

Kate Harris - Answers to additional questions from Committee members to WSROC Sharon Fingland

From: "Sharon Fingland" <sharon@wsroc.com.au>
To: <Kate.Harris@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 25/06/2009 4:20 PM
Subject: Answers to additional questions from Committee members to WSROC Sharon Fingland

Kate

Please find attached answers to the two additional questions forwarded to WSROC from the Committee.

1. Social Equity limiting the ability to respond to climate change issues. What are the practical outcomes of such considerations?

The history of the development of Western Sydney has been one of inadequate and inequitable provision of all types of infrastructure compared to eastern Sydney. Poorly serviced and run-down localities with cheap, low quality housing become home for only the poorest people. These places and their people become stigmatised and their expectations limited.

The onset of climate change has highlighted that social inequity limits the ability to achieve environmental sustainability. Differences between people in their energy and water use, waste management and regard for the environment, are all related to their capacity to pay, their levels of awareness and education and their sense of social inclusion. The need to respond to climate change, either to reduce its causes or to adapt to its impacts, will be constrained by social and economic inequities. This is understood at a global level, as developing countries cannot be denied the benefits of economic prosperity that developed nations enjoy. At a city and region level too the responses to climate change will affect all, and those with fewer resources will either suffer more and/or participate less in the necessary changes. Equity must therefore be a consideration in 'who pays' for climate change responses. (See also section on 'Equity in WSROC's Agenda for Sustainability and Well-being for Western Sydney.)

2. What is required for local government to be able to adopt and implement the goals of the Agenda for sustainability and well-being?

The section on Implementation on page 9 of the Agenda sets out a range of suggestions and recommendations from the research conducted by both WSROC and others. This section highlights inter alia the following:

- The importance of engaging the community in the implementation of policy;
- The need for much more detailed and multi-disciplinary research, analysis and contemporary urban management thinking;
- The need for all levels of government to be better informed on the links between sustainability, well-being and urban development in contemporary urban Australia and Western Sydney in particular;
- The need to develop a process of ongoing monitoring and reporting at the regional level;
- Developments of and commitments to the appropriate timetabling and delivery of infrastructure
- The need for a Sydney Metropolitan Urban Development Research Facility focussed on Sustainability and Well-being
- Ensuring that urban planning guidelines are further developed and that a range of new guidelines are made for encouraging food availability and affordability at the local level; encouraging mixed use development; providing more planting for shelter and shade; and improving awareness of travel-to-school patterns for physical activity.

I trust that this response plus the copies of the detailed reports forwarded today are of assistance to

the Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions.

Regards

Sharon

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