

Draft Greater Sydney Region Plan

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SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS

14 February 2018

Mrs Lucy Turnbull AO
Chief Commissioner
Greater Sydney Commission
PO Box 257
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124
(by email)

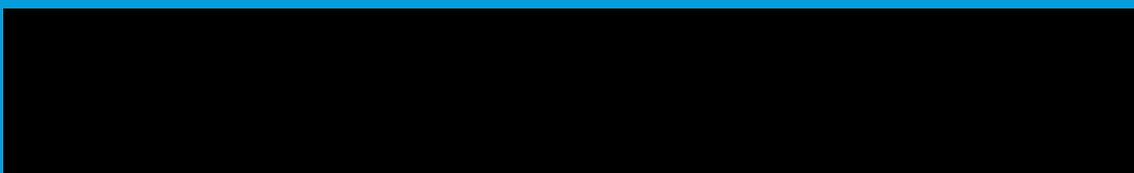
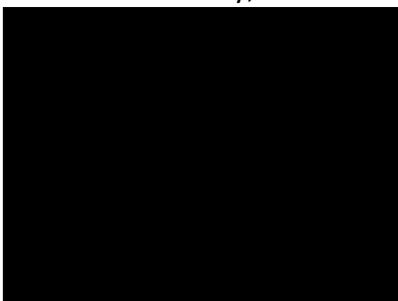
Dear Mrs Turnbull,

It was a pleasure to attend your excellent presentation on the Greater Sydney Regional Plan at the Sydney Catholic Business Network at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Sydney on 10 November last year.

You will recall that we briefly spoke in the margins of that event, at which time I alerted you to the total absence of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Draft Regional Plan. Given Australia's commitment to achieving the SDGs, and the importance of their inclusion in critical strategies and policies such as the Commission's Regional Plan, I requested a meeting with you to discuss how the SDGs could be included. At that time you sensibly requested that the UNAA provide a submission to the Commission, after which we could meet.

Please find attached the UNAA's brief submission for your consideration. It would be good if a meeting could be arranged ahead of the important Australian SDG Summit to be held in Melbourne on 13 March 2018, to which the Commission will be invited.

Yours sincerely,





THE GREATER SYDNEY REGIONAL PLAN AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Key Points

- The Greater Sydney Commission's *Draft Greater Sydney Regional Plan* is critically important to ensure Sydney's continuing status as one of the world's leading livable and sustainable cities.
- The Commission's excellent Draft Regional Plan will be greatly enhanced and have enormous national and international impact by including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - which Australia is committed to achieve. The UNAA considers that *SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities* should be a central theme and key objective of the Regional Plan.
- Inclusion of the SDGs in the Commission's Regional Plan will enable the Australian Government to demonstrate to the world its commitment to achieving the SDGs - an important milestone in our nation's first voluntary report to the United Nations in 2018.
- The UNAA is keen to partner (SDG 17) with the Commission to help improve the Regional Plan and enable NSW and Australia to better achieve the SDGs.

Background and Purpose

On 10 November 2017, the National President of the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA), [REDACTED] had a brief conversation with Mrs Lucy Turnbull AO, the Chief Commissioner of the Greater Sydney Commission, regarding the Draft Greater Sydney Regional Plan. This conversation occurred in the margin of Mrs Turnbull's excellent presentation to the Sydney Catholic Business Network at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Sydney. Mrs Turnbull suggested that the UNAA make a submission to the Commission, prior to arranging a meeting to discuss the possibility of incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Regional Plan.

The purpose of this submission is to highlight the importance of including the SDGs in the Regional Plan, thereby demonstrating Australia's commitment to their achievement. If possible, the UNAA would like to meet with the Commission to discuss the issues raised and possible opportunities for partnership. An SDG Summit (by invitation only) is to be held in Melbourne on 13 March 2018. The Greater Sydney Commission has been invited to attend.

The SDGs and their importance to Australia

In September 2015 all 193 member states of the United Nations (including Australia) formally adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a critical part of the 2030 Agenda to transform the world through sustainable development. The SDGs are about



people, peace, our planet, prosperity and partnership. The former UN Secretary-General Ban-ki Moon captured the critical importance of the SDGs with the simple phrase *there is no Plan B because there is no Planet B*. That is why all UN member states, including Australia, are committed to their achievement.

The SDGs comprise 17 goals, 169 targets and 232 indicators, all of which are vital considerations for Sydney's growth and status as a leading global city. The Commission's draft Regional Plan currently fails to recognise the importance of the SDGs or demonstrate how these will be achieved. While all the SDGs are relevant to Sydney's development, the UNAA believes that *SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities* should be a central theme and key objective of the Regional Plan.

The SDGs provide a roadmap to address today's global threats to our humanity such as protracted conflicts, chronic poverty, climate change, homelessness, and overpopulation. These universal timebound goals were developed through a global process involving a wide range of partners and stakeholders from 70 countries. It is the most comprehensive and holistic development approach adopted by the United Nations, building on the unfinished business and lessons learnt in the implementation and reporting on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Unlike the MDGs, however, the SDGs agenda is a paradigm shift at many levels. It connects all 17 SDGs and calls for cooperation in a universal manner, holding to account both developed and developing countries alike. Business as usual will not be enough to achieve the 2030 agenda. The SDGs requires all governments and societies to undertake integrated analysis and planning to achieve sustainable development in a holistic manner.

The SDGs are important to Australia as they provide an inspiring common vision for a sustainable future with a shared collaborative framework to tackle inequality, injustice, sustainable growth and protect the environment. The SDGs provide a blueprint for Australia to be a sustainable, highly educated, prosperous and equitable country. It is the first global agreement that recognizes the interlinkages between sectors and suggests ways to address them. The SDGs are not just for and about national governments. They include all sectors - private, public, business, academia, community service organisations and other stakeholders. A core tenet of the SDGs is the principle of "Leave No One Behind".

Despite the good intentions of governments and wider society, however, women still face huge inequalities. Without gender equality (SDG 5) we will not achieve the SDGs by 2030. Young people were at the heart of developing the SDGs. Now they must be central to championing, delivering and monitoring as well as holding their leaders to account.

The (Draft) Greater Sydney Regional Plan

The Commission is an independent agency responsible for leading metropolitan planning for the Greater Sydney region. The GS Regional Plan sets out a vision, objectives, strategies and actions for a metropolis of three cities across Greater Sydney. This Plan is built on a vision that seeks to meet the needs of a growing and changing population by transforming Greater



Sydney into a metropolis of three cities: Western Parkland City, Central River City and Eastern Harbour City. A metropolis of three cities will transform land use and transport patterns and boost Greater Sydney's livability, productivity and sustainability by spreading the benefits of growth to all its residents. For example, one way of responding to our cities' connectivity needs is through the concept of a "30-minute city". This concept is one where no matter where you live, you can easily access the places you need to visit on a daily basis. In this respect the Regional Plan provides an excellent model for other cities to follow.

The UNAA commends the Commission for its broad community consultation in developing the Regional Plan. This demonstrates the commitment to SDG 17 (Partnerships), with the Commission acting in collaborative partnership to create and design the Regional Plan.

A fundamental gap in the Regional Plan, however, is its failure to address the SDGs. As such, there is a lack of specific emphasis on sectoral interconnection: for example, between health, education, economy, environment and the lack of community involvement in implementation. A key principle of the SDGs is integration. Integration requires a "nexus approach" that links a core objective with enabling sectoral expertise. The UNAA believes that SDG 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities, could be used as the Regional Plan's core objective. Linking SDG 11 with the other SDGs will help unite politicians, bureaucrats, urban planners, environmentalists, scientists and academics, civil society and business to focus on integrated solutions addressing all three pillars of sustainable development: the environment, society and economy.

One recent example of an integrated approach at the local level was illustrated in the Hawkesbury City Council Community Newsletter, January 2018. This example shows the sectoral interconnection between health, education, economy, environment and community involvement in implementation – the basis of SDGs.

By using the SDGs as appropriate benchmarks, the Commission's Regional Plan will be able to address key issues. For example:

- SDGs 1 and 2: addressing homelessness (for example, NSW currently has the lowest quota of social housing compared to other Australian states and territories).
- SDG 3: ensuring the provision of adequate and affordable health and mental health facilities and timely response mechanisms (for example, Centrelink and Medicare are currently near impossible to reach on the phone, with wait times up to 3 hours).
- SDG4: ensuring that adequate provision is made for quality education facilities (for example, in the City of Sydney education facilities are over-stretched given the current trend of high-density urban-fill).
- And so forth for all the SDGs.

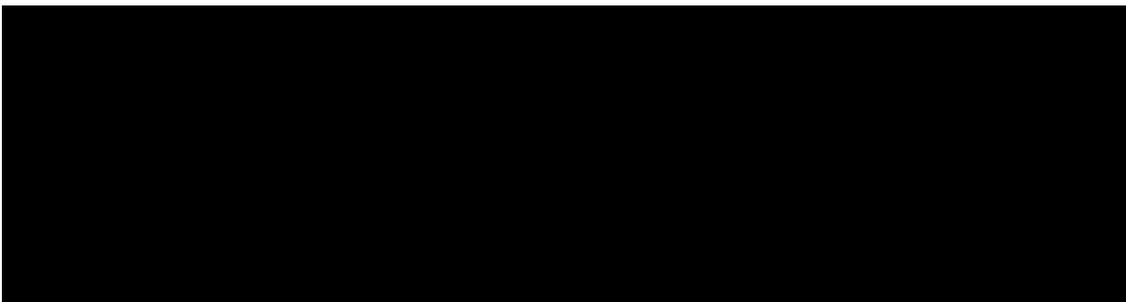
Key Recommendations

The UNAA recommends that the Commission consider:



- Realigning the Commission's (Draft) Regional Plan to include and demonstrate planning against the SDGs, based on the core achievement of SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, and addressing the other SDGs relevant to the Commission's planning responsibilities.
- Presenting the Commission's (Draft) Regional Plan for consideration at the SDG Summit to be held on 13 March 2018 at the MCG in Melbourne to showcase Greater Sydney as an Australian global city, and seek input to enable incorporation of the SDGs.
- Developing a plan for resource mobilization to finance sustainability transformation and the implementation of the SDGs.
- Submitting the Commission's (Draft) Regional Plan for inclusion in the Australian Government's first voluntary report on the SDGs to the United Nations in 2018.
- Further advancing the Commission's commitment to SDG 17 by:
 - including a commitment to achieving the SDGs in its public information campaign;
 - requesting the NSW State Government to fully embrace the SDGs in their policies and budgets, and including SDG progress as an agenda item at COAG meetings; and
 - partnering with organisations such as the UNAA to promote public awareness of the SDGs.

The UNAA would welcome an opportunity to meet with the Commission to discuss the issues covered in this submission.



Resource Attachments:

1. UNAA National SDGs Program Prospectus
2. SDGs with targets
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainabledevelopmentgoals>