

# Labor vows to halt 'rampant' development in parts of Sydney

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Alexandra Smith

NSW Labor leader Michael Daley will tear up the city's housing supply targets if elected, arguing western Sydney has been hit with "rampant" development while affluent areas have been spared.

The Opposition Leader says he would direct the Greater Sydney Commission to go back to the drawing board and revise the city's "unfair" housing supply targets if he becomes premier.



*Labor leader Michael Daley wants "unfair" housing targets rewritten. CREDIT: BROOK MITCHELL*

Mr Daley said the Coalition's so-called priority precincts "deliberately" disadvantaged western Sydney and favoured blue-ribbon suburbs, with "lenient development limits".

"The current housing supply targets have seen councils in Sydney's west smothered by development while councils in the Premier's backyard have not been allocated their fair share," Mr Daley said.

Mr Daley said the commission's district plans show Hunters Hill is expected to take only 150 new dwellings over five years, while Blacktown's target is 13,950 and Parramatta's target is 21,650.

He said the trend could be seen across other councils, including targets of 300 dwellings for Mosman and Woollahra and 1250 dwellings in Willoughby.

This compares to 13,250 dwellings in Canterbury-Bankstown and 11,800 in Camden, Mr Daley said.



*Overdevelopment has emerged as a key election issue in Ryde. CREDIT: JAMES ALCOCK*

The commission, headed by former Sydney lord mayor Lucy Turnbull, developed five district plans designed to ensure councils find a way to provide almost 200,000 more dwellings by 2021.

But Mr Daley said the targets meant some areas could be rezoned for density increases without any "obligation or commitment" to provide essential education, health or transport infrastructure.

"Sydney is growing and will continue to grow but we need to manage that growth well to make sure Sydney remains a great place to live," Mr Daley said.

"It's not fair to exempt some areas from taking on their fair share while allowing other communities to get clobbered. Labor will put people and communities back at the heart of the planning system and scrap the Liberals' planned precincts."

Overdevelopment and population growth will be key state election issues in March.

The Finance Minister and Member for Ryde, Victor Dominello, is demanding targets for new housing in his electorate to be slashed as part of his campaign against development.

Mr Dominello has already [helped secure](#) a two-year freeze on new rezoning applications for residential housing in Ryde – the only council area in which such a freeze applies.

The Premier Gladys Berejiklian is also insisting the state needs to take a "breather" from rapid population growth.

A ReachTel poll for the *Herald* late last year found [two-thirds of Sydneysiders felt that migration to the city should be restricted and 50 per cent opposed more development in Sydney.](#)



*NSW Finance Minister Victor Dominello has campaigned against overdevelopment in his Ryde electorate. CREDIT: DEAN SEWELL*

Ms Berejiklian wants NSW's net migration levels halved to 45,000 people per year - the average intake a decade ago - after they peaked at over 100,000 per year in 2017.

She has said that "for far too long NSW has been burdened with ballooning population growth" without being properly consulted by the federal government on targets.

"NSW has the biggest infrastructure pipeline in the nation but we are still playing catch-up," Ms Berejiklian said late last year.

Mr Daley, the former planning spokesman before becoming Opposition Leader, says planning has become a "mess in NSW" and Labor will unveil more policies before the election.

One of his first policies released as leader was a commitment to holding large-scale public inquiries into infrastructure like the light rail project before they are approved.

But the government has criticised his plan, arguing that Infrastructure NSW is already the appropriate independent body to assess major projects.

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