

Thursday, 21 March 2013

New strategy to drive houses, jobs and new infrastructure from Parramatta to The Hills

An additional 142,000 new jobs, 148,000 homes and new infrastructure are planned for central and north west 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 from Auburn and Parramatta to The Hills 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. The draft strategy plans for 50 per cent of all new jobs to be in Western Sydney.

"How we plan for this population growth is vital to Western 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 Western Sydney's place in greater metropolitan Sydney – the number one place to live and do business in Australia.

Specific initiatives in Sydney's West Central and North West Subregion to support these outcomes will include building the role of Parramatta as Sydney's second CBD and creating revitalised centres along the North West Rail Link.

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

The West Central and North West Subregion covers the council areas of Auburn, Blacktown, Holroyd, Parramatta and The Hills.

Some of the future directions of the West Central and North West Subregion include:

- Building on Parramatta's role as Sydney's second CBD by providing capacity for 21,000 additional jobs by 2031;
- Building the employment role of precincts surrounding Parramatta, including the Westmead health precinct and the Rydalmere education precinct;
- Seeking to extend Sydney's global jobs corridor, which runs from Port Botany through Sydney CBD to Macquarie Park, further west to Parramatta and to North West Sydney using the North West Rail Link;

- Urban Activation Precincts at Epping Town Centre, Carter Street Homebush and Wentworth Point to deliver better housing and employment opportunities alongside public spaces, schools, community facilities, transport and other infrastructure;
- Supporting the subregion's role in providing fresh food and other resources to Sydney by recognising a Metropolitan Rural Area;
- Targeting 14,000 additional jobs at Sydney Olympic Park by 2031 and investigating improved transit connections with Silverwater and Parramatta;
- Targeting 15,000 additional jobs at Norwest and enhancing its role as a metropolitan-scale business hub, located at the proposed North West Rail Link station;
- Expanding the role of Castle Hill and Blacktown, with capacity for an additional 3,000 and 4,000 jobs respectively;
- Providing capacity for at least 6,000 additional jobs at Rouse Hill;
- Continuing to plan for at least 54,000 of the estimated 70,000 new dwellings in the North West Growth centre over the next two decades.

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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