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

An additional 37,000 new jobs, 39,000 homes and new infrastructure are planned for Western 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 western 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. The strategy plans for 50 per cent of all new jobs to be in Western Sydney.

“How we plan for this growth is vital to Western Sydney’s role as the gateway to western NSW, 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 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 western area to support these outcomes will include investigating a 10,000 hectare area for an expanded employment zone and targeting the Penrith city centre for 8,000 more jobs.

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

The West Subregion covers the council areas of Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury and Penrith.

Some of the future directions of the West Subregion include:

- Progressing investigations into up to 10,000 hectares of land, including in the Penrith council area, to become a major new employment hub – this area is known as the Western Sydney Employment Investigation Area;
- Strengthening Penrith’s role as a regional hub for offices, retail and administration and target the city centre for 8,000 new jobs by 2031;
- Supporting the growth of the Penrith Health and Education Precinct;
• Supporting the subregion’s role in providing fresh food and other resources to Sydney by recognising a Metropolitan Rural Area;
• Supporting and enhancing the subregions recreation and tourism opportunities; offered by the Blue Mountain World heritage Area and Hawkesbury-Nepean River
• Investigating a potential new residential area at Orchard Hills.

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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