

# **Report to the Minister for Planning**

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## Introduction

Since the previous Quarterly Report, the Greater Sydney Commission (GSC) has:

- released for public exhibition the draft Greater Sydney Region Plan (GSRP), *A Metropolis of Three Cities*, and the five revised draft District Plans;
- engaged extensively with the community and stakeholders during the exhibition period through a range of different channels and targeting a broad cross-section of the community and stakeholders;
- received an additional 974 formal submissions on the draft Plans;
- progressed with the Local Green Grid priorities funded through the Metropolitan Greenspace Program and the Parramatta Road Urban Amenity Improvement Program; and
- continued its focus on the Western Parkland City, including support to the development of the Western Sydney City Deal and land use plans for the Western Sydney Airport growth area.

## Draft Greater Sydney Region Plan and District Plans

From inception the GSC has taken its collaboration and engagement responsibilities seriously: a vision for Greater Sydney must be built by its own citizens from the ground up.

Commissioners and staff have worked intensively with a broad cross section of the community for two years, using a range of innovative approaches to listen, understand and respect the ideas, concerns, and aspirations of citizens, grassroots community groups, peak social and environmental groups, industry, state and local government, and elected officials.

The formal public exhibition periods have attracted thousands of submissions that have been carefully analysed and used in further development of the Plans.

The GSC's iterative approach has meant that this information has shaped and informed the Plans at every stage of their development. Stakeholders have been vocal in their appreciation of this approach, especially that we have reflected their feedback in updated Plans. In this regard, the GSC has been honest and transparent with people, taking care to explicitly communicate how input from stakeholders has been considered and has influenced the Plans during each stage of development.

The GSC has directly engaged with 25,000 people, held over 500 events with communities, community groups, peak bodies, local government and industry. Two formal exhibition periods have been held, the first attracting over 2,300 formal submissions, the second an additional 974 submissions.

The GSC released for public exhibition the draft GSRP, *A Metropolis of Three Cities* and the five revised draft District Plans in October 2017. *A Metropolis of Three Cities* was exhibited

for 54 days while the revised draft District Plans were exhibited for 50 days. The accompanying engagement program used many methods and channels to optimise the participation and representation of Sydneysiders in terms of (but not limited to) location, age, cultural and linguistic background, social and economic status and (dis)abilities. It targeted hard-to-reach groups and prioritised participative and deliberative methods.

Activities and events were held on weekdays, weeknights and weekends across the five Greater Sydney Districts, and a series of virtual events were held using social media.

The GSC undertook randomised and demographically representative surveys and deliberative panels, so that the feedback from highly engaged community and peak groups could be compared with the views of a statistically significant cross section of the Greater Sydney community.

Elected officials, local government and State government agencies were also engaged through a series of workshops and briefing sessions. The GSC collaborated with Transport for NSW, wherever appropriate, providing participants with a holistic understanding of the integration of land use and transport strategic plans.

The GSC's website was overhauled to improve user experience with a streamlined submissions process.

During this period, the GSC directly engaged with over 9,300 people. In addition, information was provided to more than half a million people through GSC's social media channels (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube), there were 51,000 visits to the GSRP and revised draft District Plans' pages on the website and 14,000 downloads of the Plans.

Some highlights of the activities and their reach:

- **Launch event** to introduce the Plans including 160 elected officials, key stakeholders and community members. A community briefing session was live-streamed on the GSC's Facebook page and viewed by 409 people.
- Three **roundtable meetings** with environmental and social peak groups, to examine the Plans, and show how their feedback to earlier drafts had been incorporated.
- 12 **community workshops** where community groups and individuals were invited to examine the Plans and provide feedback, and were given an opportunity to see how previous community feedback had helped shape the Plans.
- Five **local government staff workshops** where planning staff from all councils in the Greater Sydney Region were briefed on the Plans.
- Eight **briefing sessions** for State and local government elected officials to gain their feedback on the Plans.

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- Three City Dialogues – **deliberative panels** where around 100 community members from each city (Eastern, Central and Western) gave their feedback on the draft GSRP. Participants were recruited to reflect the demographic mix of the three cities
  - 10 **focus groups** from five of Greater Sydney’s fastest growing Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities — Vietnamese, Filipino, Indian, Chinese and Arabic.
  - 10 **focus groups** with 300 young people in high schools across Greater Sydney, conducted by the Advocate for Children and Young People.
  - **Free MyMetropolis app** developed in partnership with the NSW Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People, to engage primary school aged children.
  - A **randomised representative survey** of 2,000 residents to gain feedback on each of the objectives in the draft GSRP.
  - **Roundtable meetings** to gain feedback from retail and residential industries.
  - Weekly **Live Online interactive discussions**, where Sydneysiders had unprecedented access to Commissioners and senior GSC staff to ask questions and contribute their feedback.
  - A series of **speaking engagements** with a range of social, business, environmental and industry audiences, providing an opportunity for questions about the Plans and provide feedback.

The community and stakeholder response has been overwhelmingly positive, especially in terms of the overall vision of a *Metropolis of Three Cities* and the *30-Minute City*, and, that for the first time, the GSRP and *Future Transport 2056* are fully integrated, creating one strong and consistent vision for Greater Sydney.

Feedback has continued to emphasise the need for new and enhanced infrastructure to match future growth, the importance of good design and quality outcomes, particularly in relation to open spaces, housing diversity and affordability, sustainability, and job creation and diversity, especially in Western Sydney.

Overwhelmingly, submissions from across the community and from stakeholders stressed the importance of implementation and the need to continue the strong co-ordinated approach used in plan preparation.

The draft Plans are still available on the GSC’s website.

*A Metropolis of Three Cities* will now be finalised, taking account of stakeholder feedback, and presented to Government in the first half of 2018. It is intended that five District Plans will be released at the same time as *A Metropolis of Three Cities*. It is a statutory requirement that the District Plans reflect the new GSRP.

## **Implementation of the Plans**

Plan actions and current projects have created a clear and ambitious program for the GSC in 2018. Implementation work is already underway, as exemplified by the GSC's continuing focus on the Western City. The GSC continues to support the development of the Western Sydney City Deal and contribute to the Department of Planning and Environment's development of a land use plan for the Western Sydney Airport Priority Growth Area; the GSC is also leading the Collaboration Area projects in Liverpool and Penrith.

Another key focus for the GSC is continuing its work with councils to support their timely development of new Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) to deliver on the District Plans. In accordance with Section 75A1 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*, councils are required to update their LEPs to 'give effect to' the District Plans as soon as practicable following District Plan finalisation. The Premier's Housing Affordability Package (HAP) gave more definitive timeframes for councils of between 2 to 3 years to ensure the associate housing targets could be delivered.

### **Parramatta Road Urban Amenity Improvement Program**

The GSC is working with six councils to deliver 32 projects that will produce 12 hectares of open space and urban plazas, three new playing fields and new walking and cycling facilities in Granville, Auburn, Homebush, Burwood-Concord, Kings Bay, Leichhardt, Taverners Hill and Camperdown. On 29 November 2017, the Minister approved the GSC's recommendation to provide \$29.5 million to councils to complete their detailed plans for these projects. In Stage 2, the councils will submit a further application for funding following completion of detailed construction cost estimates. Grant recommendations for Stage 2 will be submitted for Ministerial approval in mid-2018.

### **Patron's Prize by the Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue**

Ms Lucy Turnbull, Chief Commissioner, was presented with a Patron's Prize by the Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue. The Chief Commissioner accepted the award, on behalf of all Greater Sydney Commissioners and team members, for "championing the role of Western Sydney in the city's future and the delivery of the Greater Parramatta & Olympic Park Peninsula (GPOP) project".

### **Farewell District Commissioner Blakely**

Commissioner Blakely resigned in late December 2017 to take up a new role with the Land and Environment Court. The GSC acknowledges the contribution that Commissioner Blakely has made over the last two years and wishes him the best in his new role. We are presently consulting with councils regarding the appointment of a new or interim District Commissioner for the Central City.