

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

CONFRONTING SYDNEY'S RAPID GROWTH: CITIES FOR US SUMMIT DELIVERS THE BLUEPRINT FOR CHANGE

The Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) and Shelter NSW yesterday met with the Minister for Planning and Minister for Housing, the Hon. Anthony Roberts MP, to deliver the *Cities for Us* Communique which maps out a blueprint for changing how we confront head on the pressing challenges of Sydney's growth.

The Communique highlights the need to go beyond the belief that the developer knows best. It identifies that the community needs additional infrastructure and services in the right places and at the right time.

The Communique is the culmination of the combined expertise and experience of over 150 *Cities for Us* participants drawn from planners and experts working in the public, private and community sectors.

Despite recent record levels of development approvals and construction delivering unprecedented housing growth, many people are still not seeing the benefits, especially those on low to moderate incomes.

The Communique identifies an urgent need to rebalance our city by:

- Providing the much-needed community infrastructure through more Growth Infrastructure Compacts between Councils and the NSW Government that set in place infrastructure funding commitments before more density is added.
- Systematically tackling rental housing affordability by extending SEPP 70 to all Sydney councils. This will require developers to include a portion of affordable housing within a development either through floor space or a monetary contribution.
- Piloting local council led renewal agencies in neighbourhoods undergoing intensive redevelopment and handing more control to local communities to genuinely shape their future.

Each recommendation helps tackle one or more of the major sticking points for better growth and removes the disconnect between the glossy plans and best intentions, and what is actually happening in Sydney suburbs. Place based infrastructure is urgently needed to fill the growing gaps and respond to the pressures of rapid growth.

Minister for Planning and Minister for Housing, the Hon. Anthony Roberts MP said "I commend SSROC and Shelter NSW on this fantastic work. We have had a very productive meeting and I look forward to working with them to progress the ideas coming out of the Cities for Us Summit."

In areas of rapid growth, redevelopment is causing the disappearance of the most affordable housing and displacing the most vulnerable of renters.

Shelter NSW CEO, Karen Walsh said: "We recognise the Minister's and the Government's commitment to increasing supply to address the housing affordability crisis. However, the

availability of low-cost housing, especially for people struggling to find affordable rental accommodation continues to decline despite the record supply of private housing.”

Unless there is a shared vision and a smart plan, our community infrastructure and services will be overwhelmed, and those who miss out are those who are often already struggling. Additional Government resources need to be prioritised upfront to expand services and make more of the existing public domain to help meet the changing needs of the community.

We need to be able to retain that which makes our neighbourhoods attractive, liveable and affordable for all. The status quo lacks opportunities for communities to shape the trade-offs being made on their behalf in terms of redevelopment of their local neighbourhoods. This communique is an important step to influence the future of greater Sydney.

SSROC President, Mayor John Faker said: “Every day our member councils feel the stress and strain of their communities as developments put increasing pressure on local infrastructure and the amenity of their neighbourhoods suffer. Redevelopments can provide a unique opportunity to remake our neighbourhoods, suburbs and cities, but the key element to making our future communities liveable is local infrastructure, services and affordable rental housing.”

The *Cities for Us* Summit Communique calls on the NSW Government to make greater use of Growth Infrastructure Compacts and SEPP 70. New models need to be accelerated in new places such as local council led renewal agencies, to not only improve community engagement and involvement but have the potential to respond effectively to the shared interests of local communities, public agencies and private developers all of which are invested in achieving good local outcomes.

SSROC General Manager, Namoi Dougall said: “We welcomed the opportunity to speak with the Minister about the importance of finding better ways of ensuring local infrastructure, services and facilities to accompany development, and we are optimistic that the Government has heard the messages and recommendations in the Communique.”

FAST FACTS:

CITIES FOR US SUMMIT

The *Cities for Us* Summit was held on 25 July 2018 and was organised by the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) and Shelter NSW, supported by the Committee for Sydney and Planning Institute Australia. It was delivered in collaboration with UNSW City Futures with sponsorship from Mirvac, SGCH and City West Housing.

The 150 presenters and participants were from the State and Local Governments sectors, community housing providers, non-government organisations, the development industry, research, and planning professionals. The *Cities for Us* communique highlights the key points emerging from the Summit.

SOUTHERN SYDNEY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (SSROC)

The Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) is an association of 11 councils spanning Sydney's southern suburbs, eastern suburbs, CBD, and inner west and covering a third of the Greater Sydney's population, or 1.7m people.

SSROC provides a forum through which our member councils can interact, exchange ideas and work collaboratively to solve regional issues and contribute to the future sustainability of the region.

We advocate on behalf of our region to ensure that the major issues are addressed by all levels of government. Our current focus includes the environment, transport, procurement, waste, and planning.

Media Enquiries: Kate Hannan | 0434 133 228 | kate.hannan@ssroc.nsw.gov.au

SHELTER NSW

Shelter NSW is the State's peak housing advocacy and policy body. We are a not-for-profit organisation, working collaboratively with Government and the community to lead, influence and advocate for a fair and just housing system.

Born from the housing activism of the 1970's, we continue to be the voice of consumers and those who are excluded and marginalised from the housing system. We work to ensure policies, practices and legislation recognises the dignity of all individuals through quality, secure and affordable housing.

Shelter NSW provides systemic advocacy across all aspects of the housing system. Our advice is grounded in evidence and research and is always independent.

Media Enquiries: Karen Walsh | 0413 432 718 | karen@shelternsw.org.au

- ENDS -