Deadline extension for comments on key transport and planning reviews

Sydneysiders have been given another month to have their say about the $50 billion Metropolitan Transport Plan and Metropolitan Strategy review, after the documents’ joint exhibition was extended today.

Discussion on these plans will now continue until 28 May.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said the extension comes after Sydney’s local councils requested more time to finalise detailed submissions on the Metropolitan Strategy, which has a strong focus on urban renewal and infill development.

“We decided to also extend the online community discussion on both plans to 28 May, with a single plan integrating transport and land use to be created after this time,” Mr Kelly said.

“This is a great opportunity for people to go online at www.shapeyourstate.nsw.gov.au and take part in a government-supported debate about the long-term future of their city.

“We want to hear people’s views about our Metropolitan Transport Plan and the Metropolitan Strategy, documents that will guide Sydney's future growth and development.

“These forums give people the opportunity to directly tell the Government how they feel about issues such as population growth, housing development and transport planning.

“Sydney is growing and must continue to adapt if it’s to retain its standing as Australia’s most liveable city (Mercer’s Quality of Living Survey 2009).

“Our population is expected to reach six million by 2036. We will need 770,000 more homes and 760,000 more jobs to address to cater for this growth.

“This growth will influence the way our city functions on both a large scale and at the neighbourhood level, so it’s important to go online and have your say.”

Mr Kelly said it made sense to review the Metropolitan Strategy -- Sydney’s 25-year growth plan -- alongside exhibition of the largest transport infrastructure program being undertaken by any State Government in Australia.

“At the end of the review period, we will examine all the feedback and deliver an integrated Metropolitan Plan combining land-use and transport planning that will guide Sydney’s growth to 2036.

“Sydney needs a comprehensive plan that is responsive to local, national and global change and gives Government and the private sector more certainty when deciding policy, planning and investment.”

Mr Kelly said population growth and transport were the topics attracting the most debate to date on the Metropolitan Strategy review forum.

“Around 23 per cent of all comments have been about transport, with many people calling for more homes near public transport and suggesting ways to make our city better for pedestrians and cyclists.
“Population growth was another major talking point, attracting 20 per cent of all comments. This was to be expected, given the renewed national debate about Australia’s population.”

Mr Kelly said people were also concerned with the future of agricultural and environmental land on Sydney’s fringes (12 per cent of all comments) and the supply of housing into the future (11 per cent).

“We welcome all views on these important topics,” he said.

Background Notes:
- The Metropolitan Strategy was first released in 2005
- Since its release in 2005, the Metropolitan Strategy has supported some of the following outcomes:
  - The creation of a global economic corridor served by public transport between North Sydney and Macquarie Park;
  - A new Western Sydney Employment Area near the corner of the M4 and M7 motorways;
  - Funding for a series of regional recreation walking trails and creation of the Western Sydney Parklands;
  - The conversion of Sydney Olympic Park from a predominantly sporting venue into a vibrant mixed-use community;
  - Delivery of, and planning for, homes and jobs connected to new infrastructure in Sydney’s North-West and South-West Growth Centres;
  - Relocation of cargo and imported vehicle movements from Sydney Harbour to Port Kembla