

Draft Western District Plan

Submission_id: 32178

Date of Lodgment: 19 Dec 2017

Origin of Submission: Email

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Organisation type: Government Agency

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Submission content: See Attached

Number of attachments: 1



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19 December 2017

Greater Sydney Commission
Draft District Plans
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Submission to Greater Sydney Commission

I am pleased to make this submission to the Draft Western City District Plan – connecting communities in my capacity as Chairperson of the State Archives and Records Authority of New South Wales (State Archives and Records NSW).

My comments relate to two themes of the plan – ‘Liveability’ and ‘Infrastructure and collaboration’.

Context

The State Archives and Records NSW is a cultural institution of the NSW Government that is wholly located in Western Sydney at Kingswood. It is the custodian of one of the State’s most valuable cultural assets, the State Archives Collection which predates European settlement in 1788. This Collection is valued at over \$1B and comprises over 80 kilometres of State Government archives. These date from before European settlement and include key material such as:

- convict records inscribed on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register
- Utzon’s competition drawings for the Sydney Opera House
- documents which establish identity and entitlements such as the records of the former Aborigines Welfare Board, and
- the NSW Charter of Justice which established our judicial and court system

Liveability theme

As a cultural institution, State Archives and Records NSW can contribute to the Commission’s objectives relating to social infrastructure (Planning Priorities W3, W4 and W6). Specifically, the State Archives Collection can be used as a means of public engagement and as a contributor to social cohesion.

The Kingswood facility itself where the State archives Collection is stored, also has potential as a significant destination in the Western Sydney cultural landscape.

I would encourage the Commission to formally acknowledge State Archives and Records NSW in respect of these priorities.

Infrastructure and collaboration theme

Key to realising the Government’s return on investment in the State Archives Collection and the potential of State Archives and Records NSW to contribute to liveability is enhanced accessibility of the Kingswood facility and, by extension, physical access to the State Archives Collection.

This is currently impeded by State Archives and Records NSW's relatively isolated location which is not well served by public transport infrastructure.

The Draft Western City District Plan provides an opportunity to address this long-term issue through the provision of infrastructure such as north-south rail (Planning Priority W1).

I would encourage the Commission to take account of State Archives and Records NSW in the planning of infrastructure. Ideally, this could be realised by a rail or other infrastructure station being located in close proximity to the Kingswood facility.

I would be pleased to provide further information to the Commission concerning this submission.

Yours sincerely

Anne Henderson AM
Chair of the Board of the
State Archives and Records Authority of New South Wales