



DOC20/2019

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## Letter of Support: The Hills Shire Council Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement

Thank you for submitting The Hills Shire draft Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) seeking support from the Greater Sydney Commission (the Commission) for consistency with the Greater Sydney Region Plan – *A Metropolis of Three Cities* (GSRP) and Central City District Plan. The making of LSPSs by councils in Greater Sydney marks a milestone in the delivery of planning reforms that place greater emphasis on strategic planning.

In our role as the Commission's Assurance Panel, we appreciate that these first LSPSs across Greater Sydney are foundational in strengthening how growth and change will be managed in the future. We note your draft LSPS has been prepared in response to the provisions of Section 3.9 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

**We confirm that the Commission supports The Hills Shire Council's draft Local Strategic Planning Statement (October 2019) as being consistent with the Greater Sydney Region Plan and Central City District Plan (under Section 3.9(3A) of the EP&A Act).**

**Our decision on consistency reflects the significant work undertaken to develop a comprehensive strategic planning and evidence base to inform your Local Strategic Planning Statement and deliver the Central City District Plan.**

In this context, the Commission's expectation is that Council will undertake this program of work to implement the LSPS and has, at **Attachment A**, included Advisory Notes to assist Council. These Advisory Notes have regard to:

- the interrelationship of the LSPS, housing targets and a Local Housing Strategy for the Hills Shire;
- updates to population projections during the preparation of the LSPS;
- Future Transport 2056's city-shaping and city-serving transport infrastructure;
- interdependencies with State government programs and policies;
- key initiatives that relate to resilience planning; and
- Council-led initiatives identified for further investigation.



It is further noted that Council may need to update the LSPS as key supporting strategies, including the Local Housing Strategy are finalised.

In conclusion, we acknowledge the significant amount of work that Council has undertaken to develop the LSPS, and the spirit of collaboration that Council has shown throughout this process. Please pass on our thanks to all the members of your team who have assisted in achieving this significant milestone for The Hills Shire Council. We look forward to continuing our work together creating a more liveable, productive and sustainable Greater Sydney.

With the benefit of this Letter of Support, it is now up to Council to determine whether it will make the draft LSPS (October 2019). Please note that no further amendments may be made to the LSPS prior to it being made (unless a further Letter of Support is obtained from the Commission).

Please be advised that once the LSPS is published on the NSW ePlanning Portal the LSPS Tracker on the Commission's website will be updated to include this Letter of Support. Should you have any questions on the making of your LSPS, please contact Catherine Van Laeren, A/Executive Director, Central River City and Western Parkland City, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on (02) 9860 1520 or [Catherine.VanLaeren@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Catherine.VanLaeren@planning.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

**Lucy Turnbull AO**  
**Chief Commissioner**  
**Chair of Assurance Panel**  
**Commission delegate**

**Peter Poulet**  
**Central City District Commissioner**  
**Assurance Panel Member**

**04 March 2020**

cc. Jim Betts, Secretary, Department of Planning Industry and Environment  
Elizabeth Mildwater, Deputy Secretary, Transport for NSW  
Anthony Manning, Chief Executive, School Infrastructure NSW  
Nigel Lyons, Deputy Secretary, NSW Ministry of Health



## Attachment A

### Advisory Notes on implementation of The Hills Shire draft LSPS:

These Advisory Notes highlight key considerations to support Council in the implementation of the first LSPS.

Central City District Plan Themes/Priorities/Actions	Considerations for implementation of the LSPS
<b>Infrastructure and Collaboration</b>	
<p><b>1. State-led transport investigations</b></p> <p><i>Planning Priority C1, Action 3 Align forecast growth with infrastructure.</i></p> <p><i>Planning Priority C10, Action 46 requires The Hills Shire Council to work with the NSW Government to identify a potential future corridor for mass transit links to Greater Parramatta.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to consult with TfNSW on planning for city-shaping transport initiatives in Future Transport 2056<sup>1</sup> including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 0-10 years investigation in progress: North South rail link in Western Parkland City: Cudgegong Rd – St Marys.</li> <li>○ 20+ years visionary initiative: Parramatta to Norwest mass transit/train link.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Liveability</b>	
<p><b>2. Local Housing Strategy</b></p> <p><i>Planning Priority C5, Action 16 requires Council to prepare a Local Housing Strategy.</i></p> <p><i>Planning Priority C5, Action 17 requires Councils to prepare Affordable Rental Housing Target Schemes following development of implementation arrangements.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note: the NSW Government’s Local Housing Strategy Guidelines require Council’s Local Housing Strategy to be approved by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE).</li> <li>• As set out in the Local Housing Strategy Guideline<sup>2</sup>, the strategy is to include an analysis of changing demographics, housing density and housing market demand to confirm take-up rates and proposed staged approach.</li> <li>• Note: the Local Housing Strategy should be informed by NSW Government’s Guideline for</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Source: <https://future.transport.nsw.gov.au/delivering-future-transport-2056>

<sup>2</sup> Source: <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Guidelines/Local-Housing-Strategy-Guideline-and-Template.pdf>



Central City District Plan Themes/Priorities/Actions	Considerations for implementation of the LSPS
	Developing an Affordable Housing Contribution Scheme <sup>3</sup> .
<p><b>3. Local Housing Strategy – 6-10 Year Housing Target</b></p> <p><i>Planning Priority C5, Action 16(b) requires Local Housing Strategies to address the delivery of 6-10 year (when agreed) housing supply targets for each local government area</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As set out in Action 4 of the Greater Sydney Region Plan, Council's 6-10 year housing target is to inform the development of updated local environmental plans (LEPs) and housing strategies.</li> <li>• The Commission notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council's housing analysis<sup>4</sup> indicates a 0-10 year target for the period 2016/17 to 2025/26 of 18,500 dwellings.</li> <li>• DPIE monitoring<sup>5</sup> shows the current pipeline 2019/20 to 2023/24 of 12,700 dwellings.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In this context, Council is to show how it can meet an indicative draft range for 6-10 year housing targets for the period 2021/22 to 2025/26 of 9,500 – 11,500 dwellings as part of its Local Housing Strategy and relevant LEP updates.</li> <li>• Testing this indicative range is to include a preliminary assessment of any relevant State government investment decisions in consultation with State agencies.</li> <li>• Where relevant data is available, councils are to identify the contribution of non-standard dwellings<sup>6</sup> (seniors housing, boarding houses and secondary dwellings) in relation to this indicative range.</li> <li>• Note: The NSW Government's strategic documents outline the direction for planning land use, service</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> Source: <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Housing/Diverse-and-affordable-housing/-/media/C6F1D0F0359C4AB7A28C90BE7DEEE636.ashx>

<sup>4</sup> Source: Hills Future 2036, Local Strategic Planning Statement October 2019, p52

<sup>5</sup> Source: <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Research-and-Demography/Sydney-Housing-Supply-Forecast/Forecast-data>

<sup>6</sup> Standard dwellings relate to those monitored via DPIE's housing monitor (ie. Sydney Water connections) and Non-standard dwellings are those delivered under housing SEPPs such as seniors, boarding houses and affordable rental (granny flats). For more information refer to: <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Research-and-Demography/Sydney-Housing-Supply-Forecast/Other-forms-of-housing>



Central City District Plan Themes/Priorities/Actions	Considerations for implementation of the LSPS
	and infrastructure delivery across NSW. Population projections <sup>7</sup> are subject to review over time and will be managed through updates to the Region and district plans.
<p><b>4. Local Character</b></p> <p><i>Planning Priority C6, Action 18 includes deliver great places through recognition and celebration of the character of a place and its people.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note: In identifying local character and/or desired future character, Council should have reference to the NSW Government's Local Character and Place Guideline 2019 and Government Architect NSW 2017, Better Placed: An integrated design policy for the built environment of NSW South Wales.</li> <li>Consult with DPIE on the approach to implementing local character.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Heritage</b></p> <p><i>Planning Priority C6, Action 19 requires Councils to identify, conserve and enhance environmental heritage.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to work with DPIE and Heritage NSW to ensure a strategic approach is taken to Aboriginal, cultural and natural heritage in implementing the LSPS and developing LSPS updates.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Productivity</b></p>	
<p><b>6. Industrial and Employment Lands Strategy</b></p> <p><i>Planning Priority C11, Action 49 requires The Hills Shire Council to review and manage industrial and urban service land by undertaking a review of all industrial lands to confirm their retention or transition to higher order uses and prepare appropriate controls.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note: The Central City District Plan categorises industrial and urban services land in The Hills as <i>Review and Manage, Retain and Manage and Plan and Manage</i>.</li> <li>Note: Council's Strategic Review aims to retain and manage all industrial and urban services land in The Hills Shire. The review will inform the Commission's work on Action 11 of the GSRP.</li> <li>Confirm with DPIE if Council's Strategic Review of Industrial and Employment Activities Review 2019 and future Economic Growth Plan require approval to inform LEP updates.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Strategic Centres</b></p> <p><i>Planning Priority C10 requires The Hills Shire Council to strengthen the roles of</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirm with DPIE if Council's Productivity and Centres Strategy 2019 requires approval to inform LEP updates.</li> </ul>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Factsheets-and-faqs/Research-and-demography/Population-projections/2019-The-Hills.pdf>



Central City District Plan Themes/Priorities/Actions	Considerations for implementation of the LSPS
<p><i>Castle Hill, Norwest and Rouse Hill Strategic Centres (Actions 41, 45 and 47), prioritise strategic land use and infrastructure plans for growing centres (Action 39), provide access to jobs, goods and services in centres (Action 37) and create new centres in accordance with the Principles for Greater Sydney's Centres (Action 38).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm with DPIE if Council's future retail, strategic centres and public domain strategies requires approval to inform LEP updates.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sustainability</b></p>	
<p><b>8. Open Space Strategy</b></p> <p><i>Planning Priority C17, Action 71 requires Councils to maximise the use of existing open space and protect, enhance and expand open space.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider Council's contribution to the Premier's Priority to 'Increase the proportion of homes in urban areas within 10 minutes' walk of quality green, open and public space by 10 per cent by 2023'.</li> <li>• Confirm with DPIE if Council's Recreation Strategy requires approval to inform LEP updates.</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Resilience to natural and urban hazards</b></p> <p><i>Planning Priority C20 requires Council to respond to the impacts of climate change (Action 81) and limit the intensification of development in existing urban areas most exposed to hazards (Action 82)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with relevant state agencies and neighbouring councils to strengthen approaches to resilience, particularly in the review and update of flood planning controls and in any future updates to Council's Environment Strategy 2019.</li> </ul>
<p><b>10. Rural Lands Strategy</b></p> <p><i>Planning Priority C18 requires Councils to maintain or enhance the values of the Metropolitan Rural Area using place-based planning to deliver targeted environmental, social and economic outcomes (Action 73) and limit urban development to within the Urban Area (Action 74).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm with DPIE if Council's Rural Strategy requires approval to inform LEP updates.</li> </ul>
<p><b>11. Flooding</b></p> <p><i>Planning Priority C20, Action 84 requires Council to respond to the direction for managing flood risk in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley as set out</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to consult with State agencies to manage flood risk in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley and guidance on land use limitations to reflect the flood risk.</li> </ul>



Central City District Plan Themes/Priorities/Actions	Considerations for implementation of the LSPS
<p><i>in 'Resilient Valley, Resilient Communities – Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management</i></p>	
<p><b>Implementation</b></p>	
<p><b>12. Planning Framework</b> <i>Section 6 Implementation, Figure 26.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note: Notwithstanding the content of the LSPS, Ministerial Directions under Section 9.1 of the EP&amp;A Act and State Environmental Planning Policies continue to apply to the LGA.</li> </ul>
<p><b>13. Updates to LSPS</b> <i>Planning Priority C21, Preparing local strategic planning statements informed by local strategic planning</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As set out in the LSPS Guidelines, revisions to the LSPS may be required in response to significant changes in the LGA such as announcements on centres revitalisation, new infrastructure investment and employment opportunities, significant changes in projected population growth or changes to the relevant higher order strategic plan.</li> </ul>
<p><b>14. Monitoring and Review</b> <i>Planning Priority C21, Action 1 LEP Review and Section 3.8 (4a) EP&amp;A Act LEP Updates</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress on the implementation of the District Plan will be reviewed and monitored with a focus on actions that support LEP Updates.</li> </ul>
<p><b>15. Monitoring and Review – Performance Indicators</b> <i>Planning Priority C22, Action 87 requires the development of performance indicators in consultation with state agencies and councils that ensure the 10 Directions to inform inter-agency, State and local government decision-making.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council is encouraged to use the performance indicators in <i>The Pulse of Greater Sydney</i>, which are available at Region, district and LGA levels<sup>8</sup>.</li> </ul>

<sup>8</sup> Source: <https://www.greater.sydney/pulse-of-greater-sydney>