



## **NSROC PRESS RELEASE – 21 February 2011**

### **FIX TRANSPORT AND PLANNING ! NORTHERN SYDNEY'S ELECTION PRIORITIES**

“Fix transport and planning is our key message to the State and Opposition parties for the March NSW election” says Chair of the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) and Hornsby Mayor Nick Berman.

NSROC, which represents seven north shore councils, has released its ‘Planning Blueprint’ today that speaks to both parties on how to manage population growth, the environment and economy on Sydney’s north shore.

“We need to get transport links operating across the north shore for the benefit of all Sydney’s residents and workers.

The North-West Rail Link and the Epping to Parramatta Rail Link are essential to keep workers moving and businesses functioning across Sydney. These links will relieve traffic congestion and help improve the environment and productivity.” said Mayor Berman.

Planning must allow local government to manage population growth and maintain liveable communities. The NSROC Planning Blueprint criticises the State Government’s ‘Metropolitan Plan’, which sets population targets for each council but provides no transparency on how targets are calculated. The Metropolitan Plan also ignores the pressures of increasing population on open space and liveability in already high density areas and provides no protection to agricultural land on Sydney’s fringe.

The Blueprint also sets out key reforms to planning, as Mayor Berman argues:

“We need to match local planning with local level decision making. Too many local planning decisions are being taken away from the local community and given to Joint Regional Planning Panels or sitting on the Minister’s desk.

State Government should focus on their responsibilities – providing transport, infrastructure and determining genuine State significant major developments.”

For a copy of the NSROC “Planning Blueprint 2011”, visit [www.nsroc.org](http://www.nsroc.org)

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Media Queries: Mayor Nick Berman, NSROC President, 0422 021 031

For further information contact : Carolynne James, NSROC Executive Director 0403 150 499