

Implications for Future Growth and Sustainability

Population forecasts for continued and accelerating growth of urban areas have a range of implications for sustainability.

Sustainability is development that meets the needs of the present population without endangering the capacity of future generations to meet their needs. Indicators of sustainability in urban areas include air and water quality, biodiversity, integration of green building initiatives, health and well being measures, employment rates, transport infrastructure and access to employment.

Implications of growth of urban areas include loss of agricultural land, habitat areas and open space, increased pressure on transport infrastructure resulting in heavy flows of commuter traffic and traffic congestion.

Planning for the future growth of urban centres in Australia needs to address the provision of:

- public transport,
- more efficient use and upgrading of existing infrastructure and the provision of additional infrastructure,
- land-use and infrastructure planning which takes into consideration equitable access and reduction in carbon emissions,
- provision of green and public space,
- creation and support of employment centres

Priority Precincts and increased density

An increase in density of urban areas creates more compact, “efficient” urban areas. This allows for services and infrastructure to be provided for a greater number of people and can allow residents to access public transport more easily and become less reliant on cars. The State Government’s Priority Precinct Program encourages population growth and increased density in specified areas. The Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor includes the Inner West suburbs of St Peters, Sydenham, Tempe, Marrickville, Dulwich Hill and Hurlstone Park. For further reading click:

<http://www.urbangrowth.nsw.gov.au/assets/Living-Cities/Cfs-Discussion-Paper-Making-Great-Places-Density-Done-Well.pdf>

Connectivity and Infrastructure

Public infrastructure such as hospital, police centres, schools, trains, buses and roads is required for cities to function effectively. Upgrades of schools include Ashfield Boys, Ashbury Public, Croydon Public, and the construction of NSW School of Languages at Petersham. An ambulance super centre is being built at Haberfield. Transport infrastructure includes the construction of the Metroline and the M4 East extension, M5 extension and the M4-5 link.

