

STRATEGY 2013 – 2019: SUMMARY AND CALL FOR MEMBERS’ COMMENTS

This is a summary of strategic work done up to April (for the full report [click here](#)). It is essentially a call to you and all members to engage. Tell me what you think. Have your say. Build the strategy. We looked at probable significant changes 2013-2019.

CONTEXT	PROBABLE CHANGES
POLITICAL	Current changes to planning laws will lessen community voice and reduce local government power. The decline in State Agency duties will continue and accelerate. The power of developers will increase.
ECONOMIC	The national indicators will grow around the norm. Glebe as a whole will be wealthier but with a widening income gap. Demand for inner city housing will rise.
SOCIAL	Glebe will be denser, younger, have more children, more apartment dwellers, with less traditional community involvement.
TECHNOLOGICAL	NBN will increase broadband speeds, technology uses, innovation and competition for attention.

These show that when TGS turns 50 in 2019 we will remain deeply engaged with environment, heritage and planning. However, in circumstances that require us to influence policymakers differently. The ‘rules of engagement’ are changed and we need to find ways of engaging our community, and that is Glebe, much more broadly than our membership. So to do our traditional role well we need to be innovative. Recognise that we are community engaged, if not driven. Use technology cleverly. Build alliances. Broadly we find that:

- TGS’s core of heritage, planning and environment will be under considerable threat from state indifference or opposition to community voice, developer influence and changing demographics therefore this core must be strengthened.
- TGS’s strengthening of its community engagement must increase so that its influence is broader in Glebe and beyond.
- TGS must strengthen its technology capability and benefit from new technology.
- TGS is strongest when activist, and must conserve The Glebe Estate and the character of Glebe, as the key to raising community engagement and as a rallying point for environment, heritage and planning capability.

Each of these is a key strategic point and we can discuss many potential tactics and actions for each. But a strategy must fit together if it is to drive us and we must be capable of doing it. So we should attend to strategic fit first, then consider whether the strategy will match or build capability. Here is one example of how the four key strategies fit and their impact on capability.

The proposed new planning laws will place enormous pressure on communities to be well informed and active in a scheme which is predicated on economic growth not public interest. Communities are expected to have their say very early in the process when strategic regional controls are being determined. After then 80% of development applications will be tested for compliance with the regional control only. The rest will go through what approaches our current system. Experience shows that communities are not inquisitive until they sense current threat. That will be too late under the new laws.

How can we protect our heritage village? Environmental aims are subjugated to economic aims in the new laws. What will we do? First strengthen our capability in environment, heritage and planning by extending our influence (not necessarily membership) within the changing demography of Glebe and beyond this by alliances. That means extending our use of technology and engagement. Strategies are focused when there is an activist campaign. The Glebe Estate is threatened like a low lying island group during climate change. But if TGS worked to save this internationally known precinct could Glebe learn together? Could we use new technology to connect with new demographics? Could we work with agencies and tenants to gather information and argue Glebe’s case? If so this would build capability. Most importantly this example is consistent with the values statement that you find on the top of our letterhead.

Conserving our heritage - Encouraging a sense of community - Working for Glebe’s future

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