

Carolyn McNally can reposition the state's planning system

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The appointment of Carolyn McNally as the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment opens the potential for a fresh look at the planning system in NSW, says the Urban Taskforce.

"Carolyn McNally is a proven performer with her previous role in driving the Long Term Transport Master Plan for NSW and she is now able to reposition planning in the state," says Urban Taskforce CEO, Chris Johnson. "With the planning reforms, local government reform and the Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney all on hold, the property industry is looking for leadership."

"The initial challenge will be to ensure that the proposed Greater Sydney Commission has real teeth and is not just another layer over existing structures. The Urban Taskforce believes the Commission must have strategic planning responsibility, infrastructure co-ordination and approval authority roles for major projects across Metropolitan Sydney."

"The difficult balancing act for the new Secretary will be in establishing the commission without undermining her department while also keeping Sydney's 43 councils feeling empowered."

"While the supply of housing in NSW and particularly in Sydney is currently robust there are concerns that key urban sites are getting harder to find and that strong leadership will be needed to house Sydney's growing population. An important role for the Secretary will be in communicating to the broader community the necessity of urban growth at affordable prices."

"With the average price of housing in Sydney now reaching \$800,000, the under 40s and future generations will be looking for state government leadership to help increase housing supply to minimise increasing costs. The planning system will be critical in helping with affordability for new families looking for somewhere to live."

"The Urban Taskforce is keen to meet with the Secretary to discuss these important issues and is also keen to be involved in dialogue with community groups that the Secretary could facilitate."

*The **Urban Taskforce** is a property development industry group, representing Australia's most prominent property developers and equity financiers.*

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