

Minister needed to take charge

COMMENT
Paul Nicolaou



We are unashamedly pro-Sydney. Full stop. We want it to be the best global city in the Asia-Pacific region.

As Sydney's No.1 business cheerleader, we understand our city's huge strengths but also the challenges it faces.

The headwinds are strong right now and will stay that

way for some time. It has never been clearer that Sydney needs someone with the authority that comes with having a big picture view of the city's strengths and challenges.

That person is a designated Minister for Sydney.

It's as simple as this – as goes the city, so goes the nation. The issues that Sydney faces are far bigger than can be solved by just one level of government.

Interest in Sydney's progress as a world city rests with the federal and state governments as well as the City of Sydney.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese wants to drive a massive home building program to solve the housing supply problem, and Sydney is key to that.

Premier Chris Minns wants Sydney to succeed at every level because it is the state's economic powerhouse.

Lord Mayor Clover Moore wants the city to be run

efficiently and well to make it a showpiece in Australia.

All levels of government have a stake in Sydney's success and economic leadership, and that's why a Minister for Sydney is so necessary.

Some of the city's challenges are bigger than the Town Hall. They are on a national and state scale and should be treated as such. There is the rental crisis, the need to increase the population of the CBD, the unreliability of the public transport system, the much-needed revitalisation of the night-time economy and the growing challenge of homelessness.

All of these challenges would keep a Minister for Sydney fully occupied working cooperatively with the other tiers of government.

Paul Nicolaou is the executive director of Business Sydney