

Quarterly Report to the Minister for Planning

No 2: for the period ending 31 October 2016

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Chief Commissioner

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Introduction

Since the Commission's last report as at 31 July 2016, its focus has been working collaboratively with stakeholders across local, state and Commonwealth governments, and with peak bodies, community groups and Sydneysiders, to develop draft District Plans.

It is anticipated that six draft District Plans will go on formal public exhibition between the end of November 2016 and 31 March 2017. This will give stakeholders a minimum of 120 days to provide feedback and comments on the draft District Plans, compared with the statutory requirement of 45 days.

An extensive program of briefings and engagement activities is planned for the formal public exhibition period. The schedule will be available on the Commission's website in November 2016.

Each draft District Plan is underpinned by the emerging 'three cities narrative', a 40-year draft vision designed to enable Greater Sydney to become more productive, liveable and sustainable as it grows to eight million people by 2056. *Towards our Sydney 2056* will accompany the draft District Plans during the formal public exhibition period.

The three cities narrative has been the subject of significant media interest in recent weeks, following our Chief Commissioner, Lucy Turnbull's Bradfield Oration, in which she shared with the community the Commission's bold vision for Greater Sydney as three cities; the existing Eastern City; the developing Central City; and the emerging Western City.

At the Bradfield Oration, the Chief Commissioner also launched a draft strategic vision for Greater Parramatta and the Olympic Peninsula, known as GPOP. The scale of change in GPOP, including projects planned and committed, represents a major city-shaping opportunity for the Commission, its partners and the community.

In October 2016, the Commission's CEO, Sarah Hill, was a keynote speaker at *Re:Address: Discussions on global housing solutions*, an international symposium investigating long term, resilient housing solutions, held in Vancouver.

On 21 November 2016 the Sydney Planning Panels go live. Each Greater Sydney District will have a panel, chaired by its District Commissioner, to determine regionally significant development matters.

The Commission will launch the 2016-17 round of the Metropolitan Greenspace Program in early December 2016. The program has been revitalised to support the vision for a *Green Grid* throughout the Greater Sydney Region. *Green Grid* priorities have been developed in consultation with councils and will form the basis of the program going forward.

Nominations for the inaugural Greater Sydney Planning Awards are open until 18 November 2016. The Awards celebrate best practice and showcase examples that are leading the urban development of the Greater Sydney Region.

In addition, the Awards assist in promoting good practice, leading to raising standards and expectations and improving the profile and value of city planning.

The Commission's first Annual Report (2015-16) has been submitted to the Minister and will be available to all stakeholders via the Commission's website in mid-November 2016. The next Quarterly Report will be published in January 2017.

The Commission thanks everyone who has been working and engaging with us over the past nine months. The response has been overwhelming and is testimony to the commitment and passion that Sydneysiders have for their city.

Delivering six draft District Plans for Greater Sydney and an amendment to *A Plan for Growing Sydney*

In its first year the single largest task of the Commission is to produce six draft District Plans. The draft District Plans are an important next step in implementing the Greater Sydney Regional Plan, *A Plan for Growing Sydney* (APfGS), an integrated strategic plan for Greater Sydney's growing population.

Each of the draft District Plans is supported by an emerging narrative, *Towards our Sydney 2056*, designed to make Greater Sydney more productive, liveable and more sustainable. *Towards our Sydney 2056* also extends the vision for Greater Sydney to 2056 to commensurate with the *NSW Intergenerational Report 2016*, and with the most recent population projections that estimate Greater Sydney's population will almost double in the next 40 years to 8 million people.

The three cities narrative has been developed following extensive consultation with government and industry. It reflects the objectives of APfGS, as well significant government decisions made since the release of APfGS, such as the Premier's jobs and housing priorities, Western Sydney Airport and the City Deal, Parramatta Light Rail and the Communities Plus Program.

The draft District Plans will include proposed actions designed to shape each District's future and guide investment and policy decisions. These actions draw on clear long-term priorities for the District that have been shaped by NSW Government policy directions, our engagement with the community, local government and with State agencies and supported by an extensive evidence base.

The draft District Plans and the amendment to APfGS, *Towards our Sydney 2056*, will go on formal public exhibition between the end of November 2016 and 31 March 2017, a period of 120 days, to ensure that as many people as possible have the opportunity to have their say about Greater Sydney's future.

Stakeholder and Community Engagement

To date, the Commission's engagement activities have directly engaged with more than 7,500 people and have reached close to 1.8 million online. Feedback has been received on people's and organisation's values, vision and aspirations for the future of the Districts and Greater Sydney as a whole, and has fed into the development of the draft District Plans.

Continuing our commitment to genuine, open and broad engagement, the draft District Plans are being placed on an extended period of formal public exhibition from late November 2016 to 31 March 2017. During this period there will be an extensive series of briefings and interactive engagement activities.

Phase one, November to December 2016, will feature a series of stakeholder and community briefings to local community groups, peak bodies, Mayors, Administrators and General Managers, industry and professional bodies and elected representatives. Community drop in sessions will be held in each District.

Phase two, January to March 2017, will feature interactive stakeholder forums webcast live to extend their reach across Greater Sydney, online engagement enabling people to make detailed comments and lodge formal submissions, targeted engagement with communities and community groups and citizen forums.

Comments and feedback will continue to be received up until the draft District Plans are finalised at the end of 2017. The draft Plans will therefore be open to comments from newly elected members of amalgamated councils.

The 2016 Bradfield Oration

Lucy Turnbull, the Chief Commissioner, delivered the 2016 Bradfield Oration on 19 October 2016. A number of media stories were run on its contents including the three cities vision and the revitalisation and redevelopment of Greater Parramatta and the Olympic Peninsula (GPOP). Key points of her speech included the:

- need for strong and effective growth management in light of the population projections – 4.6 million now to 6.2 million in 20 years to 8 million in 2056;
- goal of being able to live within 30 minutes of where you work, study and play; this makes life more liveable, productive and sustainable for everyone;
- vision of three cities, including the developing Central City with a draft vision for GPOP;
- new Western Sydney Airport as a game changer for Western Sydney; and
- the importance of nurturing great local neighbourhoods supported by infrastructure.

A Draft Vision for Greater Parramatta and the Olympic Peninsula (GPOP)

The Chief Commissioner launched the GPOP draft vision at the Bradfield Oration on 19 October 2016. The draft vision strongly reinforces the Commission's emerging three cities narrative, with GPOP being synonymous with the developing Central City. The draft vision is the result of extensive collaboration with colleagues across State and local government and with business led by the Commission. It is available on the Commission's website (www.gsc.nsw.gov.au) and is accompanied by an online discussion forum. A more targeted call for feedback will occur through the formal public exhibition and engagement period of the draft District Plans from late November 2016 to 31 March 2017.

Transition to Sydney Planning Panels

Six new Sydney Planning Panels (Panels) commence on 21 November 2016. The Panels will continue the current functions of the Joint Regional Planning Panels (JRPPs), which are to determine regionally significant development applications (generally development with a capital investment value of more than \$20 million) within the Greater Sydney Region and consider pre-Gateway (rezoning) reviews.

As with the JRPPs, council appointed representatives for the relevant Local Government Area (LGA) will sit on the relevant panel when considering matters in their LGA.

Western Sydney Airport and a *City Deal*

The Western Sydney Airport is a game changer for Western Sydney. The Commonwealth and NSW Governments have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a *City Deal*. It will build on the commitment to deliver Western Sydney Airport and will leverage other key infrastructure investments to catalyse jobs growth and better transport links. Potential inclusions in a *City Deal* are an increase in infrastructure investment, including transformative public transport projects; and a program of employment and investment attraction to support the development of the region.

Metropolitan Greenspace Program (MGP)

The MGP supports local councils in Greater Sydney and the Central Coast to improve regional open space. Funding is provided to councils on a matching dollar-for-dollar basis. Generally, projects have been dedicated to improving regionally significant outdoor recreational space - through initiatives such as new or upgraded access paths and trails, signage, landscaping and picnic facilities.

MGP oversight transitioned to the Commission in May 2016. The 2016-17 grants round will continue in the spirit of previous rounds, but with a more joined up overarching metropolitan vision and priority projects identified through collaboration with councils. Applications will open in December 2016.

Greater Sydney Planning Awards

The Greater Sydney Planning Awards have been initiated by the Commission to celebrate best practice and showcase examples of leading metropolitan planning in the Greater Sydney Region. Nominations are open and will close on 18 November 2016. There are six award categories:

- Project team of the year;
- Great community led project;
- Great new place or live or work;
- Great integrated planning project;
- Great plan; and
- The Chief Commissioner's award for research and innovation.

The judging panel will include representatives from the planning profession, academia, public sector, development industry and the Commission. Visit the Commission's website for more details and nomination forms (www.gsc.nsw.gov.au). Awards will be announced in February 2017.

