

IAN PATERSON

A BOLD plan to move NSW Parliament to Parramatta — placing it at the heart of a new three-city plan — has received widespread praise.

"I think they can achieve a move by the mid-2020s," Western Sydney Director of the Sydney Business Chamber David Borger said.

The key challenge will be finding a site in Parramatta because with all the development going on space is being taken up in the city centre.

"They need get their skates on because there are still a few good sites left but they have the chance to do something really special here. I think a site along or near the river would be a great spot for it.

"Parliaments around the world are often some of the most iconic buildings and they could create brilliance through architecture."

The push to move NSW parliament was sparked by Greater Sydney Commission chief commissioner Lucy Turnbull's bold vision which was outlined during her speech at The Daily Telegraph's Bradfield Oration on Wednesday night.

"The Greater Sydney Commission office is in Parramatta and the area's metropolitan centrality is clear to anyone who lives or works there. What could be more logical than having our government right in the heart of the city where most of the population is based?" Mrs Turnbull told an audience packed with Sydney's political and business elites.

"A new Parliament in the Central City of Parramatta in the mid-2020s could be a game changer for Sydney."

The relocation of parlia-



ment would be the crowning achievement of GSC's plan to transform of the Greater Parramatta and Olympic Park, dubbed GPPOP.

Mrs Turnbull (above) said GPPOP was not just a snappy name but a shared vision for the growth of the area as an extra 41,000 people call Parramatta home over the next five years and the region within 30 minutes of Parramatta will need to cater for 2 million people.

Lendlease chief executive for property in Australia Kylie Rampa said GPPOP and moving the state's polities to the centre of Sydney made sense and was following in the footsteps of commercial businesses who had already made the move.

"Lendlease backs the West and the work Lucy Turnbull is doing," she said.

Urban Taskforce CEO Chris Johnson also backed the move but warned that without a massive infrastructure investment GPPOP was at risk of failing.

Premier Mike Baird said the matter had not been discussed and there were no plans to move the parliament from Macquarie St.