

Googong township starts to evolve

More than eight years of technical studies, community consultation and planning will come to fruition when re-zoning approval is received for the innovative new township of Googong in the next few months.

Canberra Investment Corporation Limited (CIC), the company responsible for the vision behind Googong, has been working collaboratively with Queanbeyan City Council and the NSW Department of Planning to ensure the ground work for all aspects of this township have been carefully considered before the first sod is even turned.

Project Director, Mark Attiwill, is passionate about designing and creating a new township for the Canberra region completely from scratch, and says the CIC team are revelling in the extraordinary opportunity.

“We are taking our design cues from traditional townships not suburban subdivisions and we are not simply tacking onto the edge of a suburb that currently exists,” he says. “What we have is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a completely new, self-contained township that will set new benchmarks in housing choice, community facilities, recreational and employment opportunities”.

Googong is situated on a picturesque 800 hectare site just 16 kilometres south-east of Parliament House, and less than 4 km south of Jerrabomberra. It will be built over 25 years to create a new community of about 16,000 people, almost half the size of Woden.

It is this notion of a new beginning, the chance to create a completely new township, which ensures Googong will become CIC’s flagship project. It is an incredible opportunity, providing a blank canvas on which to showcase the very best in design and sustainability across social, cultural, environmental and economic areas.

The Googong masterplan creates five distinct but connected neighbourhoods lying within the gentle undulations and slopes of the township site. This ensures each neighbourhood will have it’s own character while still being linked into the wider township.

The diverse range of housing to be provided will range from large family homes, through lifestyle homes (eg cottages and courtyard homes) as well as compact, easy to care for terraces and apartments. Of course the higher density homes styles will be located in the heart of each neighbourhood along with shops and offices, to create an active and vibrant place to live, work and visit.

Googong Common, a large parkland meandering through the township will be the “green lungs” of Googong, visible and accessible from all the neighbourhoods. It will combine recreational, environmental and cultural uses including sports grounds, adventure play space, pedestrian and cycle trails.

A key element of Googong Common will be an ecologically restored chain of ponds. High quality landscaping will also be provided across the township and 20% of the total area will be dedicated to open spaces.

Residents will also benefit from a new level of community facilities, including clubhouses, an indoor sports and aquatic centre, a library, shops, schools and child care centres, rolled out progressively as the township develops over time. Fibre optic broadband and other innovations will encourage both local and home-based employment, while public transport and cycle ways will link Googong to its neighbourhoods as well as the wider region.

Googong's first residents will benefit from an immediate sense of belonging to a community with a café, general store and community clubhouse established before they move in.

From the first neighbourhood, the community will continue to grow and evolve to create a place that captures the essence of its location and its unique environment. Over time the Googong Town Centre will become the urban, retail and commercial focal point for the five neighbourhoods.

"We want to create a township unlike any other in the region, which will deliver everything residents expect from a development in the 21st century without losing the traditional benefits and sense of belonging that existed in townships of the past," Project Director Mark Attiwill says.

"At Googong, the whole township is being designed to be self-contained to meet the needs and aspirations of the community that will live, work and recreate there".

"We take our commitment to creating Googong very seriously, and are mindful of the unique opportunity it presents not just us, but for generations of families".