

ATTACHMENT B

**OVERVIEW OF SOME OF
THE CITY OF SYDNEY'S
ACHIEVEMENTS**

ATTACHMENT B

Overview of some of the City of Sydney's achievements

- Independent auditors Pricewaterhouse Coopers reported to Council last week that *"Council is considered to be in a strong and stable financial position. All financial indicators will be better than accepted industry benchmarks over the long term ten year financial plan."*
- The NSW Government's own Treasury Corporation (TCorp) rated the City's financial sustainability as 'Strong' with a positive outlook – the only one of 152 NSW Councils to receive this rating.
- Since 2004 the City of Sydney has been responsive, accountable, transparent, progressive, corruption free and importantly we take action rather than just talk.
- In 2007, we undertook the largest ever community consultation in the City's history. The result was Sustainable Sydney 2030 – a comprehensive, visionary plan that guides every aspect of our work.
- We responsibly plan for the future, and in the last eleven years we have delivered debt-free budgets and billion dollar capital works programs.
- We have invested in property and responsibly managed our finances so we can fund new infrastructure and services. We give free rates to pensioners and our residential rates are amongst the lowest in the Sydney metropolitan area.
- In 2013-2014, we oversaw \$3.95 billion of development, over four times more than the nearest council.
- Last year we approved over 1,800 development applications and have consistently been in the top ten for development application assessment times while processing the highest value and some of the highest numbers of complex applications.
- In the past decade, we approved development worth \$24 billion and we've been internationally recognised and awarded for our focus on design excellence and sustainability – working with private developers and on our own projects.
- We have balanced the need to provide homes for future populations and the protection of existing heritage areas by focusing new developments in former industrial areas such as Central Park, Harold Park and Green Square.
- And we are showing how urban development can work well by providing new infrastructure and stunning public facilities for our new communities.
- Our priority is encouraging design excellence in private development and our own public projects. We established a Design Advisory Panel, made up of eminent practitioners, and we have an innovative design excellence program that requires a competitive design process for major buildings—a world first.
- Through this program, over 100 projects have been awarded bonus floor space for design excellence, and a number have been recognised internationally. In the last ten years, our public infrastructure projects have won over 85 national and international awards.

ATTACHMENT B

- We know places that are good for people to live, are also good places to work and do business.
- To ensure our newest town centre, Green Square, is attractive for current and future residents we are investing \$540 million for roads, stormwater, footpaths and street furniture and community facilities including childcare, a new library and plaza, new parks and playgrounds, an aquatic centre, affordable housing and creative spaces.
- Since 2004, we've completed over 250 projects including parks, playgrounds, childcare, pools, libraries, theatres, community and cultural spaces. We're now working on 370 projects as part of our ten-year plan.
- We have protected and improved our residential villages, making them local hubs which have shops, cafes and recreational areas within walking distance of residents.
- We've taken action on climate change, reduced our own greenhouse emissions by 21 per cent and in 2007 became the first carbon neutral local government in Australia. Greenhouse emissions across our Local Government Area have fallen by 12 per cent at the same time as we have had a period of strong economic growth.
- The City works with a range of industry peak bodies and financial institutions to administer the EUA (Environmental Upgrade Agreement) service and address market based issues to improve uptake of the EUA mechanism. To date six EUAs have been signed in NSW with a total value of over \$30 million in funds advanced for environmental upgrades. A contribution of \$466,300 since 2011 has been provided by the Office of Environment and Heritage to establish and implement the EUA service at the City.
- In 2014, a Boston Consulting Group study of more than 200,000 workers globally found Sydney fourth most popular city for skilled workers after London, New York and Paris.
- We've fostered new business sectors leading to 90 small bars, 20 food trucks and 24,000 car share members.
- We have actively encouraged our tech start-ups and recently released an on-going action plan for the sector. Over 64% of Australia's tech start-ups and almost 15% of Australian workers employed in the ICT sector are located in the City of Sydney.
- In the five years leading up to 2011, 40 per cent of jobs in metropolitan Sydney were created in our local government area, most in our villages.
- We've restored and protected significant heritage items including five town halls.
- We care for our diverse communities, expanding aged and community services – and provide over one thousand childcare places with work being fast tracked to provide another six new childcare centres.
- We invest more than \$34M every year in the entertainment and cultural life of our city and developed the City's first cultural policy and live music plan.
- We've supported and worked with business on a range of initiatives and hosted internationally renowned events and festivals.

ATTACHMENT B

- This remarkable track record and our record investment in infrastructure has led to our growing reputation and international profile for city design and liveability.
- In 2014, in the A.T. Kearney Global Cities Index - Sydney ranked most popular destination for international students.
- Through a series of sponsorships, formal partnerships, agreements, memorandums of understanding and collaborations, the City works to achieve its goal of creating a green, global and connected city for its residents, workers and visitors.
- Business Events Sydney – funding agreement up to \$500k annually for 2012-15 to secure events during temporary closure of the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre.
- Sydney China Business Forum – sponsorship to stage the annual event through partnership with University of Sydney China Studies Centre.
- Smart Green Business Program – partnership with Sydney Water and NSW Office of Environment and Heritage to improve environmental outcomes in the business sector. Savings since 2009 include:
 - Over 1,000 megalitres water
 - Over 8,300 tonnes of waste diverted from landfill
 - Over 13,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions reduction
 - Over \$4.5m in utility cost savings per year.
- CitySwitch Green Office program – annual funding from North Sydney Council; Willoughby Council; City of Melbourne; Adelaide City; City of Perth; and NSW Office of Environment and Heritage to support network of Australian businesses commit to environmental excellence. Achievements in 2014 include:
 - 86,506 tonnes greenhouse gas emissions reduction
 - 75 gigawatt hours of energy savings
 - \$14.4 million dollars total savings.
- Better Buildings Partnership – annual leading collaboration of property owners, managers and key influencers to improve performance and sustainability of buildings in the City of Sydney area. Achievements include:
 - \$30 million annual savings in electricity costs
 - A 39% potable water reduction across building portfolios (from 2006 levels)
 - 35% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (from 2006 levels)
 - 113 kilotonnes greenhouse gas emissions avoided (from 2006 levels)
- C40 – international network of 69 major cities to support knowledge exchange and collaborative action to cut greenhouse gas emissions and act on climate change. The City of Sydney is co-chair with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government of the C40 energy efficiency network.
- Transforming Sydney partnership – partnership from 2010 to 2015 with Transport NSW and Department of Planning NSW to improve public transport, taxi, walking and cycling in the city.
- CBD light rail design and construction program – partnership with the design and construction team (ALTRAC light rail contractor) to refine design details and construction programming.

ATTACHMENT B

- Supporting retail businesses – collaboration between NSW Government, the retail industry and associations, and the City’s Retail Advisory Panel to secure Sydney’s future as a vibrant retail centre. Include participation in the City Transformation business workshop, and reviews of the visitor accommodation action plan and draft controls for commercial signage and advertising; the City’s outdoor dining policy; and Chinese New Year Festival.
- International student programs – Collaboration with NSW Police and Study NSW for programs to enhance the safety, wellbeing and experience of international students by providing crime prevention resources and information, supported by the City’s International Student Leadership and Ambassador program (ISLA).
- The City has delivered a range of activities to support live music including:
 - Funding for the Knowledge Exchange Grant Program through the Australasian Performing Right Association to pilot a Live Music Programming Advisor information resource.
 - Partnership with Music NSW and the Indent program to establish the Sydney Youth Music committee to produce annual live music events in local venues.
 - Joint funding with APRA and the Live Music Office to produce an online guide to planning, delivering and evaluating live music focused venue-based precinct events.
- Sydney New Year’s Eve – the City plays a key role in coordinating and delivering the event in partnerships with multiple government agencies and community organisations agencies and the private sector, promoting Sydney as a global destination.
- Chinese New Year – the City works with the Chinese government through the Ministry of Culture to deliver the Chinese New Year Festival, in partnership with an extensive range of partners including Tourism Australia; numerous state government partners; 170 different business and community stakeholder groups; and appointed ‘Charity Partners’. The festival includes 87 events produced by 45 Associated Event Partners.
- The City has Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the University of Sydney and the University of Technology, Sydney to undertake an annual program of project and research; professional development opportunities; student learning opportunities; sustainability partnerships; data exploration; and city and urban planning.
- The Green Square Trunk Stormwater Project is a partnership with Sydney Water to deliver the new trunk drain for Green Square, through a contract with the DG Alliance.