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Googong achieves another first in planning progress

Googong's evolution has reached another major milestone following the endorsement of its \$292 million Voluntary Planning Agreement by Queanbeyan City Council.

Googong Project Director Mark Attiwill says the agreement is a first for the region and an innovative approach to delivering key public facilities and infrastructure for the township's residents that will also benefit the wider Queanbeyan community.

It allows CIC Australia—the company behind Googong—to provide more facilities and infrastructure than would ordinarily be possible.

“The agreement will enable us to progress infrastructure much earlier than possible under a traditional planning approach, which relies on councils investing in things like roads and community facilities when they have the funds to do so, rather than when the community needs it,” says Mark Attiwill.

“At Googong, this type of infrastructure will be provided much earlier than at many other similar scale developments, which is an important part of CIC's vision and will ensure that the township's newest residents have an immediate sense of community and belonging,” he says.

The Voluntary Planning Agreement will include more than \$54 million towards roads in the Queanbeyan region, including straightening the Old Cooma Road and extending the Edwin Land Parkway. Community facilities will be built including an indoor aquatic and sports complex, a multipurpose facility including a library, senior citizens centre and council shopfront, as well as five clubhouses seven sports fields, multiple tennis and netball courts, and five neighbourhood and 13 local parks.

Environmental works to be funded include restoring a series of ecological water bodies and creek lines, and designing and installing a state-of-the-art water and sewerage system, including recycled water infrastructure which will deliver non potable water to every home for toilet flushing and garden watering.

Under a separate agreement with the NSW Government, CIC will also commit land for a fire station, a primary and two secondary schools, in addition to the site already committed to the Anglican Diocese for a private primary school.

The approval of the Voluntary Planning Agreement comes after a lengthy period of community consultation and paves the way for the first stage of development to be approved, with the initial land release currently scheduled for the second half of 2011.