

Big town centre shake-up

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Interchange on the move

By Meredith Clisby

THE plan to build thousands of residential dwellings and move the Tuggeranong town centre bus interchange has been welcomed by the community council.

The government released the final master plan for the area last week.

It paves the way for a complete transformation of the town centre including an extra 7800 residential dwellings and major streets will be turned into pedestrian-friendly boulevards.

Tuggeranong Community Council president Nick Tsoulis welcomed the plan and said proposed residential developments should begin as soon as possible.

"Any new jobs created will also be helping to not only turn around our population demise, but help create much needed jobs for young people, something the Tuggeranong Council is very seriously supporting," he said.

"These new developments ... should really commence as soon as possible and we will work with the ACT government to see an immediate start of work."

The master plan anticipates the increase in dwellings would result in about 14,000 new residents living in the centre in a mixture of apartments, terraces or mixed-use developments.

Mr Tsoulis also welcomed the decision to relocate the bus interchange from its Pitman Street location to Reed Street.

He said there had been many complaints from the community about



Tuggeranong Community Council president Nick Tsoulis welcomes the release of the final master plan for the town centre.

Picture: Eleasa Lee

the interchange, including safety concerns when travelling at night.

Under the master plan both Athlton Drive and Soward Way would become people-friendly boulevards, two community gardens were proposed and pedestrian and cycle links would be improved.

It is also proposed that in the longer term the government sell the large surface car park located to the west of Lake Tuggeranong College for a mixed-use development.

However, the number of car spaces allocated for the college will have to be maintained.

Mr Tsoulis said the master plan would be a complete transformation of the town centre that would also provide advantages to the surrounding suburbs.

He urged residents to examine the plan so they were familiar with how their future town centre would look.

"We're going to be seeing a big change and I think all of the Tuggeranong residents should have a look at the plan," Mr Tsoulis said.

"Tuggeranong is a great place to live and will continue to retain its status as one of Canberra's most loved areas to live in."