



New city vision

DEVELOPMENT

Plan for Mitcham of the future

Caleb Bond

A VISION for the Mitcham district that includes more high-density living and residential and retail growth in key areas has been unveiled.

Mitcham councillors last

week endorsed a draft plan to help guide future development of the district, including highlighting areas for urban infill, health and "innovation" precincts and increased recreation opportunities.

The new plan, developed in response to changes to the way the State Government handles planning issues, also declared some areas, particularly in the sensitive hills area, "hands-off" to developers.

Specifics of the proposal included targeting the intersection of Cross and Goodwood roads for a mix of housing and businesses. It would also become a "pedestrian friendly" strip and offer transport to Flinders Medical Centre and the university.

Thinking of the future

DEVELOPMENT

From Page 1

Other key aspects of the plan included:

- Developing the General Repatriation Hospital site and surrounds for a mix of all-ages health and aged-care services, including small businesses to support the community;

- Creating a "southern innovation area" at Flinders and its surrounds with more housing, recreation opportunities and a focus on world-class health and education research. It would also serve as a regional hub for the community and be

a place for people to "live ... stay, study and work";

- Encouraging commercial and housing developments on Belair Rd at Kingswood, with the aim of creating a "walkable" shopping strip; and

- Strengthening Blackwood as a focal point of the hills, further developing the main street to be busier during the day and night, along with improved transport options.

The plan did not specify if "high-density" living meant multi-storey developments or smaller block sizes.

Speaking at last week's council meeting, Cr Lindy Taeuber praised the plan as

one of the most significant projects in her time as an elected member.

"It's a very substantial piece of work," Cr Taeuber told the meeting.

"I'd like to say it fits in so well with our strategic plan and I really like the fact that ... we have been on the front foot in our negotiations with the State Government."

Cr Andrew Tilley said the plan was "critical" for the future of the Mitcham district.

"It's really important for the future ... for the look, for the quality of life in our suburbs," Cr Tilley said.

Under the council's current

development guidelines, Cumberland Park, Pasadena, Lower Mitcham, Kingswood and Netherby are marked for residential infill.

Goodwood Rd, Westbourne Park, is the only site marked for high-density development.

Under the State Government's planning reform agenda, the development plans councils currently operate under would be replaced with a planning and design code.

Public consultation, including workshops for the community and key stakeholders in the targeted areas, would begin in February.