

## President's Message

**THE NORTHERN SYDNEY** Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) is comprised of seven councils (Hunter's Hill, North Sydney, Willoughby, Ku-ring-gai, Ryde, Hornsby and Lane Cove) in the northern part of Sydney which have voluntarily come together to address regional issues, work co-operatively for the benefit of the region, and advocate on agreed regional positions and priorities.

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information about a few of our joint initiatives as part of our undertaking to work strategically as a local government alliance for the benefit of our communities.

NSROC is guided by a Board made up of councillors from each of the seven member councils which meet regularly to discuss matters of regional importance and set regional priorities. The seven member councils also work collectively through NSROC on a range of regional initiatives aimed at improving the way local government does business. All this helps ensure that the region is managed appropriately and sustainably, and that the unique economic, lifestyle and environmental attributes of the region are recognised by all spheres of government.

The Northern Sydney region is home to some of the most beautiful locations in Australia and, at the same time, is a significant contributor to the economy of the nation. As a long term resident

in this part of the world, I recognise how fortunate we are to have such a wonderful place to live, work and play. Such an important region requires careful management and strong leadership to ensure that the many assets that make the region so attractive and vibrant are managed sustainably for future generations. Councils working together under the NSROC umbrella helps make this happen.




Pat Reilly  
Mayor of Willoughby Council  
President of NSROC



## Councils band together to save environment

**THE DAMAGE CAUSED** by clearing bushland, the destabilisation of water sources, the spread of feral animals and noxious weeds, climate change and general pollution is threatening to destroy the unique natural heritage of northern Sydney.

Providing effective environmental management to such a large and disparate region is challenging. However, the combined councils of northern Sydney work appreciably hard on environmental restoration and improvement.

In addition, every NSW council is required to produce an annual State of the Environment (SOE) report to analyse the health and success of, or need for, specific environmental programs. For the first time in 2005, northern Sydney councils banded together to produce a regional SOE report.

As president of the LGA and Mayor of North Sydney, Genia McCaffery is a great advocate of the regional report, which is incorporated in council management plans.

"Although our region has some of the most beautiful natural environments in Sydney, ongoing population growth with urban consolidation is placing our environmental heritage under unprecedented pressure. A regional strategy to ensure it's not lost or irreparably damaged is critical to its survival. Ecosystems are intrinsically linked and to tackle these issues effectively we need to analyse them at a Catchment level", Clr McCaffery said.

As well as measuring water and air quality, climate change, flora and fauna protection, pollution levels, traffic, waste management and energy consumption, northern Sydney councils work closely with their communities in their efforts toward environmental sustainability.

At no time in the history of any of the NSROC councils has the challenge of sustainability been more dramatic and compelling. Contact your council today to join in the effort of promoting and improving the region's environmental sustainability.

## Sydney's North 2030 – a bold initiative for economic development

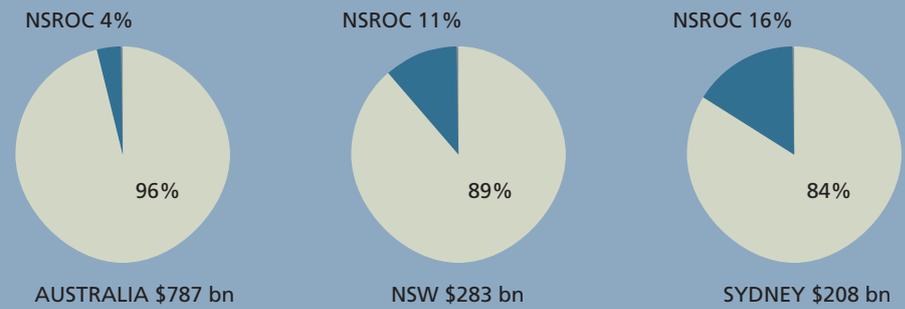
### HORNSBY, HUNTERS HILL, KU-RING-GAI, LANE COVE, NORTH SYDNEY, RYDE and WILLOUGHBY

Councils are working together to create sustainable economic development opportunities in Northern Sydney. As part of this commitment, a cross-section of business, government, education and community leaders came together in March for two days to talk about their vision for the region and develop a strategic plan.

Hornsby Mayor Nick Berman said the forum showed the region was taking responsibility for itself rather than relying on the State Government.

"We are the northern gateway to Sydney, making us ideally placed to play a significant role in investment growth opportunities in the Greater Sydney region. Conveniently located along the

### Economic Contribution of NSROC by Region 2004



region's key rail and road networks, we can give employers access to a skilled local labour force, as well as workers from across Sydney," he said.

The Northern Sydney region is a valuable part of the NSW economy. The annual economic output of the region is estimated to amount to about \$32 bn – around 16 per cent of the output for Greater Sydney and 11 per cent of NSW.

Jobs in the area are centred on service provision, knowledge industries, property, and business. Retail and wholesale trade, finance and insurance, health and education are important to the economic

base of the NSROC region and are showing sustained employment growth.

The workforce in the NSROC region is highly skilled. More than 30 per cent of the population over 15 hold a tertiary level qualification – well ahead of Sydney and the state as a whole.

"NSROC councils have a diverse range of economic activity centres which provide for a wide choice of investment opportunities. All NSROC councils are looking forward to working with other groups to create economic development opportunities throughout Northern Sydney," Nick Berman concluded.

## Northern Sydney Sub-regional Planning Strategy



**NORTHERN SYDNEY COUNCILS** are working together to develop a 30-year strategy to meet the region's needs for housing, infrastructure, jobs and commercial activity. The Northern Sydney Sub-Regional Planning Strategy will give councils a region-wide perspective in planning for increased population and development and will help northern Sydney get the right long-term balance of

population, dwellings, jobs, transport and community services.

Detailed planning is needed to cater for the expected rises in population across northern Sydney. The region contains sensitive natural areas, ageing infrastructure and established suburbs but is also home to a large part of the economic powerhouse of Sydney known as the global arc of business stretching from the Airport through North Sydney and Chatswood to Macquarie Park.

Estimates show in the next 30 years, the number of people in the northern region will rise by 18 per cent to 601,000; dwellings will rise by 31 per cent; and the number of jobs will increase by 35 per cent.

Councils need to work closely with each other and the State Government to plan for this growth and ensure development occurs in an environmentally sustainable way. The strategy which will assist NSROC

in putting forwards its position on the State Government's Metropolitan Strategy, will also guide councils in zoning land and developing new local plans.

Our residents and businesses will be consulted about these plans as they unfold, taking into account how each plan fits into the bigger picture.

- Key issues to be addressed include:
- \* Infrastructure development in areas such as roads, public transport, health services, sewage and electricity.
  - \* The future of Hornsby, Chatswood, St Leonards and North Sydney as key regional centres
  - \* Impacts of transport projects such as the Lane Cove Tunnel, the M2-F3 link, the Parramatta to Chatswood and Rouse Hill to Epping rail links and strategic bus corridors
  - \* The role of Macquarie Park as a major new employment and business destination

#### HORNSBY

Mayor Berman



Councillor Delegate  
Felicity Findlay

#### HUNTERS HILL

Mayor Hoopman



Councillor Delegate  
Ross Sherin

#### KU-RING-GAI

Mayor Malicki



Councillor Delegate  
Ian Cross

#### LANE COVE

Mayor Longbottom



Councillor Delegate  
Rod Tudge

#### NORTH SYDNEY

Mayor McCaffery



Councillor Delegate  
Nick Ritten

#### RYDE

Mayor Petch



Councillor Delegate  
Edna Wilde

#### WILLOUGHBY

Mayor Reilly



Councillor Delegate  
Terry Fogarty



For more information on NSROC go to [www.nsroc.org](http://www.nsroc.org) or contact your local council.