

ATTACHMENT A

CONSULTATION REPORT

Engagement Report



City of Sydney
Town Hall House
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Environmental Action – Strategy and Action Plan 2016 - 2021

February 2017



Engagement report

Environmental Action – Strategy and Action Plan 2016 - 2021

Contents

Engagement report.....	1
Engagement summary	2
Background	3
Engagement activities	3
Engagement results	6
Appendix 1 – Submissions and City Response.....	14

Engagement summary

***Sustainable Sydney 2030* outlined the aspirations of our community and businesses to be green, global and connected. Since that time, the City developed a series of technical environmental master plans and strategies to guide the implementation of *Sustainable Sydney 2030*. Significant community consultation was undertaken in the development of these plans. The Environmental Action 2016 – 2021 Strategy and Action Plan (the Strategy) consolidates the insights, data and actions from this previous work and sets out a revised focussed plan of action for the period 2016-2021.**

Stakeholder and community engagement was undertaken to inform participants about the progress made to date against existing environmental targets, to ensure that the City's proposed plan of action is well supported and informed by industry stakeholders and reflects our community's current expectations. In addition, we asked the community how they wanted us to communicate with them about the City's environmental performance.

The City engaged with key industry stakeholders via the establishment of a Policy and Reference Group, on which 14 organisations were represented. The aim of this group was to provide advice during the development of the Strategy. The group was encouraged to provide comments on the draft strategy during the public exhibition period which will inform the City's final plan. Formal submissions were received from 5 organisations represented on the group.

The City engaged with our community throughout July and August 2016 during the public exhibition period for the draft strategy, via the Sydney Your Say website. The community had the opportunity to comment on the draft strategy by completing a survey or emailing a submission. In total, there were 1,300 page views, 20 people gave feedback via the online survey and 10 organisations and 5 individuals emailed more detailed submissions.

A community workshop was held on 2nd August 2016 to specifically test the low-carbon and water sensitive city targets proposed in the draft strategy. The session was facilitated by staff from Elton Consulting and was attended by 15 randomly selected community members. Two community workshops were held to discuss waste issues with community on 17 August and 27 September 2016 – these sessions were primarily designed to provide input into the forthcoming Waste Strategy but also allowed the City to test the targets proposed in the zero-waste city section of the Strategy.

The Lord Mayor hosted a stakeholder briefing and panel discussion on 30th June 2016; 87 people attended.

The consultation activity overall reached the target audience as demonstrated by the relevance of the content included in the submissions as well as the organisations who submitted them.

Overall the engagement showed enthusiastic support across the board for the vision that the draft Strategy presents and the City's direction with regard to environmental management. There was strong overall support for the proposed environmental targets, with minimal issues or suggestions raised.

Background

The strategy was developed by the City Sustainability team in the division of the Chief Operating Officer as part of the implementation of *Sustainable Sydney 2030*.

The strategy identifies key environmental targets and outcomes for the City's own operations and the local government area (LGA). There are six areas of impact addressed in the strategy:

- Low-carbon city
- Water sensitive city
- Climate resilient city
- Zero waste city
- Active and connected city
- Green and cool city

Within the City's own operations, the aim of the strategy is to continue to embed environmental sustainability into our buildings, infrastructure, public domain and fleet. This includes piloting new technologies and continuing to report on environmental performance. Within the broader LGA the aim of the strategy is to foster strong collaboration from all levels of government, the private sector and the community to achieve the environmental targets proposed.

Stakeholder and community engagement was undertaken to inform participants about the progress made to date against existing environmental targets and to ensure that the City's proposed plan of action is well supported and informed by industry stakeholders and reflects our community's current expectations. In addition, we asked the community about how they want to be communicated with about the City's environmental performance.

Objectives of the engagement

Objectives of the engagement were to:

- Assist the community to understand the progress the City has made towards existing environmental targets;
- Seek community input into components of the strategy, specifically new energy, water and waste targets and identified ways to achieve these targets;
- Seek community feedback about what environmental information matters to them and what they would like to see communicated in the future, and how;
- Ensure stakeholder and community feedback is incorporated, where possible, into the final strategy.

Engagement activities

A technical and policy (stakeholder) reference group and a community reference panel were key channels for engagement on the strategy.

1. Technical and Policy Reference Group

An industry Technical and Policy Reference Group was established to:

- Provide the City with strategic advice to influence the development and delivery of the environmental action strategy;
- Engage key industry stakeholders to build a common understanding of the issues, barriers and opportunities for increasing the environmental sustainability within the City's local government area;
- Advocate for the solutions and resources required to increase environmental sustainability outcomes within the City's local government area;
- Support the delivery of actions determined by the strategy and action plan.

The group consists of representatives from 14 relevant organisations:

- NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
- NSW Environment Protection Authority
- NSW Department of Planning and Environment
- Urban Growth NSW
- NSW Department of Industry
- Transport NSW
- Green Building Council of Australia
- Property Council of Australia
- Better Buildings Partnership
- Energy Efficiency Council
- Facilities Management Australia
- Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia
- Sydney Water
- Jemena

The Group met seven times between September 2015 and February 2017.

2. Community workshop

A community workshop was held on 2nd August 2016 at Redfern Town Hall to specifically test the low-carbon and water sensitive city targets proposed in the draft strategy. The session was facilitated by staff from Elton Consulting and was attended by 15 randomly selected community members.

The workshop comprised a mix of presentations by the City of Sydney environmental strategy project team and a series of individual and small group activities. Participants completed activities at tables in small groups of 3 and 4. Feedback was captured through a handout sheet and feedback form, via iPads and a roaming note taker.

The session was broken up into 3 sections; low-carbon city, water sensitive city and keeping the community informed. In the first two sections activities were broken up into:

- a) Seeking feedback on 'community actions'; and
- b) Seeking feedback on proposed low-carbon and water sensitive city 'targets for the LGA'.

During the 'community actions' activities (part (a) activity), participants were asked to:

- Comment on personal experiences and actions relevant to a low-carbon city and a water sensitive city;
- Identify opportunities to do more;
- Identify barriers to doing more.

During the ‘targets for the LGA’ activities (part (b) activity), participants were asked to rank the greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy, water consumption and stormwater quality targets as either ambitious, achievable or not ambitious enough.

During the final section of the evening participants were asked how the City should keep the community informed about environmental achievements and what they were interested in hearing updates about.

An online survey and activities to inform stakeholders and the public, including a stakeholder briefing hosted by the Lord Mayor, were used to promote the public exhibition of the strategy.

3. Online survey

Feedback on the draft strategy was sought via a survey online through the City’s consultation website, Sydney Your Say (<http://sydneyyoursay.com.au/environmental-strategy>) during the public exhibition period 30 June – 12 August 2016.

The online survey specifically sought feedback on whether the community agreed with the proposed targets in the following sections of the draft strategy:

- Low-carbon city;
- Water sensitive city;
- Zero waste city;
- Active and connected city;
- Green and cool city.

The survey also sought the community’s priorities and suggestions for actions to achieve a 50% renewable energy target and transforming the city into a water sensitive city.

Participants were also asked about what they would like to be updated on in the future as well as how they would like to be communicated with about progress in environmental performance.

4. Email Submissions

A total of 10 submissions from organisations (of these 5 of the organisations are represented on the Policy and Technical Reference Group) and 5 submissions from individuals were received relating to the draft strategy during the public exhibition period.

The following organisations emailed submissions:

Organisations who emailed submissions

The Property Council of Australia

Sydney Water

Green Building Council of Australia

Mirvac

Efficient Living

Energy Efficiency Council

The Glebe Society

Flow Systems

Organisations who emailed submissions

Jemena

GoGet Carshare

5. Activities to support public exhibition

a. Stakeholder briefing hosted by the Lord Mayor

The Lord Mayor hosted a stakeholder briefing and panel discussion on 30th June 2016, at Town Hall House. 87 people attended the event. The panel consisted of:

- Rod Simpson, Greater Sydney Commission
- Christine Byrne, Green Strata
- Shauna Coffey, Energy Efficiency Council
- Roger Swinbourne, Property Council of Australia

b. Sydney Your Say website

A project page on Sydney Your Say (<http://sydneyyoursay.com.au/environmental-strategy>) provided the draft strategy document, a summary snapshot of the draft strategy, links to other reference documents including *Sustainable Sydney 2030*, a video explaining how the City plans to achieve *Sustainable Sydney 2030* targets, a survey and three news articles highlighting different components of the draft strategy.

There were 1,300 page views. In addition the opportunity to make comment on the draft strategy was promoted to approximately 3,800 people via the Sydney Your Say EDM.

c. Media

The City distributed a media release to promote the public exhibition of the draft strategy. The strategy received coverage from:

- Channel 7 news Sydney;
- Sydney Morning Herald;
- National Geographic online blog.

d. Presentations

The City presented to the NSW Property Council Sustainability Committee on 15th August 2016.

Engagement results

1. Community workshop

Support for the low-carbon city targets for the LGA

All of the low-carbon city targets proposed in the strategy were generally accepted by the community reference panel.

LGA Greenhouse gas emissions targets	Feedback on the targets
70 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 based on 2006 levels	50% Ambitious (2) 25% Achievable (1) 25% Not ambitious enough (1)
Net zero emissions by 2050	50% Ambitious (2) 50% Achievable (2) 0% Not ambitious enough (0)
LGA Renewable energy target	Feedback on the target
50 per cent of electricity demand met by renewable sources by 2030	25% Ambitious (1) 25% Achievable (1) 50% Not ambitious enough (2)

Two out of the five tables of participants considered the 70% reduction target ambitious, while one considered the target achievable, and another thought it was not ambitious enough. Table groups noted the necessity for action.

Workshop participants also had an opportunity to comment individually on the target in their feedback form, particularly if they disagreed on the table position. The few workshop participants that did comment identified the target as achievable and appropriate. They did however acknowledge the potential challenges such as achieving community behaviour change and requiring offsets.

Discussion about the net zero 2050 target showed that none of the participants had heard the phrase “net zero emissions” previously, and highlighted the need for this to be clearly articulated in the strategy. Following an explanation of its meaning, the net zero target was unanimously liked by all the tables, however the table groups were split 50:50 on whether the target was ambitious or achievable.

The majority approved of the net zero target with one participant stating, “Definitely needs to happen.”

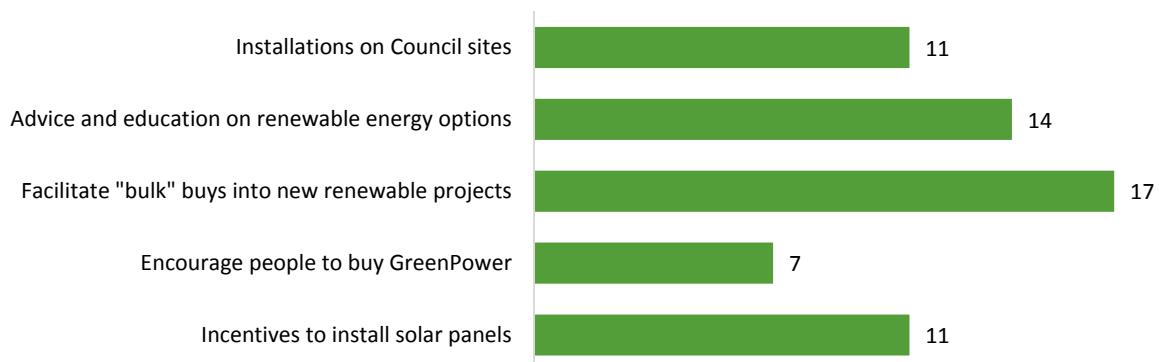
Participants suggested that to reach the net zero target the City needs to:

- Enforce a culture of environmental stewardship and responsibility across all stakeholders, particularly business and developers. This should include requirements for new developments to meet energy efficiency and sustainability targets;
- Encourage the community to take responsibility for the environment and the impact of their decisions on greenhouse gas emissions;
- Obtain community and business buy in for renewable energy, with the support of government through incentives and guidance;
- Promote education and behaviour change, with incentives for energy efficiency and using renewable energy and taxes to penalise excessive energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

The renewable energy target was the most controversial of the low-carbon targets; 50% of tables thought it was not ambitious enough.

Participants recognised that there are challenges to reaching the renewable energy target, such as current levels of renewable energy sources, the capacity to have more renewable energy sources in the LGA, the need for new technologies and the cost of delivering renewable energy sources. Opportunities identified to support the achievement of this target included mandating renewable energy for new buildings in the City and providing incentives for residents to purchase green energy.

Participants were asked their preference for the City's actions to encourage an uptake of renewable energy. The most popular response was for Council to support 'bulk buys into new renewable projects'.



Water Sensitive City

Support for water consumption target

The water consumption target was well supported, with 75% identifying the target as 'ambitious'.

Water consumption target	Feedback
Zero increase in potable water use by 2030 from 2006 baseline, achieved through water efficiency and recycled water	75% Ambitious (3)
	25% Achievable (1)
	0% Not ambitious enough (0)

Participants identified the need for more information about water use and the difficulty for renters in apartments to monitor their water use. Barriers to achieving the target identified included the low cost of water, the high cost of retrofitting water saving infrastructure into older buildings and increasing population. Opportunities identified to reach this target included mandating recycled water and water tanks, providing education programs and maintaining infrastructure to minimise wastage.

Support for precinct scale water recycling

Only a third of participants were aware of the recycled water initiative at Central Park, and there was some concern expressed about using recycled water for drinking. This concern was ameliorated with an explanation that recycled water is not used for drinking, rather plumbed separately to flush toilets etc. This raises the need to articulate this clearly to the community so mis-conceptions and concerns are not fostered unnecessarily.

After the discussion about recycled water and its uses, 66% of participants believed that the City should focus on precinct scale water recycling projects. The remainder suggested the City should focus on both precinct scale and individual/home owner systems.

Need for more stormwater awareness and education

Although participants were generally aware about stormwater and catchments within the City, it was identified that there is a need for greater education and awareness about stormwater within the community. Suggestions included:

- Labels on stormwater drains;
- Identifying the source of stormwater;
- Fines for littering.

Summary

The workshop participants generally supported the strategy and in particular the focus on a low-carbon city, given the potential for impacts from climate change.

There was some concern that many actions to achieve the targets would be outside the control of the City. It was felt that the City should strongly emphasise the need to develop a shared responsibility for environmental outcomes.

The workshop participants wanted to see better environmental performance from new developments and were keen for the City to exercise its control to achieve this to its full extent.

There are a number of concepts presented in the strategy that were not understood well by the panel. For example, 'low carbon', 'zero emissions' and 'rain gardens' were not familiar to participants. A plain English version of the strategy that clearly defines these terms would be useful to educate and inform residents. Similarly it was noted that the graphs and tables could be simplified and explained more clearly to aid residents understanding.

The major constraints identified to the implementation of environmental actions by residents were apartment living and the high cost of sustainable infrastructure. Opportunities identified to help overcome these constraints included using personal experiences/case studies, financial incentives, low or no interest loans to help with the high initial costs.

2. Online survey

There were 1,300 views of the Sydney Your Say page. The online survey generated a total of 20 responses. There was majority agreement for all of the proposed targets included for comment in the survey.

Low-carbon city

75% of respondents agreed with the proposed *low-carbon city targets for City's own operations.*

"Maintain targets and even improve on them in the future" (comment from online survey respondent)

81.3% of respondents agreed with the proposed *low-carbon city targets for the local government area.*

We asked respondents to prioritise the top three actions the City can take to achieve the 50% renewable energy target. The top results were:

1. Provide incentives for solar panels for houses, apartments and businesses in the LGA (22%)
2. Advocate for energy market reform that encourages renewable energy (18%)
3. Make it easier for residents and businesses to buy renewable power from a solar or wind farms (10%)

"We need to be aiming for 80-90% electricity from renewables by 2030" (comment from online survey respondent)

"It's ridiculous that Australians spend more on heating than they do on cooling. Please raise the standard for new developments" (comment from online survey respondent)

Water Sensitive City

93.8% of respondents agreed with the proposed *water sensitive city targets for the City's own operations, and for the local government area.*

We asked respondents whether they were aware of a range of existing projects to help make the City a water sensitive city. Answers showed that:

- 25% of respondents were aware of the City's efforts in constructing rain gardens;
- 18% of respondents were aware of the stormwater harvesting project occurring at Green Square town centre;
- 15% of respondents were aware of stormwater harvesting projects in the City's parks to provide water for irrigation;
- 15% of respondents were aware of the water efficiency advice that the City provides businesses;
- 6% of respondents were aware of grants for water efficiency in residential apartment buildings; and
- 18% of respondents were not aware of the City's water sensitive city projects.

“I think we need to increase the target for reduction in nutrient load into waterways” (comment from online survey respondent)

Zero Waste City

93.8% of respondents agreed with the proposed zero waste city targets for council’s own operations and for the local government area.

We asked respondents if they were aware of all the recycling services that the city offers residents, including containers, paper and cardboard, garden waste, electronic waste, mattresses, batteries, paint and household chemicals. 75% were aware of all the services, 18.8% were only aware of container recycling and garden waste services and 6.3% were only aware of the container recycling service.

In addition we asked what other materials respondents would like see recycled. The majority of respondents (60%) sought recycling of food waste followed by recycling of textiles (30%).

“I think the target should be higher. We need to be able to do something about organic waste, such as through city composting” (comment from online survey respondent)

Active and Connected City

68.8% of respondents agreed with the proposed active and connected city targets for the local government area.

“Public transport infrastructure including light rail and bike paths should be further developed. Cars should be discouraged from CBD by similar schemes to Singapore and London” (comment from online survey respondent)

Green and Cool City

87.5% of respondents agreed with the proposed green and cool city targets the local government area.

“We need more - buildings should get incentives for green cover / spaces. Rooftop garden and community vegetable patches should be encouraged” (comment from online survey respondent)

Ongoing Communication

The last component of the survey asked what respondents would like to be updated on in the future as well as how they would like to be communicated with about progress in environmental performance. Respondents showed that:

- 42% want to be informed about progress made against environmental targets
- 32% want to be informed about progress made against actions
- 26% want to be informed about actions occurring in their local area

Respondents also indicated how they would prefer to be kept informed about the implementation of the strategy. Results showed that:

- 27.5% would like articles in the Green Villages newsletter
- 20% would like updates on the City of Sydney website
- 17.5% would like updates via social media (the majority of respondents prefer the City of Sydney Facebook page)
- 15% would like articles in the newspaper and email updates

The final question asked respondents if they are aware of the City's bi-annual Green Report. The majority of respondents (87.5%) were not aware of the report.

3. Email Submissions

There was support for the vision presented in the strategy from all of the emailed submissions. There were minor suggestions for changes or improvements, and only a few issues of concern raised. A full list of issues raised and the City's response is contained in Appendix 1.

Common issues raised

1. Aspirational targets unclear

Three out of the ten organisational submissions raised concern that the voluntary benchmarks for new buildings identified in Section 3 of the Strategy could be interpreted as mandates for higher performance. There was a clear message that this section of the strategy needs to be amended to avoid any misunderstanding about the aspirational nature of the targets.

2. BASIX targets

Two out of the ten industry submissions raised concern around the use of higher voluntary BASIX targets as described in Section 3. The issues raised included:

- The assumptions used by the City to determine the implications of increased BASIX targets are incorrect;
- Not all increased BASIX targets proposed will lead to the most sustainable and lasting built outcomes;
- BASIX and section J compliance checks and certifications are not stringent enough;
- Council should consider alternative and additional compliance measures (such as The Built Environment Sustainable Scorecard);
- Increased BASIX targets will result in substantial cost implications and targets should not be increased beyond 5%.

3. Food Waste

Two out of the fifteen submissions (one from an organisation and one from an individual) proposed that the City provide a food waste collection/composting service for residents.

Summary

The submissions endorsed the City's approach to environmental management and its vision for a sustainable future. Though there was support for the targets proposed, there was some concern raised about the cost imposition to business, and opinion about the best ways and means of achieving these targets. The submissions from organisations and industry showed a willingness to partner and work with the City.

Appendix 1 – Submissions and City Response

Submissions

The City's response to the submissions emailed by organisations and individuals is in Table 1.

Organisation	Issue	Environmental Strategy & Action Plan updated?	Comment
Green Building Council of Australia	Section 3 'Expectations for excellence' needs to be amended to clarify that they are voluntary targets not mandatory requirements.	Yes	Text amended (page 14-17)
	That page 15 of the strategy be amended to ensure Green Star ratings referenced as benchmarks are for certified ratings.	Yes	Text amended (page 15)
	Green Star should be recommended as the most appropriate rating tool for hotels and serviced apartments in the City of Sydney	No	Multiple environmental rating tools are currently in use in the accommodation sector in Sydney; and the City recognises that accommodation providers have a range of reasons for choosing a specific rating type.
	Green Star Performance can assist to inform the market and drive upgrades for residential apartment buildings	No	The City supports the voluntary use of Green Star Performance and also recognises the need for a mandatory performance rating tool
Sydney Water	Sydney Water identified a number of opportunities for collaboration with the City	No	Section 10 refers to collaboration with state government
	Sydney Water would like to collaborate with the City on organic waste reduction and waste to energy opportunities	No	Issue will be addressed in the forthcoming Waste Strategy
	Has the impact of increased canopy cover on stormwater pollution been quantified?	No	When canopy cover increased is measured the City will consider the impact on stormwater quality.
Energy efficiency Council	The Energy Efficiency Council supports retrofit and tune-up programs for existing non-residential buildings and is well placed to support the City in delivering these.	No	The forthcoming Sector Sustainability plans will identify emissions reduction measures for non-residential sectors

Organisation	Issue	Environmental Strategy & Action Plan updated?	Comment
	EEC recommends introduction of minimum lease standards by 2020, and that the City explore introducing transitional incentives such as differential environmental levies that reward better performing buildings to support minimum lease standards.	No	The City has no authority over lease standards. The City will continue to investigate financial incentives to support better performing buildings.
	Ensure that actions within the Strategy are fully resourced for implementation	No	Issue addressed by existing content
Efficient Living	Suggests that the information used by the City to identify higher voluntary BASIX targets in Section 3 is not correct.	No	The City continues to advocate for a revision of the BASIX scheme.
	Concern that setting BASIX targets too high will result in poor compliance	No	The City continues to advocate for an increased focus on compliance with the BASIX tool
	Recommends council implement BESS as an alternative to BASIX	No	The City supports the ongoing use of the existing BASIX tool and will advocate for improvements to it.
	Recommends Council encourage greater focus on compliance of BASIX and Section J	No	Issue addressed by existing content (Actions 7.4, 7.6 and 9.10)
The Glebe Society	Recommends City include specific focus on reducing food waste.	No	Issue will be addressed in the forthcoming Waste Strategy
	Continue to explore options for advanced waste treatment, including gasification	No	Issue will be addressed in the forthcoming Waste Strategy
	Help to build partnerships between community renewable energy projects and medium sized businesses.	No	Issue addressed by existing content (page 19 and 28)
	Review constraints on installation of solar panels on heritage buildings, including residential	No	This issue is currently being dealt with by City staff
	Include light pollution as an energy efficiency issue	No	The City's Sydney Lights Code addresses this issue: http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/142987/Sydney-Lights-

Organisation	Issue	Environmental Strategy & Action Plan updated?	Comment
			Public-Domain-Design-Code.pdf
Flow Systems	Flow systems encourages Council to mandate connection to recycled water networks.	No	Addressed by existing content (Action 6.1)
	Flow would like the City to support private sector, NGO and industry precinct projects which are attempting to make the transition to sustainable water and energy infrastructure.	No	Addressed by existing content (Action 10.2)
Jemena	Low carbon city actions and objectives should focus on low-carbon energy rather than specifically renewable energy, as low-carbon energy technology avoids adversely impacting the peak utilisation of electricity networks	No	Addressed by existing content (page 20). The Strategy notes the important role that low-carbon energy can play.
	Ensure that any policies or schemes designed to incentivise net zero buildings do not restrict customers' ability to make choices about their energy needs.	No	Addressed by existing content (page 28). The City will continue to advocate for changes that make it easier for consumer to purchase low-carbon energy
Go Get	The City's current target for car share membership is too low. Recommends 50% by 2030.	No	The City's research indicates that 30% is an ambitious target that is higher than most jurisdictions
	Recommends council develops a framework for how to achieve this target that includes increased education, targeted messaging, intro car share to new buildings	Yes	Text amended (page 12)
	Recommends council decrease council fleet size by using car share vehicles for fleet; and that staff are offered car share membership as a benefit	No	The majority of the vehicle fleet at Town Hall house is hybrid or electric, and staff are encouraged to use active and public transport in preference to vehicle wherever possible.
	Council should incentivise commercial and residential buildings and car park operators to adopt car	Yes	Text amended (page 52)

Organisation	Issue	Environmental Strategy & Action Plan updated?	Comment
	share within their sites through planning controls		
	Council should establish a collaborative advisory board to develop integrated smart transport infrastructure	No.	The City has a range of advisory panels including the Design Advisory Panel and Cycling Advisory Panel that provide input into the City's planning. As well, we consult widely on all City projects.
Mirvac	Recommended that it is clarified that the 'expectations of excellence' in Section 3 are not to be mandated.	Yes	Text amended (page 14-17)
	Recommend adding an additional column to Section 3 to include Australian best practice targets	Yes	Text amended (pages 17), to include examples of best practice Australian buildings.
	Recommend recognising alternative methods of compliance to meet 'expectations of excellence'.	No	The listed benchmarks have been selected by the City as they are the most comprehensive, consistent and proven ways to assess the expected environmental performance
	Increased BASIX benchmarks will result in substantial cost implications and limited environmental improvement.	No	Research commissioned by the City indicates that the marginal cost of reaching higher BASIX targets equates to less than 1% of the total sale price of an average apartment in the City of Sydney.
	Questions the viability of cogeneration systems in residential buildings, recommends passive systems instead.	No	The City supports the use of passive design as the first priority to reduce emissions and sees co-generation as an option for further reducing emissions
Individual	The City should divest from the banks that support and lend to the fossil fuel industry.	No	The City's investment policy was updated in October 2016 to further enhance its social and responsible investment aspects
Property Council of Australia	The aspirational benchmarks in Section 3 could be interpreted by the City's planners as mandated new minimum performance standards.	Yes.	Text amended (page 14-17)
	The City should prioritise support for the mid-tier	No	The forthcoming Commercial Office Sector Sustainability

Organisation	Issue	Environmental Strategy & Action Plan updated?	Comment
	building sector to improve its environmental performance.		Plan will identify actions to address mid-tier office buildings
Individual	Floating photovoltaic cells on Lake Burragorang could provide renewable energy to Sydney	No	The City has no authority over Lake Burragorang, which is managed by the Sydney Catchment Authority
Individual	The City should reduce use of concrete in parks due to its embodied energy and aesthetic impact	No	Concrete is a robust and low-maintenance material that the City uses in parks for paths and access ways for maintenance vehicles. Its use is balanced with vegetated areas on a site-by-site basis.
	The City should plant native species as street trees	No	<p>The City takes a balanced approach to the planting of native and exotic tree species within our streets and open spaces. The selection of trees considers many factors, including environmental tolerances, functional and aesthetic requirements.</p> <p>Plane trees are planted as they are a hardy tree species and are able to withstand harsh conditions whilst still providing many environmental benefits, including summer shade and allowing solar access in winter. We are however gradually reducing the proportion of plane trees as they grow old and need replacing, to increase diversity in accordance with the Street Tree Master Plan.</p>
Individual	The City should encourage reuse behaviour among residents as well as recycling	No	Issue will be addressed in the forthcoming Waste Strategy
Individual	Would like to see a food and organics waste collection service offered	No	Issue will be addressed in the forthcoming Waste Strategy