

**MISSION TO
THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE NETHERLANDS
BY
THE HONOURABLE ANTHONY ROBERTS MP
MINISTER FOR PLANNING, MINISTER FOR HOUSING,
SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE**

**1 - 8 JULY 2018
POST MISSION REPORT**

MISSION PURPOSE

Conduct a study tour to better understand Government responses to housing challenges and major projects in different jurisdictions.

MISSION DESCRIPTION/ BACKGROUND

Through discussion of policy matters with officials of other Government jurisdictions and having the benefit of visiting a sample of those places, communities and built environments the risks and benefits of similar housing policy considerations in NSW can better be evaluated.

By visiting some major projects, which are in a more mature stage of development than similar projects in NSW / Australia, the frame of reference has been broadened. To visit these projects whilst immersed in their built environment context. This is especially valuable when considering recommendations for the determination of comparable major projects.

KEY OUTCOMES

- New contacts have assisted in strengthening existing or building new working relationships, which will help in the formulation of new policy proposals.
- A broader frame of reference and international benchmark has been set for consideration in the assessment and determination of similar projects in NSW.
- These site specific lessons are also valuable experience in the consideration of planning policy and strategic plan making for future consideration.

The outcomes are further outlined in the key meeting disclosure summary.

OFFICIAL DELEGATION

The Hon Anthony Roberts MP
Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing, and Special Minister of State

Accompanied by:

Mr Robert Vellar
Chief of Staff | Office of Minister Roberts

Ms Carolyn McNally
Secretary | Dept of Planning & Environment

Mr Brendan O'Brien
Executive Director Planning Policy | Dept of Planning & Environment

KEY MEETING DISCLOSURE SUMMARY

United Kingdom

Jamie Cowling and Toby Lloyd
Housing Policy Advisers | Prime Minister's Office
10 Downing Street, London

Discussion:

- Recent decentralization of jobs, particularly Government departments out of London, the critical role of quality transport especially fast rail. Flexible working hours / locations and the growing trend of satellite working
- First Home Buyer grant; lessons learned from implementation
- UK white paper; including a new view of land economics and the need for affordable housing
- Grenfell response; implementation of audit, policy review and industry engagement. The risks and impacts for the insurance and building certification industry

Outcomes:

- Examining the role that 'build to rent' and short-term rental accommodation has to play in the flexible working economy of Sydney and its potential impacts on decentralization policy
- Formed an informal working relationship between UK and NSW Government officials working on the response to Grenfell tower and were able to share experiences and industry insights that are common to both jurisdictions

Rt Hon John F Spellar
Houses of Parliament | Palace of Westminster London

Site Visit & Discussion:

- protocols and procedures
- the impact of increasing levels of security on the working life of Parliament

James Murray | Deputy Mayor [Housing] London
City Hall, The Queens Walk, London

Discussion:

- draft London Plan and the optimisation of density controls, helping to create density done well focused on amenity in the built environment
- 35% affordable housing targets (50% pre-election targets) and public opinion
- Short-Term Rental Accommodation policy and the success and challenges the Greater London Authority has had with access to digital platform provider data
- Grenfell response; implementation of audit, policy review and industry engagement. The risks and impacts for the insurance and building certification industry

Outcomes:

- The desire for greater local control of affordable housing policy was recognised and has led to the Minister's initiative to broaden the reach of SEPP 70 Affordable Housing and provide NSW Councils with more tools to develop local strategies
- Informed Government's consideration of policy options for Short Term Rental Accommodation policy, in particular the data interface with digital platform providers

Dominic Richards | Board Member Princes Trust Australia
Toynbee Street Spitalfields London

Site Visit & Discussion:

- Community consultation
- The role of architecture in celebrating local character
- Affordable housing and housing diversity
- The role of development as an agent of social and community benefit

Outcomes:

- In principle agreement reached for the Minister's support for a pilot project in NSW, likely inner-city Sydney, to showcase the Princes Trust commitment to balancing development with the protection and enhancement of local character, including other social benefits of the program

Stephen Platts | Director of Regeneration
London Borough of Southwark Council

Discussion:

- Affordable housing, housing diversity and community needs analysis
- The role of employment creation and community benefit in building support for development / regeneration program
- The role of council as both housing strategy / policy and owner of community housing

Outcomes:

- The desire for greater local control of affordable housing policy was recognised and has led to the Minister's initiative to broaden the reach of SEPP 70 Affordable Housing and provide NSW Councils with more tools to develop local strategies

Paul King | MD Sustainability & External Affairs Lend Lease
Elephant & Castle regeneration

Site Visit & Discussion:

- Importance of a strong urban plan but with varied architectural expressions
- Integration of mixed tenure in place but not necessarily within a building
- Activation of socio economic initiatives to support the housing project
- Integration of sustainability initiatives

Outcomes:

- Noted that simple live counting of targets (jobs created and trees planted) reinforced in an easily communicated form, the broader economic and environmental goals of the project – communication not just focused on housing production

The Netherlands

Rene Marey | Director NACO
Schiphol Airport The Netherlands

Site Visit & Discussion:

- The architecture of the airport as an expression of regional / national identity
- The scale of the airport / broader economic precinct and its evolution over decades
- Segregation and protection of diverse land uses for the cumulative benefit of the economic zone
- The importance of strategic planning aligned with long term government investment policy (incl. regulation of competition to benefit the primary airport economic zone)
- The importance of multi-layered road infrastructure to separate urban uses from free flow of freight / logistics and the role of public transport in reducing urban traffic
- The failures of business parks and the future of mixed-use centres

Outcomes:

- Noted the importance of strategic planning to enable economic growth over time
- Noted the role of a development authority as custodian of the master plan and coordinate capital investment for long term sustainable growth

Hon Brett Mason | Ambassador
Embassy of Australia, The Hague

Discussion:

- cultural comparison, public attitudes toward design and urban planning

Reyer Will | Process Industry and Mass Goods Director
Rotterdam Port Authority The Netherlands

Site Visit & Discussion:

- Community consultation and ongoing stakeholder relationship management
- National Two Port Strategy [Rotterdam and Schiphol]
- The importance of strategic planning aligned with long term government investment policy (incl. regulation of competition to benefit the primary port economic zone)
- The integration of waste management into the port and interface with urban areas
- The history of waste to energy production and community acceptance
- Innovation in waste for conversion to industrial chemical production
- The importance of long term master planning and capital investment to support economic growth

Outcomes:

- Noted the strategic importance of locating waste to energy and new cleantech as part of the greater port economic zone to benefit from the logistic network and symbiotic industrial users that benefit from energy / chemical production
- Noted the scale and history of the economic zone and its integration with a generally supportive community that values the economic benefits.
- Noted the strategic benefits of recycling poorly connected industrial land for urban regeneration but only where expansion of the primary economic zone was secured in alternative better-connected locations.

| | |
|--|---|
| Minister | The Hon Anthony Roberts MP |
| Portfolio | Planning and Housing |
| Destinations(s) visited a) Countries b) Cities | a) United Kingdom and The Netherlands b) London, The Hague, Rotterdam |
| Dates of travel a) Departure date b) Return date | a) 1 July 2018 b) 8 July 2018 |
| Number of official travel days | 8 days |
| Number of accompanying a) Minister's staff b) Government officials | a) one b) two |
| Airfares a) Minister and Minister's staff b) Government officials | a) \$24,713.54 b) \$24,686.00 |
| Accommodation (includes any meals/incidentals charged to room) a) Minister and Minister's staff b) Government officials | a) \$8,564.46 b) \$8,097.96 |
| Official hospitality a) Minister and Minister's staff b) Government officials | a) nil b) nil |
| Other expenses a) Official gift presentation b) Ground transport c) Meals and refreshments d) Other miscellaneous costs e) Ground Transport (Gov officials) f) Meals and refreshments (Gov officials) g) Other miscellaneous costs (Gov Officials) | a) \$0 b) \$701.61 c) \$214.66 d) \$73.57 e) \$1,570.33 f) \$1,344.93 g) \$162.77 |
| TOTAL estimated travel cost a) Minister and Minister's staff b) Government officials | a) \$34,267.84 b) \$35,861.99 |

This report does not include costs for data roaming, official passports, visas, vaccinations, insurance, or printing of business cards.

Note: due to illness Ms McNally returned to Sydney from London on 5 July and consequently did not travel to The Netherlands as had been planned. No additional cost was incurred for airfares. An additional night of accommodation in London was paid for due to the change of plans.