



14 June 2017

Have Your Say: Sustainable Sydney 2030 - Community Strategic Plan
City of Sydney
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Via email: corporateplan@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

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Dear Sir/Madam

The Sydney Business Chamber ("the Chamber") welcomes the opportunity to comment on the City of Sydney's *Sustainable Sydney 2030 – Community Strategic Plan*.

The Chamber is a division of the NSW Business Chamber and represents Sydney's leading corporations, advocating for Sydney to be a competitive and sustainable global city. The Chamber strives to identify, develop and promote the major issues that contribute to economic activity and growth in Australia's only global city, Sydney. This is achieved on behalf of business by representation and collaboration with governments at the local, state and federal level.

The Chamber supports the City of Sydney's goal for a Sustainable Sydney and the ten strategic directions to drive this outcome:

1. A globally competitive and innovative city
2. A leading environmental performer
3. Integrated transport for a connected city
4. A city for walking and cycling
5. A lively and engaging city centre
6. Resilient and inclusive local communities
7. A cultural and creative city
8. Housing for a diverse community
9. Sustainable development, renewal and design
10. Implementation through effective governance and partnerships

Sydney must be competitive and attract and embrace innovative industries to enhance its status as a global city, support existing businesses and grow its economy. In particular, Sydney must grow its position as a premier destination for people, business and investment (Objective 1.5). The City of Sydney's Economic Development Strategy and sectoral action plans support achieving this objective.

Businesses are increasingly identifying the need for cohesive, integrated and certain environmental policies, which achieve emissions reductions and other environmental outcomes at least cost. The Chamber notes the City of Sydney's relevant environmental strategies and recommends that these be frequently monitored and if needed, updated, to ensure they are complementary and consistent to both state and federal environmental and climate policies.

Investment in transport infrastructure is undoubtedly one of the most important needs for Sydney at this time. The Chamber is pleased to see 'integrated transport for a connected city' and 'a city for walking and cycling' identified as two of the ten strategic directions. Transport services must support the needs of residents, visitors, businesses and commuters, and reflect the needs of current and future transport users. This means investment in a wide range of transport infrastructure, while taking a holistic view of the transport network to ensure that new investments integrate within the existing network. These investments include infrastructure to support cycling, walking, public transport and car travel. Infrastructure investment can also support and/or open up existing cultural attractions, such as the Cultural Ribbon.

The Chamber notes that while responsibility for transport policy primarily lies with the NSW Government, the City of Sydney has a vital role to play in informing and influencing CBD transport policies. However, as with environmental policies, the City of Sydney must ensure its transport policies are complementary to state transport policies.

The Chamber is pleased to see the continuing renaissance of the city centre as a key destination that attracts large and small businesses, visitors, cultural activities, and entertainment and retail. The CBD Light Rail, Sydney Metro, Wynyard Walk, Cultural Ribbon and redevelopments such as that occurring in Circular Quay and Darling Harbour will help support this outcome. The Chamber has identified the need for growing the night-time economy as a key priority for the City of Sydney and is pleased to see this identified as part of Objective 5.3.

Affordable and diverse housing has also fast become a key issue for Sydney. From a business perspective, affordable and diverse housing helps support a diverse workforce. If housing is too unaffordable in Sydney, businesses and other institutions such as hospitals and schools, will not be able to find workers. Given its proximity to such a vast and diverse array of employment opportunities, the City of Sydney faces perhaps the biggest challenges in this regard but also the biggest requirement for affordable housing. The Chamber supports the inclusion of housing for a diverse community as a strategic direction in *Sustainable Sydney 2030* as well as the objectives identified by the City of Sydney to support this outcome. As the key planning body in the local government area, the City has an important role to play in supporting affordable and diverse housing.



Thank you for the opportunity to comment on *Sustainable Sydney 2030 – Community Strategic Plan*. Please contact Larissa Cassidy at Larissa.Cassidy@nswbc.com.au or on 9458 7359 if you would like to discuss this submission further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Forsythe".

**The Hon Patricia Forsythe
Executive Director**