



Monday 5 January 2009

RETAIL THE FOCUS OF BELCONNEN STUDY

A new study commissioned by the ACT Planning and Land Authority will examine retail provision in north-east Belconnen ahead of the development of a concept plan for the proposed suburb of Lawson.

Chief Planning Executive Neil Savery said the development of a concept plan for Lawson offered a great opportunity to look at the provision of retail space in the area.

“Given we’re developing a concept plan for Lawson, it makes sense to look at the big picture for north-east Belconnen in terms of what retail already exists and other issues like demand,” Mr Savery said.

“The ACT Planning and Land Authority has engaged consultants SGS Economics and Planning to undertake the study. The consultants will examine a number of issues, in particular the existing level of retail provision in north-east Belconnen especially Kaleen, Giralang and Lawson.”

The study will also look at expected future demand for retail space in the area, the merits of expanding existing centres, the potential of existing centres to accommodate increased development including additional traffic demands and the future influence of the University of Canberra having regard to master planning being undertaken for its Belconnen campus.

Mr Savery said input from both local business and the community would be sought during the study. The results of the study will be incorporated into the concept plan for Lawson. Public consultation on that plan is expected to begin in February.

“It’s important that we talk to both the community and business and examine in detail what’s already part of the landscape in terms of providing future retail in this area. In other words, we need to get it right and that’s what this study is all about.”

Residents wanting to make any comments about retailing in this area can contact SGS Economics and Planning on 6262 7603 SGS or email Liz.DeChastel@sgsep.com.au

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