



FACT SHEET 5 ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES AND PARKS AND PUBLIC PLACES

The Plan conserves Sydney's unique environment, protects important agricultural lands, and improves access to our open spaces. Our natural environment is as important to Sydney's economic competitiveness as continuing to invest in our education, social, transport and cultural infrastructure.

The Plan builds on the benefits of Sydney's long-term planning, which has already seen the acquisition of over 35,000 hectares of land for recreational space over the last 50 years.

Already, over 90 per cent of Sydneysiders live within 800 metres of some kind type open space. The Plan's focus is on improving access and facilities for existing parks and recreation areas, and ensuring there is sufficient regional and local open space in Western Sydney's new growth areas.

SUSTAINABILITY CRITERIA

The Plan will ensure no new land is released outside of the identified growth centres unless it meets strict sustainability criteria. The criteria will apply to any greenfield site planned for urban rezoning, regardless of scale or lot production, including rural, residential and employment developments.

THE URBAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINTS

The Plan puts in place actions and directions which will contain Sydney's urban footprint and minimise Sydney's environmental footprint. There are 267 threatened species in the Sydney region, with land clearing for urban development identified as the key threatening process.

The Plan has defined the new land release areas for the Sydney Region over the next 25 years, as well as the proportion of homes to be built in these areas. The Plan sets the direction for more sustainable use of water and energy as well as minimising waste.

PROTECTING OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The Sydney Basin is the fifth most biologically diverse region in Australia. The Plan sets out cross-government targets to improve the health of our waterways, protect our plants and animals, improve air quality, minimise noise pollution, and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage.

REGIONAL RECREATION TRAILS

Sydney's regional recreation trails provide walking and cycling links along waterways and foreshores, and link centres and recreation areas. Examples include the Bay Run cycleway around Canada Bay or the Waverley clifftop walk. Through subregional planning, the Plan will ensure connections between regional open spaces are better coordinated across local government boundaries.

WESTERN SYDNEY OPEN SPACE

In precinct planning for the new North West and South West growth centres, the Growth Centres Commission will plan for regional sporting and recreation facilities for over 400,000 residents.

The Western Sydney Parklands Trust will implement the first stage of the management vision for the Parklands.

Agricultural production in Sydney is valued at approximately \$1 billion each year, and employs around 13,000 people. Sydney's rural and resource lands will be protected within planning instruments.

The Sustainability Criteria (overleaf) form the basis for decision making about land to be included in the Metropolitan Development Program.

Sustainability Criteria listed overleaf...

SUSTAINABILITY CRITERIA FOR NEW LAND RELEASE

DEVELOPMENTS MAY BE APPROVED IF THEY SUBSTANTIALLY MEET THE CRITERIA BELOW AFTER A MERIT ASSESSMENT

Threshold Sustainability Criteria for listing of site on MDP	Measurable explanation of criteria
<p>1 Infrastructure Provision Mechanisms in place to ensure utilities, transport, open space and communication are provided in a timely and efficient way.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development is consistent with any relevant residential development strategy, subregional strategy, regional infrastructure plan and Metropolitan Strategy. • The provision of infrastructure (utilities, transport, open space, and communications) is costed and economically feasible based on Government methodology for determining infrastructure contribution. • Preparedness to enter into development agreement.
<p>2 Access Accessible transport options for efficient and sustainable travel between homes, jobs, services and recreation to be existing or provide.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility of the area by public transport and appropriate road access in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Location/land use; to existing networks and related activity centres. — Network: the areas potential to be serviced by economically efficient public transport services. — Catchment: the area's ability to contain, or form part of the larger urban area which contains adequate transport services. Capacity for land use/transport patterns to make a positive contribution to achievement of travel and vehicle use goals. • No net negative impact on performance of existing subregional road, bus, rail, ferry and freight network.
<p>3 Housing Diversity Provide a range of housing choices to ensure a broad population can be housed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes to the geographic market spread of housing supply, including any government targets established for aged, disabled or affordable housing.
<p>4 Employment Lands Provide regional/local employment opportunities to support Sydney's role in the global economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain or improve the existing level of subregional employment self containment. • Meets subregional employment capacity targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Employment related land is provided in appropriately zoned areas.
<p>5 Avoidance of Risk Land use conflicts, and risk to human health and life, avoided.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available safe evacuation route (Flood and Bushfire). • No residential development within 1:100 floodplain. • Avoidance of physically constrained land: high slope; highly erodible. • Avoidance of land use conflicts with adjacent, existing or future land use and rural activities as planned under regional strategy.
<p>6 Natural Resources Natural resource limits not exceeded/ environmental footprint minimised.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand for water does not place unacceptable pressure on infrastructure capacity to supply water and on environmental flows. • Demonstrates most efficient/suitable use of land. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Avoids identified significant agricultural land. — Avoids impacts on productive resource lands; extractive industries, coal, gas and other mining, and quarrying. • Demand for energy does not place unacceptable pressure on infrastructure capacity to supply energy; requires demonstration of efficient and sustainable supply solution.
<p>7 Environmental Protection Protect and enhance biodiversity, air quality, heritage, and waterway health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with Government approved Regional Conservation Plan (if available). • Maintains or improves areas of regionally significant terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity (as mapped and agreed by DEC and DPI). This includes regionally significant vegetation communities; critical habitat; threatened species; populations; ecological communities and their habitats. • Maintain or improve existing environmental condition for air quality. • Maintain or improve existing environmental condition for water quality and quantity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Consistent with community water quality objectives for recreational water use and river health (DEC and CMA). — Consistent with catchment and stormwater management planning (CMA and local council). • Protects areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage value (as agreed by DEC).
<p>8 Quality and Equity in Services Quality health, education, legal, recreational, cultural and community development and other government services are accessible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available and accessible services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Do adequate services exist? — Are they at capacity or is some available? — Has Government planned and budgeted to further service provision? • Developer funding for required service upgrade/access is available.