

Meeting of the Greater Sydney Commission (“Commission”)

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Details

Held on:	Tuesday, 13 September 2016	
At:	Commission Boardroom, Level 5, 10 Valentine Avenue, Parramatta at 9.00am	
Present:	Name	Position
	Lucy Turnbull AO	Chief Commissioner (Chairperson)
	Geoff Roberts	Deputy Chief Commissioner, Economic Commissioner
	Roderick Simpson	Environment Commissioner
	Heather Nesbitt	Social Commissioner
	Maria Atkinson AM	District Commissioner, Central
	Dr Deborah Dearing	District Commissioner, North
	Sheridan Dudley	District Commissioner, South West
	The Hon. Morris Iemma	District Commissioner, South
	Carolyn McNally	Secretary, Department of Planning & Environment (DPE)
	Tim Reardon	Secretary, Transport for NSW (TfNSW)
	Rob Whitfield	Secretary, NSW Treasury
In attendance:	Sarah Hill	Chief Executive Officer, Commission
	David Pitchford	Chief Executive Officer, UrbanGrowth NSW
	Halvard Dalheim	Executive Director, Planning & Design, DPE
	James Hebron	General Counsel, DPE (item 2 only)
	Sarah Donald	Legal Counsel, DPE (item 2 only)
	Victoria White	A/Chief Operations Officer, Commission
	Natalie Camilleri	A/Director, Strategic Planning, Commission (item 9 only)
	Michael Comninos	A/Executive Director, Infrastructure & Analytics, Commission (item 10 only)
Apologies:	Professor Ed Blakely	District Commissioner, West Central
	Sean O’Toole AM	District Commissioner, West

Minutes

Agenda item	Minutes
1.	Acknowledgement of Country
	The Chief Commissioner acknowledged that the attendees of the meeting were present on the land of the Darug people and that the Darug people are the Traditional Owners of the land. The Chief Commissioner paid respect to the Darug elders, past and present, and to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who now reside within the area.
2.	Meeting open and conflicts of interest
	There being a quorum present, the Chief Commissioner opened the meeting at 9.05am.

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	<p>The Chief Commissioner noted apologies from Professor Ed Blakely, District Commissioner, West Central and Mr Sean O’Toole AM, District Commissioner, West.</p> <p>The Chief Commissioner invited members and observers to declare any conflicts of interest in respect of the business of the meeting. No conflicts of interest were declared.</p> <p>Mr James Hebron firstly introduced Ms Sarah Donald, Legal Counsel for DPE. He advised that Ms Donald was the member of his team now dedicated to advising the Commission on legal matters.</p> <p>Mr Hebron then spoke to the paper at agenda item 2. He explained that he had recommended that Ms Donald review all declaration of interests forms completed by members of the Commission, to determine whether further information was required and to advise on appropriate ways to deal with any conflicts of interest (potential or otherwise).</p> <p>It was AGREED that Ms Donald meet with members to revise forms if she deemed it necessary.</p>
3.	Previous meeting minutes
	<p>It was RESOLVED that, subject to the attendance of Ms Sheridan Dudley, District Commissioner, South West being added, that the minutes of the meeting 13 July 2016 be executed by the Chief Commissioner as a true and correct record of proceedings.</p>
4.	Chief Commissioner’s report
	<p>The Chief Commissioner acknowledged the efforts and commitment of the District Plans drafting team, Mr Halvard Dalheim, Ms Sarah Hill and the District Commissioners in progressing the draft District Plans to this stage. She also thanked Dr Deborah Dearing, District Commissioner, North and Mr Sean O’Toole, District Commissioner, West for their work in relation to the plans for the North and West Districts respectively.</p> <p>The Chief Commissioner further explained that the Commission continued to enjoy strong support from all levels of Government. She also confirmed that Ms Hill had attended her inaugural Budget Estimates inquiry and would update the Commission about this, as part of her report.</p>
5.	Chief Executive Officer’s report
	<p>Ms Hill spoke to her report, in particular noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the enormous amount of work achieved in relation to the draft District Plans to date, given the short timeframes, and her appreciation of the support from Ms Carolyn McNally, DPE, the four Greater Sydney Commissioners and the District Commissioners in this regard; • the next steps in the development of the draft District Plans; • that, in accordance with the Commission’s statutory mandate and as an essential part of informing the District Plans, stakeholders were continually being engaged, with close to 1.8 million people being reached as part of the <i>Our Sydney, Your Home</i> campaign alone; <p><i>The Hon. Morris Iemma entered the meeting at 9.20am</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the first round of permanent recruitment of staff had commenced;

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that she had attended the Budget Estimates inquiry on 31 August 2016 and that the DPE Legal team were now assisting with questions taken on notice; and • the Greater Sydney Awards Program had now been launched pursuant to the Minister’s Statement of Priorities (the awards ceremony to be a modest event in order to keep costs low). <p>A Commission discussion followed, noting in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the close working relationship with TfNSW, DPE and NSW Treasury was proving valuable in relation to providing the evidence base for the draft District Plans; • the public exhibition of the draft District Plans would run from late November 2016 to the end of March 2017; • formal engagement with the public would be between November 2016 and March 2017, with selected stakeholder engagement during the remainder of 2017 (where it was thought essential) e.g. when councillors are elected to amalgamated councils in September 2017; • that the draft District Plans use new population forecasts soon to be submitted by DPE to Cabinet for endorsement; • further analysis would be undertaken in terms of the narrative and District priorities detailed in the draft District Plans; • that the District Plan team were working closely with NSW Health (including Local Health Districts and the Minister for Health), Education agencies and Senior Officers Groups to ensure the plans include appropriate strategic planning in respect of education and health; and • Ms Hill had requested legal advice as to the legal standing of the draft District Plans up to the point they are ‘made’, i.e. the statutory weight in respect of strategic decision making across government.
6.	<p>Finance and governance update</p> <p>Ms Victoria White and Ms Hill spoke to the paper at agenda item 6, explaining in particular that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Secretary of DPE had written to the Commission advising that the funds for the drafting of the District Plans and the refresh of the Metropolitan Plan would be transferred to the Commission; and • this would require some reallocation of the Commission’s Budget. <p>A Commission discussion ensued, noting that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a revised report would be required to identify what Commission priorities would be affected; • the revised report could be considered out of session, if necessary; • it may be considered appropriate to write to the Minister for Planning and advise him of the transfer; and • Ms Hill she should be careful to manage expectations given the new Commission budget. <p>The Commission requested detailed Budget information for 2016/17 and 2017/18 as a result of the above.</p>

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7.	Committee reports
7.1	Finance and Governance Committee (FGC)
	The FGC report was taken as read and the minutes attached to the report adopted.
7.2	Strategic Planning Committee (SPC)
	The SPC report was taken as read and the minutes attached to the report adopted.
8.	Update on draft District Plans
	<p>Mr Dalheim provided an overview of the current drafts of the District Plans for the North and West Districts, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the status of the underlying narrative (common to all draft District Plans); • explaining the structure of the plans; • details of the issues specific to the North and West Districts; • items that needed verification from NSW Treasury and the Department of Industry prior to publication; • that some actions would likely to need revision in terms of their implementation by local councils; • accountabilities for each action; and • the online publishing of certain aspects of the evidence base. <p>A draft overview document and a current draft of the North and West District Plans were considered.</p> <p>A Committee discussion ensued, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • noting issues specific to the North and West Districts; • considering the overall narrative of the draft District Plans; • noting the proposed approach to housing diversity and affordable housing; • the resource implications of actions; and • the need for consistency of planning principles across all strategic plans for the Greater Sydney region. <p><i>The Chief Commissioner adjourned the meeting at 11am.</i></p> <p><i>The Chief Commissioner reconvened the meeting at 11.15am.</i></p> <p>The Committee discussion relating to the draft District Plans for the North and West Districts resumed, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the purpose of the overview documents, being to assist non-specialists to understand the draft plans; and • how priorities and actions might be digitally linked in the documents, to ensure they are more user friendly. <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the transmission of the draft District Plans for the North and West Districts to the Cabinet Infrastructure Committee for noting, subject to amendments required as a result of Commission feedback at the meeting.</p>

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9.	Greater Parramatta and Olympic Peninsula Strategic Vision (GPOP)
	<p><i>Ms Natalie Camilleri entered the meeting at 11.35am.</i></p> <p>The Chief Commissioner noted that the Minister for Planning had asked the Commission, in his Statement of Priorities, to provide assistance on the development of the Olympic Corridor. This was to be in conjunction with the Parramatta Light Rail and the revitalisation and activation of the Parramatta region as Sydney's second Central Business Direct (CBD), through integrated land use decision making.</p> <p>The Chief Commissioner further noted that a collaboration group had been established for this purpose, comprising Parramatta Council and eight state agencies, with special interest agencies joining as required. Ms Turnbull also explained that there has been a high degree of stakeholder input through nine working sessions and further work with TfNSW, in light of the centrality of the Parramatta Light Rail Project.</p> <p>Ms Camilleri then provided an overview of the work completed to date in developing the GPOP vision.</p> <p>Ms Camilleri TABLED documents detailing maps of the area covered and opportunities for the area.</p> <p>A Commission discussion followed, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how the opportunities for the area would be reflected in the relevant draft District Plans; and • the importance of stakeholders, especially the community and business, being engaged in the development process. <p><i>Ms Camilleri, Mr Rob Whitfield and Mr Jim Betts exited the meeting at 12pm.</i></p> <p><i>Mr Michael Comminos entered the meeting at 12pm.</i></p>
10.	Infrastructure Program Update
	Due to time restraints this agenda item was not considered.
11.	Other business
	There was no other business raised.
12.	Next meeting date and close
	There being no further business, the Chief Commissioner closed the meeting at 12.05pm.

Signed as a true and correct record:



Chairperson

Date: 18 November 2016