

Draft Master Plan 2013

Singapore



ENVISIONING A GREAT CITY

The Draft Master Plan 2013 is Singapore's latest blueprint for development over the next 10 – 15 years. Urban Redevelopment Authority Chief Planner Lim Eng Hwee explains it is the result of close inter-agency collaboration to support a vibrant economy and create a green, healthy and connected city for its residents.



01 With population growth, Singapore planners face new challenges, like strains on urban infrastructure.

The Challenge

In January 2013, the Singapore government released its White Paper on Population, highlighting the challenge of a shrinking and ageing resident population and the need to supplement it in order to sustain reasonable economic growth.

Accompanying this White Paper was the Land Use Plan, which outlined broad strategies to support a population scenario of up to 6.9 million. Some of these strategies – development of our land reserves, land reclamation and redevelopment of low-intensity land uses – address enduring challenges such as land scarcity and growing land demand.

Now there are new significant challenges, including a diminishing land bank, rapid urbanisation and intensification, strain on our public transport system and other infrastructure, and the public's increasing desire to have a say in how we develop our future. For planners, these new challenges require innovative urban solutions that provide for a quality living environment while retaining Singapore's unique social fabric and cultural roots.





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The Solution

With the last Master Plan review undertaken in 2008, it was imperative that the latest Master Plan Review responded to the potential demographic challenges faced going forward. Building on the strategies of the Land Use Plan, the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) released the Draft Master Plan 2013 (DMP13) last year with the aim of striking a good balance in supporting growth while continuing to improve the lives of residents and future generations.

As a statutory land use plan, the Master Plan is reviewed every five years to accommodate changing needs and demand. It is also an important strategic platform for the coordination of the work of our development agencies to ensure that the necessary infrastructure will be provided to adequately support existing and new developments.

On 20 November 2013, the URA exhibited the DMP13 for public feedback. Themed “Our Future, Our Home”, the exhibition

envisioned the DMP13 as people-centric and relevant to the everyday concerns of residents. While the plan caters for the needs over the next 10-15 years, the exhibition highlighted development plans over the next five years. The Master Plan focused our strategies in six key areas: Housing, Economy, Transport, Recreation, Identity and Public Spaces.

New housing areas will be opened up. The public can expect a variety of living options, including homes closer to nature (Bidadari), more waterfront precincts (Punggol Matilda), and even new car-reduced housing areas (Kampong Bugis, Marina South). Towns will also be more walkable, with amenities close to homes and more one-stop community hubs. Public spaces will also double-up as social areas to facilitate community bonding and ageing-in-place. As older towns rejuvenate, their unique heritage elements will be retained.

01 An artist's impression of high-density yet highly liveable and car-reduced housing in Marina South.



Sufficient land has been safeguarded to grow the economy while bringing jobs closer to home. While the Central Business District will continue to be the heart of Singapore’s financial sector, new regional employment centres and growth areas (e.g., the North Coast Innovation Corridor) are strategically distributed islandwide as part of an overall decentralisation strategy to ease traffic flows into the city centre.

In public transport, more integrated transport hubs for seamless transfers and an extended network of covered linkways have been planned to enhance the comfort and convenience of commute. The rail network is also set to double. In addition, the National Cycling Plan aims to grow the cycling route network, improve the cycling infrastructure to further enhance mobility and encourage an active lifestyle.

Access to recreation and greenery is an important aspect of a quality life. More parks will be introduced near homes, including a continuous 25-kilometre Green Corridor along the former railway land, and a 150-kilometre linear park that loops along the coast round the island. More waterways will be progressively opened up for public enjoyment, and more nature areas (Jalan Gemala, Beting Bronok and Pulau Unum) have been identified to safeguard Singapore’s biodiversity. New and upgrading of town and regional sports centres have been planned for by 2030, while more school sports facilities will be opened up for public use.

As Singapore develops, familiar surroundings and landmarks have become markers of identity for residents and need to be conserved. More than 70 buildings will be conserved under the DMP13,



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adding to the over 7,100 buildings already protected. Three new Identity Nodes – Holland Village, Jalan Kayu and Serangoon Garden – have been recognised. In addition, new heritage trails in various estates will be developed by 2014, including a heritage walk as part of the future Bidadari Estate.

Finally, more public spaces will be set aside for community spaces that would help create new shared memories. Hence the URA launched “PubliCity”, an initiative that involves the community to celebrate meaningful public spaces and enlivens public spaces through good design and programmes. For instance, the rejuvenation of the Civic District will result in a more pedestrian-friendly precinct with elegant street furniture and extensive public spaces.

A calibrated communications plan was adopted for the DMP13. Together with relevant partner agencies, extensive public engagement sessions were held with Members of Parliament, key

stakeholders and interest groups to get early feedback and buy-in from the local community on some of the key development proposals.

For sensitive areas, plans were presented in greater detail with care taken to explain the planning approach to mitigate potential concerns. We also developed 26 Planning Area Brochures for towns with residential areas. These brochures gave residents a more intimate understanding of how the DMP13 strategies would translate into immediate development plans at the local level.

01 Recreation and greenery improve liveability and mitigate urban stress.

02 An artist’s impression of a more pedestrian-friendly Queen Street in the Civic District.

03 Early feedback and support were sought from interest groups like this cycling focus group.



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The Outcome

The DMP13 exhibition was well received by both the public and private sectors. Nearly 71,000 visited the exhibition with about 1,500 surveys completed, most of which were complimentary about the plan and its presentation. The dedicated DMP13 website was also popular with some 158,000 visits and about 611,000 page views. About 20,000 copies of the Planning Area Brochures were downloaded. The public submitted about 400 written suggestions. All the feedback received were studied carefully for refinement of the DMP13 before it was to be gazetted by mid-2014.

Building on this strong support and interest, the URA and other agencies will now aim to roll out the following projected tangible outcomes.

By 2030, at least eight in 10 households will be within a 10-minute walk to an MRT station because of the doubling of the rail network, and more than 90% of households will live within 400 metres of a park because of more parkland and enhanced accessibility to green spaces. We would be able to support future growth yet maintain a good quality of living environment.

These outcomes would only be possible with close collaboration between public agencies and the community to make Singapore a great city to live, work and play in.



Lim Eng Hwee is Chief Planner and Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the URA. He has extensive experience in urban planning, urban design, and implementation of land use policies and development initiatives. Mr Lim graduated with a Bachelor of Planning from the University of Auckland in 1989 and a Master in Public Administration from Harvard University in 1997.



01 Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and grassroots activists at the exhibition; DMP13 implementation builds on support and feedback received at such engagement platforms.