

\$600m estate closer

BY BRAD WORRALL

NATIVE fish will get new homes, too, as part of a \$600 million housing estate at Killara, Wodonga Council heard last night.

It was one of a range of conditions added to the ambitious plans for the Riverside Estate as it jumped another planning hurdle.

North East Catchment Management Authority has asked that large trees felled for house and land packages be put into the Kiewa River to boost fish habitat.

Other rezoning demands include the provision of 4ha for sporting

■ Fish to get homes from housing project

fields, two roundabouts on the Murray Valley highway at either end of Killara and 15km of bike paths.

Other conditions will see homes in the estate, that is almost 50 per cent bigger than White Box Rise, barred from being built within 200m of the Murray River and 30m of Wodonga Creek.

Last night councillors also approved the development plan for the 1750-home estate —the majority on lots between 500sq m and 750sq m.

A small neighbourhood commercial centre on the corner of Whyte's Road and the highway will be capped at 4000sq m and include a supermarket.

A mixed use zone, also fronting the highway, will provide a buffer of commercial uses opposite the Department of Defence operations at Wadsworth Barracks at East Bandiana.

Cr Rod Wangman, who along with his councillor colleagues unanimously

endorsed the plan, said it was a massive investment.

"When people make consideration of the available land on the backside of Huon Hill, looking across the Kiewa River and the floodplains and the way the development can be fitted in with Killara, this will prove to be a very significant development for Wodonga," he said.

"Let's say 2000 potential house and land packages at \$350,000 to \$400,000.

"This is a growth corridor for the next 10 to 15 years and a reminder to councillors on how we need to continue to plan for the CBD and amenities to support the needs of an extra 8000 people in the east of the city."

He said the environmental plan complemented the estate's vision.

"I'm pleased that it allows for environmental considerations of Huon Hill and the floodplain because I think most people looking to purchase there would be doing so on the back of that green ideal," he said.

Cr Lisa Mahood said the housing estate would bring much needed social infrastructure to Killara.