



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Frank Sartor MP

Minister for Planning

Minister for Redfern Waterloo

Minister for the Arts

21 December 2007

VISION FOR PARRAMATTA DELIVERED: 30,000 NEW JOBS

NSW State Plan Priority E5: Jobs closer to home

NSW State Plan Priority E6: Housing affordability

NSW State Plan Priority E4: Better environment outcomes

NSW State Plan Priority E8: More people using parks, sporting and recreational facilities

The NSW Government has delivered a 25-year vision for Parramatta which will generate 30,000 new jobs in the city centre, forge stronger links to the river and consolidate its role as Sydney's second CBD.

Planning Minister Frank Sartor thanked the Parramatta community for its input into the Cities Taskforce initiative, to build a strong network of regional cities outside of the Sydney CBD.

He has approved the Parramatta City Centre Local Environmental Plan (LEP), providing the planning framework to revitalise one of Sydney's main city centres.

Plans have also been finalised for Gosford, Liverpool and Wollongong and draft plans have been exhibited for Newcastle and Penrith.

"The revitalisation of Parramatta is an important part of the Cities Taskforce project announced by the Premier, Morris Iemma, in February last year," Mr Sartor said.

The Department of Planning, in conjunction with Parramatta City Council, developed four key draft documents which were released for community comment.

The LEP implements important planning provisions such as building heights and floor space ratios. Along with a City Centre Vision, a Development Control Plan and a Civic Improvement Plan, it completes the overall picture for a revitalised city centre.

"With the gazettal of the LEP, all four of the planning documents for Parramatta have now been finalised," Mr Sartor said.

Member for Parramatta Tanya Gadiel said the city was already experiencing strong commercial growth and the vision would help that to continue.

"Parramatta is the capital of Western Sydney and these plans will support innovative new opportunities for jobs and investment," Ms Gadiel said.

Parramatta Lord Mayor Paul Barber welcomed the finalisation of the Parramatta City Centre Plan.

"The gazetting of Parramatta's City Centre LEP is the result of a long collaboration between the Department of Planning and Parramatta City Council," Cr Barber said.

“Its major purpose is to increase the employment and residential potential of Parramatta city whilst encouraging higher standards of urban design and architecture.

“At the same time we have made sure the unique heritage of Parramatta city is protected and that the relationship between the CBD and Parramatta River is re-established.

“This new planning approach to the city centre will reinforce Parramatta as the capital of western Sydney and as the major city outside of the Sydney CBD.”

Key elements of the city centre plan include:

- 30,000 new jobs by 2031 through significant increases in building height controls and floor space ratios;
- 20,000 new residents in the city centre by 2031;
- Reactivating the Parramatta River foreshore with new outdoor dining and cycling and walking path improvements;
- Guaranteeing winter sunlight to public areas including Jubilee Park, the Civic Place public plaza and the Lancer Barracks;
- Limiting building heights along Church Street’s popular outdoor dining strip;
- Encouraging retail activity in laneways, including those created as part of new development sites;
- Conserving important historic buildings and places such as Parramatta Town Hall, Prince Alfred Park and Lennox Bridge;
- Architectural competitions for buildings greater than 55 metres in height; and
- Supporting an integrated transport plan to reduce reliance on private transport.

The Parramatta LEP has undergone some minor changes following public exhibition including introducing an additional aim that emphasises the historic views and setting of Parramatta Park and its important cultural and natural links to the city centre.