

Inner West Council  
PO Box 14, Petersham 2049  
Reference number 19/SF331

21 October 2019  
[ourplace@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ourplace@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)

## **Letter of support for Inner West Council Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS)**

Dear Inner West Council,

I am writing on behalf of Shelter NSW. Shelter NSW has been operating since 1975 as the state's peak housing policy and advocacy body. Our vision is "A secure home for all". We provide systemic advocacy and advice on policy and legislation for the whole NSW housing system to resolve housing inequality and we seek to ensure that the voices of housing consumers are included in our policy responses and review.

Our approach involves engaging, collaborating and connecting with Government, the private and not for profit sectors, stakeholders and consumers. Our research centres on the causes of inequity and injustice in the housing system and we advocate solutions that aim to make the housing system work towards delivering a fairer housing system for all.

Shelter NSW is concerned about the housing crisis in NSW and the rising trends in homelessness, housing rental stress as well as the impacts of poor- quality housing, particularly on low income households. Over three quarters of lower income renters in NSW are paying unaffordable rents (92% of very low- income renters in Sydney). Lower cost properties are being steadily replaced with new ones at higher rents, and new concentrations of disadvantage have been created across our major cities as low income households are displaced. The NSW rental market is failing, forcing our most vulnerable citizens to go without essentials and are being excluded from jobs and opportunities.

I am aware of the growing unaffordability of housing in Inner West LGA, and I am writing to strongly support the draft LSPS prepared by Inner West Council. In particular, Shelter NSW strongly supports the following objectives outlined by Council in Planning Priority 6, "Plan for high quality, accessible and sustainable housing growth in appropriate locations integrated with infrastructure provision and with respect for place, local character and heritage significance":

- Maintain and increase affordable housing to narrow the affordability gap for very low, low and moderate income households
- Provide for a diverse mix of housing typologies, mix and tenures that cater to the needs of people at all stages of their lives
- Housing meets the principles of universal design

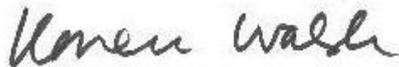
From our understanding, Inner West Council is using almost every planning mechanism available to local government authorities to directly deliver and encourage delivery of affordable housing. The draft LSPS and draft Local Housing Strategy (LHS) also recommend further advocacy to other levels of government for direct investment in social and affordable housing and reform of the policy settings that shape housing affordability in Australia.

Shelter NSW congratulates Inner West Council for its leadership on affordable housing delivery and advocacy. We have provided extensive comment on the draft LHS and the principles that should guide the LSPS in [our submission to Inner West Council draft LHS](#). We still wanted, however, to formally express our strong support of the Inner West draft LSPS through this letter.

Thank you for the opportunity to take part in the formulation of Inner West Council LSPS and LHS. Shelter NSW, as a housing policy and advocacy peak is keen to continue to work with and support Council on the further development of the LHS and the oncoming LSPS.

Please do not hesitate to contact Thomas Chailloux on (02) 9267 5733 or [thomas@shelternsw.org.au](mailto:thomas@shelternsw.org.au) in the first instance if you wish to discuss these comments.

Yours sincerely



Karen Walsh  
CEO