

Media release



Wednesday, 29 May 2013

Have your say about Sydney's Metropolitan Strategy

Residents will have a once in a generation opportunity to influence Sydney's future at two family-friendly community forums being held at Penrith on Saturday, June 1.

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure has organised the summits to drive feedback into the draft Metropolitan Strategy.

The draft *Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney to 2031* was released in March and outlines how best to accommodate an additional 1.3 million residents by 2031, up from 4.3 million now. It's on exhibition until 28 June.

The draft strategy also targets up to 625,000 new jobs by 2031 – of which 50 per cent are proposed to be in western Sydney.

Penrith is part of the West subregion, where an additional 37,000 new jobs, 39,000 homes and new infrastructure are planned.

One forum will be held between 9:30am-12:00pm, with another from 1:00pm-3.30pm. They will be held at the Penrith Panthers event centre, 123 Mulgoa St, Penrith.

Department Community and Stakeholder Engagement Executive Director Trish Oakley said the forums would involve in-depth discussions on aspects of the city that are important to residents, including jobs, homes, transport, community infrastructure such as schools, and the environment.

Activities will also be available for children to get involved in planning for the future of their city, including games and puzzles.

"We are very keen for families and all residents to get involved in big picture planning for Sydney," Ms Oakley said.

"This is the first Metropolitan Strategy placed on public exhibition since the early 1990s and as such there is a once in a generation opportunity to influence its outcome.

"This is an important opportunity for residents to help ensure that the city we live and work in is a great place to be in the future.

"Sydney should be the best place in Australia at any time in our life, whether that's enabling us to stay living in our community as we age, or ensuring our children have great job opportunities and can afford to buy a home."

Some of its current key directions for 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;

- 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 subregion's recreation and tourism opportunities offered by the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and Hawkesbury-Nepean River; and
- Investigating a potential new residential area at Orchard Hills.

Registration for the events is required and can be undertaken at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sydney, or by calling 1300 305 695.

More information about what is planned for Sydney's future, including a short video, community guide and online discussion forums, can also be found at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sydney.

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