



NCOSS brief **Subregional Strategies for Sydney**

The State Government has now released most of the draft Subregional Strategies for Sydney that were foreshadowed in its Metropolitan Strategy *City of Cities*, released in December 2005.

The Strategies are designed to translate to the local level the objectives of the NSW Government's Metropolitan Strategy and State Plan. They are also linked to the State Infrastructure Strategy. The process involves establishing, *for the first time ever*, formal dwelling and employment growth targets for each local government area in Sydney.

For this purpose Sydney has been divided into ten subregions, covering between one and six local government areas. The subregions are:

- East Subregion (Botany Bay, Randwick, Waverly, Woollahra LGAs),
- Inner North Subregion (Lane Cove, North Sydney, Ryde, Willoughby, Hunters Hill, Mosman LGAs),
- Inner West Subregion (Ashfield, Burwood, Canada Bay, Leichhardt, Strathfield LGAs),
- North Subregion (Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai LGAs),
- North East Subregion (Pittwater, Warringah, Manly LGAs),
- North West Subregion (Baulkham Hills, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Penrith LGAs),
- South Subregion (Kogarah, Hurstville, Canterbury, Rockdale, Sutherland, Marrickville LGAs),
- South West Subregion (Wollondilly, Camden, Campbelltown, Liverpool LGAs),
- Sydney City Subregion (City of Sydney LGA), and
- West Central Subregion (Auburn, Bankstown, Fairfield, Holroyd, Parramatta LGAs).

The draft Subregional Strategies follow a consistent format, with linked chapters on Economy and Employment; Centres and Corridors; Housing; Transport; Environment, Heritage and Resources; Parks, Public Places and Culture; and Implementation and Governance.

Local councils have been consulted in the preparation of the draft Strategies but do not necessarily agree with the content or targets.

Progress with release of the draft strategies

To date the Department of Planning has released 8 out of the 10 strategies in draft form. The draft strategies for the East, Inner North and North East subregions were released in July 2007 and comments on these closed in September.

The draft strategy for the North subregion was released in October 2007 and comments close on **8 February**. The strategies for the North West, South, South West and West Central subregions were released in December and comments close on **28 March**.

The draft strategies for the City of Sydney and the Inner West sub-regions are still under preparation.

Copies can be freely obtained from the Department of Planning, local councils or in electronic form from the Metro Strategy website (www.metrostrategy.nsw.gov.au).

NCOSS position

NCOSS is involved in a Metro Alliance of key state-wide business, environmental, union and community sector peaks that monitors the implementation of the Metro Strategy. We will not be responding to each of the ten draft Strategies but we encourage local NGOs and regional bodies to consider the implications of the growth targets outlined in the draft Strategy (or Strategies) that are relevant to them.

In particular the draft Strategies provide the opportunity for the sector to advocate for:

- Firm targets for the provision of affordable housing (they generally just say that Planning will talk to Housing about possible opportunities for affordable housing),
- Improved public transport, and
- Expansion of funding for human services in line with forecast population growth in particular local government areas and subregions.

I am happy to talk to anyone who is working on a response, and to receive copies of any submissions to the Department of Planning from NGOs or individuals that deal with these issues.

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