



State Connection

August 2010

A monthly bulletin from
Nationals Member for Lismore
Thomas George MP

Proposed draft LEP

ARE YOU AWARE of the proposed draft Local Environment Plan (LEP) 2010?

It is crucial that landholders within the Lismore City Council area familiarise themselves with this draft LEP, which is currently on display.

Changes in this draft LEP could include the re-zoning of your property where perhaps all, or part of your land, could be included in an environmental protection zone. These changes to zonings could devalue your property, inhibit the use and development of your property, and have a negative impact on the future saleability of your property.

At the public meeting I called on June 29 at the Lismore Workers Club to discuss this draft LEP, it was clear many did not fully understand the plan's potential ramifications.

I strongly encourage you to obtain from Council any mapping and overlays relevant to your property regarding the proposed changes and to submit any objections by the **closing date of 30 August 2010**.

For more information call Lismore City Council on 1300 878 387 or local landholder Kel Graham on 0404 086 576.

Community consultation on hospital fix

The NSW Liberal-Nationals are committed to genuine consultations with local communities, doctors and nurses to ensure that health reforms deliver improved health care for the people of NSW.

Indicative of this, I organised two public forums in Lismore and Murwillumbah last month to allow local residents the chance to voice their concerns about health services in the Lismore electorate. I was also pleased to be accompanied by Jenny Gardiner, Deputy Leader of The Nationals and Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Health, who conducted the meeting.

The State and Federal Governments declared that improvements to NSW Hospitals would start being felt immediately on July 1, following the signing of the Health Reform Agreement between NSW Premier Kristina Keneally and then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in April. Early signs however, suggest that nothing has changed.

Residents who were unable to attend either of the community consultation meetings can still have their say by contacting my office or going online to www.startthechange.com.au/healthreform.

Nominate Now

A number of Awards, Grants and Programs are currently open for nominations: -

- The **Housing NSW Youth Scholarship Program**, which aims to assist the eligible young people to complete the Higher School Certificate or the TAFE equivalent, is calling for applicants. Application and eligibility information is available on the Housing NSW website www.housing.nsw.gov.au
- Nominate before 30 August for the 2010-11 **NSW Positive Ageing Grants program**. The program, which is about supporting a healthy ageing population in NSW, provides one-off grants to local governments and not-for-profit organizations. Application forms and guidelines for the grants are available from www.dadhc.nsw.gov.au.
- The 2010 **National Multicultural Marketing Awards**, which recognises and rewards businesses that focus on the cultural diversity of Australia in their marketing strategies, is calling on nominations for categories including Advertising and Communication and Commercial Big Business. Applications close on 31 August 2010. For more information or to apply online, go to www.crc.nsw.gov.au

Congratulations to high achievers from our electorate including: -

- Lindendale blueberry farmer **Ridley Bell** on being named NSW Farmer of the Year and Murwillumbah sugarcane farmer **Angus Stainlay** on being named runner-up Young Farmer of the Year.
- The Northern Star journalist **Alex Easton** for winning the Tom Barrass Award for regional journalism in the 43rd Northern NSW Regional Journalism Awards.
- John Eggins, of **John Eggins Homes**, for winning Best Constructed Home from \$300,000-\$350,000, and **Steve and Karen Campbell**, of Laser Plumbing Lismore, on winning the Regional Subcontractor of the Year Award at the recent Master Builders Association's regional awards.
- Lismore's Legacy Ladies Auxiliary's **Isla Green, Iris Stokes, Grace Hunter** and **Eunice Weatherall** were awarded with certificates recognising their 153 cumulative years of service to the Auxiliary.
- Murwillumbah car dealer **Hayes Toyota**, led by dealer principal Bert Hayes, was honoured for being one of the three longest serving members of the NSW Motor Traders' Association.
- Richmond River High School year 12 student **Alex Jones** for winning the North Coast School Apprentice of the Year award.
- **Tweed Shire Council** for taking out the 2010 RH Dougherty Award for Reporting to the Community, a prestigious communications award from the Local Government and Shires Association (LGSA).