

CAMDEN COUNCIL

Media Release



21 January 2014

Minister Visit to Camden

Mayor of Camden, Councillor Lara Symkowiak together with State Member for Camden, Chris Patterson MP met with Minister for Local Government, The Honourable Don Page MP in Narellan to discuss the Mayor's exciting plans for the future, items of importance to the area and highlight the challenges Camden faces as the state's fastest growing Local Government Area.

Paws in the Park, the Local Government Review Panel and the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme (LIRS) were all items of discussion during the Minister's visit, with the Mayor also taking the opportunity to show the Minister the site of the future civic precinct in Oran Park incorporating the new Council Administration Building and library and discussing the status of the project.

The Honourable Don Page MP, who established the Companion Animals Taskforce and has been a strong supporter of the Paws in the Park event, was keen to hear the success of the 2013 event and the plans for this year's Paws in the Park.

The Mayor took the opportunity to discuss with the Minister Council's overall support of the Local Government Review Panel and acknowledged its success in delivering a range of options and models that will assist in building stronger Council's throughout NSW.

The Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme was also discussed, with the Mayor thanking the Minister and the State Government for their support of the scheme.

"I took the chance to thank the Minister for the opportunity to apply for subsidised loans under the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme. During my time as Mayor, Camden Council applied for the first time in Round 2 and was successful in receiving an interest subsidy on a \$2 million loan which will assist with funding Council's \$6 million Community Infrastructure Renewal Program. Council has applied again in Round 3 for an interest subsidy on a \$2.25 million loan to assist with the funding of Council's \$4.73 million asset renewal works in Camden Town Centre and Council's adopted 2014/15 and 2015/16 Road Reconstruction Program.

Camden Council Media Contact:

Emma Robilliard
Public Relations Officer, Camden Council
Phone: 4645 5115
Email: emma.robilliard@camden.nsw.gov.au

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“If successful in securing funding in Round 3, Council will save approximately \$370,000 in interest over the life of the loan and approximately \$710,000 across both rounds. This represents substantial savings for the community and means the interest saved can go towards other community projects and infrastructure in our Local Government Area”.

“This Council is committed to working to secure the best outcomes for our community and funding like this from the State Government is essential to achieving our infrastructure goals”.

“On behalf of Camden Council, I'd like to thank the Minister for recognising the Camden Local Government Area and for visiting us. Today was the perfect opportunity to discuss with the Minister a number of issues of importance to our area as well as highlighting the significance of Camden to Western Sydney”.

“I am committed to continuing working with the State Government to building strong relationships to ensure the residents of the Camden Local Government Area are at the forefront of the State Government's thinking when it comes to infrastructure and service investment”.

“I am proud of what this Council is achieving and am excited to see Camden develop now and into the future” she said.

Advice on successful LIRS applications is due in May 2014.

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Words: 536

Camden Council Media Contact:
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