



NSW Planning Minister Anthony Roberts has told North Sydney Council it needs to understand the bigger picture of the Greater Sydney Commission's growth targets.

NSW Planning Minister rejects North Sydney Council's housing approvals freeze bid

Matt Taylor, Exclusive, *Mosman Daily* August 10, 2018 4:14pm Subscriber only

NORTH Sydney residents have been told to put up with their growing pains after a council bid for the "house full" sign to go up during major infrastructure upgrades was rejected by the State Government today.

Mayor Jilly Gibson and her fellow councillors resolved at a meeting last week to push for a freeze on new residential planning proposals in the LGA until works on the Metro rail and Beaches Link tunnel projects were completed.

On the heels of a two-year reprieve being granted to Ryde Council on planning proposals for residential development, North Sydney councillors believed they also had a strong argument for the same brakes to be applied during the massive construction phase.

The 'house full' sign needs to go up on North Sydney, the Mayor Jilly Gibson says.

"The pause button needs to be hit on any further growth in North Sydney until the necessary infrastructure is in place," Cr Gibson told *Mosman Daily* today.

"Our schools and childcare centres are bursting at the seams — Cammeraygal High School, for example, is at 110 per cent capacity.

"At this point we don't have the essential services in place to accommodate any additional population growth, so the 'house full' sign should up."

The council had been alarmed by the key targets in the Greater Sydney Commission's recently finalised North District Plan, a 20-year road map which calls for an extra 3000 dwellings in North Sydney over the next five years as the LGA's population is expected to grow from 72,150 to 91,650 by 2036.

North Sydney Mayor Jilly Gibson will be seeking an urgent meeting with Mr Roberts over her council's call for a planning approvals freeze during major works.

It had yet to send its letter of request to Planning Minister Anthony Roberts, but the *Mosman Daily* accelerated it yesterday by asking for the government's response.

Mr Roberts shut down the council today, saying it needed to understand how North Sydney fit into the government's broader plans to accommodate the Harbour City's predicted population explosion.

“It’s important to note that Sydney’s population is expected to grow by more than two million people by 2036. Nearly 20,000 of these people are expected to live in North Sydney,” he said.

“The Greater Sydney Commission has set targets for jobs and homes, and it is important that we continue to plan for a balance of both jobs and homes in the future. Strategic planning under way today will not typically result in construction on the ground for another 4-10 years.

“While construction of the new metro stations at North Sydney and Crows Nest is under way, the Chatswood to Sydenham line won’t be operational until 2024.

“Further inquiries on housing targets should be directed to the GSC.”

Cr Gibson said she was “extremely disappointed” by the Minister’s decision not to release the pressure valve on North Sydney.

“It’s not acceptable to our community and I urge the Minister to reconsider North Sydney’s request,” the Mayor said. “If it’s good enough for Ryde, it’s good enough for North Sydney.



Urban Taskforce CEO Chris Johnson.

“This will become a hot issue at the upcoming state election, and the Deputy Mayor (Stephen Barbour) and myself will be seeking an urgent meeting with Minister Roberts about this.

“The Minister and (GSC Chief Commissioner) Lucy Turnbull need to have lunch together and get on the same page about what’s going on with planning across Sydney.”

The Urban Taskforce, which represents developers, said the mixed planning messages from the government and the independent Greater Sydney Commission this year were creating confusion.

“It seems that the Minister is referring council requests for a moratorium or deferral of planning proposals to the Greater Sydney Commission, which is an independent body,” CEO Chris Johnson said.

“It seems strange that the district plans did not raise concerns about the ‘missing middle’ code or the Ryde planning proposal. The development industry has bought sites in the locations the government and the GSC plans outlined for growth.

“In a pre-election environment it seems the GSC is changing its mind on many key planning policies, which for a supposedly independent body is of concern.”