



# ***10 - POINT PLAN***

**2018 - 19**



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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

This 10-Point Plan highlights the key areas where partnership with other levels of government has the potential to provide some innovative, efficient and effective ways to achieve our aims.

In particular, this Plan supports the aim of NSROC Councils to improve liveability in the Northern Sydney region.

A stronger partnership between our member councils and other levels of government can deliver positive outcomes for our shared constituents.

NSROC welcomes your support on the proposed actions in this Plan which will help to invest in the future of our communities in the Northern Sydney region.



**Councillor Pam Palmer**  
(Outgoing) **NSROC President**  
Mayor of Lane Cove  
(November 2017-18)



**Councillor Gail Giles-Gidney**  
**NSROC President**  
Mayor of Willoughby City Council  
(November 2018-19)

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### Point 1 – Financial Reform - a flexible rating system:

**Objective:** To improve the equity, sustainability and efficiency of the NSW rating system so that it reflects modern community needs and demands in the NSROC region. Some of the proposed actions for NSW Government include:

- Give councils more flexibility in the rating system, such as provide councils with flexibility to set different residential rates within their local area; in particular, for strata titled medium/high density properties. Alternatively enable a shift towards a dual system, with Capital Improved Value (CIV) and the current Land Value. CIV should not be mandated.
- Release the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's (IPART) Report on the Review of the Local Government Rating System 2016.

Giving councils the option to use either CIV or UV (unimproved land value) would be consistent with stakeholders' preferences in the IPART review.

#### Point 2 – Rate Pegging and Infrastructure Funding Reform – flexibility in rate pegging to assist infrastructure funding reform:

**Objective:** To improve the efficiency of funding infrastructure and ensure sustainable revenue that best meets modern community needs and the demand for growth in the NSROC region. Some of the proposed actions for NSW Government include:

- Support the rate pegging options from the Independent Local Government Review Panel's report, Revitalising Local Government (October 2013) including the streamlined rate pegging option to allow councils to increase rates by up to 5% per annum above the rate pegging limit over the life of a Delivery Program, provided certain conditions were satisfied. IPART would still review and determine applications for SVs (Special Variations) of more than 5% per annum above the rate peg.
- Release the IPART's Report on the Review of the Local Government Rating System 2016 and to consider its draft recommendation for councils to levy a special rate for new infrastructure that is jointly funded with other levels of government without the need for approval from IPART (under the special rate variation) and without the rate pegging restrictions. This would require a process to link any projects that receive funding to council priorities established through the community strategic planning process (Integrated Planning and Reporting).

Rate pegging is seen as contributing to the infrastructure renewal backlog and as weakening the financial sustainability of councils. The IPART review found the current system results in increased pressure to apply for SVs (Special Variations).

#### Point 3 – A Liveable Northern Sydney Region - with appropriate social infrastructure:

**Objective:** To enhance the liveability of the NSROC region by fostering healthy, creative, culturally rich and socially connected communities, through the provision of appropriate social and cultural infrastructure. Some of the proposed actions for NSW (or Federal) Government include:

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- Ongoing annual funding program for sportsgrounds, sports facilities and playgrounds such as a new regional funding approach for the metropolitan councils (eg a Regional Sports Foundation or other coordinated regional funding mechanisms).
- Develop a State specific acquisition fund to acquire land for sportsgrounds and open spaces.
- Return a proportion of the State's regional open space fund (or Special Infrastructure Contributions) to the NSROC region where they have been collected, to improve the social infrastructure and open spaces for a growing population.
- Enhance arts and cultural funding for the Northern Sydney region with a regional funding approach for metropolitan councils and recognise Northern Sydney region as a distinct statistical region for arts and cultural funding (rather than grouping the Northern Sydney region collectively with Eastern Sydney and Sydney CBD).
- Develop a State government policy or guideline to promote the preservation of Zone RE1 Public Recreation and Zone RE2 Private Recreation.

### Point 4 – Better Waste Management - for a better environment:

**Objective:** To protect the environment and enhance community well-being through active engagement in waste reduction, recycling and resource recovery. Some of the proposed actions for NSW Government include:

- Prioritise the delivery of waste recovery facilities as key infrastructure for NSW to support a circular economy and minimise landfill.
- Protect existing and identify new locations for waste recycling and management eg transfer stations and recycling centres.
- NSW EPA to consider changes to Schedule 1 of the NSW *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (scheduled activities) to increase the licensing threshold limit for Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) to address the impact of the temporary storage of water base paint.
- NSW Department of Planning and Environment to incorporate waste management standards into planning legislation and regulation for medium and high density residential developments.
- To offset the impact of the China's National Sword policy on kerbside recycling and higher gate fees until the industry and markets have stabilised, increase funding for local councils above the Government's re-allocation of the existing \$47 M from the Waste Less Recycle More Initiative.

### Point 5 – Responsive Planning and Development:

**Objective:** To ensure that the type and quality of development reflects the community's aspirations for the NSROC region while remaining consistent with the objectives of the North District Plan. Some of the proposed actions for NSW Government include:

- Seek stronger governance, scrutiny and quality assurance of the private certification system.

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- Amend the planning rules to prohibit the new Low Rise Medium Density Housing Code from operating in R2 low-density zone.
- Amend the planning rules to exempt Councils impacted by overdevelopment and who are providing forms of medium density housing already accepted by their communities under local planning controls.
- Identify, prevent and monitor the cumulative impacts of the Low Rise Medium Density Code to ensure the cumulative impacts of approved/assessed dwellings remain low-impact.
- Provide clarity in the legislation that the new Local Strategic Planning Statements (LSPS) on how any inconsistencies could be managed and guidance on what weight should be given to LSPS in the assessment of development applications (DAs) by the consent authority.

### Point 6 – Procurement Flexibility – a flexible procurement process:

**Objective:** To introduce flexibility in procurement procedures to better reflect the contemporary practices of supply or purchase of services, initiatives and products that may fall outside of the traditional procurement process, while remaining consistent with probity objectives. Some of the proposed actions for NSW Government include:

- Introduce flexibility in procurement procedures to provide for the trialling or piloting of digital products or platforms for a fixed or short term; enabling the selection of the best product from the range of demonstration models; and supporting procurement of capital works attached to grants for community-led initiatives.
- Modernise the procurement procedures for local government by making appropriate changes to the relevant legislation, regulation and guidelines, in order to reflect the above contemporary needs while remaining consistent with the objectives of obtaining best value for money, dealing fairly with suppliers, quality assurance and probity.

### Point 7 – Our Roads and Traffic – roads and traffic improvement:

**Objective:** To improve roads and traffic to maintain the liveability of the NSROC region with enhanced local road infrastructure and better traffic management. Some of the proposed actions for Government include:

- Federal Government to increase the Roads to Recovery Program funding for the States and for its funding formula to better reflect the expected or projected population growth.
- State (or Federal) Government to establish a policy or strategic framework supported by funding to support local councils to implement active transport strategies (cycling and walking) and facilitate healthier and more active lifestyles and minimise traffic congestion.
- Federal and/or State Government to provide for forward funding for infrastructure delivery, including road and transport, to those areas (and surrounding areas) identified in the North District Plan, with precincts and growth.

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### **Point 8 – Environment -Transport Innovation – leadership in electric vehicles, on-demand public transport and self-driving automated vehicles:**

**Objective:** To lead the NSROC region to shift to new transport options which lower emissions over time and provide a more flexible and effective range of transport options for the public. Some of the proposed actions for Government include:

- NSW and/or Federal Government to partner with interested councils in the NSROC region to facilitate collaboration with industry and research partners to trial on-demand and automated passenger shuttles in identified precincts where appropriate, including the provision of assistance and funding.
- NSW Government's legislative support of charging and parking infrastructure in new residential and commercial developments.
- Encourage uptake of electric vehicles through appropriate investment and concessions.

### **Point 9 – Better Consultation and Engagement – between NSW Government and NSROC:**

**Objective:** To build on consultation and engagement between NSW Government and NSROC member councils through establishment of liaison roles in government agencies. Some of the proposed actions for NSW Government include:

- Establish central contact points or departmental liaison officers in key governmental agencies for the local government areas of the NSROC region or metropolitan ROCs.
- Provide at least a minimum of 14 days' notice for invitations to forums and workshops and 30 days' notice when seeking comment during consultation on key government initiatives, policies, programs and legislation, particularly those that could impact on local councils. This could be done by way of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and circulated and communicated to all NSW Government departments and agencies.

Opportunities may be lost without timely participation or well-prepared contribution on matters which may have an impact on local councils in the NSROC region.

### **Point 10 – Stronger Engagement and Consultation on Legislation and Regulation:**

**Objective:** To strengthen consultation and engagement with local councils on Government's legislative and regulatory proposals and to ensure statutory laws reflect the needs of NSROC communities that NSW Government also serve.

- NSW Government to allow the Parliamentary Counsel's Office to provide NSROC with annual lists of the statutory rules due for repeal (each September) – staged repeal of statutory rules that fall in key government Clusters.
- NSW Parliamentary Counsel's Office to provide NSROC with an annual list of legislation due for statutory review that falls in the key government Clusters.
- NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet to update the NSW Cabinet Manual, Guidelines, Cabinet Process Flowchart and any relevant Premier's Memoranda, to make a specific reference to local councils as a distinct stakeholder under 'consultation' among the current list of external stakeholders in their documents; and



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to allow for a minimum of 14 days to receive comments from local councils during the 'Draft Cabinet Submission Stage' in the NSW Cabinet Process.

NSROC councils could plan ahead and provide well-researched comments for upcoming statutory review, staged repeal of statutory rules and proposed policies for Cabinet submission.

### FINANCIAL REFORM [General Manager/North Sydney Council to lead]

#### POINT 1: A flexible rating system

**Objective:** To improve the equity, sustainability and efficiency of the NSW rating system so that it reflects modern community needs and demands in the NSROC region.

**Outcomes and Benefits:**

- Financial sustainability of councils in the NSROC region over a longer term.
- A more sustainable rating system brings stronger financial benefits for councils to deliver improved services and infrastructure to ratepayers in the NSROC region.

**Proposed Actions For NSW Government:**

- 1.1 Give councils more flexibility in the rating system, such as provide councils with more flexibility to set different residential rates within their local area. In particular, allow different residential rates for low density and strata titled medium/high density housing to more equitably align demand for local government services with actual rates charged and capacity to pay.
  - 1.2 Alternatively, possibly shift towards a dual system, with Capital Improved Value (CIV) - or the combined value of both a house or a unit and land - as an option to the current Land Value only system; and
  - 1.3 CIV should not be mandated, as it depends on characteristics of individual local government areas (city metro or regional).
  - 1.4 Release the IPART's Report on the Review of the Local Government Rating System 2016; and consider and respond to IPART's draft recommendation to allow councils to receive the growth in rates outside the rate peg using Capital Improved Value (CIV); and to consider some of the following IPART's draft recommendations.
    - 1.4.1 Allow councils' general income to grow as the communities they serve grow. It would allow councils to maintain consistent service levels over time with intensification of residential development and align Council revenue without the need to resort to Special Variations.
- 1.5 Give councils more options to set rates within rating categories:**
- 1.5.1 Provide councils with more flexibility to set different residential rates within their local area. Allow councils with diverse communities to set rates that reflect differences in access to, demand for, and cost of providing council services across their local area to improve equity and efficiency. This would allow councils to better tailor rates to the needs of the local communities.
  - 1.5.2 Allow councils to set a new rating category for multi-unit apartments. This would enable councils to address equity and revenue issues by setting the ad

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<sup>1</sup> Extracted from the executive summary of the Draft Report by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) *Review of the Local Government Rating System*, August 2016.

valorem amount of the rate at different proportions of the unimproved land value (UV) for single dwelling properties and multi-dwelling properties.

1.5.3 Facilitating the establishment of differential rating categories for higher density residential zones will enable Councils to address the inequity inherent in the present system that provides a greater rating burden on standalone housing in comparison to strata titled properties.

**1.6 Integrate the use of the Capital Improved Value (CIV) valuation method into the local government rating system:**

1.6.1 If implementation of additional residential rate categories is rejected, or if there will be a long transition period, allow councils to choose between a UV method or a CIV-type method, as done in Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

1.6.2 Give consideration to implementing a CIV methodology in accordance with IPART's recommendations on a separate category of residential rates for multi-dwelling properties (apartment blocks).

1.6.3 Under IPART's draft recommendations:

- Councils would be able to choose either the UV method or a CIV method that sets a property's rates based on its market value (ie, land value plus capital improvements).
- Minimum amounts would be removed from the rate structure, as councils would have the option to use CIV.

1.6.4 Allow councils' general income to grow as the communities they serve grow. It would allow councils to maintain consistent service levels over time without the need to resort to Special Variations.

### RATE PEGGING AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING REFORM [General Manager/North Sydney Council to lead]

#### POINT 2: Flexibility in rate pegging to assist infrastructure funding reform

**Objective:** To improve the efficiency of funding infrastructure and ensure sustainable revenue that best meets modern community needs and the demand for growth in the NSROC region.

**Outcomes and Benefits:**

- Councils able to levy a new type of special rate for new infrastructure jointly funded with other levels of Government to allow better partnerships with state and federal governments in the delivery of joint infrastructure projects in the NSROC region.
- Reduce red tape without the need for regulatory approval from IPART.
- Allow NSROC member councils' general income to grow as the communities they serve grow by ensuring adequate infrastructure to support the growth over time.
- Strengthen the financial sustainability of member councils and improve on infrastructure renewals in the region with flexibility to rate pegging.

**Proposed Actions for NSW Government:**

- 2.1 Release the IPART's Report on the Review of the Local Government Rating System 2016; and to consider IPART's draft recommendation for councils to levy a special rate for new infrastructure that is jointly funded with other levels of government without the need for regulatory approval from IPART (under the special rate variation process), and without the restrictions of rate pegging.
- 2.2 In this context, a process would also need to be established that clearly links any projects that receive funding via the special infrastructure rate to council priorities established through the community strategic planning process (Integrated Planning and Reporting).
- 2.3 Support the rate pegging options from the Independent Local Government Review Panel's report, Revitalising Local Government (October 2013), including the streamlined rate-pegging option to allow councils to increase rates by up to 5% per annum above the rate-pegging limit over the life of a Delivery Program, provided certain conditions were satisfied as proposed in that report (pp 43-45 of the Independent Local Government Review Panel's Report on Revitalising Local Government):
  - 2.3.1 Councils prepare more rigorous Delivery Programs and Revenue Policies, certified by the Mayor and General Manager as meeting all applicable requirements
  - 2.3.2 Community has been made aware of proposed rate increases and associated expenditures contained in the Delivery Program
  - 2.3.3 The case for a Special Variation has been endorsed by the council's auditor as being soundly based and warranted to ensure long term sustainability
  - 2.3.4 Council has lodged its documentation to IPART.

### A LIVEABLE REGION [General Manager/Lane Cove Council to lead]

#### POINT 3: Liveability with Appropriate Social Infrastructure

**Objective:** To enhance the liveability of the NSROC region by fostering healthy, creative, culturally rich and socially connected communities, through the provision of appropriate social and cultural infrastructure.

**Outcomes and Benefits:**

- Liveability is enhanced with the timely delivery of appropriate social, arts, cultural and sports and recreational infrastructure that maximised participation opportunities, community well-being and amenity benefits.
- Social and cultural infrastructure is well-funded to meet the anticipated growth and needs of the NSROC region in order to maintain and enhance the quality of life for the residents in the region.

**Proposed Actions for Government (State/Federal):**

- 3.1 NSW Government (and Federal Government where appropriate) to work collaboratively with member councils in the NSROC region to ensure there is adequate provision of sportsgrounds, sports facilities, recreational infrastructure, open spaces and social, arts and cultural infrastructure and facilities to meet projected growth.
- 3.2 Collectively building shared social, cultural, sports or recreational infrastructure with different levels of government and other partners.
- 3.3 Incorporating sport into active healthy living and 'liveability' measures.
- 3.4 Ongoing annual funding program for sportsgrounds, sports facilities and recreational playgrounds and related facilities which may include a new regional funding approach for the metropolitan councils eg a Regional Sports Foundation or other coordinated regional funding mechanisms for metropolitan councils including the Northern Sydney region.
- 3.5 Developing a State specific acquisition fund to acquire land for sportsgrounds and open spaces. This would greatly benefit councils trying to compete in a rising property market.
- 3.6 Returning a proportion of the State's Special Infrastructure Contributions (SIC) or the regional open space fund to the NSROC region where they have been collected, to improve the social infrastructure and open spaces for supporting a growing population.
- 3.7 Developing a State government policy or guidelines to promote the preservation of Zone RE1 Public Recreation and Zone RE2 Private Recreation. The intention of the zone and why it's important to promote, is that it provides a range of recreational settings and compatible land uses while protecting and enhancing the natural environment for recreational purposes.

- 3.8 Enhancing arts and cultural funding for the Northern Sydney region with a regional funding approach for metropolitan councils and giving recognition to the Northern Sydney region as a distinct statistical region for arts and culture funding processes (rather than grouping the Northern Sydney region collectively with Eastern Sydney and Sydney CBD, which consist of the State institutions that already attract the majority of state funds).

### BETTER WASTE MANAGEMENT – ENVIRONMENT [General Manager/Ku-ring-gai Council to lead]

#### POINT 4: Waste Management for a Better Environment

**Objective:** To protect the environment and enhance community well-being through active engagement in waste reduction, recycling and resource recovery.

**Outcomes and Benefits:**

- Increased access to improved, cost effective waste management services.
- Improved public amenity while maintaining public health and safety and protecting the environment.
- An integrated and consistent waste management system that disappears within the urban and social setting of the community.
- An enhanced network of facilities for waste recycling and management servicing the NSROC region.

**Proposed Actions for NSW Government:**

- 4.1 Prioritise the delivery of waste recovery facilities as key infrastructure for NSW to support a circular economy and minimise landfill.
- 4.2 Support the protection of existing and identification of new locations for waste recycling and management eg transfer stations and recycling centres (Strategy 35.1 – Greater Sydney Region Plan).
- 4.3 NSW EPA to consider changes to Schedule 1 of the NSW *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (scheduled activities), to seek an increase to the licensing threshold limit for Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) in order to address the impact of the temporary storage of water based paint.
- 4.4 NSW Department of Planning and Environment to specifically incorporate waste management standards into planning legislation and regulation for medium and higher density residential developments, so that public health and amenity is not compromised by a building development failing to comply with acceptable standards of waste management.
- 4.5 To offset the impact of the China's National Sword policy on kerbside recycling and higher gate fees until the industry and markets have stabilised, increase funding for local councils above the Government's re-allocation of the existing \$47 million from the Waste Less Recycle More initiative.

#### POINT 5: Responsive Planning and Development

**Objective:** To ensure that the type and quality of development reflects the community's aspirations for the NSROC region while remaining consistent with the objectives of the North District Plan.

**Outcomes and Benefits:**

- A consistent hierarchy of planning rules to provide a clear flow from strategic intent through to local implementation.
- Planning is sustainable and development is delivered at an appropriate pace matched with adequate infrastructure to benefit the community and enhance the liveability in the NSROC region.
- The type and quality of development is not compromised by the housing targets and demand for growth in the NSROC region.
- The private certification system is enhanced by stronger governance, oversight, quality assurance, responsiveness and community confidence in meeting the growth of medium to high-density developments.

**Proposed Actions for Government:**

5.1 NSW Government to:

5.1.1 Apply more scrutiny when determining the competence of applicants seeking various categories of accreditation under the accreditation scheme adopted under the *Building Professionals Act 2005*.

5.1.2 Deal more stringently with incompetent private accredited certifiers who assess, approve and certify development that does not comply with planning instruments and development regulations.

5.1.3 Establish a process to ensure that a principal certifying authority (PCA) is approved independently of the builder.

5.1.4 Remove the self-selection of the private certifier by introducing:

- Certifiers register with council to bid for work and the council vets certifiers credentials eg licences issued;
- Applicant applies to Council for Construction Certificates;
- For each Construction Certificate, an online bidding process is conducted in which the certifiers submit a price for the work;
- If issues arise, Council instructs certifier to rectify under contractual obligations.



- 5.1.5 Ensure that certifiers who have been banned, be prohibited from being employees, consultants, directors or shareholders of entities providing such services.
- 5.2 Amend the planning rules to prohibit the new Low Rise Medium Density Housing Code from operating in R2 low-density zone.
- 5.3 Amend the planning rules to exempt Councils impacted by overdevelopment and who are providing forms of medium density housing already accepted by their communities under local planning controls.
- 5.4 Ensure that the cumulative impacts of the Low Rise Medium Density Housing Code with multiple code-based approvals/assessed dwellings are to be identified, prevented and continually monitored to ensure they remain low-impact.
- 5.5 Request the NSW Department of Planning and Environment to give due regard to NSROC councils' preferences in their review of developer contributions and voluntary planning agreements.
- 5.6 Give due weight and consideration to the evidence and decisions of councils with regard to planning proposals that are not supported by councils and their community.
- 5.7 Provide clarity in the legislation that the new Local Strategic Planning Statements (LSPS) are not intended to replace councils' development control plans (DCP) if there are inconsistencies between the LSPS and DCPs; or clarify how any inconsistencies are to be managed and guidance on what weight should be given to LSPS in the assessment of development applications (DAs) by the consent authority.

### PROCUREMENT FLEXIBILITY [General Manager/Willoughby City Council to lead]

#### POINT 6: A Flexible Procurement Process

**Objective:** To introduce flexibility in procurement procedures to better reflect the contemporary practices of supply or purchase of services, initiatives and products that may fall outside of the traditional procurement process, while remaining consistent with probity objectives.

**Outcomes and Benefits:**

- NSROC councils are able to respond to contemporary initiatives, products and services including community-led initiatives such as capital works associated with grants that go beyond the traditional procurement practices.
- Flexibility and modernisation in procurement processes to enable the trialling or piloting of digital products or platforms by providing the opportunity for NSROC councils to select the best from the trialling of demonstration products while remaining consistent with probity objectives.

**Proposed Actions for NSW Government:**

- 6.1 To examine whether procurement procedures for local government are well-adapted to suit contemporary practices in the supply or purchase of certain initiatives, products and services such as:
  - community-led initiatives that have received grants with capital works associated with the grants;
  - the trialling or piloting of digital products or platforms for a fixed or short term period
  - the selection of the best product from a range of demonstration products trialled on a fixed short term basis.
- 6.2 To reflect the above contemporary needs while remaining consistent with the objectives on obtaining best value for money, dealing fairly with suppliers, quality assurance and probity, NSW Government to modernise the procurement procedures for local government by making relevant changes to:
  - NSW *Local Government Act 1993* (section 55)
  - NSW *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (part 7 Tendering)
  - Tendering Guidelines for NSW Local Government (October 2009).

### OUR ROADS & TRAFFIC [General Manager/Hornsby Shire Council to lead]

#### POINT 7: Roads and Traffic Improvement

**Objective:** To improve roads and traffic to maintain the liveability of the NSROC region with enhanced local road infrastructure and better traffic management.

**Outcomes and Benefits:**

- Traffic congestion is minimised and roads conditions and connections are improved.
- Funding is appropriately matched to support local roads and transport infrastructure to meet the growth in the NSROC region.
- Greater access for the community and improved safety, economic and social benefits are facilitated through the enhanced road infrastructure maintenance and better traffic management in the NSROC region.

**Proposed Actions for Government (State/Federal):**

- 7.1 Federal and/or State Government to provide for forward funding for infrastructure delivery, including road and transport, to those areas (and surrounding areas) identified in the North District Plan, with precincts and growth.
- 7.2 Federal Government to increase the Roads to Recovery Program funding for the States and for its funding formula to better reflect the expected or projected population growth.
- 7.3 State (or Federal) Government to establish a policy or strategic framework supported by funding to incentivise local councils to implement active transport strategies (cycling and walking) to shift from reliance on motorised vehicles and minimise traffic congestion, and support healthier and more active lifestyles.

ENVIRONMENT - TRANSPORT INNOVATION [General Manager/Mosman Council to lead]

### **POINT 8: Leadership in Electric Vehicles, On-Demand Public Transport and Self-Driving Automated Vehicles**

**Objective:** To lead the NSROC region to shift to new transport options which lower-emissions over time and provide a more flexible and effective range of transport options for the public.

**Outcomes and Benefits:**

- Improved accessibility and logistics efficiency through innovative use of technology and adaption to global trends.
- Improved public transport which recognises new, more flexible options and the role of consumer driven solutions.
- Greater Federal and State investment in transport infrastructure.
- Sustainability and resilience of the NSROC region will be strengthened to adapt to the challenge of climate change and lower-emissions.
- Economic and social benefits will flow from smart technology and infrastructure.

**Proposed Actions for Government (State/Federal):**

- 8.1 Encourage the uptake of Electric Vehicles (EVs) through appropriate investment and concessions.
- 8.2 Government's legislative support of charging and parking infrastructure in new residential and commercial developments through:
  - 8.2.1 amendments in planning controls to make provisions for charging stations in private developments (similar to those provided for bicycle spaces)
  - 8.2.2 contributions plans to include installations of public charging stations as part of conditions.
- 8.3 NSW and/or Federal Government to partner with interested councils in the NSROC region to facilitate collaboration with industry and research partners to trial on-demand and automated passenger shuttles in identified precincts where appropriate, including the provision of assistance and funding to understand:
  - the supporting technology and infrastructure that is needed,
  - how it interacts with other precinct users (pedestrians, cyclists etc),
  - how it integrates with the broader transport network; and
  - passengers' responses to the service eg on-demand transport in off-peak periods.

### BETTER CONSULTATION & ENGAGEMENT [General Manager/Hunter's Hill Council to lead]

#### **POINT 9: Better Consultation and Engagement Process between NSW Government and NSROC**

**Objective:** To build on consultation and engagement between NSW Government and NSROC member councils through establishment of liaison roles in government agencies.

**Outcomes and Benefits:**

- Communication, consultation and engagement process is strengthened between NSW Government and NSROC member councils in key portfolios, benefiting both the Government and the local councils and their communities in the NSROC region.
- Key concerns can be raised and addressed more efficiently and effectively through the enhanced process of having liaison contact points in key government agencies.
- Well-informed materials and evidence-based information can be provided to NSW Government with adequate consultation time.

**Proposed Actions for NSW Government:**

- 9.1 Introduce and establish central contact points or departmental liaison officers in key governmental agencies and departments for the local government areas of the NSROC region or metropolitan ROCs. Some of the key departments and agencies that may require such ROCs liaison officers, include:
- NSW Department of Planning and Environment
  - Roads and Maritime Services NSW
  - Transport for NSW
  - NSW Family and Community Services
  - NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet
  - NSW Department of Education
- 9.2 Provide at least a minimum of 14 days' notice for invitations to forums and workshops, and 30 days' notice when seeking comment during consultation on key government initiatives, policies, programs and legislation, particularly those that could impact on local councils. This could be done by way of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and circulated and communicated to all NSW Government departments and agencies.

### STRONGER ENGAGEMENT ON LEGISLATION [Executive Director NSROC to lead]

#### POINT 10: A Stronger Engagement and Consultation on Legislation and Regulation

**Objective:** To strengthen consultation and engagement with local councils on Government's legislative and regulatory proposals and to ensure statutory laws reflect the needs of NSROC communities that NSW Government also serve.

**Outcomes and Benefits:**

- Timely and well-prepared comments are provided for proposed legislative amendments and regulations that reflect the needs of the NSROC region.
- NSROC member councils can influence and shape key provisions of legislation or regulation to better support the region.

**Proposed Actions for NSW Government:**

- 10.1 Allow the Parliamentary Counsel's Office to provide NSROC with annual lists of the statutory rules due for repeal (each September) - staged repeal of statutory rules (including the number of previous postponements of repeal), that fall in the following government Clusters:
  - Planning and Environment
  - Transport and Infrastructure
  - Premier and Cabinet
  - Finance, Services and Innovation
  - Industry
  - Family and Community Services.
- 10.2 NSW Parliamentary Counsel's Office to provide NSROC with an annual list of legislation due for statutory review (usually every 5 years) that falls in the above government Clusters.
- 10.3 NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet to update the NSW Cabinet Manual, Guidelines, Cabinet Process Flowchart and any relevant Premier's Memoranda:
  - 10.3.1 to make a specific reference to local councils or LGAs as a distinctive stakeholder under 'Consultation' rather than the current guidance on "external stakeholders include: the public, industry, the Australian Government, other jurisdictions";
  - 10.3.2 a step to allow for a minimum of 14 days to receive comment from local councils during the 'Draft Cabinet Submission Stage' in the NSW Cabinet Process Flowchart, NSW Cabinet Manual and Guidelines.



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