

Mr Robert Domm  
CEO, Redfern-Waterloo Authority  
PO Box 3332  
Redfern NSW 2016

28 February 2006  
Ref: 0206\_4057kk

Dear Mr Domm

Thank you for your letter of 14 December 2005 and the opportunity to comment on the Redfern-Waterloo Authority's draft Employment and Enterprise Plan.

As you would be aware, the electorate of Heffron currently covers the suburb of Waterloo and parts of Eveleigh. Following the redistribution of state electoral boundaries in 2007, the Heffron electorate will also encompass the suburb of Redfern bounded by the railway line to the west, Cleveland Street to the north, and South Dowling Street to the east.

Below I raise several comments relating to specific points in the plan, and I ask for clarification and consideration by the Redfern-Waterloo Authority. I follow these comments with a brief summary.

I would be happy to discuss any of these comments more fully with the Redfern-Waterloo Authority:

### **1. Re Job Creation in Redfern-Waterloo**

Note that p.4, paragraph 1 states that there are currently 20,000 jobs in the Redfern-Waterloo area and that paragraph 2 projects that 18,000 jobs can be created on sites designated State Significant in the Redfern-Waterloo area.

Are there any appropriate comparisons that can be made showing the number of jobs currently and projected (i.e., 38,000) in Redfern-Waterloo with the number of jobs in similar geographic areas? If so, it may assist the community in gauging the capacity of the Redfern-Waterloo area to generate employment now and in the future.

## **1. Welfare to Work Changes**

Note that on p.5, last paragraph, the Redfern-Waterloo Authority recognises the potential impact of the Commonwealth's Welfare to Work changes on the Redfern-Waterloo area. Also note that p.6 highlights the Redfern-Waterloo Authority's intention to undertake a Skills Audit of the local area.

Will the Skills Audit seek to understand specifically the numbers and skills of those people likely to be affected by the Welfare to Work program?

## **2. Redfern Street and Regent Street**

Note that pp. 9-10 highlight the potential of Redfern Street and Regent Street to generate economic activity and urban revitalisation.

I also note, by way of context, that the community is still waiting for the City of Sydney to carry out its long-promised and often-delayed upgrade to Redfern Street.

As the local member I have spoken with local businesses and members of the Redfern Chamber of Commerce about the challenges they face. I continually hear that local businesses believe there are insufficient car park spaces in and around Redfern Street and Regent Street.

Has the Redfern-Waterloo Authority considered the benefits and/or potential drawbacks for employment and enterprise by providing space in the Built Environment Plan for car park facilities in and/or adjacent to Redfern Street and Regent Street?

## **3. Redfern Railway Station**

Note that p. 10 discusses the importance of the redevelopment of Redfern Railway Station.

I agree that the redevelopment of this station is absolutely central to the economic and social revitalisation of Redfern-Waterloo.

I note that the last paragraph on p. 10 states that the station will provide better links to ATP and north Eveleigh.

It is also important that a redeveloped Redfern Station incorporate improved links to Redfern and Regent Streets. I recognise that this comment potentially overlaps with the Built Environment Plan. Nonetheless, I ask the Redfern-Waterloo Authority to recognise the importance of this link in its planning processes.

## **Summary**

I congratulate the Redfern-Waterloo Authority and the NSW Government for its commitment to the revitalisation of Redfern-Waterloo, and in particular its recognition that jobs and opportunity for local people are central to the future of the area.

In particular, the Redfern-Waterloo Authority has put the correct emphasis on generating jobs that match the skills of local residents, and where skills are lacking, training local residents in those industries where skill shortages exist.

The Enterprise and Employment Plan, when read in context with the Human Services Plan and the Built Environment Plan, demonstrates the Redfern-Waterloo Authority's commitment to a whole of government approach and a commitment to use government-owned land for generating jobs and opportunity.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the plan, and I look forward to the Redfern-Waterloo Authority's response and the release of the final plan.

Kind regards

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

Kristina Keneally MP  
MEMBER FOR HEFFRON