Premier Kristina Keneally today announced the beginning of the formal public consultation on Sydney’s Metropolitan Strategy.

The *Sydney Towards 2036* discussion paper is the first stage in an extensive consultation process to review Sydney’s Metropolitan Strategy.

This review is an examination of how Sydney can grow in a sustainable way.

It also includes how Sydney can maintain its status as a financial capital, an international destination, and a modern, cohesive city while securing local homes and jobs, and protecting the natural environment.

“Sydney is changing – not only are we growing, but our house sizes are changing, our ways of life are changing, and our needs are changing,” Ms Keneally said.

“We want to be plugged into the internet; we want close and accessible public transport; we want to be close to communities, close to our jobs, and many want smaller homes.

“Our city will adapt to reflect our changes – this review is about making sure we facilitate these changes while conserving our neighbourhoods and our way of life.

“Sydney’s population is expected to reach six million by 2036 – and we will need an additional 770,000 homes and 760,000 more jobs to respond to this growth.

“*Sydney’s Metropolitan Strategy* will ensure we have a world-class plan that is responsive to local, national and global change and gives Government and the private sector more certainty when making decisions about policy, planning and investment.

“This is the first time we will bring together planning and transport in one comprehensive vision for Sydney."

The *Sydney Towards 2036* discussion paper focuses on:

- Sustainable planning for a growing population;
- Providing jobs closer to where more people are living, especially in western Sydney, through the revitalisation of the Blacktown, Liverpool, Penrith and Campbelltown-Macarthur major centres and continuing employment land releases;
- Integrating land-use with transport and infrastructure planning;
- Building vibrant and sustainable communities through urban renewal, particularly around key transport hubs;
- Making Sydney climate change ready by providing more jobs, services and homes close to public transport, ensuring residents have a reduced exposure to likely petrol price increases;
- Meeting changing housing needs; and
- Protecting land for primary production - including our food belt - open space and conservation on Sydney’s fringe through continuing the current policy of building the majority of new housing around existing centres.
Minister for Planning, Mr Kelly, said the discussion paper points out if Sydney continues to sprawl at historic levels up to 2031, then almost half of all remaining available land outside of national parks will be consumed.

“Sydney’s population is expected to reach six million by 2036,” Mr Kelly said.

“To cater for this growth we must protect our neighbourhoods and control where growth occurs.

“We need to look at some of the tough issues to ensure our children, our parents, and families can continue to work and live in their communities – and are not forced outside the city.

“That means providing homes close to jobs and transport options. It means conserving our green neighbourhoods, conserving our green belt, conserving our food bowl, conserving our enviable way of life,” Mr Kelly.

Consultation on Sydney’s Metropolitan Strategy discussion paper is running hand-in-hand with the exhibition of the $50 billion Metropolitan Transport Plan linking land use and transport planning - which closes on April 30.

**Following feedback on both documents, a single Metropolitan Plan will be created.**

The Department of Planning will organise meetings with key stakeholders such as local government, industry bodies and environment groups.

This review will include public consultation, stakeholder workshops and an online forum. Please have a say in how our city looks and develops over the next 25 years by logging into www.shapeyourstate.nsw.gov.au.

This discussion paper is available at www.metrostrategy.nsw.gov.au

**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.