



25 May 2018

The Manager Social Strategy
City of Sydney
City of Sydney, Town Hall House
456 Kent Street, Sydney
NSW 2000

By Email: sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Dear Manager

Re: A City for All - City of Sydney's Social Sustainability Policy & Action Plan 2018-2028

The Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) is an association of 11 councils in the area south of Sydney harbour - central, inner west, eastern and southern Sydney. The City of Sydney is itself a member council. SSROC provides a forum for the exchange of ideas between our member councils, and an interface between state and federal governments, other councils and key bodies on issues of common interest. Together, our member councils cover a population of about 1.7 million, one third of the population of greater Sydney.

The SSROC Secretariat appreciates that the City of Sydney has called for feedback on the council's Social Sustainability Policy & Action 2018-2028. The Secretariat is pleased to offer the comments below.

General Comments

The Social Sustainability Policy & Action Plan 2018-2028 is detailed and covers much ground in a systematic and thematic way. It looks well thought through.

The Plan has some interface with the SSROC's work on liveability in the Eastern City and South Districts and SSROC would encourage strong emphasis on the concept, dimensions and implementation of indicators of liveability.

The SSROC Secretariat commends the four strategic directions and visions of the Plan.

The recognition of urban planning and design and the relationship to social and community outcomes is well received. Similarly, the plan's emphasis on a place-making approach to urban renewal and community-oriented perspectives to urban renewal and redevelopment are impressive.

The City of Sydney's approach of encouraging use of Liveability Tool Kit by planners and urban developers and professionals as a way of embedding liveability and social sustainability is outstanding.

It would be helpful in terms of conceptual framework for the Social Sustainability Policy & Action Plan to make some reference to the Greater Sydney Commission's four broad dimensions: Infrastructure and Collaboration, Liveability, Productivity and Sustainability. In some ways the plan covers issues that span the dimensions.

Specific Comments

Liveable City

The SSROC Secretariat welcomes that one of the four strategic directions of the City of Sydney's Social Sustainability Policy & Action Plan 2018-2028 is "A liveable city".

SSROC has done some work on liveability benchmarks, indicators and mapping in the last two years.

We are keen for City of Sydney and other member councils to embrace the concept of liveability and embed specific mechanisms to deliver on liveability for the community, as urban intensification and densification are increasing realities in the City of Sydney and parts of the SSROC area.

Sydney competes for knowledge jobs and investment not only with cities such as Melbourne, but with international destinations such as London, Singapore and Hong Kong, and liveability is a key competitiveness factor.

SSROC advocates a concept of liveability that refers to the well-being of a community. It is the sum of the aspects that add up to the quality of life of a place, including its economy, amenity, environmental sustainability, health and wellbeing, equity, education and learning, and leadership. This aligns well with the City of Sydney's concept of social sustainability.

SSROC urges that urban intensification in the Eastern City should result in a measurable improvement in the liveability of the area, including renewal precincts and corridors. This also aligns with City of Sydney's effort to measure the outcomes of the implementation of the plan.

SSROC encourages the City of Sydney to consider some key baselines and benchmarks for liveability and social sustainability. Some of the benchmarks endorsed by SSROC members councils (including City of Sydney) could directly or with some contextual modifications and adaptations be useful to the Social Sustainability Policy & Action Plan. See <http://ssroc.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/SSROC-Liveability-Benchmark-Report.pdf> .

For example, the City's plan could set performance benchmarks, indicators and targets for schools and education facilities, health services, open space, recreational facilities, affordable and social housing, employment and active transport, including walking and cycling.

Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is a major issue in the Eastern City, including the City of Sydney. SSROC's position on affordable housing has been endorsed at a meeting of Delegates from its member councils, and has been sent to the NSW Government and the Greater Sydney Commission.

Since SSROC's advocacy on the Greater Sydney Regional Plan and the District Plans on affordable housing, SSROC has in collaboration with the Planning Institute Australia and the NSW Federation of Housing Associations hosted Affordable Housing Forum in Sydney. The key issues from the SSROC's affordable housing submission, the outcome of the forum and SSROC's current study on Affordable Rental Housing SEPPs and Affordable housing in Eastern City have informed SSROC comments and recommendations.

The SSROC Secretariat encourages the City of Sydney to consider embedding some of the recommendations in the Social Sustainability Policy and Action Plan 2018-2028. These include:

1. Recognise and approach affordable housing as essential social infrastructure for a sustainable, inclusive and productive city.
2. Enable the provision of affordable rental housing to low and moderate income earners.
3. Embed SSROC's Affordable Housing Target of 5% to 15% of all new dwellings in urban renewal precincts.
4. Evidence-based affordable housing targets should be set for urban renewal precincts or the local government area, with higher targets for government-owned land.
5. Identify unused and underutilised land that may be suitable for affordable housing.
6. Affordable housing targets should be addressed at metropolitan, district, local and precinct levels and should state and housing mix for a diverse community.
7. Consider promoting "Build to Rent" affordable housing options.

Renewal corridors and large scale urban redevelopment

The Social Sustainability Policy & Action Plan does not seem to emphasise emerging and planned large scale developments in the City of Sydney area and the implications for the plan.

The Waterloo urban redevelopment, the Central to Eveleigh renewal corridor and further redevelopment work at Green Square will have huge liveability and social sustainability challenges and implications. The plan should find a way to foreshadow and recognize these huge developments that will mean tens of thousands of households making the city home.

Engaging with neighbouring councils on sporting and recreational facilities

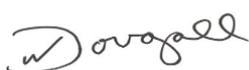
As the density of the city increases in the coming years, and with shrinking land assets to expand sporting and recreational facilities, engaging with neighbouring councils for shared and regional approach to facilities and amenities that improve the quality of life of residents could be considered. This could be included as an action in the plan.

Conclusion

In order to make this submission within the timeframe of the review, it has not been possible for it to be reviewed by councils or to be endorsed by the SSROC Delegates. I will contact you further if any issues arise as it is reviewed.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact myself or Vincent Ogu, SSROC's Strategic Planning Manager, on 02 8396 3800.

Yours faithfully,



Namoi Dougall

General Manager
Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils