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'What about us? Perrottet wants a minister to preach Sydney's virtues'

'On par with London and Paris': Treasurer wants a minister for Sydney

By [Alexandra Smith](#)

July 26, 2019 — 12.00am

NSW Treasurer Dominic Perrottet says the state should have a dedicated minister for Sydney "to talk up our city" to ensure it gets the same global recognition as London or Paris. Speaking at a Committee for Sydney boardroom lunch on Thursday, Mr Perrottet said too often there was a reluctance to boast about the city.

"When Sydney goes well, regional NSW goes well and Australia goes well," he said. "Everyone in NSW and Australia are shareholders in Sydney's success. We shouldn't be afraid to talk up Sydney - we have an obligation to invest in it as Australia's only truly global city and our nation's gateway to the world." He said it was time Sydney was considered "on par with London and Paris" and while it does not have the same population as those cities, it has a "natural beauty" that should be celebrated. "When people around the world think of Australia they don't think of Rundle Mall in Adelaide, they think of Sydney Harbour," Mr Perrottet said.

The Treasurer said Sydney was emerging as a revitalised city, with major projects such as the CBD light rail, stadiums and cultural institutions including new museums and galleries. "As a 36-year-old, in my lifetime, outside of the Sydney Olympics, it's only been in the last eight years we've started to see a change in the shape of our city including investments in transport, cultural facilities like stadiums and museums," Mr Perrottet said.

He said the investment was long overdue, and for decades Sydney underwent very little change. "The face of Sydney hasn't substantially changed since I was kid," Mr Perrottet said. He said a minister for Sydney would have the "vital role" of promoting the city. "We have a Minister for Regional NSW. We have a Minister for Western Sydney. These are important positions. But what we should certainly also have is a minister for Sydney," he said. "Investing in Sydney doesn't come at the expense of investments anywhere else. Never before have we seen more investments in our regions, remote communities and Western Sydney." But the Treasurer warned politics should not get in the way of making Sydney a "truly global city". "Whether its governments or as people, it's often been the case that investments in Sydney are often seen as vanity projects," Mr Perrottet said. "Even when Paul Keating tried to improve our harbour by tearing down the Cahill Expressway, the premier at the time John Fahey shut the idea down."

James Hulme, the Committee for Sydney's director of advocacy, welcomed Mr Perrottet's comments. "It's encouraging to see the Treasurer recognising Sydney's central role in the future prosperity and success of NSW as a whole and the need for champions within state government to help maintain Sydney's position as Australia's pre-eminent city," Mr Hulme said. "A minister for Sydney could act as that champion, or the government could look to strengthen the leadership role of the Greater Sydney Commission, which plays such a crucial part in setting out a vision for the city".

[Treasurer Dominic Perrottet. CREDIT:EDWINA PICKLES]

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