

RESPONSE GIVEN TO THE SUN HERALD RE SYDNEY'S URBAN/RURAL BOUNDARY

On 30 June 2013, an article appeared in the Sun Herald about the dividing line between urban and rural areas of Sydney. Below is the full response the department gave to the Sun Herald:

RESPONSE

The draft Metropolitan Strategy seeks feedback on the concept of a Metropolitan Rural Area and we welcome debate and discussion on this topic.

The boundary that is indicated in the draft Metro Strategy is meant to simply show existing or already planned urban areas such as the North West and South West Growth Centres compared to the rural areas beyond.

This boundary will be further refined following consideration of submissions on the draft Strategy and will also be reviewed over time in response to Sydney's changing needs for jobs and housing.

Previous metropolitan strategies have generally defined rural and resource lands on the city's fringe but this strategy elevates the importance of the area as one of nine 'city shapers' with a critical role shaping how our city functions.

By defining both urban and rural areas, you can better manage where growth will occur and therefore ensure that infrastructure and services are in place to support this growth.

The Metropolitan Urban Area will be the primary focus for urban development while the Metropolitan Rural Area will be managed to provide for local growth and to maximise its productivity as an agricultural and resource precinct.

The department does not regard all rural land as urban land in waiting and by establishing a Metropolitan Rural Area - and mechanisms to allow orderly greenfield land release in Sydney - hopes to better deal with this issue.