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THE AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

I would like to speak about the need for reform of the Australian political administrative system.

By way of background I came to politics in 1974 having no previous involvement with any political parties or organisations.

In fact if North Sydney Council had not threatened my home, I would never have become involved in politics.

When elected there was no burning desire to change the world. I had just a few simple principles such as the workings of government should be totally open to public scrutiny and elected representatives should enable people to not only participate in all decisions that affected them, but to ultimately find ways to have people make decisions for themselves.

I assumed that the very basis of democracy is that a decision taken by the public as a whole would be right more often than decisions taken by an elite group no matter how wise that group.

I also considered that people entrusted with the public purse should respect that trust and threat public money, as they would want other people to treat their money.

You can begin to see what a collision course was set up with political parties and the bureaucrats.

In any case over the next 20-odd years I had the unique experience of having an independent inside view of 14 years in local government, seven in State Parliament and six in the most exclusive club in Australia – Federal Parliament.

It is the only known case of someone being elected to the three levels of government as an Independent.

It did not happen because the electors of North Sydney were all carbon monoxide affected or because there was some magic secret of electoral success.

It happened through hard work and because people saw the benefits of those three fundamental principles – open government, decentralised decision-making and financial probity – demonstrated in the North Sydney Council for some eight years.

Now all this is by way of background and contrast with the operation of state and federal government.

Over the last decade there have been endless calls by state and federal governments for increased efficiency, no wage increases unless matched by productivity increases, for restructuring, downsizing and deregulation – all in the name of increased international competitiveness.

As a result thousands of jobs have disappeared.

Now there is little doubt some restructuring of the country was necessary but with breathtaking hypocrisy one section of Australian society seems to be totally quarantined from the need for reform – the politicians, senior bureaucrats and the structures of the three levels of government.

In the last ten years, while calling for the community to reform, tighten their belts, to get rid of inefficient management and work practices, the salaries, perks and lurks of politicians and senior bureaucrats have expanded enormously.

Since 1981 ministerial staff numbers have increased from 183 to 338.

The expansion has been almost in proportion to rising unemployment and mirrored the increasing disparity between rich and poor.

In the Howard Government's first slash and burn budget, most items were reduced or increased only slightly, except for one item – the cost of running Federal Parliament.

It jumped by 12 percent or $50 million.

Australian State and Federal Parliaments are largely an expensive charade most of the time.

Lower Houses are normally rubber stamps for whichever political party constitutes the executive government.

The lack of separation of powers in Australia between executive government and parliament breaches the very fundamental purpose of a Lower House, which is to be a check on executive government.

Yet separation of powers has been recognised as an essential part of the democratic system for over two centuries.

The House of Representatives only once or twice every 50 years or so ever makes a decision.

Virtually all decisions are made by small groups before Parliament meets and many in these small groups are not elected or accountable.

In all State and Federal Lower Houses the vote is always the same between elections, except in the rare occasions of hung parliaments or someone crossing the floor.

Even as a forum for ventilating ideas Lower Houses as they now stand are largely a waste of time.

All the press usually reports is the bullfight of question time as entertainment and personality clashes.

Most speeches are the equivalent of yodeling in the bathroom.

Federal Parliament is the most expensive and unwatched television program in history.

Most Party members usually have no idea or even interest in what they are voting on, why should they?

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If they don't vote as the Party Whips dictate they will lose preselection.

The Senate is little better.

Paul Keating's statement that the Senators are "unrepresentative swill" is mostly correct.

Most Senators represent no one but their factional bosses and simply do what they are told.

Why wouldn't they – being handed a winnable Senate position means a life of luxury and security?

The Senate is supposed to represent the States, but never has.

It is however; the only possible check on executive power and should never be weakened until the Lower House is reformed.

While it is certainly more representative than the Lower House, it is unacceptable as a democratic institution.

Frankly how can it be democratic if on voting for say, the GST?   The vote of a person living in Alice Springs is worth seven times as much as a person in Broken Hill or the vote of someone from Hobart being worth fourteen times the value of someone from Tenterfield.

If the Government does not control the Senate, then the Government is theoretically, undemocratically frustrated.

Either way it is little more than humbug.

A closer glimpse of the full horror of the Senate has been provided in recent years by people such as Senators Woods, Colston and Crighton-Browne.

We should be almost thankful to them in a sense for showing up the system as it really is.

It should be remembered however that the travel rorts, junkets to the south of France to sample cheeses with girl friends, the 46 overseas trips for Colston, were all acquiesced to by both major parties for many years.

Yet even this is just the tip of the iceberg.

In the first year of office the Howard Ministry racked up 63 overseas junkets exceeding the excesses of the Hawke and Keating governments.

It seems not a month goes by without another revelation of Federal and State politicians rorting the system.

A system, which is not only outrageously generous, even if operated with integrity, but one that is so loose that anyone on the make can have an orgy.

One of the richest men in Parliament was recently caught out which gives lie to the pathetic excuse that if you pay peanuts you get monkeys.

The truth is if you pay more peanuts you often get gorillas.

Then there is the notorious Parliamentary Pension Scheme, totally unfunded, run by the members who can and do extend the benefits at any time they like at no cost to themselves.

At the moment you can pay in about $75,000, retire in your 30s, and get a guaranteed two to three million dollars during your lifetime.

The story is consistently one of one law for the politicians and another for the public.

This principle, and the perks and lurks, are not confined just to Federal MPs.

It flows through in various forms to the State MPs, to the judiciary and bureaucracy at Federal and State and Local levels and to countless semi-government bodies.

All this is not to say that there are not a great number of honest people in politics.

Of course there are, but while ever they remain silent and make no effort to advocate reform, the politicians as a whole and the political institutions will be held in contempt.

While ever there is not a genuinely independent tribunal, which really reflects community values, transparently setting and monitoring politicians and salaries and perks, then the rorts will continue.

On a wider view, what sort of future does this relatively minuscule country of 19 million people have with nine governments, nine legal systems, 15 houses of parliament, around 840 full-time politicians and their associated bureaucracies spewing out truck-loads of legislation annually?

A level of over-government unmatched in any comparable country.

We have almost four times the number of MPs as the United Kingdom and twice as many as New Zealand and the United States in proportion to our population.

On 1992 figures it cost $1.3 million per Federal MP.

The United Kingdom and New Zealand only $415,000.

Federal, State and even Local government all too often seem to be engaged in guerilla warfare with a Byzantine maze of overlapping functions, power struggles, empire building and character assassination of opponents, in between milking the system and over-crowing the airports of Australia for the ever-increasing overseas junkets.

In addition to the 840 odd MPs in Australia there are some 700 odd local governments and 10,000 or so local Councillors mostly trying to jump on the full-time gravy-train.

In almost every area of public policy, health, education, environment, transport, etc. the story is an unbelievable waste of public money with federal, state and local politicians and bureaucrats jealously guarding their power, or seeking political advantage, rather then any real public interest.

Government seems to consist of two Mafia families seeking control of the public purse for distribution to themselves, supporters, the special interests who fund them and for buying votes at the next election.

Instead of any attempt at reform, we see a series of unbelievably expensive Royal Commissions, inquiries, Ombudsman's and Auditors' reports in almost all states showing mismanagement and corruption.

It is far more than just a case of a few rotten apples.

It is the system itself.

The lack of faith in public institutions translates into a siege mentality by governments and harassment at every turn.

Governments become moribund and get replaced but the cycle just begins again.

We are massively over-governed and badly governed.

That is why we have such a plethora of ombudsmen, auditors, royal commissions and inquiries of almost every conceivable variety – all of which are an enormous overhead.

While there are many people of goodwill in the system, they are trapped by the failure to adapt our organisational structure to change since Federation.

Our administrative structures were formed a century ago in a vastly different world.

Our Constitution, while having many good points, was largely a parochial compromise between the State politicians of the day.

It was patch together with bits of the British and American systems and served reasonably well for about 70 years.

The States were separate colonies with largely arbitrary boundaries drawn up in London.

The founding fathers could hardly have envisaged the world of today with say the paralysis of nine impossibly expensive adversary-based legal systems and a continuous "Balkanised" warfare among the states and the Commonwealth, let alone the problems of globalisation.

Local government, in comparison with the other two levels of government, is structurally not all that bad.

Not that, that is saying much.

There is certain truth in the cliché that local government is closer to the people.

Certainly Councillors generally reflect the community better than state or federal representatives particularly as they are less captive of party powerbrokers.

Councillors are usually more diverse with higher proportions of women and a wide range of ages and occupations.

I admit that local government usually appears to be more rat-baggy, but that is because it is more representative of the community.

After all, at least ten percent of the community are off the planet to some degree and they are usually represented by one or two somewhat mad Councillors.

The lack of separation of powers between governments and parliaments, along with unfair voting systems, are the major defects of the Australian system.

The voting system is the foundation of democracy, yet ours constantly distorts the will of the people.

The single member electorate system is a winner-take-all system, which almost always produces minority governments.

In a recent international study of 30 industrialised democracies as to their level of democracy, Australia ranks almost at the bottom.

We fail the two fundamental criteria – governments should represent the majority and the voting system should reflect the will of the people.

The Liberal-National Coalition in Canberra has only 39.5 percent of the vote and Labor in NSW 42.8 percent yet both have 100 percent of the say.

One of the worst examples of distortion was the first Northern Territory election in 1974 when Labor received 30.5 percent of the vote but no seats in Parliament.

The Queensland and Western Australian Royal Commissions identified the dominance of the Executive Government, through the lack of separation of powers, as the major cause of corruption in those states in the 1980s.

After all, you can hardly call yourself a democracy if you cannot vote directly to decide the government and voting is not based on one vote one value.

Far from the Prime Minister's constitutional convention, carefully confined to relatively minor issues, we desperately need a new constitution and political restructure for the 21st century.

Whether the head of state is changed from the Queen to an Australian is hardly vital to the country.

Of course, we will dispense with the Monarchy in the fullness of time as the final act of obtaining full independence – but it is a minor matter compared to the major constitutional reforms needed which directly affect every single person.

However, to get things in perspective, we need to realise that democracy is a relatively new method of government in the world's history.

It has only seriously been pursued since the 18th century and it must be admitted it has made very slow progress.

Today about 30-40 countries could be called faintly democratic out of the 200 odd that now exist in the world.

Non is fully satisfactory but all are continuing to develop in various way.

Most of the English speaking world, excluding the United States, has struggled along with the representative-adversary model of government for about 200 years.

By representative government I mean the system whereby we elect representatives for three years or so and delegate all our power to them and then pass judgement on them at the next election.

However we should realise that this is only a very primitive and unsatisfactory form of democracy.

Its inadequacy is shown particularly starkly at local government level.

There is now little need to delegate our rights.

It is not much good taking revenge on your representatives one or two years later at the next election if they have voted contrary to your views or turned your street into a traffic disaster or allowed the construction of a building which took away your sun.

It is the specific decision that people are interested in and we should all have a right to participate in all decisions, which affect us.

We need to move on to participatory direct democracy and dispense with formal oppositions in government and their pathetic reversals of policies depending whether they won or lost the last election.

Both the Swiss and American systems do not have formal oppositions. While they are far from perfect they are more advanced models of democratic structures.

Unfortunately, America's democracy has been substantially destroyed by its reliance on vast quantities of bribes, euphemistically called campaign donations, as well as its undemocratic voting system.

We are also well down that road.

As things stand, the rigid Australian two-party system has centralised power to a very high degree and has overwhelmed whatever merits existed in the Westminster system.

Both our legal and political systems are based on the adversarial method.

The fundamental flaw of this method is that it is morally corrupt in that truth is irrelevant – winning is all that counts, and winning generally depends on money.

The legal system and the political systems have now become largely self-serving institutions with diminishing public credibility.

The legal system is now so horrendously expensive that even a pretence of justice is only for the rich or those using other people's money.

Quite obviously, given the number of people acquitted in court either the police arrest many innocent people or the courts set free many guilty ones.

The party-political system has corrupted parliament to the point where many members often vote against what they, or even what their electorates, believe in on a regular basis.

After a few years many do not believe in anything.

It therefore becomes easy to advocate any position you like depending on the supposed advantage to the party at any particular time.

The bottom line is that the traditional representative government system is no longer adequate and we really do need to evolve a better system.

The case for representative democracy as we know it, in contrast to democracy, was definitively made by Edmund Burke in Britain shortly after his election to the Westminster Parliament in 1774.

After he was elected he told his electors that we would use his judgement in making decisions for the benefit of the whole community rather than sacrifice that judgement to the views of his electors.

That view is regularly echoed around Australia in editorials today.

It is the justification for breaking election promises and for the theory that governments need to take the hard decisions for the benefit of the country or state or municipality soon after an election so that the electorate will presumably have the time to forget about it by the next election.

It shows a basic contempt for the electorate and it is founded on the very elitist view that what the public wants will invariably be wrong.

In my view this theory is not only morally wrong but in practical terms only leads to public frustration and apathy and is the fundamental reason why government and politicians are held in such low regard.

Incidentally Edmund Burke was thrown out of office at the election following his speech.

Most elected representatives, when first elected, vow to faithfully represent the people.

Once elected however it is usually a different matter.

The great expertise of bureaucracy at all levels of government is in seducing elected representatives.

Elected representatives soon become enmeshed in complexities and self-importance and seem to love the drama of dealing with confidential matters in secrecy.

In Canberra, for example, all the staff of Parliament House are trained to always call members by name and people are actually employed to open doors for you.

With free cars and overseas junkets and a host of personal benefits always on tap, it is very easy to develop an inflated sense of your own importance and assume that a mantle of wisdom has descended.

It is easy for representatives to forget that by entering into secret discussions a climate of corruption is created and those the representatives are supposed to represent are betrayed.

Representatives or bureaucrats who go into closed meetings are destroying public faith in the institutions of government, avoiding accountability and exposing themselves to corruption charges.

They are really being fools or knaves as there is no such thing as secrecy.

In any meeting of two or more people the smart money can always find out what went on.

Only the public is kept in the dark.

Secrecy is in fact an essential component of moral and financial corruption.

The only defence is openness and accountability.

Because bureaucracy tends to be expert and specialist it inevitably develops its own jargon, its own view of the world and set of values.

It is inherently elitist.

But community values are not a matter of expertise – only the community has a right to determine values – not the bureaucracy.

Not the politicians. Not the lawyers or academics.

It is not that people directing bureaucracies and elite's are malevolent, it is just the natural order of things to be cynical about the "great unwashed" -- the public – let alone their supposed masters, the elected representatives.

The Yes Minister series on television is deadly accurate.

The fact is bureaucracy and the public do not usually have a common interest.

If they did we would not need elected representatives or elections.

One of the great traps for elected representatives is to accept the proposition, often proposed by the bureaucrats, "look we are all here to work for the community as a team".

Any government that accepts this proposition soon ends up in a state of siege, with the elected and the bureaucrats inside the fort and an angry public galloping around outside screaming for blood.

There should always be two teams.

There must always be a clear separation between the elected and the bureaucracy if the organisation is to be accountable.

Since the second World War elitism in public decision-making in democracies around the world has become an increasing problem.

It has grown with the complexity of society and the explosion in bureaucracy and academia.

Directions of public policy, not only technical decisions, but values, have been imposed on the community.

Social engineering has been rampant.

This is not to say that what the elite have imposed has been right or wrong, but it has been forgotten or not realised that in a democracy the public must accept decisions and understand them.

Many elected representatives and governments have paid the penalty for their failure to understand this.

For example it took several years of meetings with experts to convince Margaret Thatcher to institute a poll tax – and it cost her the Prime Ministership.

In Canada the government imposed a GST and went from 150 seats in their parliament to just two seats at the following election.

The French Government was recently thrown out for listening too much to the elite in the European Commission and ignoring the public.

There is no question that through the 13 years of the previous Labor Government, elitism dominates in policy areas such as economic rationsalism, Immigration and multiculturalism and they paid the electoral penalty.

Any questioning of the elite views on these matters was generally stifled by personal vilification.

It was inevitable that this attitude would eventually create a Pauline Hanson.

No amount of character assassination of Hanson and those attending her meetings as uneducated rednecks, Luddites, fascists and racists will do any good.

Bad ideas can never be banned or beaten by abuse.

They can only be defeated by a better idea.

Unfortunately political parties, as they now exist, can never reform the system.

It is impossible for them to consider almost anything except in terms of partisan advantage.

Imagine what Howard and Beazley would be saying if Warren Entsch was a Labor Minister.

Because increasing numbers are now voting against the major parties they are now attempting even more electoral manipulation.

The Liberals are attempting to rort the Senate just as Labor is attempting to fix the New South Wales Upper House.

My conviction of the need to transform traditional representative government towards direct democracy stems not only from principle, but from the practical success this policy produced in North Sydney in the 1980s.

On one level that success was measured by a 90 percent endorsement at the 1987 elections which was probably an unprecedented level of approval in a genuine democratic election.

It was because the "them and us" syndrome was broken and the Council had obtained the trust and support of the community.

The first step in such a program was to develop the mechanisms for open government.

People cannot make sensible decisions without full access to information.

All council files, business papers, sub-committee papers and officers' reports were made available to the public before decisions were taken.

Actual legal advice was excluded but it was discussed in open council.

In retrospect, even keeping written legal advice confidential was probably a mistake.

There was no meeting of any sort from which the public was excluded in eight years.

This included senior staff appointments, and interviews, tenders and legal matters.

I would also argue that the duality of decision-making was substantially improved.

Anyone could address Council on any item on the agenda without prior notice.

Public meetings, mostly on site, were held for all controversial matters and for Council projects.

A precinct system of resident forums was initiated which has now been adopted in various forms by other councils.

However, precinct systems are only really effective if they are part of the decision-making process, not just consultative bodies or seen as public relations for the council.

They only work with a supportive council committed to open government and decentralised decision-making.

On broad issues affecting the council, referenda were held.

Some 40 questions were put to the public in about five years with, in my view spectacular success.

Referenda were held with elections to minimise the cost and a for and against booklet put out a week or two before the vote.

This resolved questions which had dogged the council for years and in some cases gave a clear and unequivocal direction for the future.

In all cases the public wishes were implemented, not on a winner take all basis, but as far as possible, in proportion to the results.

While the Citizen Initiative Referendum process was adopted, it was to a large extent superseded because the council was willing to put all questions on the ballot paper which were raised.

You might think that all this sounds like a populist unworkable formula which would bog down council business.

Well quite the reverse happened.

Council meetings became shorter.

The rate of processing business increased and the council entered into a wide range of entrepreneurial activities.

It completed an unprecedented number of public works based on public values without getting into all the troubles that have plagued many of the state and local governments around Australia which have tried similar programs.

Many of the projects were income producing as well as providing public services.

So effective was this program that the rates fell from 66 percent of the council's income in 1980 to 38 percent seven years later, giving North Sydney the lowest rate structure out of 40 councils in Sydney.

After three years or so of this approach to local government, virtually all resident action groups and organised opposition to Council's activities dropped away.

Mainly because no one was excluded from the decision-making process.

The secret of this success was the openness, public participation and the trust that was created.

It enabled council to go in directions, which were never previously possible.

All this is not to say that there were no problems.

But it can be said, the problems that did arise were minuscule compared to the previous system.

Some Councillors did not like their diminished role in decision-making in the traditional sense, but they generally came around when they were re-elected with increased majorities, or alternatively, replaced.

The staff of Council, while apprehensive at first, soon enjoyed being liked by the public instead of being regarded as "urban policemen" -- although some never really adjusted to opening the doors of the fort and letting the Indians in.

Overall, for a dense inner city area with a rapid rate of transience, a sense of community was enhanced.

For a substantial number of people a sense of identity and belonging is important.

In a world of rapid change, high mobility, and with traditional social organisations under strain, local government is the only level of government, which can fulfil this role.

It is true that North Sydney is a special situation but so is every council area.

Practical solutions and opportunities may vary but the principles of democracy and management are largely universal.

In summary, what I am saying is, that if you want to deliver effective leadership and management to the community, the traditional way of making decisions by getting the numbers, winning in court, trampling on people's values or humiliating opponents, does not work in the long run.

If you leave bitter sections of the community as losers who fell they did not get a fair go, they will eventually come back to bite you.

The process of arriving at decisions must be transparent and fair, and accepted as such.

It should always be remembered that in a democracy the majority govern, but only with the consent of the minority.

2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
10,000 Friends of Greater Sydney Limited
Friday 22 August 2014
12.30pm
Conference room 2nd floor Cox Richardson 204 Clarence St Sydney

AGENDA:

1   Apologies

2   Declaration of Interest

3   Chairman's Report

4   Financial Report

5   Nominations of Directors

6   Appointment of Directors for 2014-15

7   General Business

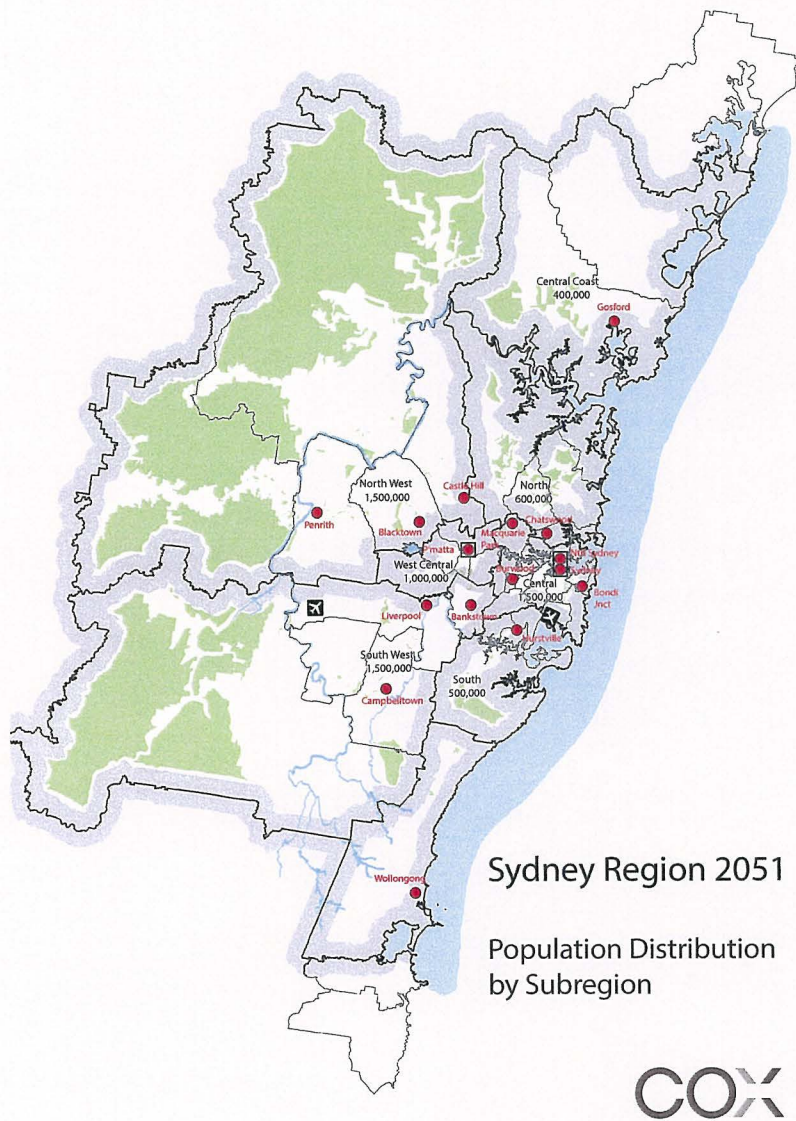8   Meeting closure

Shaping Sydney 2051

Strategies and Action Plan

10,000 Friends of
Greater Sydney™

Sydney Region 2051

Population Distribution by Subregion

Map labels:
- Central Coast 400,000
- Gosford
- North West 1,500,000
- Castle Hill
- North 600,000
- Chatswood
- Penrith
- Blacktown
- Macquarie Park
- P'matta
- North Sydney
- West Central 1,000,000
- Central 1,500,000
- Bondi Jnct
- Liverpool
- Bankstown
- Hurstville
- South West 1,500,000
- South 500,000
- Campbelltown
- Wollongong

COX

THE VISION FOR SYDNEY IN 2051

By 2051, an estimated seven million people will be living in Sydney, a vibrant, environmentally sustainable and bustling city that will stretch from the east coast to the Blue Mountains, from the Shire to the Hawkesbury River, integrated with the Central Coast, and linked to the Illawarra and the Hunter.

But what will it look like? How will this city work? How and where will its inhabitants work and play?

> *"We need a vision of the city we want to create so we can invest in the right infrastructure over coming decades and set the right policies that will shape Sydney and affect its economic fortunes for many decades to come."*

The 10000 Friends of Greater Sydney (FROGS) with Regional Development Australia has developed a vision and strategies that we believe can shape Sydney into becoming one of the world's great cities. This has been the result of six consultative forums over several years involving over 200 participants.
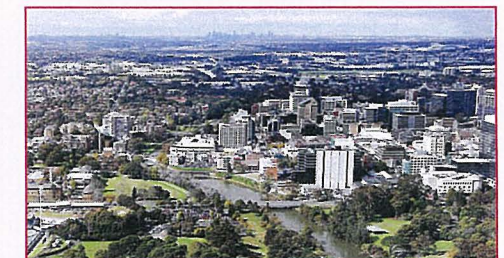
OUR VISION

- Enhance the "City of Cities" concept with between seven and twelve defined regions each with a clear identity, e.g. 'Central Coast', 'Sydney Central', 'The Hills'.

- Each region has its own major city centre or centres, with each being a place for employment, culture and education with an emphasis on active transport such as walking and cycling but with fast transport links to other regional centres.

- An ambitious new Metro Commission will oversee metropolitan-wide policies to co-ordinate, integrate and plan development of the regions.

- A team of ambitious, competitive place managers for each subregion will provide a focus for community, each determined to make his/her area the best in the world

- A city which is a desirable place to live, play, learn, work and is highly accessible.

- Recognising Sydney as the economic powerhouse of Australia.

STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLAN 2051

❶ SHAPE THE CITY

Enhance the City of Cities concept and expand to outer regions.

- Identify and grow self-contained regions in Greater Sydney (areas of between ½ to one million population) including the Hunter and Illawarra.

- Develop an economic and sustainable development growth plan for each region and its centres with preservation of agricultural land.

- Identify and foster employment, as well as educational and cultural facilities in regional centres.

- Provide incentives to attract investment in non-CBD centres especially through transport links.

- Plan extension of the Golden Arc to embrace Parramatta.

LEGEND
- ○ Strategic Centres
- Ⓗ Hospital
- ⚲ University
- ✈ Sports

COX

Grow the regions and their centres supported by transport.

- Review development plans for each Greater Sydney region and aim to make them self-supporting by having the appropriate mix of housing, jobs, services, education and cultural facilities. Specifically focus on achieving closer population-to-jobs mix.

- Grow the density of regional and major activity centres such as Macquarie Park, Parramatta CBD, and along Parramatta Road.

- Use specific catalysts to grow regional CBDs and other activity centres, and create jobs.

  » Build new fast rail to Parramatta and western

regions giving incentive to public and private businesses to relocate their workforce.

» Confirm Badgerys Creek as Sydney's second airport to meet the needs and growth of the west.

» Plan road and high capacity transport routes to link north, west and south-west Sydney to support centres and Badgerys Creek Airport, as well as accommodating freight movement; reserve corridors now.

» Convert existing rail network to a modern Metro-style system.

» Plan high speed rail routes to serve Hunter and Illawarra; reserve corridors now.

❷ ACCESSIBLE CITY

Plan and build accessibility.

- Develop and build a strategic and integrated land-use and transport plan to 2051. Grow regional and employment centres by embracing all transport modes, including everything from walking and cycling to high speed rail and freight movement but with a primary focus on active transport within centres and mass transit to other centres.

  » Optimise efficiency and effectiveness of existing road, rail and bus networks with equitable charging and pricing.

  » Light rail routes to Parramatta CBD.

  » Western road bypass of Sydney CBD.

  » Western Sydney outer north-south road and rail routes.

  » Efficient and high capacity transit to Badgerys Creek Airport, including roads.

  » Freight rail and road network across Western Sydney with terminals at Moorebank, Enfield and St Marys.

- Plan now for 50-year vision to reserve transport corridors and airport and port needs.

Target 70:30 (car: mass transit) with 15:85 for CBD and 30:70 for other major centres
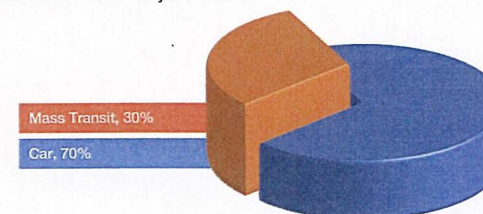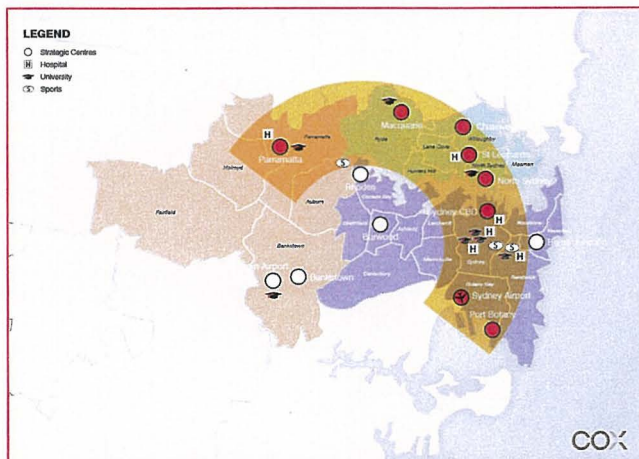

Mass Transit, 30%
Car, 70%

Encourage public transport.

- Improve existing rail transit - frequency of service, minimum travel time, integrated ticketing, make it easier to catch a train than drive and efficient interchanges.

- Improve, frequency and travel time of bus services to centres.

- Identify transport corridors needed to 2061 and preserve for all modes.

- Prioritise public transport funding

Enhance Active Transport

- Identify opportunities and prioritise investment for walkways and cycleways to the centres, and reserve corridors.

- Identify opportunities for mixed walkways, cycleways and light transit vehicles to service shorter trips to the centres

❸ INVEST WISELY IN THE FUTURE CITY

> *"Funding is the beast that sleeps in all these reform. Are we prepared to pay for infrastructure?"*
>
> *Civil Engineers Australia July 2013*

Get the Pricing and Funding Right

- Establish an independent body of experts to develop a plan for governments to finance and fund infrastructure, related to long term infrastructure plan.

- Provide incentives to make public transport financially attractive to reduce car use in cities.

- Progressively introduce road user charging.

- Make tolling charges on City Motorways more equitable and related to demand

- Promote low energy road vehicles by review of vehicle charging.

- Make investment in infrastructure attractive to the private sector by certainty of investment and minimising risk.

- Establish a Federal investment bank to finance sound, cost/effective projects.

❹ ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY IN PLANNING

Planning the city.

- Educate the community on planning and investment through better and clearer proposals.

- Provide community with clear, unbiased and transparent information on transport plans and projects.

- Accurately report on transport performance — even when there are problems.

- To build public confidence, the community must be actively engaged and be partners in all stages of a project.

- Develop dialogue with the community to promote support for infrastructure investment and pricing.

❺ GOOD GOVERNANCE

Execution of transport plan

- Develop a 10 year-plan seeking budgeted, bi-partisan support.

- Ensure overall plan has long-term financial viability.

- Establish clear benchmarks.

- Prioritise projects.

- Encourage private sector investment in infrastructure development.

- Work with community to develop and deliver the plan.

Provide the structure

- Support the State, regional and local planning thrust of the new planning system for NSW.

- Support the State focus on Greater Sydney (east coast to the Blue Mountains, from the Shire in the south and integrated with the Central Coast) as a separate major planning region in NSW.

- Support the integration of councils for planning purposes, with regional organisations truly representative, well-funded and authorised to make planning decisions.

- Establish an ambitious new Metro Commission that will oversee metropolitan-wide policies to co-ordinate, integrate and plan development of the regions.

- The Commission will have an elected chair or commissioner and consist of representatives from State Government and each region.

- Make sure place managers of each suburb in each region have outstanding abilities.

- Restructure government agencies to place emphasis on delivery, accountability and reduced red tape.

Total Employment in Strategic Centres		
Sydney Region	Employment	
	2011	2051
Western Sydney	178,000	670,000
Eastern Sydney	564,000	730,000
Sydney Region	**742,000**	**1,400,000**

Western Sydney Strategic Centres		
Major Centre	Employment	
	2011	2051
Bankstown	11,000	30,000
Blacktown	13,000	40,000
Castle Hill/Rouse Hill	4,000	40,000
Campbelltown/Macarthur	17,000	40,000
Leppington	0	30,000
Liverpool	22,000	40,000
Parramatta	49,000	200,000
Penrith	23,000	40,000
Subtotal	139,000	460,000

Eastern Sydney Strategic Centres		
Major Centre	Employment	
	2011	2051
Sydney CBD	300,000	400,000
North Sydney	48,000	40,000
Bondi Junction	13,000	20,000
Burwood	10,000	20,000
Chatswood	22,000	25,000
Hurstville	12,000	20,000
Subtotal	405,000	520,000

Business Parks and Specialised Centres	Employment	
	2011	2051
WSEA including Badgerys Creek Airport	0	60,000
Norwest	15,000	40,000
Olympic Park	7,000	40,000
Penrith Health and Education	0	20,000
Rydamere UWS	0	20,000
Westmead Health	17,000	30,000
Subtotal	39,000	210,000
Western Sydney Total	**178,000**	**670,000**

Business Parks and Specialised Centres	Employment	
	2011	2051
Sydney Airport	39,000	50,000
Port Botany	12,000	10,000
Macquarie Park	45,000	75,000
Randwick Health and Education	14,000	20,000
Kogarah	12,000	10,000
St Leonards	37,000	40,000
Subtotal	159,000	210,000
Eastern Sydney Total	**564,000**	**730,000**

"It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change"

Charles Darwin
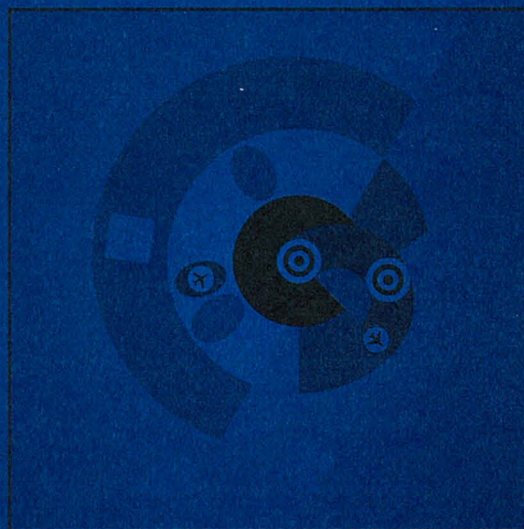
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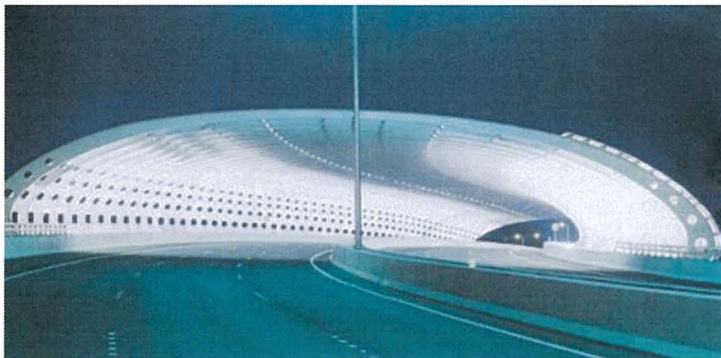
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LEARN WORK LIVE PLAY

Sydney - Hunter Transport Connection
The Sydney Orbital to F3 Freeway Link
at a billion saving in cost

A 10,000 Friends of Greater Sydney (FROGS) publication

➤ greatest improvement to the road network
➤ more direct access to Sydney ports
➤ best opportunity to improve public transport
➤ acceptable environmental impact, similar to other options
➤ **$750 million cheaper than other options**

The Orbital Freeway around Sydney is completed. The F3 Freeway widening to six lanes to Wahroonga is completed. **The Missing Link in Sydney's road network is the connection of the two.**

The Justice Mahla Pearlman review in 2007 indicated we need two connections between the F3 and the Sydney Orbital - an Eastern link to the M2 Motorway and a Western link to the M7 Motorway. Both are extremely costly and demand and funding dictate that the eastern will precede the western. To achieve the western we must ensure the eastern is achieved at least cost.

To this end 10,000 Friends of Greater Sydney has re-examined alternative eastern options and developed an alternative connecting the F3 to the M2 at Marsfield as a part tunnel, part surface route. But the surface portion is enclosed in tunnel to inhibit environmental impacts of noise and emissions.

OPTIONS FOR THE EASTERN LINK SYDNEY ORBITAL TO F3 FREEWAY

Route options considered for the Eastern Link are shown to the right.

With both Eastern and Western links to be developed, options for the Eastern Link must consider the movements between the Orbital and the F3 Freeway at Wahroonga while allowing for optimum performance of the overall road network in this region of Sydney. It must aim to both ease movement to the south to the CBD along the Pacific Highway as well as the link to the west along Pennant Hills Road.

The 'red route option' best meets these criteria.

**Figure 2: Four feasible "Type A" tunnel route**
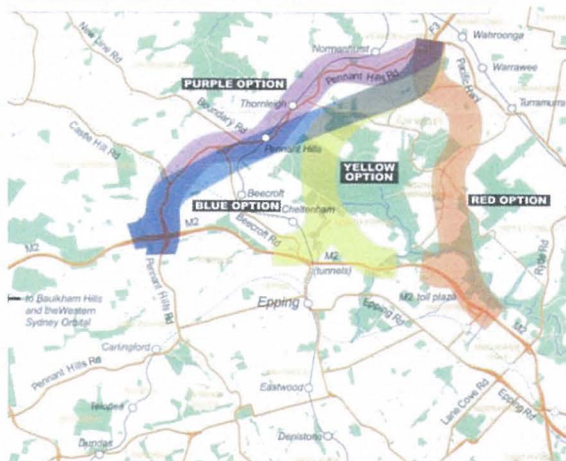
Source: SKM Newsletter 2

Two alternatives are available for the 'red option', a full tunnel connection or a partial tunnel and surface connection. The full tunnel connection provides the road in a tunnel from the existing F3 at Wahroonga to the M2 at Marsfield.

The partial tunnel connection tunnels under residential areas to eliminate impact and is built on surface across the National Park length, enclosed in tunnel to inhibit environmental impacts of noise and emissions as shown by black line below. It also provides a buffer between residential development and the Park protecting the Park from intrusion by residential influences – weeds, rubbish and the like.
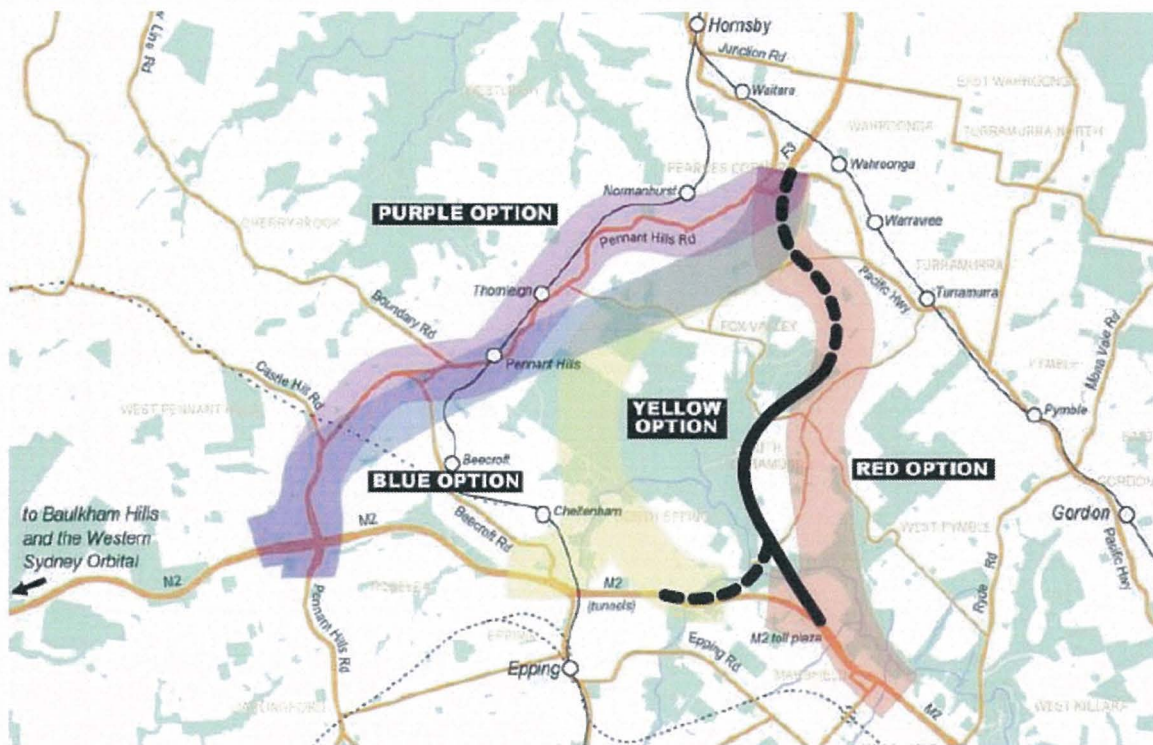
The planning balance sheet below compares the 'red tunnel option' and the 'red surface/tunnel option' together with the 'purple option' and 'yellow option' previously considered. This balance sheet shows alternative costs of the three proposals, benefit to cost ratios and relative social and environmental benefits and costs.

The Planning Balance sheet shows that:

- There is little difference between options for travelers using the routes;
- The tunnel-surface option provides by far the greatest improvement to the road network ; all options improve access to Western Sydney;
- Properties effected is similar but slightly greater with the tunnel-surface option;
- The tunnel-surface option gives more direct access to Sydney ports;
- The tunnel-surface option provides best opportunity to improve public transport;
- The environmental impacts are similar for all options;
- The tunnel surface option is **$750 million cheaper than other options**;
- The tunnel-surface option is 40-50% more cost efficient than the other options.

Frogs- F3/M2 connection- 7-Oct-12