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## Councils unite for a more resilient Sydney

Sydney's ability to deal with potential shocks and stresses for the next 10 years and beyond is being evaluated as part of a united effort by metropolitan councils to make Greater Sydney more resilient.

The [Preliminary Resilience Assessment 2016](#) is the first phase of Sydney's participation in the 100 Resilient Cities (100RC) program, pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation in the United States.

Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore said 100RC was dedicated to helping cities across the globe strengthen their capacity and capability for dealing with increasing structural, social and economic challenges.

"Sydney is a major global city, yet as our city grows and its systems become more complex we need to improve how we coordinate across government and the business sector," the Lord Mayor said.

"As increasing urbanisation affects cities across the globe, we need to share practical experience and ideas on how to deal with various shocks and stresses that could affect us. I'm really proud to see Sydney's many metropolitan councils uniting to make resilience a priority."

"Disasters, major shock events and long-term issues like housing affordability and chronic health issues in our city do not take arbitrary boundaries into account. We need a new co-ordinated approach to working together across the whole of metropolitan Sydney."

City of Parramatta Council Administrator Amanda Chadwick said the 100RC program gave Sydney the chance to better prepare for future challenges.

"Resilience is a new way of thinking that starts by identifying our most important problems. It ensures our plans are practical, serve multiple problems at once and address long-term needs as well as immediate ones," Ms Chadwick said.

"Many councils are developing economic development plans and climate adaptation approaches, such as the City of Parramatta's Smart City Masterplan and City of Sydney's Sustainable Sydney 2030 program. There is an opportunity to integrate these plans and activities across Greater Sydney to produce more effective outcomes."

"This is where the Resilient Sydney program can play a critical role."

The Preliminary Resilience Assessment has identified eight potential shocks that could impact Greater Sydney and eight key stresses many Sydneysiders deal with every day.

The eight chronic stresses which have the capacity to cause long-term systemic disruptions are:

- Increasing demand on health services
- Diminishing social cohesion
- Loss of housing affordability
- Increasing chronic illnesses

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- Lack of transport diversity
- Insufficient employment diversity
- Increasing geographic inequity
- Rise in drug and alcohol abuse

The eight acute shocks which may cause short-term but significant disruptions are:

- Extreme weather events – heatwaves, storms, bushfires
- Failures of large financial institutions
- Infrastructure failures
- Disease pandemics
- Water crisis – too much or too little
- Digital network failures
- Cyber attacks
- Terror attacks

Sydney's Chief Resilience Officer, Beck Dawson, said although the eight shocks may seem more disruptive, the chronic stresses are more likely to affect Sydney's liveability.

"The preliminary resilience assessment is the result of speaking to more than 700 people in our city – from residents and business owners to government representatives," Ms Dawson said.

"The issues raised reflect the changing populations in different parts of our city, with a growing, young population in the west and an ageing population in the north.

"Key questions include how we provide the health care needs for our future generations. How do we deal with housing affordability in a city with a population that will grow by an additional two million people? And how do we improve social cohesion among 4.5 million people from more than 200 different cultures?"

Ms Dawson said her team was working with all metropolitan councils and their communities, the NSW Government, business and academics to develop a strategy to deal with the shocks, stresses and vulnerabilities that could affect the city.

"Building resilience starts by identifying our most important problems first and figuring out the best ways to tackle them together. For example, solutions that make health care more accessible can also keep our communities safer from crime and better prepared to handle emergencies.

"Becoming part of the 100RC program has given Sydney a unique opportunity to assess our current ability to deal with shocks and stresses and to develop a united strategy to better deal with the many challenges we will face. Resilience is about a new habit of collaboration."

The President of the 100RC program, Michael Berkowitz, will be the keynote speaker at the next CityTalks event at Sydney Town Hall on Tuesday 8 November.

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# Media Release



For interviews with the City of Sydney Lord Mayor, contact Matt Levinson on 0499 319 385 or [mlevinson@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mlevinson@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

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