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25 October 2019

Ms Lucy Turnbull AO
The Chief Commissioner
Greater Sydney Commission
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Email: engagement@gsc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Turnbull

LGNSW Comments on Draft Community Participation Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Greater Sydney Commission's Draft Community Participation Plan which outlines how the Commission will involve the community and stakeholders in its work.

LGNSW commends the Commission on its strong commitment to collaboration with local councils and their communities in the development of *A Metropolis of Three Cities* – the Greater Sydney Region Plan and five District Plans.

Recent consultation, guidance and support provided by the Commission to help councils deliver their Local Strategic Planning Statements demonstrates how the values for engagement that the Commission has adopted in the draft Community Participation Plan translate to good practice.

The acknowledgment of the need for improvements by referencing openness, timeliness and partnering in the Commission's engagement values, in the draft Plan is welcome. Improvement in these areas is important for successful delivery of the five District Plans and for building community confidence in the planning system more broadly.

While the draft Plan notes the mandatory timeframes for consultation, it also states that whenever possible the Commission will offer longer timeframes. It is therefore disappointing that, due to the timeframes established for the recent review of the Western Harbour Planning Precinct, just two weeks were allowed for the community to provide input.

This was not an adequate timeframe for the community to be able to provide meaningful input on a significant and complex planning issue. It is also not consistent with the

community participation principles established under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* or the Commission's draft Community Participation Plan. LGNSW hopes the Commission ensures this was an anomaly and that all future consultation periods will uphold the Commission's engagement values of timeliness and partnering to allow greater participation.

I'm sure you will agree that it is critical that both state and local governments uphold these principles when engaging with local communities to improve their confidence in the plans we develop and decisions we make.

Thankyou again for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Scott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cr Linda Scott
President