

ATTACHMENT B

SCHEDULE OF RESPONSES

Schedule of submissions: Climate Adaptation Strategy following public exhibition 13 August – 16 October 2015				
Organisation	ID	Issue	Strategy updated	Response
Sydney Your Say, submissions	1.	Using trees, plants and other natural systems to provide shade and shelter to adapt for extreme heat – this was the most popular action of all, and was emphasised within many of the additional actions suggested by the community.	No	The City Of Sydney already has a Urban Forest Strategy in place (addressed in Action H1 page 24) which has been referenced as a case study of “what we are already doing” (page 26).
	2.	Incorporating climate change in future decision-making, particularly around land use planning, design of open space and infrastructure, and building codes and design. These issues are seen in four of the five most popular actions. They were also the most commonly suggested additional actions to adapt for extreme heat, sea level rise and the combined risks.	No	This is a key thrust of the strategy. Action C1 (page 49) sets this out very clearly. The project team notes that the community supports Council in factoring climate change into the strategic planning process.
	3.	Community education, including clear and practical actions the community can take to ensure their homes, families, pets and community are prepared for climate change. Education was popular as an additional action for extreme heat, as well as bushfire and decreasing air quality. The community indicated a strong appetite for direct action in response to the final survey question about the actions people already undertake, and those they are likely to take in the future.	No	Communication and awareness raising are key outcomes of the strategy. These are identified in several actions including; H2, H3 (page 25), R2 (page 31), B1, B2 (page 39).
	4.	Working with other stakeholders to adapt, as well as better public transport and reduce the dependency on fossil fuel.	No	The development of the strategy continued the City’s high level of engagement with relevant infrastructure providers, including Transport for NSW. Action H2 (page 25) addresses this requirement specifically.

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Sydney Water	5.	Sydney Water supports the City of Sydney's view that climate change is a serious issue and wishes to congratulate them on their work to develop a strategy to manage the issue. The use of a science based approach with community input is particularly commendable as it engages those that will be affected on the issue as well. It also creates a stronger driver for change, particularly when talking to regulators when programs of work to implement the desired changes need to be funded.	No	Noted. The City welcomes such support.
	6.	We were unclear as to how 'Action Pathways' had been established for climate risks. A clearer definition about what an Action Pathway is and criteria for how and when it might apply would be useful. There is some reference to this on Page 61 but earlier in the document would be preferable. In particular the longer term actions often seemed like they should begin earlier. Many of them seemed important to do in the present and we didn't think the City of Sydney should be waiting until 2050 to take action on them. For example, for R8 we didn't think that the City of Sydney would wait until 2050 to 'assess the extreme weather risks and responses for the city and surroundings areas'. Rather this should be something you would be doing now.	Yes – minor edit	The methodology and definitions section of the strategy was moved towards the back of the document at the request of the Communications Team. This was done to ensure that the strategy is positioned as an accessible (non-too-technical) communication document. We note that technical audiences have commented that methodology should be early in the strategy, where as communication professionals agree that key messages should lead, to be followed by more technical information at the back for those who seek them out. The point about leaving important actions until the longer-term has been clarified as these risks will be "re-assessed" in coming decades, not left until then to be assessed.

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	7.	<p>One area that Sydney Water believes is missing is a detailed discussion on convergence and multiple events occurring together. While this is mentioned for certain types of events, for example, sea level rise, storm surge and king tides, we think it could be a separate section. It was also mentioned that a risk interdependency assessment was conducted by KPMG (p60) although very little information was given. Given that a significant proportion of the severe impact weather events come back to some form of convergence we believe this could be given more attention. Sydney Water also believes that an overt discussion on the interdependency of different services is missing. For example, the water and wastewater systems are largely dependent on the electricity network. If interdependent systems fail together the impacts on the community can be increased which makes it harder for a community to bounce back. This can have a significant impact on a city's resilience.</p>	<p>The interdependency methodology used by the City and its consultants to identify climate risks specifically addresses the issue of convergence and multiple events. The editorial decision was made to move technical discussion of the risk assessment methodology towards the back of the document. An example describing the interdependence of electricity and water infrastructure has now been added to the section discussing risk interdependency (page 60). Further detail on the interdependency analysis is contained in the technical Appendix A, in keeping with this being a communication document aimed at a broad audience, rather than a technical report for a specialised audience.</p>
			<p>Strategy updated</p> <p>Yes</p>

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	8.	In terms of adapting assets to climate risk, Sydney Water would be interested in working with the City of Sydney using our AdaptWater™ climate change quantification tool which was developed to assess climate risks to water industry assets and provide financial analysis of adaptation options. Some preliminary discussions are now underway with the City of Sydney, the Office of Environment & Heritage and other government infrastructure providers to use AdaptWater™ for other infrastructure types and be able to assess interdependency risks. Understanding shared risks is critical to improving resilience of our cities and should align with broader resilience planning under the 100 Resilient Cities Program being managed by the City of Sydney.	Additional action C5 (page 51) has been added to the strategy. The City has begun engagement with Sydney Water and Office of Environment and Heritage to explore how we can participate in the Adapt Infrastructure project.
	9.	p13- 'Drought conditions surrounding Sydney are expected to increase with a potential consequence being that water restrictions may be required'. We think it may be better to say that drought conditions will impact water supply and demand rather than saying water restrictions will come back. Given desalination and water efficient behaviours largely being maintained post the last drought, water restrictions are not being flagged as the default response, if at all. Perhaps you could say a combination of water conservation and tapping into alternate supplies may be required.	Wording on p13 has been changed.

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	10.	p27- Sydney Water support the 'Let's Get Ready Sydney' emergency management coordination plan. It is positive to see the City of Sydney take a proactive approach to emergency management with the website providing easily accessible information to allow for emergency planning.	No	Noted.
	11.	p28-32- 5.2 Changing rainfall patterns and drought conditions actions (particularly R4, R6 and R8)- We believe that as co-owners of the stormwater system and a highly impacted party we should be included as key stakeholders . While we already work with the City of Sydney to manage stormwater risks it is important to continue to work together in adapting to climate change.	Yes	Sydney Water has been added as a stakeholder with whom the City will collaborate in our response to these water-related adaptation actions.
	12.	p32 (R7)- We are currently working on projects to reduce business continuity risks due to extreme weather events . Currently a major focus is on improving medium and long term planning through better warning and notification. We are currently looking at improving the use of weather data to take action earlier to prevent issues from these events. We would be happy to work more closely with the City of Sydney and other agencies such as the Bureau of Meteorology to ensure better preparedness and planning for these events to minimise their impact on critical services such as the water and wastewater networks.	No	Noted. This may become an area of collaboration with in the Adapt Infrastructure project with Sydney Water, OEH and other NSW Government infrastructure entities.

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	13.	p33- In regards to the Green Square stormwater project we appreciate the collaborative relationship we have with the City of Sydney in managing stormwater issues and looking for combined solutions to complex problems.	No	Noted
	14.	p37- Mentions the risk of 'contaminated water supply' from bushfires. Suggest this could be reworded to say - 'Quality and quantity of water supply in catchments could be affected'.	Yes	Wording on p37 has been changed.
	15.	p42- Agree with the City of Sydney's call to establish a consistent position in relation to sea level rise based off the best available science.	No	The City welcomes Sydney Water's support of this advocacy position.
	16.	p42- Sydney Water feels that one longer term issue with sea level rise that could be given further attention is the inundation of infrastructure assets . This is partially addressed in the rainfall and extreme weather event sections and also in relation to transport infrastructure in this section. However, we feel that the compounding impact of both coastal inundation and flooding from rain events could be given more specific attention.	No	Inundation of infrastructure will be included in the scope of Action S1 (page 45) – Develop a sea level rise adaptation action plan.
	17.	p42- While probably not a primary concern in the area, particularly compared to the other issues faced Sydney Water was wondering if any consideration had been given to the impacts of sea level rise on the erosion of underground assets?	No	Impact of sea level rise on underground assets will be included in the scope of Action S1 (page 45).

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	18.	p50- Sydney Water agrees with the City of Sydney that poor communication between stakeholders such as government business and the community will likely lead to poor adaptation. Currently this is occurring in a more ad hoc fashion. Improved communication strategies with coordinated responses would allow far better and more effective climate change adaptation. We acknowledge that much of the risk is shared, particularly when it comes to extreme weather events. For example, in general the greatest impact to the water and wastewater networks comes from loss of power rather than damage to our actual infrastructure. Improving communication and links between stakeholders in this space would greatly reduce the risks from poor adaptation and could also decrease adaptation costs.	No	The City welcomes Sydney Water’s common recognition that collaboration and communication is central to successful adaptation.
Green Building Council Australia	19.	The GBCA “commends the City of Sydney on the draft strategy...”	No	The City welcomes the GBCA’s positive feedback and general comments on its own activities that relate to the suite of green infrastructure master plans released by the City.
Individual	20.	Congratulates the city on open communication and early engagement. Suggests that the next step is to “link adaptation strategy to Sydney’s climate change mitigation (GHG reduction) plan”.	No	The City welcomes this supportive feedback. The strategy does already link adaptation and mitigation through an explanation of the two concepts (on page 5) and through the selected case studies presented through the document that show case examples of projects and programs that combine both mitigation and adaptation.
Individual	21.	Congratulates the City on developing the strategy. Also submitted a copy of the 1992 South Sydney City Council “Greenhouse Effect Policy Statement”.	No	The City appreciates the support of a former senior employee of the South Sydney City Council and notes with interest this policy statement from so early in the development of policy development in this discipline.

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Sydney Coastal Councils Group	22.	Incorporate further discussion in the introduction noting that the Strategy is the first of its kind (“Generation One”) for the City and sets a high-level direction that will continually be refined and adapted to suit changing circumstances and emerging knowledge	Yes	The Executive summary has been amended to clearly communicate that this is the City’s first adaptation strategy; a first step in an evolving and iterative field.
	21.	Include an explanation (diagrammatic or otherwise) of how the Strategy links with other City plans and strategies	No	Pages 17-19 set out how the strategy relates to the City’s plans and policies. An earlier draft contained a diagram of this, however this was removed on the suggestion of the City’s communications team as it was considered too technical and not of significant interest to the broad audience for whom the strategy is intended.
	22	Emphasise upfront the thoroughness of the process undertaken to develop the Strategy by, for example, including a section in the Lord Mayor’s message thanking the various contributors for their involvement	Yes	The City appreciates that the SCCG recognise the thoroughness of the process undertaken to prepare this strategy. However, the methodology section of the document has been moved towards the back of the document as it was considered too technical for and not of significant interest to the broad audience for whom the strategy is intended. It is however included in Section 5 “How we developed this strategy”. A note of thanks has been added to the Lord Mayors message (page 1).
	23.	Appropriately reference the original source of all maps in the document including the SCCG inundation information provided to Member Councils	Yes	The maps on pages 14 and 15 now correctly reference SCCG as the original source of this material.
	24.	Consider including a discussion of the ‘triage’ of adaptation options – accommodate, protect, retreat – and the potential transitions between these options over time.	No	This suggestion has been noted and will be considered as part of the scope for future reviews of the City’s approach to adaptation, notably the development of a sea level rise adaptation action plan.

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	25.	Place greater emphasis on the dynamics of adaptation, i.e. options will change depending on environmental, economic and socio-political factors	<p>The project team notes that more emphasis could be applied to the ‘dynamics of adaptation’, however feels that sufficient emphasis has been placed on the iterative nature of our approach to adaptation that is clear how dynamic the changing environmental, economic and socio-political factors are likely to be.</p> <p>Although we note the point about protective language, the City believes that protection of our community, assets and services is one of the objectives of adaption.</p>
	26.	Reduce the use of ‘protection’-related language and instead talk about the continuity of service desired, being less prescriptive about how that will be achieved	<p>No</p>
	27.	Flag the need for potential relocation of assets in the future	<p>No</p> <p>The potential need to relocate assets was discussed at length during the strategy’s development, however this language was not chosen for the final document as further studies would be required to support or refute this position.</p>
	28.	Ensure correct usage of the terms ‘hazard’ vs ‘risk’	<p>No</p> <p>We note the technical distinction between hazard and risk, however also recognise that the terms are often used interchangeably and for the targeted broad audience this does not present a problem. This will be noted for future iteration of the adaption strategy.</p>
	29.	Consider inclusion of a sustainable procurement or purchasing policy in the actions under section C1 (p. 49)	<p>Yes</p> <p>Including climate change adaptation as a decision factor in the City’s procurement policy was already included in the strategy (C1 on page 49) and the language has been strengthened to highlight this.</p>
	30.	Have greater visual referencing throughout each section, so that the reader knows where they’re up to in the Strategy.	<p>No</p> <p>Way finding within the document is consistent with the City’s design guidelines and other similar City documents.</p>

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	31.	Remove from the list of SCCG projects (p. 44) 'Adaptation Actions for Local Government' and 'Monitoring, Evaluating and Reporting Climate Change Adaptation in Local Government'. A list of relevant SCCG projects is provided below for your reference.	Yes	The case study examples (p44) that showcase the relevant work of the SCCG has been updated at the request of SCCG.
City Of Sydney Inclusion (Disability) Advisory Panel	32	There is a need to identify the most vulnerable in our community (and the access panel and its networks can assist with this) so that emergency planning for their needs and the communication channels to these people have been taken into account.	Yes	Action H2 addresses the need for a heat wave sub management plan. This includes a vulnerable communities assessment and has been amended to also include a vulnerable communities communications plan.
Adaptive Capacity	33	While the various adaptation action plans in council's adaptation strategy are generally well directed and the risk assessment reasonably comprehensive, we feel that the document could do more to appeal to the business constituency.	Yes	New action added (C4): "The City will work with business stakeholders to consider the best way to inform the local business community on the likely business impacts and develop responses that assist individual entities in their continuity planning." Wording amended (p47) to increase clarity around the likely impact that business (and therefore economic productivity) will experience from the changing climate.