New strategy to drive houses, jobs and new infrastructure across northern Sydney

An additional 39,000 new jobs, 37,000 homes and new infrastructure are planned for northern Sydney over the next two decades as part of the NSW Government’s new strategy to support Sydney’s growth.

The Director-General of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, Sam Haddad, today released the draft Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney to 2031, which sets out a completely fresh approach to planning for Sydney’s future population and economic growth.

Mr Haddad said the draft strategy was being put out for consultation to enable residents across Sydney’s northern suburbs to have their say about how to plan more effectively for new housing, jobs and infrastructure in their area.

By 2031, Sydney’s population is expected to be about 5.6 million residents – a jump of 1.3 million.

“How we plan for this population growth is vital to northern Sydney’s role as a key area for housing and jobs growth, and as part of one of the most liveable and successful cities in the world,” Mr Haddad said.

“When finalised, this strategy will boost the number of jobs, homes and services available and strengthen northern Sydney’s place as a key area of greater metropolitan Sydney – the number one place to live and do business in Australia.

“Sydneysiders have told us they want more choice in the types of housing available; more affordable housing close to jobs and services; good transport connections; and better management of the environment.

Specific initiatives in the northern area to support these outcomes will include boosting employment at the Brookvale-Dee Why and Hornsby major centres and potential new employment areas around the Northern Beaches health precinct.

The draft Metropolitan Strategy outlines broad directions for the future of six subregions, including the North Subregion, which will be the subject of detailed future planning.

The North Subregion covers the council areas of Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai, Manly, Pittwater and Warringah.

Some of the future directions for the North Subregion include:

- Targeting Brookvale-Dee Why for 3,000 additional jobs and Hornsby for 1,000 additional jobs by 2031 – helping place employment closer to homes;
- Delivering new homes, jobs and revitalised centres with good community facilities around each of the North West Rail Link stations;
• An Urban Activation Precinct at Epping to deliver better housing and employment opportunities alongside public spaces, schools, community facilities, transport and other infrastructure;
• Investigating potential employment benefits (such as research and development facilities and business parks) as a part of the proposed health precinct at Frenchs Forest;
• Retaining strategically located industrial land at Brookvale, Thornleigh and Hornsby;
• Strengthening the transport connections to Sydney’s global corridor as well as cross regional links with Chatswood via Brookvale-Dee Why;
• Providing for an increased range of housing choice for centres along the northern railway line, the North Shore line, the Chatswood to Epping line, and strategic bus corridors.

Mr Haddad said the government will work with groups of councils and the community to create Subregional Delivery Plans to implement the Metropolitan Strategy across the subregions.

“In conjunction with the NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan and State Infrastructure Strategy, this represents a major change in the way we coordinate the development and infrastructure needed to enable growth across Sydney.

“Importantly, the Metropolitan Strategy will lay a strong foundation for economic growth by creating more certain and transparent decision-making for communities and businesses,” Mr Haddad said.

The draft Metropolitan Strategy is on exhibition until 31 May 2013. More information, including a video fly-through, is available at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sydney

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