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# Report to the Minister for Planning

No 4: for the period ending 31 March 2017

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The Minister for Planning, the Hon. Anthony Roberts, presents the inaugural Greater Sydney Region Integrated Planning Project award to members of the Westmead Redevelopment Project team: L-R Sam Sangster, CEO Health Infrastructure, Anthony Roberts NSW Planning Minister, Leena Singh, Westmead Redevelopment lead for Western Sydney Local Health District and Greg Robinson from the University of Sydney.

## Introduction

The momentum is continuing as the Commission enters its second year. It continues to focus on delivering its statutory responsibilities, that is extensive stakeholder engagement, the refinement of draft District Plans, the development of a new Greater Sydney Region Plan, and providing advice to the Minister on strategic planning issues.

The public exhibition of six draft District Plans and *Towards our Greater Sydney 2056*, a draft amendment to the Greater Sydney Region Plan, closed on 31 March 2017. The Commission engaged directly with more than 7,750 people in this period and has received over 2,300 submissions, an unprecedented number for strategic plans in Greater Sydney. The draft plans received widespread media coverage, all testimony to how interested Sydney-siders are in planning the future of their City and the increased opportunity for participation created by the Commission.

One of the issues that has attracted the most attention is housing affordability. The Commission has been working with colleagues across Government and industry to develop and detail further our housing supply targets and affordable rental housing targets.

The Commission has begun the development of a new strategic plan for the Greater Sydney Region. As with draft District Plans, collaboration and engagement will be the hallmark of this work and all Sydneysiders will have an opportunity to express their views throughout the development process.

The Commission also continues to work closely with other NSW Government agencies, councils and the Commonwealth Government on opportunities associated with the development of the Western Sydney Airport and City Deal.

Applications to the Metropolitan Greenspace program closed on 31 March 2017. The Commission received 32 applications for the \$4 million fund designed to support implementation of the *Green Grid* throughout the Greater Sydney Region and the Central Coast.

The inaugural Greater Sydney Planning awards were held on 23 February 2017. The Minister for Planning, the Hon. Anthony Roberts MP, assisted the Commission to present eight awards to outstanding planning teams from councils, community groups, industry and Government. Information on award recipients is available on the Commission's website.

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## Exhibition of the draft District Plans and an amendment to APfGS

Draft District Plans are an important next step in implementing *A Plan for Growing Sydney*, an integrated strategic plan for Greater Sydney's growing population. The draft District Plans 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 collaboration and engagement with the community, local government and with NSW Government agencies and an extensive evidence base.

The public exhibition of draft *District Plans* and *Towards our Greater Sydney 2056* closed on 31 March 2017. The Commission ensured that stakeholders were given a range of forums to provide submissions and feedback on the draft plans. The engagement program included:

- Two weeks of presentations and launch events in November 2016.
- 11 district-based deliberative dialogues with 288 participants that included community groups, self-selected community members and randomly-sampled community members to represent the demographic characteristics of the District. Each table from the District Dialogues completed a submission form with 63 submissions in total. Feedback from participants is that more than 90% were glad they attended the session.
- Industry roundtables – a series of roundtables with industry groups to focus on relevant issues in the draft Plans including retail development, industrial and commercial lands and residential development.
- Live Online – A series of weekly interactive conversations with senior members of the Commission, providing an opportunity for people to ask questions and provide feedback on a broad range of topics.
- Stakeholders meetings with a wide range of groups including:
  - all Greater Sydney councils
  - Regional Organisations of Councils
  - peak bodies including industry, environmental and social groups
  - professional associations.
- Media including local newspaper articles calling for submissions, interviews on ABC Sydney, The Australian, The Sydney Morning Herald and Sky News.
- Easy-to-use online submission forms that enabled time-poor users to provide their feedback.

- Dialogue in a box toolkit to help community groups facilitate their own meetings through which to develop a submission.

The key themes emerging from stakeholder engagement and feedback include:

- funding and the timely provision of infrastructure and services to support new housing and population growth, including transport, education and health services and open space
- The need for a range of different housing types and price points to suit a wide range of needs
- the need to enhance green cover and shade trees, biodiversity and the Green Grid
- the need for higher quality urban design across Greater Sydney



Heather Nesbitt, Social Commissioner, leads a live online session as part of the Commission's engagement outreach. Our Live Online sessions had 586 comments, questions and answers across three social media platforms during the exhibition period.

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More than 7,750 individuals engaged with the Commission during the public exhibition period and the Commission is analysing the more than 2,300 submissions it received. All submissions will be published on the Commission's website, with personal details redacted where a request has been made.

A full Engagement Report will be published on the Commission's website in mid-2017. Some early summaries will be published by 31 May 2017.

Draft District Plans will be refined commensurate with feedback from stakeholders and further work by the Commission over the course of 2017.

## **A new Greater Sydney Region Plan**

The Commission has begun preliminary work with councils on the development of a new draft *Greater Sydney Region Plan*. The Commission is conducting stakeholder and community engagement to inform development of the draft plan in mid-2017, and will take a draft plan to public exhibition by the end of 2017. This work is closely aligned with the development of the Greater Sydney component of the NSW *Future Transport Strategy* and the *State Infrastructure Strategy* and builds on the draft District Plans and their engagement.



The Greater Sydney Commission has attracted a strong multidisciplinary team. On 27 January 2017 the team celebrated the Commission's first birthday.