

ATTACHMENT A

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DRAFT SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

A City for All

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Towards a socially just and resilient Sydney



Social Sustainability Policy (Draft)
March 2016



Introduction

Purpose of this Policy

This draft Policy sets out the City's position on social sustainability. It outlines our vision, guiding principles and the role of the City in strengthening the wellbeing and resilience of our community – the people who live, work, study, and visit the City of Sydney local area.

We will subsequently develop an Action Plan, which will provide the detailed suite of actions the City will undertake to deliver on the vision and principles set out in this Policy.

This draft Policy should be read in conjunction with the City's Social Sustainability Discussion Paper – *A City for All*. The Discussion Paper explores the current challenges and opportunities we face as a community and suggests ways we can implement the commitments in this Policy to ensure Sydney is a city for all.

Towards a socially just and resilient Sydney

Social sustainability is about strengthening our society to improve our collective wellbeing and resilience.

It is about improving the quality of life our city offers for current and future generations, so that our community flourishes no matter what challenges we face.

Improving our wellbeing and resilience involves many aspects of our lives, such as our health, housing, education, work, income, transport, relationships, safety, governance, and environment.

Evidence shows that cities that are committed to social justice and inclusion do better – socially, economically, culturally and environmentally, so everyone thrives.

Have your say on making Sydney a city for all

The City welcomes feedback on this draft Social Sustainability Policy and the Discussion Paper.

These documents will be on public exhibition from **29 March 2016 to 12 May 2016**. We will use the feedback we receive to finalise the City's Social Sustainability Policy.

You can provide feedback on this Policy and the Discussion Paper by post, email or online via:

Manager Social Strategy

City of Sydney, Town Hall House
456 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Email: socialstrategy@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

We also welcome comments at:

www.sydneyyoursay.com.au

Please provide your name and address or the details of the organisation you represent in your submission. We will not distribute your personal information without your consent.

Review period for this Policy

This policy will be subject to review after a period of five years from 2016 to 2021.

Vision

The City's vision for a socially sustainable Sydney is a city for all. It is socially just and resilient city where people from all walks of life can live, work, learn, play and grow.

It is a city that puts First Nations people first – recognising 40,000 years of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander living cultures.

It is a city that offers people opportunities to realise their full potential and enjoy a great quality of life.

It is a city where people have a shared commitment to the wellbeing of their community.

The City's vision for a socially sustainable Sydney is a socially just and resilient city – a city for all.

Principles

Putting people at the heart of our city is the essence of social sustainability. It recognises that strengthening our community's wellbeing and resilience is vital to Sydney's progress and global competitiveness.

Improving wellbeing requires a holistic approach across social, cultural, political, economic and environmental factors that influence our living conditions and quality of life.

Cities that are committed to social justice and inclusion as a shared vision and shared responsibility are cities that do better. Cities that work towards equity of access to opportunity and reducing the gap between rich and poor are cities where everyone thrives.

The following principles represent the City's aspirations for a socially sustainable Sydney – a city for all.

Sydney is on Gadigal Country: we recognise First Nations people first

The Gadigal of the Eora Nation are the traditional custodians of this place we now call we call Sydney. The strength and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities' living cultures is acknowledged and celebrated. By acknowledging our shared past, we lay the groundwork for a future which embraces all Australians; a future based on mutual respect and shared responsibility for our land. By respecting and contributing to the social, cultural and economic success of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, we all progress.

Sydney is a just city that respects human rights and dignity

Sydney is socially just and respectful city that enables everyone to thrive. People's fundamental human rights and dignity are respected and protected. The city has inclusive education and employment opportunities, diverse affordable housing options, affordable services, facilities and events, and targeted support for people doing it tough. Equitable access to our city's resources and opportunities means that everyone can enjoy a great quality of life and reach their full potential.

Sydney's community's strengths are valued and supported

People are recognised as experts in their own lives and their unique strengths, interests, and aspirations inform city programs, services, and facilities. People and local communities are empowered to take greater control over their futures through information, skills and resources. Valuing and building on people's strengths enables them to make positive change in their own lives and in their community.

Sydney is a welcoming, socially connected city that embraces diversity

Sydney is an open and tolerant city where everyone feels part of the community. People know their neighbours and support each other in times of need. People of all cultures, languages, sexual orientations, gender identities, religions, abilities, incomes, and lifestyles are welcomed. Our diverse communities are an asset that enriches our social fabric and enhances the city's vitality. Rich and diverse relationships and social networks build the city's social capital and strengthen our community's resilience.



Noah and Aya Oseki, pop-up Library 2015 Sydney Festival Village / Jamie Williams

Sydney is a safe and accessible city for people of all ages and abilities

Everyone has the right to use the city and to be safe and active in the daily life. People of all ages and abilities have the same opportunities to access the city's buildings and places, use local services, get information, and take part in community life. Everyone feels safe, and is safe, in their homes and while out and about in the city. A safe, accessible Sydney enables everyone in our community to lead enriched, fulfilling and contributing lives.

Sydney is a collaborative city where responsibility for community wellbeing is shared

Our community recognises that Sydney's future is a shared responsibility. Everyone has a role to play in improving our city's wellbeing – governments, businesses, community organisations and individuals alike. A collaborative Sydney means we work together on shared issues so our resources are used more efficiently, services are better coordinated, and social outcomes for our community are improved.

Sydney is a democratic city where people can participate and influence local decisions

Everyone in our community has the opportunity to have their say in, and influence, decisions that affect their lives and their community. People have their views genuinely considered and they can see and understand the impact of their participation. Genuine dialogue and transparent, inclusive, and balanced participation improves local decision-making and builds a more informed and engaged community with a shared commitment to Sydney's future.

Sydney's governance is effective, balanced and accountable

Sydney's growth and development is supported by good governance. Institutions that govern the city are efficient and effective. They act honestly, ethically, fairly, and transparently. Good governance increases public confidence in governments, strengthens democracy, and upholds people's rights and responsibilities so Sydney is an even better place to live, work, visit and play.

The City's roles

The City of Sydney has an important role in strengthening the wellbeing and resilience of the community through a commitment to social justice and inclusion. Through our local operations, activities and engagement, we are well placed to understand and respond to the particular needs and interests of the Sydney community.

All local governments, including the City of Sydney, have specific responsibilities under the Local Government Act 1993. These include providing local services and facilities that meet community needs, and representing the interests of our community.

As a capital city government, we also seek to strengthen our city's social sustainability in the interests of improving Sydney's global competitiveness.

We will work to ensure Sydney is a city for all through:

Leadership

Lead by example through socially responsible operations, coordinate and facilitate place-based initiatives, and demonstrate innovative solutions to social issues.

Strategic advocacy

Advocacy on behalf of our community to other levels of government, statutory authorities and other agencies on shared issues, such as transport and affordable housing.

Policy development

Policies, strategies, and action plans that draw on evidence and international best practice to address local social issues, such as inclusion of people with a disability and homelessness.

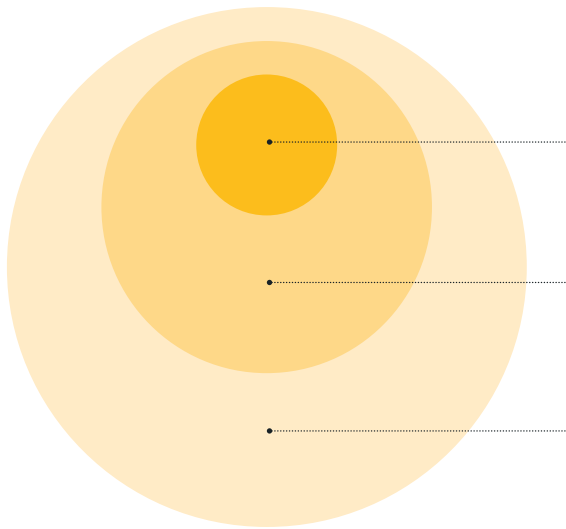
Strategic planning

Planning controls that balance our community's social needs along with economic, environmental and cultural considerations in local development.

Community infrastructure

Community facilities such as community centres (called 'City Spaces'), libraries, childcare centres, aquatic and leisure centres, along with parks, sporting fields and playgrounds.

City government's spheres of influence

**Control**

Core business, statutory responsibilities, service provision. Council facilities and services, buildings and other assets.

Direct decision-making and action is possible (and necessary).

Influence

Areas of partial or shared responsibility or influence.

Advocacy, lobbying, education and communication are possible. Action may be possible in collaboration with other organisations/levels of government.

Concern

Wide range of issues of importance to the community.

Awareness/understanding important. Incorporated into strategic vision (e.g. SS2030). Possible educative, advocacy, lobbying roles of government.

Social programs and services

Social services and support including childcare services, homelessness services, youth services, support and lifestyle programs for older people, community transport, food services, diversity programs, support for international students, education and training programs and other funded social activities.

Affordable housing

Policy, advocacy, planning controls and levy programs to facilitate the delivery of affordable housing in the city.

Grants and sponsorship

Financial and accommodation support for a wide range of community services, social and cultural programs, festivals, and events.

Sustainable procurement

Committing to the sustainable and socially responsible procurement of goods and services, directly and through the City's supply chain.

Events and festivals

Major annual events and celebrations provided or support by the City, such as New Year's Eve, Chinese New Year, NAIDOC week, and Sydney's Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras.

Community health and safety

Initiatives and programs to keep people safe and well, including harm minimisation initiatives, crime prevention campaigns, road safety, and environmental health regulation.

Public domain programs and public art

Infrastructure and activities that make the city attractive, green and liveable, such as streets, CBD laneways, pedestrian walkways, living colour floral displays, and public art.

Community engagement

Information provision, customer service, community consultation, and stakeholder engagement about our work and local social issues.

Research and monitoring

Research, analysis, and monitoring of our community's wellbeing, along with evidence about effective models.

Capacity building

Information provision, education and resources to build capacity in the community and internally to sustain positive social change.

Collaboration

Formal and informal partnerships with government agencies, business and community organisations.

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Sydney2030/ Green/Global/Connected



Help shape the future of Sydney.
Have your say at
SydneyYourSay.com.au

city of villages