

Thursday, 21 March 2013

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

An additional 43,000 new jobs, 42,000 homes and new infrastructure are planned for South 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, has 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 southern 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 southern 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 southern Sydney's place in greater metropolitan Sydney – the number one place to live and do business in Australia.

"Sydneyers 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 southern Sydney to support these outcomes will include targeting employment growth in the centres at Hurstville and Kogarah.

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

The South Subregion covers the council areas of Canterbury, Hurstville, Kogarah, Rockdale and Sutherland.

Some of the initiatives in the South Subregion include:

- Supporting the Hurstville major centre as the primary subregional focus for additional office, retail, entertainment, cultural and public administration growth as well as higher intensity residential development;
- Providing capacity for 5,000 additional jobs to 2031 in the Hurstville major centre;
- Using St George Hospital as a catalyst for additional health, medical, educational and finance related industries at the Kogarah town centre, where an additional 2,000 jobs are targeted;

- Supporting additional housing at Kogarah along with office and retail growth;
- Increasing the capacity for office, retail, entertainment, services and mixed-use development at Sutherland;
- Expanding capacity on the M5 motorway, investigating and protecting the F6 corridor and improving rail capacity on the Illawarra line.

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 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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