



GREATER CITIES COMMISSION REPEAL BILL 2023

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Need: Why is the policy needed based on factual evidence and stakeholder input?

The purpose of the *Greater Cities Commission Repeal Bill 2023 (the bill)* is to repeal the *Greater Cities Commission Act 2022 (GCC Act)* to abolish the Greater Cities Commission (**Commission**) and to transfer the strategic planning functions of the Commission under Part 3 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* to the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (**Planning Secretary**) from 1 January 2024. The Commission is a statutory corporation established under the GCC Act. The Commission is responsible for strategic planning within the Six Cities Region which encompasses Metropolitan Sydney, the Central Coast, Lower Hunter and Greater Newcastle, and Illawarra-Shoalhaven areas.

The Planning Secretary is responsible for strategic planning outside the Six Cities Region. There is significant overlap between the functions of the Commission and the functions of the Planning Secretary with respect to strategic planning across the State. The abolition of the Commission and the transfer of its functions to the Planning Secretary will remove red-tape, duplication of planning processes and improve strategic planning across the State.

Objectives: What is the policy's objective couched in terms of the public interest?

With the establishment of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure on 1 January 2024 efficiency gains can be achieved by abolishing Commission and transferring its strategic planning functions to the Planning Secretary. This has the effect of bringing all strategic planning functions under one roof and enables a more coordinated response to emerging planning issues. It will also improve the consistency of decision-making and integrated outcomes. More broadly, the alignment of strategic planning functions will improve the capacity of the State to facilitate the delivery of housing and infrastructure in both metropolitan and regional areas.

Options: What alternative policies and mechanisms were considered in advance of the bill?

The NSW Government considers the policy is best implemented through legislative change. Non-legislative options would not have facilitated the abolition of the Commission or the transfer of its strategic planning functions to the Planning Secretary. Legislative change is the only mechanism through which to consolidate strategic planning functions across the State.

Analysis: What were the pros/cons and benefits/costs of each option considered?

The bill does not impose any appreciable cost or burden on the public or any group of the public. As such, no alternative policies and mechanisms have been considered or analysed.

Pathway: What are the timetable and steps for the policy's rollout and who will administer it?

The bill commences on 1 January 2024. Upon commencement, the Commission is abolished and the functions of the Commission are transferred to Planning Secretary.

From 1 January 2024 the Planning Secretary will be responsible for strategic planning across the State, including in relation to the Six Cities Region.

Consultation: Were the views of affected stakeholders sought and considered in making the policy?

The bill delivers on the NSW Government's commitment to review the NSW planning system, remove unnecessary red-tape and improve strategic planning and coordination across the State.