

What is the Urban Taskforce?

- The Urban Taskforce is a non-profit organisation representing prominent property developers and equity financiers.
- Engages in constructive dialogue with both government and the community.

Our Mission

- ✓ Efficient planning and environment laws
- ✓ Quality urban design
- ✓ Increased economic activity
- ✓ Improved quality of life in urban communities.

Vegetable self-sufficiency

- ✓ Sydney contains about 21% of Australia's population and about 66% of NSW population.
- ✓ 85% of Sydney's vegetable consumption is supplied from outside the Sydney region.
- ✓ i.e. Sydney produces between 110,000 and 140,000 tonnes of the approximately 1 million tonnes of vegetables it consumes annually.
- ✓ Most vegetables produced in NSW come from the Murray and the Murrumbidgee regions, not Sydney.
- ✓ Sydney's vegetable production accounts for 3.5 per cent of Australia's production
- ✓ Of the major vegetable crops, Sydney is only self-sufficient in mushrooms.

Fruit self-sufficiency

- ✓ Sydney fruit production represents 5-7% of Sydney's total annual fruit consumption.
- ✓ Sydney produces 1.2% of Australia's total fruit output (tonnage); 0.6% in value.

Viability issues (1)

- Sydney region vegetable growers are facing viability problems.
- The farms are small - an average of 2 hectares - compared with the national average of 33 hectares.
- ABARE says that for every dollar invested, a large farm (70 ha+) gives five times the financial return of a small farm (12 ha or less).
- A 2007 study found that fringe food production is less important for NSW, than any other state bar WA.

Viability issues (2)

- In 2007 survey one third of vegetable growers across Australia said that they were unsure whether they would still be in the industry in five years.
- According to the DPI the Sydney industry has declined over the last 12 years.

New houses approved 2009

Melbourne	24,000
Perth	13,000
Brisbane	9,000
Sydney	7,000
Adelaide	6,000
Canberra	2,000
Hobart	1,000

Sydney's lack of houses

- NSW house production is only 15 per cent of the Australia's total; but we have 32 per cent of the population.
- Sydney greenfield land release targets are not being met.
- Outer suburban rents, for three bedroom homes, has increased at close to 10 per cent a year for each of the last five years.

Pressure under existing zoning

- **Rural life style blocks:** 5 acre blocks in Leppington, Edmondson Park and Riverstone and North Kellyville.
- **Water:** DPI says that many depend on farm dams and potable water supply via Sydney Water's network.
- **Commercial viability.**

Food miles (1)

- **What is local food?** A Bangor university study found that most people considered food local if it was produced in the same country.
- **Ecology of scale:** larger agricultural farms connected to efficient transport systems can create deliver produce at a lower carbon intensity than smaller farms.
- **Whole lifecycle** of the agricultural product – including everything that happens on the farm, the process of getting to the plate (consider soil, water, etc)

Food miles (2)

- A study by Lincoln University suggest that, in one case, transport may account for just 11 per cent of the carbon emissions associated with the total lifecycle of getting food to our plate.
- Another study (by Canegie Mellon University) suggested 4 per cent.
- Lincoln University found that it was for more carbon intensive for a UK resident to consume a locally grown agricultural commodity than one grown in New Zealand and transported to the UK.

Healthy communities (1)

Three things:

1. Locate jobs, services, schools, and shops close to where people live.
2. Promote opportunities for people to incorporate physical activity in their lives – this means active transport, such as walking and cycling.
3. Create opportunities for mass transit – if not immediately – set up new urban precincts so that the mass transit services can come later when the population is there to justify it.

Healthy communities (2)

Three things:

- Establish a readily accessible supermarket early on in the development phase – therefore reducing the need for local residents to rely on less healthy convenience shopping and convenience foods.
- It's also important is that the residents and workers of a local community should have the ability to access fresh food through walking, public transport or a mixture of both.