Association in their attempts to have this legislation overturned, however this will be a difficult challenge. We need your support!

A new website has been established to give you more information about these changes and the effects it will have on NSW as a whole – it is also asking you to contact our local MP, Katrina Hodgkinson, to voice your concerns. The website can be found at <http://www.keepitlocal.org.au> – I whole heartedly encourage you to visit the site and register your dissatisfaction at the proposals by Minister Sartor and the Labor Government!

HERITAGE STUDY

Your Council has committed to undertaking a 2 year heritage study with the assistance of the NSW Heritage Office. The main aims of this study are to identify all places that we, the community, feel are important in telling the story of Harden Shire and how we have arrived at where we are today. The study will cover all features of human activity ranging from the traditional owners to the current owners. It will also cover how humans have interacted and their impact on the environment, development of the local economy, transport, migration, government, cultural life, birth and death, and celebrated persons.

Heritage places and items may be worthy of inclusion in the study because they are valued for their potential to represent the story of the area. Heritage significance can relate to:

- Historical significance – the importance of the place or item in the history of the area or the state.
- Historical association significance – associations with the life or works of an important person or group of persons.
- Aesthetic characteristics – The design, aesthetics or technical achievement evident in the place or item.

- Social significance – Special associations with a particular community or cultural group.
- Technical/research significance – The potential to contribute to an understanding of NSW history.
- Rarity – Uncommon, rare or endangered items.
- Representativeness – Demonstration of the characteristics of cultural or natural places.

Council would like to form a committee of interested community members to drive the study forward with the assistance of a consultant. In saying this all community members will be requested to have an input in nominating places and items that they consider important to represent our history.

If you would like to play a part in this study please do not hesitate to contact Council offices to register your interest, nominations close on 28 April 2008.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Don't forget these elections are getting closer, the Department of Local Government have just released a new booklet titled 'Becoming a Councillor'. We have printed copies available at the office and library or you can get one from the web – <http://www.harden.nsw.gov.au/council/16848.html>

It is really important that you start to consider being a Councillor, as I have said before it doesn't pay a lot, but the satisfaction you get from seeing a project completed that will benefit the community is very rewarding.

Philip Hockney OAM
Mayor
15 April 2008