

## EDO NSW – Key Issues Summary

### Submission on the *Sydney over the next 20 years* discussion paper (revised Metropolitan Strategy)

#### Consultation details

In May 2012 the NSW Government issued a discussion paper, *Sydney over the next 20 years*, to assist the development of a revised Sydney Metropolitan Strategy.

The Government is seeking public comment by **Friday 29 June** on the discussion paper, and through online forums and drop-in centres. Comments and submissions will inform a draft Metropolitan Strategy, to be released by the Planning Department in mid-late 2012. The finalised Strategy is to be released by the end of 2012.<sup>1</sup>

There are several ways you can have input:

- go to one of the 15 **public drop-in sessions** being held at libraries across Sydney
- visit our Metro Strategy **online forum** at <http://haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/metrostrategy>
- **email** your comments to [metrostrategy@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:metrostrategy@planning.nsw.gov.au).
- **post** your submission to the Metropolitan Strategy Team, Department of Planning and Infrastructure, GPO Box 39, Sydney 2001.
- [www.facebook.com/PlanSydney](http://www.facebook.com/PlanSydney)
- Join the conversation on **Twitter** [@PlanSydney](https://twitter.com/PlanSydney)

#### Background

The previous Government's 2005 Metropolitan Strategy was reviewed in 2010, resulting in the *Metropolitan Plan for Sydney 2036* (December 2010). The current Government states the Strategy is being updated now "to align with the priorities and timeframe of the recently released *NSW 2021*, the NSW Government's 10-year plan to guide the state's policy and budget decisions."<sup>2</sup>

The Government states that a new Metropolitan Strategy is needed because Sydney "...requires a vision for how the city can be improved now, and how it can effectively manage the growth, change and opportunities for the future." Once developed, the new Strategy aims to provide this vision, "based on extensive consultation".<sup>3</sup>

The discussion paper draws on the objectives in the Government's State Plan, *NSW 2021*. The State Plan includes 32 goals across 5 areas – economy, services, infrastructure, local environment and communities, and government accountability. The new Metropolitan Strategy is also being developed alongside the *State Infrastructure Strategy* and a *Long Term Transport Master Plan*,<sup>4</sup> and all three are to align strongly with the State Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> See NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure, *Sydney over the next 20 years* landing page <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/StrategicPlanning/MetropolitanPlanningforSydney/tabid/487/language/en-US/Default.aspx> (accessed June 2012).

<sup>2</sup> NSW Government, A New Metropolitan Strategy, 'FAQs', <http://haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/faq/index/28#106>.

<sup>3</sup> NSW Government, *Sydney over the next 20 years: A Discussion Paper*, p 5.

<sup>4</sup> "The State Infrastructure Strategy, being finalised this year, will encompass the delivery of critical public infrastructure that drives productivity and economic growth. The NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan, also being finalised in 2012, will be a comprehensive and integrated strategy for all modes of transport across the

The discussion paper sets out **11 principles** to shape the planning of Sydney, and invites feedback.<sup>5</sup>

The discussion paper then outlines **nine key themes** which the Government seeks feedback on through a series of questions. In brief these themes relate to **housing, jobs, transport, infrastructure, equity and lifestyle, environment and natural hazards, agricultural and 'resource' land, regional connections, and strategy implementation.**

The existing metropolitan plan covers nine similar themes (with some differences), and sets out goals under each theme.<sup>6</sup> It is not clear from the discussion paper what the current Government's position on these goals is, or whether they will be strengthened, weakened or retained. If there are particular goals you agree or disagree with, you may wish to note this in your submission.

### **EDO NSW comments on the Metropolitan Strategy discussion paper**

In brief, EDO NSW makes the following comments:

- Continuity and differences from the existing Metropolitan Plan and goals should be clear.
- The new plan should build on community consultations that informed the existing Metropolitan Plan.
- EDO sets out a vision for Sydney that places ecological sustainability (**ESD**) at the centre, and commits Sydney to becoming a world leading 'sustainable city'.
- We propose some additional guiding principles to those in the discussion paper:
  - ESD should be added as the overarching guiding principle
  - the principle on *adapting* to climate change should also refer to *mitigation*

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state over the next two decades." NSW Government, A New Metropolitan Strategy, 'FAQs', <http://haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/faq/index/28#106>.

<sup>5</sup> "The principles include:

- *linking land use planning to transport and infrastructure*
- *strengthening the economic and employment opportunities that come from growth*
- *protecting the natural environment and our Aboriginal and cultural heritage*
- *providing housing across the city that suits different needs and budgets*
- *providing access to a range of jobs across the city, particularly to balance growth in Western Sydney*
- *supporting the Regional Cities of Parramatta, Penrith and Liverpool and other centres with appropriate services and infrastructure*
- *making it easier to access public transport from all parts of Sydney*
- *providing access to economic and recreational opportunities, regardless of where people live*
- *building new places and improving existing places through a high standard of design, energy efficiency and excellent public spaces*
- *building new places and improving existing places to promote healthy, active lifestyles and to create safe, inclusive and comfortable neighbourhoods*
- *adapting to a changing climate."*

<sup>6</sup> See former NSW Government, *Metropolitan Plan for Sydney 2036* (December 2010), Overview, pp 6-7. Eg, the five goals under 'Tackling climate change and protecting Sydney's natural environment' were:

- *Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the manufacturing and commercial sectors*
- *Review the scope and stringency of BASIX*
- *Prepare a climate change adaptation strategy for Sydney*
- *Integrate environmental targets into land use and infrastructure decisions*
- *Implement water, air and biodiversity plans for Sydney*

- early, comprehensive and ongoing community engagement in planning and development decisions
- requiring plans, policies and significant development projects to maintain or improve environmental outcomes
- the integration of planning systems and strategies with natural resource management (**NRM**) goals at the catchment level and State-wide
- transparency, accountability and integrity of planning processes and decision making
- regular, meaningful progress monitoring, public reporting and review of plans and strategies.

### **Comments on key themes**

Our comments focus on five of the nine key themes in the discussion paper:

#### **Key theme – ‘Protecting our environment and building resilience to natural hazards’**

EDO NSW supports:

- Placing ESD at the centre of planning decisions
- Making Sydney climate change ready, by:
  - Making climate change a fundamental consideration in strategic planning
  - Considering climate change in development assessment and approval
  - Laws that support climate change adaptation to sea level rise
  - Protecting biodiversity against climate change
  - A whole-of-government approach to climate change policy and action.
- Helping Sydney’s economy become more productive and more sustainable, by:
  - Adopting urban sustainability goals (eg, for the use of energy, water, transport, waste reduction and protection of bushland)
  - Driving sustainability and energy efficiency (including through BASIX)
  - Fast-track options for environmentally friendly development.

#### **Key theme – ‘Protecting productive rural and resource lands’**

EDO NSW supports the protection of agricultural and high conservation land by:

- Greater focus on ‘green infrastructure’ (bushland, parks, gardens, waterways)<sup>7</sup>
- Accounting for the cumulative impacts on biodiversity and ecological services
- Accounting for the true value and full cost of biodiversity and ecological services

#### **Key theme – ‘Providing efficient transport networks’**

To achieve ESD, the Metropolitan Strategy should focus on measures to reduce car dependency; improve public transport and ‘active’ transport (such as walking and cycling) in Sydney; as well as strengthening urban centres around transport hubs (eg train stations).

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<sup>7</sup> See Australian Institute of Landscape Architects: <http://www.aila.org.au/greeninfrastructure/>.

### **Key theme – ‘Providing equitable access to a great lifestyle’**

Part of the EDO’s vision for planning in NSW is a system that *Improves the liveability of NSW communities – including a healthy environment; good public health; fair choices for transport, work and lifestyle; affordability; and a sense of community.* Ongoing public participation and community engagement is needed to develop these concepts in a way that is meaningful to the people of Sydney. This reflects our proposed guiding principle of ‘early, comprehensive and ongoing community engagement in planning and development decisions’.

### **Key theme – ‘Delivering the strategy’**

EDO NSW supports the Discussion Paper’s renewed commitment to delivery or implementation of the Metropolitan Strategy. This should be guided by the additional principle of ‘requiring accountability, integrity and transparency’.

We would support:

- Identifying clear accountabilities for delivery (e.g. agency responsible), agreed timeframes and clear performance measures for each action in the Strategy
- An integrated monitoring framework across the Strategy and related plans, that caters and responds to different levels of community understanding (i.e. accessibility)
- New reporting on sustainability indicators, NRM goals and environmental accounts
- Shift focus from ‘cutting red tape’ to ‘improving environmental standards and outcomes’
- Adoption of key OECD governance principles, such as planning ‘cities for citizens’, coordination (or integration) between authorities, community participation, and sustainability.

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*The full EDO NSW submission will be available on our website at [www.edonsw.org.au](http://www.edonsw.org.au) shortly. In the meantime, for further information please contact [rachel.walmsley @ edonsw.org.au](mailto:rachel.walmsley@edonsw.org.au).*