

Comment by Michael C H Jones

The City of Cities "mindframe" in the NSW Labor Government's Sydney Metropolitan Strategy with its growth target for 2031 was initiated in 2005 and reviewed in 2010. Reviews are scheduled every five years, however I believe the O'Farrell Liberal Government needs to bring this forward and go to the 2015 State Election for a new mandate on the Greater Sydney Municipality - a Global City.

The mindframe needs to be global, regional and national as well as provincial/state. Certainly if the Baseline 2021 benchmarks are to be enhanced.

The current strategy document states:

Economic, social and environmental sustainability are the guiding principles for the Metropolitan Strategy.

FIVE AIMS

- 1 ENHANCE LIVEABILITY**
- 2 STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS**
- 3 ENSURE FAIRNESS**
- 4 PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT**
- 5 IMPROVE GOVERNANCE**

SEVEN STRATEGIES

The Metropolitan Strategy is divided into seven subject areas, or strategies.

Each of these strategies consists of:

- an Introduction including a summary of the key objectives and actions;
- a Background section that includes key facts and some of the major challenges; and
- an Actions section, which lists the objectives and actions and includes detailed descriptions for each action.

These Seven Strategies are:

- Economy and Employment
- Centres and Corridors
- Housing
- Transport
- Environment and Resources
- Parks and Public Places
- Governance and Implementation

## 1.1 MILLION MORE PEOPLE

Sydney's population is anticipated to grow by 1.1 million people between 2004 and 2031, from a current population of 4.2 million to 5.3 million by 2031. To cater for this growth, the Government has predicted we will require the following:

- 640,000 new homes;
- 500,000 more jobs are being planned for over the next 25 to 30 years
- 7,500 hectares of extra industrial land if current trends continue
- 6.8 million square metres of additional commercial floor space; and
- 3.7 million square metres of additional retail space.

Even if we have zero population growth over that time, i.e. our births and migration equal deaths, we will still require 190,000 new homes in Sydney to respond to demographic changes where fewer people are living in each home.

## SUBREGIONAL PLANNING

The 10 subregions of Sydney were designated as:

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

In my view given international trends it is likely Sydney's population will exceed 6 million by the early 2030s, and this will be impacted by rapid growth to the North, South and West. Employment and transport are the two crucial factors with fast and secure access to international airports/cities. An ever increasing percentage of business will be global and this needs to be expedited with immediate planning.

As readers of this website know Chamber extended the concept of Sydney Metropolitan to the Greater Sydney Municipality in 2005, in accordance with our traditions since foundation in 1976, and divided this "Global" City into five zones for the purpose of negotiating/signing MOUs with China's five great cities - Shanghai, Nanjing, Wuhan, Chongqing and Chengdu - all of which have been accomplished in various ways. The problem is now sustaining them on the NSW side and this can only be accomplished with the assistance of the new Barry O'Farrell State Government - ACCCI has offered to act as the Secretariat and applied for a annual grant of \$250,000.

This however is necessary but not sufficient. There needs to be an official recognised spokesperson for at least Sydney Metropolitan and Chamber would argue Greater Sydney in the world forums of City Mayors - I have written elsewhere about the possibilities since the early years of this century in both Australia and China. The O'Farrell Government needs to review the concept and promotion of Sydney.