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Developing effective Strategic Urban Design Frameworks for centres

There is growing recognition of urban design as a critical component of creating productive, liveable and sustainable places. Most states have policies that describe principles for urban design and give guidance on key issues, such as SEPP65 and Better Placed in NSW. However there are limited resources for understanding how to enact great urban design principles effectively within a planning framework, particularly in our major centres that are complex and have constrained existing environments. This issue is at the crux of Congress themes of population change, getting housing and jobs in the right location, the new 'Australian Dream' and 'line of sight' planning.

Our team has created a clear and effective methodology for developing integrated strategic planning and urban design frameworks for cities and centres. Our knowledge is based on research on international best practice as well as our own project experience on centres throughout NSW, such as in Parramatta and Chatswood in metropolitan Sydney and Gosford and Wollongong in regional NSW.

The workshop will include a presentation of a range of tools and techniques for developing and implementing a Strategic Urban Design Framework, with reference to some case study projects. Following this, a structured discussion will be facilitated on key issues and themes across the diversity of centres and the experience of participants in planning for centres.

Key issues discussed will include encouraging a uniqueness of place, understanding different physical forms of density, working with heritage, structuring the needs of commercial and residential land uses, and creating great public streets and places. Both the urban design outcomes and some of the complexities of implementation through planning systems will be discussed

