

# SOUTHERN REGION

## JOINT REGIONAL PLANNING PANEL

### MEDIA RELEASE

**Thursday 24 September 2009**

#### **FIRST JOINT REGIONAL PLANNING PANEL MEETING HELD IN WOLLONGONG**

The Southern Region joint regional planning panel approved two office and research laboratory buildings at its first meeting held today.

Today's meeting was also the first meeting of any such joint regional planning panel (JRPP) in NSW, following their introduction on July 1.

The Southern Region JRPP met in Wollongong and approved proposals for two new buildings at the University of Wollongong's Innovation Campus at Fairy Meadow.

"This is a historic step for the planning system in this State," Southern Region JRPP chair Pam Allan said today.

"The regional panel allows independent planning and local experts to make decisions on regionally-significant development proposals, after considering community input," Ms Allan said.

All development applications presented to JRPPs are assessed by local councils, typically following a public exhibition period.

The panels consist of members appointed by NSW Government and local councils and provide independent, merit-based decision-making and advice to the Minister for Planning.

There are six panels covering metropolitan and regional NSW.

Ms Allan said that the projects approved at the University of Wollongong's Innovation Campus comprised:

- A 10,000 square metre four-storey office and research laboratory building—a modern and high technological office environment to accommodate local and international businesses and support the Innovation Campus and University of Wollongong main campus.
- A 5,410 square metre three-storey office and research laboratory building. The facility is designed to support the existing and adjoining Australian Institute of Innovative Materials building and is to be physically linked to it.

"These projects at the Innovation Campus are regionally significant developments and that's precisely why they were determined by this independent panel," Ms Allan said.

She said that the two proposals met the requirement of the Innovation Campus Masterplan.

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The Masterplan's vision is to create a modern and high technological office and research environment to support the functions of both the Innovation Campus and University of Wollongong main campus.

At the Innovation Campus, three new buildings – iC Central, the Australian Institute of Innovative Materials (AIIM) and the Institute for Transnational and Maritime Security – have already been constructed and occupied.

The Digital Media Centre/Sydney Business School has also been approved and is presently under construction on the site.

No submissions were received on either development application, when exhibited by the council.

More information about JRPPs is available at <http://jrpp.planning.nsw.gov.au/>

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