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600'000 Sydneysiders respond to newest draft:

"Are you hearing us?"

Magnus Linder, Chair of the Sydney Alliance Housing Team responds to today's release of the Greater Sydney Commission "revised draft" district plans.

The plans include a 5-10% inclusion of affordable housing in new developments for low and very low income households.

"A year ago the first drafts had the same % for affordable rental housing. The debate has progressed but the number has not" he said.

*"We are disappointed that the % **target is so low** (5-10%). Civil society's top priority in these plans was to see a 15% minimum established across all private developments, and 30% on public land" He said.*

*"While these revised drafts recognise that **moderate income households** are under increasing housing stress they lack any target for affordable housing that includes them" he said.*

Sydney is behind us:

87% of submissions to the first draft District plans included support for affordable housing.

Over 130 organisations signed on to the call for a minimum of 15%.

Over 18'000 people have signed the Vinnies #righttohome petition calling for 15%.

Calling on the NSW Government:

"We are calling on the NSW Government to pass the Greater Regional Plan with higher targets for affordable rental housing and get these homes built" he said.

What is useful is that the GSC has retained a target in the plans despite calls to remove targets completely.



“We understand some in Cabinet may not have wanted even these low provisions in this latest draft but have changed their minds. Congratulations to all Sydneysiders who worked together to make sure this Government has at least retained some affordable housing provision in the newest draft” Magnus said.

“It is also useful that the Greater Sydney Commission has recognised that most parts of Sydney will be viable for the 5-10% affordable rental housing target-removing a significant ambiguity that was in the first draft” he said.

Who are we?

Sydney Alliance is a non-partisan coalition of organisations representing over 600'000 Sydneysiders active in churches, mosques, synagogues, charities, unions and community groups. Over 130 organisations united and signed-on to higher targets for affordable housing.

Things to watch: Devils in the detail

Magnus Linder said *“Apart from reiterating our call for higher targets, we want to see: tight viability criteria so we don’t let land speculators wriggle out of their commitments, permanently affordable rentals run by the community not gifted back to developers after ten years and ensuring affordable housing is built across the city”*.

Density

Affordable housing is a must if density-done-well is to be achieved in this city. *“The Treasurer says it he loves seeing cranes on the city horizon, but cranes won't help if they only building luxury penthouses. The key to tackling this crisis is increasing the supply of affordable homes”* he said.

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Case studies on affordable housing available upon request.

More information on Sydney Alliance, housing & the original submission -

<http://www.sydneyalliance.org.au/housing>