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October 2015

### **Council adopts Draft Local Planning Strategy**

Remember the 80s? It was a decade characterised by big hair, big shoulder pads and big business and it's also the last time the City of Nedlands' Town Planning Scheme was updated.

The City of Nedlands' 30-year old Town Planning Scheme has protected the unique character of Nedlands – established trees, parks and gardens, community services and large blocks; however given its age the Town Planning Scheme is becoming more difficult to administer and does not provide clarity to the community or Council in decision making.

Local Planning Schemes, as they are now called, set the rules and regulations about how you can develop your property.

The Mayor and Councillors of the City of Nedlands have been working on updating the Local Planning Scheme for a number of years and have stated that their number one priority is to release a new Local Planning Scheme.

At its meeting on 27 October, Council adopted the draft Local Planning Strategy, the first phase of the process. The Strategy is a high-level document that sets out the framework for planning and development in the City of Nedlands until the year 2030. The Local Planning Strategy also provides a way to interpret state and regional policies and strategies at the local level.

In the next phase of the process, the Local Planning Strategy will be forwarded to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) for its consent to advertise the Strategy. Once the WAPC has granted consent to advertise, the community will have the opportunity to comment on it. It is not yet known when this will occur.

While the Strategy is with the Commission, the City's planners will be busy working on a new Local Planning Scheme so it is ready and waiting to be progressed. Once the Strategy is approved by the WAPC, the Local Planning Scheme can then proceed, which will also involve a community consultation process.

The City's Local Planning Strategy and subsequent new Local Planning Scheme will address key issues such as:

- maintaining Nedlands' established residential character
- the current lack of housing diversity
- the need to manage housing infill and density
- the demands an increased population would place upon our shopping areas, community facilities and public open spaces
- the transport needs of a growing community.

ENDS

### **About the City of Nedlands**

The City of Nedlands is situated 7km from Perth and stretches from the banks of the Swan River to the edge of the Indian Ocean. A population of over 21,000 live in the suburbs of Nedlands, Dalkeith, Mt Claremont, Swanbourne, Karrakatta, and parts of Floreat and Shenton Park.

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