

Queanbeyan region to set national benchmark

Canberra Investment Corporation Limited (CIC) is set to place the Queanbeyan region on the map as a national benchmark for masterplanned communities.

The town of Googong will be the region's newest community, and will become the flagship of CIC's national portfolio. Situated on a greenfields site just eight kilometres south of the Queanbeyan town centre, Googong will establish a set of innovative and ambitious sustainability goals that are at the leading edge of best practice in Australia and overseas.

Construction will be staged over 20 to 25 years to create the community, which will have a population of about 16,000 people – almost half the size of Queanbeyan.

The self-contained nature of the site will mean that Googong is not bound by requirements to tap into existing infrastructure. It is this chance to build the township from scratch that presents the unique opportunity to incorporate a range of innovative initiatives from the outset.

According to CIC's Chief Executive, Col Alexander, Googong will showcase a range of unique design capabilities and sustainability initiatives across social, cultural, environmental and economic areas.

'One of the greatest challenges we have is to meet and exceed the growing expectations that residents demand from their communities,' Mr Alexander says.

'And the bar will only continue to get higher. As expectations rise, we want to remain at the forefront of delivering the type of sustainable communities that people want to live in, to raise their families and to grow old comfortably,' he says.

'Googong provides an opportunity to deliver now what people want for the future.

'The whole town, from concept to completion, will be purpose-built for the people who will live there, for their needs and aspirations, and for their futures,' he says.

Mr Alexander says CIC's plans for Googong will make it not only a special place to live, but also a special community, which will be unique in Australia.

The Googong masterplan creates a series of diverse and active neighbourhoods with a new level of community facilities, including commercial, health and education centres, not normally enjoyed in communities within this country.

There will be an unprecedented commitment to the visual and practical impact of the town's design and functionality. Wildlife corridors, a pedestrian and cycle network and highly efficient and effective public transport solutions are envisaged that will link the township to established networks.

Innovative new ways to encourage both local and home-based employment are also being planned with broadband and other high-tech communications infrastructure to be incorporated into the site.

Importantly, social infrastructure, including shops, parks, commercial , leisure and sporting facilities, will be delivered early in the project ensuring amenities are available to residents from the very beginning.

At least 80% of the town's organic waste will be recycled on site, and it is intended to source a significant amount of Googong's electricity through green power.

An integrated water cycle management system with a dedicated water treatment and recycling plant for the town will also reduce potable water use by up to 70% and recycle up to 80% of Googong's water. On the basis of this initiative alone, Mr Alexander estimates that the 16,000 people projected to live in Googong will use the same amount of water that would usually sustain less than 5,000 people.

'These sustainability features are at the forefront of community design in Australia and overseas and are the way of the future,' Mr Alexander says.

'What we will see grow and take shape in Googong will not just be a model for modern urban development, it will set the benchmark.

'We believe Australia's future communities will look to Googong as a best practice example of a truly unique, innovative and sustainable community.'