

Department Executive Services

Author Initials: AT

REPORT

Council has been advised by UrbanGrowth NSW that the Draft Urban Renewal Strategy for the Parramatta Road Corridor between Parramatta and the City of Sydney (including the draft land use and transport concept plans) has been finalised.

This draft is the result of intensive work undertaken in 2013/14, which included input by Councils along the Corridor, as well as stakeholder and community forums, workshops and technical studies.

It is anticipated that the Draft Urban Renewal Strategy will be publicly exhibited from mid-September, with the dates yet to be announced by the Minister for Planning. During this time there has been a commitment by the State Government to ensure comprehensive consultation and engagement occurs, involving Councils, other key stakeholders and the communities affected.

The Draft Urban Renewal Strategy will guide the location of growth nodes along the Corridor, along with the critical physical and social infrastructure required to support any new communities.

This Council has, and will continue to, responsibly manage growth in our area. While we appreciate the demands and pressures on housing within the Sydney area and the requirements under the NSW Government Metropolitan Strategy, it is critical that this development is accompanied by appropriate transport infrastructure, cycle-ways and pedestrian connections as well as the necessary social infrastructure and services such as schools, health and recreation options. I have been advised by the former Minister for Planning, the Hon. Brad Hazzard and UrbanGrowth NSW representatives, in various discussions over the past nine (9) months that this will be the case. I look forward to meeting with the new Minister for Planning, the Hon. Pru Goward at a Mayoral Minister Forum to be scheduled at the end of this month to discuss this further.

Councillors would be aware of the article in today's Sydney Morning Herald concerning the Parramatta Road Corridor project. In particular citing a new figure of 50,000 homes and 50,000 jobs along the Corridor. I requested clarification from UrbanGrowth NSW as to the context of these figures. I have circulated to Councillors their response on this matter and the article.

While there are landowners along the Corridor keen to progress with their individual Planning Proposals, these must be considered in light of the overall planning for the Corridor to avoid a piece meal approach. I have been advised by Council Officers that a Planning Proposal has been received for land along the Corridor in our local government area. I am mindful of the precedent that consideration of this Proposal may set, with many issues yet to be resolved along the Corridor, including transport and traffic impacts, connectivity as well as building form. Any planning proposal must be considered in the context of the long term plan for the Corridor.

Unfortunately we are constrained by the State Government Gateway process which requires Council to deal with a Planning Proposal with 90 days of submission. As such I am seeking clarification from UrbanGrowth NSW and NSW Department of Planning, as a matter of urgency, as to how planning proposals submitted during this exhibition period are to be managed.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Council seek clarification from Urban Growth NSW and the NSW Department of Planning as a matter of urgency as to how Planning Proposals submitted to Councils along the Parramatta Road Corridor are to be addressed to ensure a holistic approach.
2. THAT Council is briefed by Urban Growth NSW on the draft Urban Renewal Strategy for the Parramatta Road Corridor, including the draft land use and transport concept plans, as soon as practicable.
3. THAT Council pursue a strategic planning model along the Corridor that is supported by appropriate transport and infrastructure to cater for any growth in population.