



The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of Sydney
CLOVER MOORE AO

8 SEP 2026

The Hon. Rose Jackson MLC
Minister for Housing
52 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Minister

Climate resilient housing in Waterloo (South) Redevelopment

I write to raise community concern about increasing climate change impacts, and to ask you to ensure the new social housing in Waterloo South is comfortable, efficient and climate resilient.

Summer air temperatures are becoming increasingly hotter due to global warming. Energy efficient heating and cooling is especially important in social housing because of the medical and other needs of residents, many of whom are at higher risk of health impacts from extreme heat. The City of Sydney's 2025 microclimate mapping found that areas with a high concentration of social housing were among the hottest areas in the City, specifically Surry Hills, Waterloo, Redfern, and Glebe.

I am seriously concerned that new social housing in Waterloo will not have air conditioning, while the private housing will. This is in contrast to the Homes NSW Heating and Cooling Policy, which states air conditioners are an important climate change adaptation measure to minimise tenant heat stress. It further states that Homes NSW will provide energy efficient reverse cycle air conditioning units and solar photovoltaic (PV) systems to all new properties in all National Construction Code climate zones where possible.

The housing in Waterloo South must be passively designed to resist the impacts of climate change and achieve thermal comfort as far as possible. It must be designed to manage solar access and shading and maximise natural cross ventilation.

To assist with passive environmental and energy design as set out in the NSW Apartment Design Guide, the City strongly urges that all apartments are treated equally and reverse cycle air-conditioning be provided in social housing as one of several measures that help to achieve climate resilience. Compared to other devices, reverse cycle air conditioning offers the safest and most affordable method for residents to heat their homes, and most effective method to cool their homes.

In the City's submission to the Waterloo People and Place Plan, at Action 7.11, we recommended the plan ensures social housing dwellings have access to both mechanical cooling and heating devices such as ceiling fans or reverse cycle air conditioning and heating, not just natural ventilation.

I ask that you prioritise the health and safety of residents and ensure new social housing at Waterloo South is climate resilient and achieves thermal comfort including by installing reverse cycle air conditioning.

If your staff would like to speak with my office about this issue, they can contact Anna Rigg, Senior Policy Officer, on 02 9265 9229 or at arigg@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clover Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Clover Moore AO
Lord Mayor of Sydney