



News Release

DIANE BEAMER

**MINISTER FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE, MINISTER FOR WESTERN SYDNEY
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING
MEMBER FOR MULGOA**

Monday, June 20, 2005

HERITAGE OFFICE TO TALK TO BRAIDWOOD DEVELOPERS

Assistant Planning Minister, Diane Beamer, today directed the NSW Heritage Office to enter into further discussions with two developers in relation to development proposals for Braidwood, recently approved by Palerang Council.

‘The Heritage Office has attempted to work in a co-operative manner with the developers to improve the final form of both developments’, Ms Beamer said.

Braidwood and its surrounds are currently under consideration for listing on the NSW Heritage register and there have been calls for Interim Heritage Orders to be placed on the two developments.

‘The aged care and residential developments are important for Braidwood and ideally they can be both commercially viable and sympathetic to the heritage values of the area,’ Ms Beamer said.

‘Representatives from the Heritage Office will meet both parties over the next few days to explore ways of resolving outstanding issues.

‘Any claims that the Government has already decided to place an interim heritage order on the developments are both incorrect and not helpful in resolving this matter.

‘Interim heritage orders are only viewed as a last resort and if possible we would rather avoid them’, Ms Beamer said.

Director of the NSW Heritage Office, Reece McDougall, said the Office had an excellent track record of sitting down with applicants to obtain outcomes that represent a win-win for all parties.

‘In our submissions to the council we made it clear that these developments could be improved to better respect the existing character of the historic town and we will work with both parties to ensure the final outcome is one that benefits the entire community’, Mr McDougall said.

‘Our earlier productive discussions with the developer of the housing subdivision resulted in reducing the number of lots from 122 to 116 - among other changes – as an initial response to accommodate heritage considerations’, Mr. McDougall said.

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