

Trim D22/2818629

2 November 2022

Greater Cities Commission
Level 11
10 Darcy Street
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

Sent via email: engagement@gcc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Greater Cities Commission

Re: Six Cities Region Discussion Paper

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Six Cities Region Discussion Paper. I would like to commend you on the work underway to establish a set of priorities to frame the 2023 Region Plan.

The Disability Council NSW (the 'Council') is a statutory body that provides independent advice to the Minister for Disability Services on matters that affect people with disability in NSW, as well as their families and carers.

The Council supports the vision for the Six Cities Region, that it become a region providing better jobs, housing, education, health and lifestyle opportunities. The vision would, however, be strengthened if it explicitly referred to better and 'accessible' jobs, housing, health and lifestyle opportunities to reflect the needs of the one in six Australians who have disability.

To ensure Six Cities Region meets the needs of people with disability, it is essential that ongoing consultation occurs at each stage of the planning process, I strongly encourage you to include actions under the Region Shapers that outline how people with disability will be consulted.

The Inclusive Places Region Shaper, in particular, should be broadened and strengthened and refer to the [NSW Disability Inclusion Plan 2021-2025](#) (NSW DIP). The NSW DIP strengthens the state's accessibility framework and outlines work underway to improve outcomes for people with disability. It aligns with the [Australia's Disability Strategy](#) and our obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Council welcomes the focus on increasing housing supply, however it is essential that all housing meets the minimum accessibility standards set out in the National Construction Code's Standard for Livable Housing Design (Livable Housing Design Guidelines Silver Level).

We also strongly encourage that five per cent of all new and existing social housing be quarantined for people with disability. This is particularly important as housing affordability, especially in the private rental market, can be an issue for people with disability.

In relation to the Jobs and Economies Region Shaper, I encourage you to include a target around the employment of people with disability similar to the Premier's Priority target to ensure 5.6% of government sector roles are held by people with a disability.

It is important to acknowledge that the needs of people with disability are diverse and therefore I cannot overstate the importance of ongoing, extensive consultation.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide feedback. The Council would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the issues raised in greater detail.

Yours faithfully

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

Jane Spring
Disability Council NSW Chair