

# Minutes

## Full Commission Meeting

28 September 2022 10.00am - 12.00pm

Muraba Room – Level 11, 6 Parramatta Square, Parramatta | Microsoft Teams (VC)

Status of Attendee	Basis for attendance	Official Title	Name	
Members	GCC Act, s6(a), “Chief Commissioner”	Chief Commissioner (Chair)	Mr Geoff Roberts AM	
	GCC Act, s6(b), “Greater Cities Commissioners”	Social Commissioner (via VC)	Ms Natalie Walker	
		Environment Commissioner (via VC)	Ms Meg McDonald	
		Economic Commissioner	Mr John Lydon	
	GCC Act, s6(c), “City Commissioner”	Central River City Commissioner	Mr Peter Poulet	
		Lower Hunter and Greater Newcastle City Commissioner	Mr Matthew Endacott	
		Central Coast City Commissioner	The Hon Robyn Parker	
		Illawarra – Shoalhaven City Commissioner	Ms Jacki Johnson	
	Members [ex-officio]	GCC Act, s6(d), “ex-officio”	Secretary Department of Premier and Cabinet	Mr Michael Coutts – Trotter
			Secretary Transport for NSW	Mr Rob Sharp
Secretary Department of Planning and Environment			Mr Marcus Ray (delegate for Secretary)	
Secretary NSW Treasury			Mr Paul Grimes	
Standing invitees & guests [internal]	SPC ToR (section3, Chief Executive Officer & section4.4 meeting Procedures	Acting Secretary Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade	Ms Elizabeth Mildwater	
		Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Greater Cities Commission (GCC)	Ms Lyndal Hayward	
		Head of Strategic Planning, GCC	Ms Stephanie Barker	
		Executive Director, Thought Leadership and Engagement, GCC	Dr Wendy Were	
		Executive Director Westmead Innovation District	Ms Liza Noonan	
		Director, Office of CEO, GCC	Ms Heather Moore	
		Board Secretary, GCC	Mr Tony DiMauro	
		Tech Central Precinct Planner	Mr Carlo Hilton	
Apologies		Deputy Chief Commissioner and Eastern Harbour City Commissioner	Ms Deborah Dearing	
Acknowledgement of Country	The Chair acknowledged that the Commission was meeting on the land of the Burramattagal people of the Dharug clan. The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the land, paid respect to elders past and present and extended that respect to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people joining the meeting.			

OFFICIAL

# Greater Cities Commission

---

Apologies and quorum	The Chair noted the apologies and that a quorum was present.
Declarations of interest	<p>The Chair invited members to declare any conflicts of interest.</p> <p>The Central Coast City Commissioner reminded the Commission of her role as deputy Chair of the Heritage Council which may be considered in the future for any matters pertaining to the Tech Central Innovation district. The Chief Commissioner noted this. The Full Commission <b>resolved to note</b> there were no conflicts of interest declared for this meeting</p>
Item 1: Chief Commissioner's and Commissioners' Update	<p>The Chief Commissioner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Formerly welcomed and introduced the recently appointed City Commissioners to their first full Commission meeting and welcomed Ms Lyndal Hayward as the Acting Chief Executive of the GCC and Ms Elizabeth Mildwater, the Chief Executive of the GCC in her acting role as Secretary for the Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade.</li><li>• Spoke of the first twenty days following the release of the Six Cities Discussion Paper, advising:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ That 38 of the 43 Councils in the Six Cities LGAs had been consulted, key industry groups had been approached and feedback provided, and a further 200 to 300 stakeholders spoken to.</li><li>○ Feedback was overwhelmingly supportive, with most focussing on the key issues of connectivity (digital and transport), fast rail, housing affordability and First Nations involvement. The release had created an expectation of key policy directives implemented as actions by mid next year.</li><li>○ The adopted city shapers were well received. On each of the city shapers, most stakeholders were well underway with a First Nations engagement approach, connectivity involved an integrated system across ports, aviation, road and rail. Digital connectivity required strong involvement at the Federal level of Government, housing and local infrastructure being seen by most as an interlinked strategy, universities being seen as the catalyst for job creation in each of the cities and the Green Agenda being non-controversial except for the Flooding inquiry impact.</li></ul></li></ul> <p>The Commission spoke of the tight constraints with the NSW State Budget and the need to understand what's achievable. The need for a connected ports, aviation and fast rail strategy and the ability to sell the key messaging of the discussion paper were seen as important to the delivery of future city plans.</p> <p>The Commission <b>resolved to note</b> the Chief Commissioner's verbal updates.</p>
Item 2: CEO's Report	<p>Ms Hayward provided an update and overview on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Engagement with Federal Government agencies to discuss the Six Cities Discussion paper and its alignment with the new Federal Government priorities. Engagement will focus on funding commitments to improve transport and digital connectivity.</li><li>• The peak workload over the last few months to deliver important milestones and projects has seen GCC teams overextended and adjusting to changing conditions.</li></ul>

---

OFFICIAL

# Greater Cities Commission

---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• INSW “deep-dive” assurance reviews are progressing on the Tech Central, Westmead Health and Macquarie Park Innovation Districts, and the GCC continue to work with the office of Minister for Cities on the public release date of the Central Coast Strategy.</li></ul> <p>The Commission <b>resolved to Note</b> the CEO’s Report.</p>
Item 3: Appointment of Commissioners to Committees	<p>The Chief Commissioner spoke to the report seeking approval for the appointment of Commissioners to the GCC Committees of Finance &amp; Governance and Infrastructure Delivery.</p> <p>The Commission <b>resolved to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Appoint</b> Ms Jacki Johnson (City Commissioner, Illawarra-Shoalhaven City) as a member of the Finance and Governance Committee effective from 29 September 2022,</li><li>• <b>Appoint</b> Ms Jacki Johnson (City Commissioner, Illawarra-Shoalhaven City), Mr Matthew Endacott (City Commissioner, Lower Hunter and Greater Newcastle City) and the Hon. Robyn Parker (City Commissioner, Central Coast City) as members of the Infrastructure Delivery Committee effective from 29 September 2022</li></ul>
Item 4: Greater Cities Commission 2022 Annual Report	<p>Dr Wendy Were provided a brief overview of the preparation of the draft GCC Annual Report for 2021/22.</p> <p>Members provided feedback on the draft Annual Report content.</p> <p>The Commission <b>resolved to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Endorse</b> the Commission’s 2021/22 Annual Report draft content and delegate approval of the final version of the Annual Report for publication to the CEO and Chief Commissioner.</li><li>• <b>Delegate</b> approval of the Commission’s Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2022 and relevant attestations to the CEO and Chief Commissioner subject to the endorsement and recommendation of the GCC Audit and Risk Committee.</li></ul>
Item 5: GCC Research Strategy and Program 2022 - 2023	<p>Dr Wendy Were tabled and spoke to the Commission’s first Research Strategy and 2022/23 Research program, acknowledging the collaborative input of the Commissioners and the GCC Executive and the endorsement of the Strategy by the Strategic Planning Committee at its recent meeting. The Research Strategy highlights the transdisciplinary approach in meeting the complexities of city and region planning.</p> <p>The Commission provided their support for the targeted Research Strategy and its desire to develop a Community of Practice. The members believed the Strategy could be improved by a better articulation of priorities.</p> <p>The Commission <b>resolved to Approve</b> the GCC 2022 – 2023 Research Strategy and Program.</p>
Item 6: Parramatta North Business Case – Approval Pathway and update on Negotiations with University of Sydney	<p>Ms Liza Noonan spoke to the University of Sydney Framework Agreement with the NSW Government (led through DEIT) for a new multi-disciplinary precinct in Parramatta North and provided an update on the proposed pathway forward for the strategic land development.</p>

---

# Greater Cities Commission

---

The Commission were supportive of a pathway forward to be led by DEIT with continued consultation with DPE and NSW Treasury to finalise a coordinated approach. The Secretary NSW Treasury would provide input following further review

The Commission **resolved to:**

1. **Endorse** a single coordinated government approach involving the GCC, DPE, DEIT and NSW Treasury to determine the right pathway for the submission of the Parramatta North Business Case through NSW Government, with DPC being consulted to assist in advising the best way forward.
- 

## Item 7: Westmead Public Domain Strategy

Ms Liza Noonan spoke to the report on the Westmead Public Domain Strategy (WPDS), providing background on the strategy's preparation, the whole of Government approach that included alignment with the Westmead Place Strategy and the Place Based Transport Strategy, and First Nations engagement.

The WPDS will involve a staged and selective roll out of 114 projects, prioritised into 25 projects for priority delivery that reflect the priorities of agencies and local Councils. Importantly however the WPDS does not specify funding at this time or commit NSW Government to any project.

The Commission spoke of the need to avoid creating an expectation of committed funding and plans that are drafted but not implemented, and the focus should be on prioritising early wins from the shortlisted 25 projects.

The Commission **resolved to:**

1. **Endorse** the Westmead Public Domain Strategy.
  2. **Approve** the public release and distribution of the strategy to stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of projects and actions in the strategy.
  3. **Note** the forward path for First Nations engagement. This engagement will take a holistic focus, to consider economic and social development aspirations for communities at (and visiting) Westmead, and not a strict built environment focus.
- 

## Item 8: Six Cities Comms and Engagement Update

Dr Were spoke on the Six Cities Discussion Paper release earlier in the month and the successful campaign strategy that included a combination of owned media, earned media, paid media and direct communications with each performing strongly and achieving the launch strategy targets.

The Commission **resolved to note** the report.

---

## Item 9: Six Cities Research Presentation

Ms Stephanie Barker spoke to a presentation prepared jointly by the entity "The Business of Cities" and the GCC on the research into Planning for a Multi-City Region.

The presentation took the learnings from other internationally successful city regions and assesses how these can be adopted in the Six Cities Region and City plans. The research looked at common variables across several multi city regions internationally and the acknowledged benefits whilst focusing on two broad functional models.

The Commission spoke of the gap in the research around the issues of inequality, distribution, and vulnerability in a multi city region that could be beneficial to GCC planning, however each member acknowledged the learnings that could be

---

# Greater Cities Commission

---

	<p>captured from other successful city regions.</p> <p>The Commission recommended that a more detailed presentation of the research be provided to the Secretaries in the future.</p> <p>The Commission <b>resolved to note</b> the report.</p>
Item 10: Other Business	No business was raised.
Item 11: Minutes of Previous Meeting and Action Items	<p>The Committee considered the draft minutes of the meeting held on 2 August 2022.</p> <p>The Committee <b>resolved to approve</b> the minutes of the meeting held 2 August 2022 to be confirmed by the Chair as a true and accurate record of proceedings.</p> <p>The Committee <b>resolved to note</b> the action items.</p>
Upcoming meetings	<p>The Chair confirmed that the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 30 November 2022.</p> <p>There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 11.55am.</p>

---

Confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting by the Chair on 30 November 2022

**Geoff Roberts, AM**

**Chief Commissioner and Chair of the Full Commission**