

### Comments on Greener Spaces Draft policy Nov 2017

I commend the approach and sentiments in the draft policy. However I was disappointed that there is no attempt to have measurable targets.

1) While it is stated that the Objectives of the draft policy of Greener Places aims to establish and communicate a clear NSW Government position on Green Infrastructure by establishing benchmarks for the future of our built environments. There are no benchmarks that appear in the policy. I would like to see specific guidelines in terms of Street Tree cover, Passive recreational open space, Recreational water ways, Specific water quality guidelines.

2) The draft report states that when district plans are finalised, each local council in Greater Sydney must prepare a report identifying what planning proposals will be prepared for relevant district actions and priorities. The NSW Government has recently exhibited proposals for amendments to the EP&A Act that will require review of LEPs every 5 years at a minimum. Therefore, new zonings of land for Green Grid and Green Infrastructure purposes will be monitored as council LEPs are updated to give effect to finalised regional plans and district plans.

I am concerned that an important piece of open space in my locality will disappear before these policies come into operation. My Local council Georges River Council, intends to carve up a part of Myles Dunphy reserve which is currently zoned open space to build a multistorey residential complex adjacent to an endangered Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest community. The land was originally purchased in 1944 under the request of local residents one of which was Myles Dunphy widely acknowledged as the father of conservation.

3) Green spaces and Blue (waterways) are inextricably linked. The draft report alludes to links to the blue grid such as the reference to waterway health to be reported on the Departments People and places dashboard.

It states: the Department's People and Places dashboard could include:

- Live Green Grid mapping of information displayed in A Plan for Growing Sydney and District Plans
  - Known urban canopy coverage and changes and trends in open space provision urban bushland and waterway health and urban canopy coverage by LGA, district and region
  - Information on priority and other projects identified in the District Plans, as they are delivered to form linkages and extend the Green Grid
  - Monitoring and reporting on grant allocations from multiple Green Infrastructure funding programs.
- The Greater Sydney Commission has responsibility for monitoring and reporting on the Greater Sydney regional plan and district plans.

In the draft plan I do not see references to helping local governments implementing water sensitive urban design practices such as storm water harvesting, reduction of hard surfaces in built areas, There is no reference to healthy waterways through litter management, renewal of an aged Sydney sewer system, sedimentation due to vegetation clearing and building activities.

I hope that the final plan will incorporate some targets that will help to make NSW urban areas livable.

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