

JUNE 2007

# UPDATE REPORT

SYDNEY METROPOLITAN STRATEGY



## INTRODUCTION

The Metropolitan Strategy, *City of Cities—A Plan for Sydney's Future* was released in December 2005. The Strategy supports continuing economic growth while balancing social and environmental aspects and sets the guiding principles for Sydney to develop in a sustainable way.

*City of Cities* allows the State Government and local government to secure Sydney's future on a sustainable basis, providing a growing number of residents with stronger cities and centres; a spread of jobs in Western Sydney and along the global economic corridor; fair access to a diversity of housing, jobs, services and open space; safeguarded resource lands; improved environmental outcomes; and improved transport connections.

The Strategy is a long-term plan, providing the NSW Government's framework to manage the growth and development of Sydney over the next 25 years. The Strategy's implementation is at an early stage, while its long-term success can not be measured, many achievements have already been made, such as:

- release of the Government's *Employment Lands for Sydney—Action Plan*, setting out the strategy for securing up to 7,500 hectares of additional employment lands in Greater Sydney;
- approval of major developments in the Western Sydney Employment Hub, and investigating a further major extension of the Hub as part of the Action Plan;
- release of the (draft) city centre plans for the six regional cities of Wollongong, Gosford, Parramatta, Penrith, Liverpool and Newcastle, boosting jobs, housing and lifestyle opportunities in these cities; and
- establishment of the Western Sydney Parklands Trust, guiding the future of the green corridor from Blacktown to Liverpool.

This update report provides an overview of the key achievements and significant progress of the Metropolitan Strategy since its release. These achievements work towards an economically strong, socially and environmentally sustainable Sydney.

FIGURE 1 PLANNING FRAMEWORK

### NSW State Plan

### Aligning Infrastructure and Development

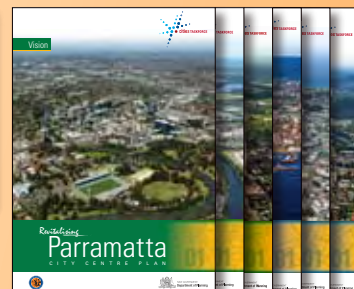
**2006**  
NSW STATE PLAN  
A NEW DIRECTION FOR NSW

**2005**  
METROPOLITAN  
STRATEGY  
CITY OF CITIES

**2006**  
STATE  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
STRATEGY

**2006**  
URBAN  
TRANSPORT  
STATEMENT

**2006**  
CITIES  
TASKFORCE  
SIX CITIES PLANS





**RELATED POLICIES AND PLANS**

Throughout 2006, the Metropolitan Strategy's objectives were enhanced by new Government directives for infrastructure and transport.

The *State Infrastructure Strategy*, released in May 2006, contributes to the achievement of the Metropolitan Strategy outcomes by setting out State investment commitments for infrastructure beyond the budget cycle—out 10 years into the future. Likewise, the Metropolitan Strategy, Regional Strategies and subsequent Subregional Strategies will provide long-term planning to inform future infrastructure investment decisions and reviews of the *State Infrastructure Strategy*.

The *Urban Transport Statement*, released in November 2006, includes a \$660 million package of new and accelerated initiatives to address Sydney's present and future transport needs. It includes initiatives to increase the availability and reliability of public transport across the Sydney Region and identifies 18 major transport corridors that are the focus for planning and delivery of integrated transport services.

The Statement reinforces the structure of Sydney as contained in the Metropolitan Strategy, and facilitates the implementation of key transport priorities.

The newly established Centre for Transport Planning and Product Development within the Ministry of Transport will ensure improved upfront transport planning and the timely implementation of the *Urban Transport Statement*.

The *State Plan—A New Direction for NSW*, released in November 2006, defines the overarching goals and outcomes that the NSW Government and the community agree should shape public policy over the next 10 years.

The objectives and priorities of the NSW State Plan mirror the aims of the Metropolitan Strategy and are set out in terms of five areas of activity of the NSW Government:

- **Rights, Respect and Responsibility**  
 The justice system and services that promote community involvement and citizenship.
- **Delivering Better Services**  
 Key areas of service delivery to the whole population (health, education, transport).
- **Fairness and Opportunity**  
 Services that promote social justice and reduce disadvantage.
- **Growing Prosperity Across NSW**  
 Activities that promote productivity and economic growth, including in rural and regional NSW.
- **Environment for Living**  
 Planning, environmental protection, arts and recreation.

Implementation of the Metropolitan Strategy is fundamental to the achievement of the priorities and targets set by the State Plan.

**Further Detailed Planning**

**2006  
 SYDNEY'S  
 LANDS  
 SUPPLY**

**2007  
 EMPLOYMENT  
 LANDS  
 ACTION PLAN**

**SUBREGIONAL  
 STRATEGIES**

**CORRIDOR  
 STRATEGIES**

**SYDNEY'S  
 STRATEGIC  
 CENTRES**





## A ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT



### Release of the *Employment Lands for Sydney—Action Plan* in March 2007

The Action Plan builds upon the key findings of the high-level Employment Lands Task Force, established in February 2006. The Task Force was chaired jointly by the NSW Department of Planning and the Department of State and Regional Development, and included representatives from across State Government and local government, business, academia, and the development industry. The Task Force put forward a number of recommendations to maximise opportunities for new investment and jobs from the timely provision of employment lands in the right places.

The Action Plan is part of the Government's long-term strategy to provide more jobs closer to where people live. The Plan sets out the strategy for securing up to 7,500 hectares of additional employment lands in Greater Sydney, including the Central Coast, to cater for at least 125,000 new jobs over the next 25 years.

Key initiatives include:

- Investment of \$1 million to establish a comprehensive Employment Lands Development Program to monitor provision of employment lands across metropolitan Sydney and speed up rezonings;
- A new State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) to provide the development framework for Employment Lands across NSW;
- Work to stimulate investment and jobs growth in existing employment lands including St Marys–Dunheved, Milperra and areas east of the Liverpool town centre;
- A new Employment Lands Ministerial Advisory Committee to provide ongoing advice on the provision of Employment Lands across NSW; and
- Investigating a major extension to the Western Sydney Employment Hub.



### Recognition of the Western Sydney Employment Hub as State significant

The lands in the vicinity of the M4 and M7 Motorway interchange (the Western Sydney Employment Hub) were recognised as State significant for employment and investment. An audit of land use and infrastructure issues in the Hub was completed, and a process of rezoning sites for employment purposes has commenced. As part of the *Employment Lands for Sydney—Action Plan*, the Government will investigate a major extension of the Western Sydney Employment Hub, including parts of Badgery's Creek and Kemps Creek.

Major developments were approved in this area, including an \$87 million Coles Myer Distribution Centre which is expected to employ 500 workers, a \$75 million Coca-Cola warehouse and distribution facility expected to employ 300 workers, a \$45 million Kimberly-Clark Distribution Centre generating 140 permanent jobs, and a \$41 million Woolworths Liquor Distribution Centre expected to create 190 operational jobs. A new employment estate at Huntingwood West is also approved and is expected to generate 800 permanent jobs for Western Sydney. The Employment Hub is eventually forecast to house 36,000 jobs.



### Planning approval for a major media hub for the Australian Technology Park at Redfern

The \$123 million proposal will be a major boost for urban renewal, and is expected to bring up to 2,000 permanent jobs to Redfern and create up to 600 construction jobs, including at least 60 jobs for indigenous workers.



### Release of the NSW Government's *Statement on Innovation* in November 2006

The Statement provides a new framework for innovative policy in NSW, with a focus on those industries which are most important to the State's economy.



### Approval for the second stage of the Port Botany expansion

The expansion of Port Botany is critical to the State's continuing economic success.



## B CENTRES AND CORRIDORS

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### Release of (draft) city centre plans for the six regional cities

The Cities Taskforce project was announced in February 2006 as part of the NSW Government's Economic and Financial Statement. It is designed to boost jobs, housing and lifestyle opportunities in regional cities in the Greater Metropolitan Region. It will also help these cities become drivers of the NSW economy. Draft city centre plans for the six regional cities of Wollongong, Gosford, Parramatta, Penrith, Liverpool and Newcastle were released between August and December 2006. Each city planning vision was developed in partnership with local government.

The final 25-year vision for Wollongong City Centre was announced in February 2007 and generates new business, investment, cultural and recreational opportunities. The final Plan supports 10,000 jobs and an additional 6,000 new residents by 2031. Together with the Illawarra Regional Strategy, the Wollongong vision helps to achieve key priorities in the *State Plan* and will inform the *State Infrastructure Strategy* to determine future infrastructure priorities for the Illawarra.



### Application of the Metropolitan Strategy hierarchy of centre types in Subregional Strategies

Draft Subregional Strategies are being prepared in consultation with State agencies, industry stakeholders, and local government.

Through the subregional planning process, local government and State Government agreed on the hierarchy of different centre types including Sydney's strategic centres and a range of smaller centres; towns, villages and neighbourhood centres. This provides a framework for allocating growth among accessible centres in the greater Sydney region.



### Development of METRIX, an internet-based subregional planning tool

METRIX is being used in the subregional planning process by State agencies and local government. Through this tool, the State Government and local government share a common set of information, which provides a basis to discuss the distribution of growth among centres and corridors, and to assess local housing needs.



### Continued planning for the Parramatta Road and City to Airport corridors

The corridor strategies will form part of the relevant draft Subregional Strategies.





### Progress in developing guidelines for Sydney's Strategic Centres


The NSW Department of Planning is developing further guidelines and strategic directions for the Major Centres and Specialised Centres identified in the Metropolitan Strategy.





## C HOUSING


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**Exhibition of the draft *Central Coast Regional Strategy* in 2006**  
The draft Strategy plans for more than 35,000 new jobs and 36,000 new dwellings across the Gosford and Wyong local government areas.
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**Major renewal and redevelopment at Department of Housing estates in Minto and Bonnyrigg**  
The Minto project was approved in June 2006, and involves staged redevelopment of approximately 1,000 properties in Sydney's South West. The Bonnyrigg project involves the integrated renewal of the Bonnyrigg public housing estate, which is home to about 3,300 people. These cross-agency projects deliver significant social and economic benefits to the community through physical improvements to the estates and improvements to community services such as health, education and employment.
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**Approval for the concept plan for the redevelopment of the former Carlton & United Breweries site**  
The plan will deliver more than \$50 million in community benefits, including a new 5,400 square metre community park, and \$23 million towards affordable housing in Redfern/Waterloo close to existing public transport and services.
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**Release of *Greater Metropolitan Sydney's Land Supply* in August 2006**  
This report details Sydney's land supply and important initiatives as a result of the work of the Land Supply Task Force which was established in April 2006. In 2006, the NSW Government rezoned more than 17,000 new lots for residential development in greenfield areas and announced plans to rezone 40,000 home lots serviced by infrastructure over the next four years in Sydney's Growth Centres. By 2009, the Government will have zoned and serviced enough land for at least 55,000 new homes in new release areas. A new Metropolitan Chief Executives Group will coordinate the delivery of land and new infrastructure.
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**Release of the *Metropolitan Development Program 2007 Update* in February 2007**  
The *Metropolitan Development Program 2007 Update* report shows a surge in Sydney's land supply since 2003, with almost 33,000 greenfield lots now zoned and serviced. These are part of a total of more than 107,000 lots earmarked for development under the NSW Government's Metropolitan Development Program.
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**Gazettal of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Sydney Region Growth Centres) in July 2006**  
The SEPP details the final boundaries of the North West and South West Growth Centres. It guarantees a steady supply of land for new dwellings in Western Sydney and better designed communities. A four year infrastructure program for the North West and South West Growth Centres was also released.





## D TRANSPORT


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**Significant progress of the Metropolitan Rail Expansion Program**  
The Environmental Assessments for the North West and the South West Rail Links were placed on public exhibition. Submission reports are being prepared to address the issues raised during the exhibition period.
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**Accelerated delivery of the North West Rail Link**  
The *Urban Transport Statement* announced the acceleration of the North West Rail Link with Epping to Hills Centre to be completed by 2015 and to Rouse Hill by 2017. The South West Rail Link delivery date to Leppington remains 2012.
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**Progress and acceleration of the 15 integrated bus networks and the 43 Strategic Bus Corridors**  
The *Urban Transport Statement* brings forward the bus priority program for the Strategic Bus Corridors with an additional \$100 million in funding. The bus reform program will develop bus services that reflect community needs, and incorporate community consultation and regular reviews into service planning.
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**Progress on Rail Clearways projects**  
The Bondi Junction Turnback and Berowra platform were completed and planning approval was given for the Cronulla Line Duplication. An additional \$316 million has been allocated to extend the \$1.5 billion Rail Clearways Program.
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**Significant progress on a number of major transport infrastructure projects**  
Projects include the Lane Cove Tunnel (opened 25 March 2007) and the Epping–Chatswood Rail Link, Chatswood Interchange and North Sydney Station upgrade (all to be completed in 2008). The Parramatta–Rouse Hill link of the North West Transitway is complete and bus services commenced on 11 March 2007. Construction of the Blacktown–Parklea Transitway link is well underway with bus services expected to begin in late 2007.
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**Establishment of a new Centre for Transport Planning and Product Development within the Ministry of Transport**  
The establishment of the new Centre follows the release of the *Urban Transport Statement* in November 2006. The Centre will ensure improved transport planning and the timely implementation of the *Urban Transport Statement*.
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**Approval for the construction of the Southern Sydney Freight Line**  
The \$200 million freight line runs for 30 kilometres between Macarthur and Sefton in Sydney's south west. This project is a key plank in maximising the efficiency of freight transport in the Sydney Region.



## E ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES



### Full implementation of the NSW Government's building sustainability index, BASIX

BASIX is widely supported for delivering long-term environmental benefits and ongoing savings for homeowners through reduced power and water bills. BASIX now also applies to new major alterations and additions and large pools.



### Further implementation of the Diesel Retrofit Program

Emissions from trucks and buses were tested in a voluntary program with private and government fleets. The worst performing vehicles were repaired and retested with an average exhaust emission reduction of 25 per cent. The program proves a cost-effective means of reducing emissions from diesel vehicles.



### The Threatened Species Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Banking) Bill passed through Parliament in November 2006

BioBanking will allow 'biodiversity credits' to be generated by landowners who commit to enhance and protect biodiversity values on their land, and to sell these credits to developers to counterbalance the potential biodiversity impacts of proposed developments.



## F PARKS AND PUBLIC PLACES



### Establishment of the Western Sydney Parklands Trust in November 2006

The Trust guides the future of a 27 kilometre green corridor stretching from Blacktown to Liverpool and will plan for the protection of the Parklands' natural environment and cultural heritage, while catering for a wide range of recreational and community pursuits.



### Release of a concept plan for a major recreational and housing development at Penrith Lakes

The concept plan was released for public comment in February 2007. The renewal project could provide 5,000 new lots for housing and will be an important new recreational area for Western Sydney with plans for 1,500 hectares of parkland.



### Exhibition and approval of the concept plan for East Darling Harbour site (Barangaroo)

The plans for new recreational, commercial and residential precinct on the 22 hectare site were exhibited in 2006 and approved in February 2007. Approval of the concept plan follows an international design competition and a thorough environmental assessment.

Land can now be rezoned in preparation for the \$2.5 billion redevelopment to begin in 2008, generating thousands of construction jobs and more than 15,000 permanent jobs. The project will restore public access to 1.4 kilometres of harbour foreshore and will create an 11 hectare headland park, providing a unique opportunity to create a new harbour front recreational area which is comparable in size to Hyde Park.



### Allocation of an extra \$1.3 million in funds under the Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program

Since the project began in 2003, the Government has funded 22 kilometres of Sydney Harbour improvements. The additional funds are for 23 projects, opening another five kilometres of foreshore.



### Allocation of \$1.8 million under the Metropolitan Greenspace Program

Funds are committed by the NSW Department of Planning for the embellishment of Sydney's recreational trails and open space in partnership with local councils.



### Allocation of \$500,000 to continue the Cooks River Foreshore Improvement Program

Funds are committed by the NSW Department of Planning to enhance the natural environment and recreational opportunities on the Cooks River foreshore.



## G IMPLEMENTATION AND GOVERNANCE



### Significant progress with regional and subregional planning

The draft *Central Coast Regional Strategy* was prepared and exhibited in 2006. Ten draft Subregional Strategies are also being developed in partnership with local government and State agencies, classifying centres according to size, location and function. Various draft Subregional Strategies are well advanced.



### Release of the State Infrastructure Strategy in May 2006

The *State Infrastructure Strategy* contributes to the achievement of Metropolitan Strategy outcomes by setting out State investment commitments for infrastructure over 10 years. The Metropolitan Strategy and the subsequent draft Regional and Subregional Strategies provide the long-term planning strategies informing future infrastructure investment decisions.



### Exhibition of a draft State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2006

The draft SEPP consolidates and updates planning provisions relating to infrastructure and government land, and is being finalised based on the submissions.



### Gazettal of the Standard Instrument (Local Environmental Plans) Order 2006 in March 2006

For the first time, local plans across NSW will use the same planning language, making it easier for communities to understand the local plan for their area, and saving both developers and government time and money. All councils will now use the Standard Instrument to prepare a new Principal LEP for their local government area within the next five years. The LEP Review Panel was established to streamline the LEP making system. The Panel considered 178 LEPs during the year.



### Allocation of a further \$4.2 million to help continue planning reforms in March 2007

The 2006-07 round of Planning Reform Fund grants will help councils prepare new Local Environmental Plans and implement Metropolitan and Regional Strategy goals.



### Gazettal of the new Local Environmental Plan for the Sutherland Shire in November 2006

The new LEP delivers certainty for local residents and businesses.



### Reform of Section 94 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979)

The reforms will help provide infrastructure and other amenities in land release areas and other sites identified for strategic growth, and will enable the Government to levy special infrastructure contributions in 'special contributions areas'.

## CONSULTATION

The release of the Metropolitan Strategy, *City of Cities—A Plan for Sydney's Future* was the first step in implementing a range of detailed programs across the Greater Metropolitan Region. The implementation of these programs involves interaction and discussion between government agencies, local government, business leaders, the development industry, community and environmental groups, and the Sydney community at large.

Consultation has been vital during 2006, not only to keep stakeholders informed of the key directions of *City of Cities* but also to work across all levels of government on the subregional planning process.

### **Metro CEOs Group**

As required by ACTION G2.1.2 of the Metropolitan Strategy, the Metro CEOs Group was established to oversee the implementation of the Strategy. The Group addressed key policy and agency interaction matters throughout 2006 and will continue to monitor and guide the implementation of the Metropolitan Strategy during 2007.

The Metro CEOs Group will continue to advise and seek advice from the Government through Cabinet.

### **State Agencies**

Complementing the Metro CEOs Group, the Department of Planning actively involved State agencies in subregional planning and held various formal workshops throughout 2006. Linking with other agencies to develop a shared understanding of the objectives and directions of the Metropolitan Strategy and helped to facilitate its implementation.

### **Local Government**

The Department of Planning held four rounds of workshops with local government, starting the week after the release of the Strategy in December 2005. These workshops form the basis of understanding between the State Government and local government for the further development of the 10 draft Subregional Strategies and the Central Coast Regional Strategy. The Department has also addressed council-hosted public meetings and forums on the Metropolitan Strategy and hosted meetings with Regional Organisations of Councils.

### **Industry and Community Stakeholders**

The Department of Planning briefed industry and community stakeholders on regional planning, subregional planning, and the development of corridor strategies during 2006. Three formal rounds of workshops were held with stakeholders and representatives of the Department of Planning have addressed functions and briefings held by the Urban Development Institute of Australia, Property Council of Australia, Urban Taskforce, Greater Western Sydney Economic Development Board, and Planning Institute of Australia. The Director General also addressed a meeting of the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW attended by 41 metropolitan councils.

The NSW Government has worked closely with the Metro Alliance of Peak Groups in setting the focus areas for implementing the Metropolitan Strategy for 2007.



## ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION IN 2007

The Metropolitan Strategy, *City of Cities—A Plan for Sydney's Future* is a 25 year plan and the actions achieved in 2006 will provide a strong foundation for a significant program expected in 2007.

The Government is committed to the ongoing implementation of the Metropolitan Strategy in 2007, and together with local government and key stakeholders will focus on:

- implementing employment capacity planning initiatives to achieve employment objectives in Regional Cities and Major Centres and to facilitate skilled jobs in Western Sydney;
- integrating land use and transport planning to achieve better connected centres and to optimise the value of the *Urban Transport Statement* investments;
- providing clear directions for the distribution and nature of intermodal freight facilities around the Greater Metropolitan Region;
- implementing urban renewal initiatives to achieve infill housing and employment capacity targets and to optimise advantages of redevelopment opportunities among Government agencies;

- progressing precinct planning and infrastructure provision processes for the South West and North West growth centres to help to achieve land supply objectives;
- strengthening the alignment of State infrastructure investment planning and service delivery with metropolitan strategic directions;
- working to achieve sustainable water and ensure Sydney's water supply for the next 25 years;
- improving access to open space in established areas and centres; and
- working to meet the challenge of housing affordability.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

All major Metropolitan Strategy announcements are included in the Department of Planning's e-newsletters. To receive these e-newsletters, visit [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/enews](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/enews).

More information on the Metropolitan Strategy is available at [www.metrostrategy.nsw.gov.au](http://www.metrostrategy.nsw.gov.au).

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NSW Government

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