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SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY 2016

A City for All

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Towards a socially just and resilient Sydney



Social Sustainability Policy
July 2016



Introduction

Purpose of this Policy

This Policy sets out the City's aspirations for a socially sustainable City of Sydney.

It has been prepared in response to the critical challenges and opportunities our community is facing as our city undergoes a period of significant urban transformation. It recognises the imperative to seek to strengthen society in the face of change through deliberate policies and strategies.

The Policy outlines our vision, guiding principles and the roles 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.

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the City's Social Sustainability Discussion Paper – *A City for All*. The Discussion Paper explores these issues 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 individual and 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, safety, relationships, creative expression, governance, and the quality of the environment.

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

Next steps: the Action Plan

The City is developing a Social Sustainability Action Plan to realise the vision and principles described in this Policy.

This will set out the range of activities that the City will undertake in collaboration with our stakeholders and the wider community over the next decade. It will also describe how we will monitor, measure and report these activities and how they are delivering on our vision and outcomes.

The Action Plan will be informed by the ideas and feedback received through the extensive public consultation on the draft Policy and Discussion Paper during March to May 2016.

A draft of the Action Plan will be brought back to the Council and the community for further consultation before it is finalised.

Vision



The City’s vision for a socially sustainable Sydney is a city for all.

It is a socially just and resilient city where people from all walks of life can live, work, learn, play and grow.

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

It is a city that recognises First Nations people first – as the original custodians of the land we now call Sydney and acknowledging the unique contribution of 40,000 years of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander living cultures.

It is a vibrant, dynamic and inspiring city where creative and cultural expression is valued and celebrated, supporting a sense of identity and belonging for all people.

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

It is a city where people recognise that we’re all in it together and can work together for a stronger society.

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

Principles

Putting people's wellbeing at the heart of our city is the essence of social sustainability. It recognises that creating a socially just and resilient society 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.

Ten principles for a city for all

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

The Gadigal of the Eora Nation are acknowledged as 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 celebrated. By recognising our shared past and shared future, we lay the groundwork for a city for all; a community 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 a 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 vibrant city where creative and cultural expression is valued and celebrated

Sydney's diverse communities can access and contribute to the city's cultural life. Opportunities for creative and cultural expression enable people to share their ideas and values, to come together, to tell their stories, and to shape their city and community. The city's diversity brings opportunities for rich cultural expression and celebration, supporting social connection and sense of belonging and identity in everyday life.

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 their 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's environment supports health and wellbeing

The urban environment supports people's wellbeing and quality of life. It brings opportunities for people to live healthy, active and connected lives. The natural environment is able to flourish, and green spaces offer recreation, relaxation and respite. The city provides protection for all from the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events.

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.

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.

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.

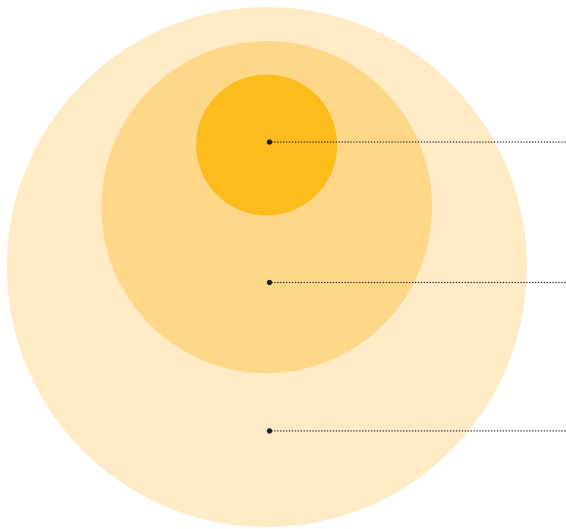
Strategic planning

Planning controls and guidelines 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, support and lifestyle programs for young and 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 guidelines 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 supported 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 healthy, active, safe and well, including exercise classes and programs, 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 individuals and the community to sustain positive social change.

Collaboration

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

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Sydney2030/ Green/Global/Connected



Help shape the future of Sydney.
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SydneyYourSay.com.au

city of villages