



## NEWS RELEASE

The Hon. Kristina Keneally MP

Member for Heffron  
Minister for Planning  
Minister for Redfern Waterloo

*Wednesday 19 November, 2008*

### **PLANNING STRATEGIES FOR SYDNEY'S NORTH WEST AND SOUTH WEST**

Planning Minister, Kristina Keneally, said today she has asked the Department of Planning to work with the Ministry of Transport and across government to update the draft subregional strategies for North West and South West Sydney. This follows:

- The deferral of the North West Metro and upgrading of the line between Schofield and Vineyard, and the staging of the South West Rail Link;
- Population projections released in October and currently being calculated on a local government areas basis, including in Sydney's North and South West; and
- The Premier's determination to create more jobs closer to where people live.

"The Government won't deny the planning challenges which result from the deferral of the North West Metro and staging of the South West Rail Link, nor will we fail to meet them," Ms Keneally said.

"The fact is Sydney's population will increase from 4.3 million in 2006 to 6 million people in 2036 and a significant proportion of that additional population will be housed in the South and North West.

"While that remains the case, the updates will reflect the changed circumstances and will look at how many people will move where and when, and where they'll work.

"The Premier has made it absolutely clear that one of the Government's top priorities is to create jobs closer to home, and the updates will reflect that – more jobs and new types of jobs in Sydney's population heartland.

"I'm talking about new warehousing and distribution jobs, but I also want the Department look at new technology jobs and business parks, as well as offices and retail employment in existing centres.

**"Good planning can deliver big improvements in a short amount of time, as seen with the rapid increase in employment opportunities in the Western Sydney Employment Hub.**

"The Hub, located near the intersection of the M4 and M7 motorways, was a key plank of the 2005 Metropolitan Strategy and it's already turning into a major employment centre.

**"My Department has until March 2009 to come back to me with an update on the draft subregional strategies, and plans for new jobs and new types of jobs for Western Sydney.**

"Work will also continue on rezoning and releasing land in Greenfield areas in the north and south west, as well as in already urbanised 'infill' areas that will house 70% of Sydney's future population."

Ms Keneally said the Government will work to ensure new housing and employment land in the North West and South West is integrated with transport. Moves already announced include:

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NEW SOUTH WALES

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- Delivering 100 more buses over the next three years;
- Delivering better corridors for those buses by utilising the benefits of the new North West T-Way as well as the widening of Victoria Road;
- Looking at a proposal to widen the M2;
- Delivering the \$2.35 billion Epping to Chatswood Rail Link which will ease congestion, provide more choice and flexibility for the people of the North West.

“The regional plans go out to the year 2031 and the population data, which is currently being broken down on a local government area basis, goes out to the year 2036,” Ms Keneally said.

“As was always intended, the Metropolitan Strategy will be under regular review. It contains medium to long-term plans which will be adapted to reflect infrastructure circumstances in the North West and South West, the population projections and the Premier’s priority of having jobs closer to home.

“The Government can, must and will continue to get on with the job of providing new land to market and new houses which are located close to jobs and serviced by transport.”

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