

# Draft Greater Sydney Region Plan

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Submission content: Please find attached a submission to the draft Greater Sydney Region Plan and draft District Plans from the Resilient Sydney Steering Committee.

Number of attachments: 1



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To: Greater Sydney Commission  
From: Resilient Sydney Steering Committee

### **Submission to the Draft Greater Sydney Plan**

Dear Chief Commissioner and Commissioners,

100 Resilient Cities and the Resilient Sydney Steering Committee commends the Greater Sydney Commission on the Draft Greater Sydney Region Plan and Revised District Plans released for public consultation in October 2017.

We commend your vision for three integrated cities across the metropolitan region to ensure greater equity in delivering benefits across the city. We also applaud the inclusion of 'A Resilient City' as a key direction in your plan. 100 Resilient Cities and Resilient Sydney see this as a significant step in operationalising resilience within land-use planning and operational programs for metropolitan Sydney.

100 Resilient Cities also recognises the contributions of the Greater Sydney Commission in the development of the draft Resilient Sydney Strategy, the first of its kind for metropolitan Sydney. The draft strategy embodies two years of hard work across government, business and communities and is recognised as an exemplar of collaborative effort within the global 100 Resilient Cities network. We thank you for your input, and for championing resilience within metropolitan Sydney.

#### **Resilient Sydney – a strategy for collaboration**

The Resilient Sydney strategy is now in draft form in consultation with councils, governments and business across the city. In summary, the strategy addresses the top shocks and stresses for the city, as identified in 2016 through the process and tools of 100 Resilient Cities. It puts in place a plan to improve the adaptive capacity of our communities, businesses and governments to survive, adapt and thrive in the face of increasing shock events in our city.

A deep consultation process with over 1,000 Sydneysiders informed the key vulnerabilities and priorities for the strategy. These generally align to city challenges identified in the Region Plan.

#### **Resilient Sydney**

A 100 Resilient Cities initiative with metropolitan Sydney  
Hosted by the City of Sydney

**100 RESILIENT CITIES**

*Pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation*

[100resilientcities.org](http://100resilientcities.org)

These are:

- Inequitable growth
- Climate pressure on our health, environment and economy
- Declining social cohesion
- Understanding of risks and community preparedness for emergencies
- Disjointed governance.

The document addresses these challenges through a vision, five directions and 40 actions for the city. It is a call to collaboration across all sectors and geographies of the city. We see this strategy as aligned and supportive to the mission of the Commission to lead and support collaboration in Sydney.

There are five directions for Sydney to address our vulnerabilities and build a more resilient city, communities, economy and environment. These are:

1. **A people centred city:** Everyone is included and can access services and opportunity
2. **Live with our climate:** We adapt to sustain our liveability
3. **Connect for strength:** We connect to each other and this place
4. **Get ready:** We know how to prepare, respond and recover
5. **Lead one city:** We are one city.

Many of the proposed actions address the structural and procedural gaps between business sectors, governments and communities. They work to create the conditions and opportunities for connections and collaboration to address the resilience challenges of the city.

Specific comments on the document are below:

“A collaborative city”

- District level resilience plans that explore community exposure and vulnerability to social and economic risks as well as natural hazards is essential for coordination of planning and operational programs. We acknowledge and support the actions to develop a consistent approach to these across Sydney and look forward to working with the Commission to support this work.
- City resilience can be improved through building the adaptive capacity of communities and organisations. The Resilient Sydney Strategy contains actions that will directly engage business and government organisations in internalising resilience and building adaptive capacity in support of the direction of the Commission. Collaboration between all levels of Government and stakeholders needs to continue to ensure the delivery of the Plans.
- Resilience should be included as a criteria in infrastructure planning. Industry rating tools are introducing resilience criteria and credits relevant to infrastructure planning and projects. Metrics and emerging standards around resilience provide a route to negotiate and agree benefits and risks of projects to communities, businesses and governments.

- We applaud the inclusion of ‘A Collaborative City’ in relation to significant projects such as the Western Sydney Airport and Badgerys Creek Aerotropolis, and the proposed Collaboration Areas.
- We suggest the Commission consider the following two suggestions with regards to future collaborative projects:
  - Inclusion of resilience assessments within place-based planning projects; and
  - Engagement with NSW government agencies and departments including the Office of Emergency Management, Office of Environment and Heritage, local government, Infrastructure NSW and key private sector stakeholders such as the insurance industry. Each of these stakeholders brings critical expertise and diverse perspectives to embed sustainability, liveability, productivity, equity and manage risk.

#### “A city for people”

- We acknowledge that “healthy, resilient and socially connected communities” have high social cohesion and are more likely to perform well during shock events. Collaboration and coordination is essential to building resilience in communities. Many of the actions in the Resilient Sydney strategy support this aim and will build new connections to this end.

#### “A resilient city”

- Under the Region Plan Direction, ‘A resilient city’, we acknowledge and welcome the references and use of the definition of urban resilience from 100 Resilient Cities.
- Objective 36, 37 and 38 all concentrate on natural hazards. While these are the most likely shock events in Sydney, there is an increasing acknowledgement of an “all hazards” approach to understanding and managing community risks and planning. Understanding and addressing social and economic stresses and shocks is essential in a holistic view of local, district or city level resilience.
- We commend the inclusion of Objective 27 regarding reducing exposure to natural and urban hazards. Piloting place-based resilience plans will strengthen the adaptive capacity of communities. This would require improved vulnerability mapping and communication of city-wide and local shocks and stresses. Resilience plans at district level could cooperatively inform state and local land use, environmental and emergency planning. Resilient Sydney looks forward to working with the Commission and other agencies to develop this program and bring international expertise to guidance and the process.
- We look forward to working with the Commission to raise awareness of broader shocks and stresses beyond natural hazards, through implementation programs and work in our own organisations.

Further information about city resilience, the process and draft strategy can be obtained from [REDACTED] Chief Resilience Officer, Resilient Sydney at [REDACTED] to arrange a full briefing.

I look forward to progressing our work together to ensure Sydney continues to set the standard for collaboration and leadership within our global network and our broader region.

Yours sincerely



Beck Dawson, Chief Resilience Officer - Sydney

On behalf of the Resilient Sydney Steering Committee:

<b>100 Resilient Cities</b>	<b>Associate Director Asia-Pacific</b> , Sam Kernaghan
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<b>City of Parramatta</b>	<b>General Manager</b> , Greg Dyer
<b>City of Sydney</b>	<b>Chief Executive Officer</b> , Monica Barone
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\* Rod Simpson, Environment Commissioner of the Greater Sydney Commission, and Feargus O'Connor, Executive Director of the Office of Emergency Management NSW abstained due to a conflict of interest.