

Total Environment Centre

23 August 2005

The Hon. Morris Iemma MP
Premier of NSW
Level 40, Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Premier

In June this year, we wrote to your predecessor, The Hon. Bob Carr MP, seeking the Government's firm commitment to the Metropolitan Strategy and adherence to an ambitious plan to respond to the many economic, social and environmental challenges facing Sydney over the next thirty years.

We are writing to urge the Government to continue the Metropolitan Strategy initiative, and to be bold in formulating the policy strategies to manage Sydney's future growth.

Previously we have identified a number of critical success factors which we believe the Government must address in the policy formulation process. We also believe that there is a strong need for an ongoing body to be established which will ensure that the Metropolitan Strategy succeeds.

We welcomed the opportunity last June to meet with the Premier and Minister Craig Knowles to discuss how we can collectively be involved in the final stages of the Metropolitan Strategy policy making process. We were pleased to have been given the opportunity to participate within government, on a collective and confidential basis. We would like this collaboration to continue and seek your assurance that it will.

As part of this process, we expect to work closely with new Planning Minister Frank Sartor, who has the ministerial oversight of the Metropolitan Strategy, and have copied this letter to Minister Sartor.

We believe that it is critical that the Metropolitan Strategy continue to be the responsibility of a single minister, backed by one principal agency, who is able to plan and oversee the delivery of the policy components.

As part of our collective will to work closely, constructively and cooperatively with the Government, we had also foreshadowed our joint intention to make public comment on the various policy components of the Metropolitan Strategy when they are publicly released. We intend to do this primarily through a scorecard mechanism, similar to Sustainability Commissioner Peter Newman's scorecard.


We hope that, like your predecessor, you see this letter as an opportunity to work closely with the key stakeholder groups representing the economic, social and environmental causes in the Sydney metropolitan region. We are united in our desire to see the Government design and implement a landmark 30 year plan for Sydney.

We welcome the opportunity to meet and talk with you about how we can work together to make the Metropolitan Strategy succeed.

Our previous letter to Premier Carr is attached for your information.

The contact person for this group is Ken Morrison, NSW Executive Director of the Property Council of Australia, who can be contacted on 9033 1906 or 0412 233 715.

Yours sincerely



Wayne Gersbach
Director NSW
Housing Industry Association



Gary Moore
Director
NSW Council of Social Services



Ken Morrison
NSW Executive Director
Property Council of Australia



Margy Osmond
Chief Executive
State Chamber of Commerce

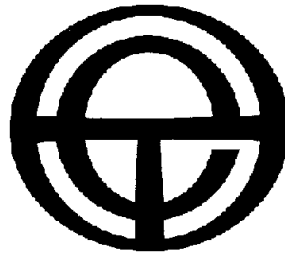
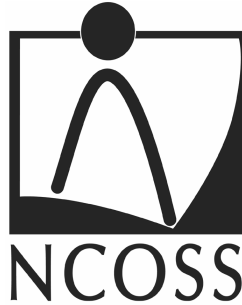


Jeff Angel
Director
Total Environment Centre



John Robertson
General Secretary
Unions NSW

CC: Frank Sartor, Minister for Planning



Total Environment Centre

7 June 2005

The Hon. Bob Carr MP
Premier of NSW
Level 40, Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Premier

In April 2003, we wrote to you to express our hope that the Government would examine and respond to the long term economic, social and environmental challenges facing the Sydney region.

Since then, the Metropolitan Strategy process has been launched, and several initiatives have been released. We are aware of the announcements on planning reform, the Metropolitan Water Plan, the new land release areas in the north west and south west sectors, and the establishment of parklands for Western Sydney. However, many important issues are yet to be adequately addressed.

The purpose of this letter is to urge the Government to be bold in its strategies to address these issues and to establish an ongoing body to drive the Metropolitan Strategy to see it implemented.

We believe that the Government must take into account several critical issues when preparing forthcoming policy announcements on urban renewal, employment and economic development, freight and transport, infrastructure and services, and resources, rural lands and environmental protection.

In the long run, if the Metropolitan Strategy is to succeed it will need to be judged favourably against the following critical success factors. We propose that:

- a comprehensive economic development plan accompany new policies on greenfield land release and major urban consolidation, which includes employment land release allocation and strategies to attract future investment, business and employment opportunities, over the next thirty years;
- recognising the lack of any approach to alleviate long term disadvantage, a comprehensive employment plan be prepared with real outcomes on the types of jobs, skills and development initiatives that Sydney will need in the future, and which provides for an adequate supply of employment that matches residential needs, and does not force low-paid and low skilled workers out of the Sydney region;
- recognising the absence of a strategy to deal with housing affordability, a comprehensive housing affordability strategy be prepared to ensure that Sydney does not become inescapably unaffordable for the unemployed, low and middle income earners, particularly in the new land release and urban renewal areas, and that provision be made for future public housing needs;
- recognising the present ad-hoc approach to infrastructure development, an infrastructure plan be developed by Government in consultation with stakeholders, wherein provision will be made to ensure that human services (health, education and community facilities) and significant public transport, freight, sustainable energy and water, including water recycling, infrastructure development will be planned for and funded (through different, more equitable means) in conjunction with future land release, urban consolidation and industrial land planning;
- recognising the need to maintain our unique character, urban consolidation will be managed in a way which does not denigrate the liveability of our communities and preserves our distinctive ethnic and social diversity, and provides for access and equity in the provision of government services;
- recognising the need to protect our environment, all planning be developed in a sustainable manner which enhances, and not diminishes, our natural and built environments, making use of efficient and high quality design initiatives, and provides for the creation and protection of parklands and open space necessary in a growing city with higher density living;
- the Sydney CBD receive a special focus in the Government's planning to ensure that social services, employment opportunities, environmental protection and the alleviation of chronic transport congestion is adequately addressed.

Sydney remains a great city to live, work and enjoy leisure time, but significant challenges lie ahead. In meeting these challenges, the Government needs to adopt a long-term planning focus and be bold and comprehensive in its response.

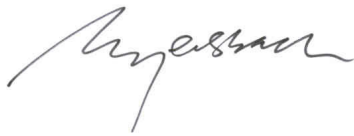
We wish to reiterate our desire to work closely, constructively and cooperatively with the Government to achieve these ends. In doing so, it is vital that an effective structure be established to see the Metropolitan Strategy implemented. There is a pressing need for the establishment of an appropriate governance structure that will be outcome driven, empowered to make important decisions, and which can facilitate ongoing consultation.

We sincerely hope that you see this letter as an opportunity to work closely with the key stakeholder groups representing the economic, social and environmental causes in the Sydney metropolitan region.

Rarely, if ever, have groups as diverse as this come together expressing a shared desire to work with the Government to see a 30 year plan for Sydney successfully designed and implemented.

We welcome the opportunity to meet and talk with you about the issues raised in this letter. The contact person for this group is Ken Morrison, NSW Executive Director of the Property Council of Australia, who can be contacted on 9033 1906 or 0412 233 715.

Yours sincerely



Wayne Gersbach
Director NSW
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CC: Craig Knowles, Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources