

MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTERIAL TASKFORCE FOR TWEED HEADS TOWN CENTRE

DATE: Tuesday 25 February 2003

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP FOR TWEED HEADS TOWN CENTRE

The Ministerial Taskforce for Tweed Heads Town Centre will be holding the first workshop with key stakeholders, which includes, among others, representatives from the local business community, residents' associations and the tourism industry, on Tuesday 25 February 2003.

Member for Tweed and the Chairman of the Taskforce, Neville Newell, said the workshop is the first step in a comprehensive community consultation strategy adopted by the Taskforce.

“This key stakeholders workshop is a major component of the first stage of the public consultation strategy, to be followed by information newsletters and community design exhibitions to keep all interested parties informed and involved,” said Mr Newell.

“The communication strategy has been designed to maximise opportunities for the Taskforce to work closely with stakeholders and the local community to guide the future development of Tweed Heads Town Centre.

“The workshop will share information, raise awareness and consult on the initiatives and challenges currently facing Tweed Heads Town Centre. The process allows for ongoing liaison between the Taskforce and the stakeholders throughout the eighteen month program.”

Mr Newell said the Taskforce will continue to work closely with the community through public forums and workshops to provide an opportunity for people to discuss proposed ideas and concepts for the Town Centre and provide feedback on how each option could be improved.

“The workshop will be facilitated by a professional consultant and attendees will have the opportunity to form small groups to explore ideas with help from professional designers.

“The next day, (Wednesday 26 February) there'll be a working session with participants to reflect on the outcome of the first workshop and discuss unresolved issues. The outcome of all workshops and community consultation will be documented and used to brief the consultants to ensure that the community views are heard and included in the process.”

“The stakeholder workshop will give all participants the chance to discuss the potential of the Tweed Heads Town Centre, the important role that the community focused group will play in shaping it, and ways to achieve a vibrant and sustainable future.”