

6 May 2019

At the conclusion of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and  
Tenders Committee



## Cultural and Community Committee

Sydney 2030 / Green / Global / Connected

**Agenda**

1. **Disclosures of Interest**

**Cultural and Creative Sub-Committee**

2. **Post Exhibition - Local Approvals Policy for Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice**
3. **Festivals and Events Sponsorship (Village and Community) - Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council - Eora Inner City NAIDOC**

**Healthy Communities Sub-Committee**

4. **Post Exhibition - A City for All: Community Safety Action Plan 2019-2023**
5. **Policy - Adoption - Companion Animals Policy**

# Guidelines for Speakers at Council Committees



As part of our democratic process, the City invites members of the community to speak directly to Councillors during Committee meetings about items on the agenda.

To enable the Committee to hear a wide range of views and concerns within the limited time available, we encourage people interested in speaking at Committee to:

1. Register to speak by calling Council's Secretariat on 9265 9310 before 12.00 noon on the day of the meeting.
2. Check the recommendation in the Committee report before speaking, as it may address your concerns so that you just need to indicate your support for the recommendation.
3. Note that there is a three minute time limit for each speaker (with a warning bell at two minutes) and prepare your presentation to cover your major points within that time
4. Avoid repeating what previous speakers have said and focus on issues and information that the Committee may not already know.
5. If there is a large number of people interested in the same item as you, try to nominate three representatives to speak on your behalf and to indicate how many people they are representing.
6. Before speaking, turn on the microphone by pressing the button next to it and speak clearly so that everyone in the Council Chamber can hear.
7. Be prepared to quickly return to the microphone and respond briefly to any questions from Councillors, after all speakers on an item have made their presentations.

Committee meetings can continue until very late, particularly when there is a long agenda and a large number of speakers. This impacts on speakers who have to wait until very late, as well as Council staff and Councillors who are required to remain focused and alert until very late. At the start of each Committee meeting, the Committee Chair may reorder agenda items so that those items with speakers can be dealt with first.

Committee reports are on line at [www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au), with printed copies available at Sydney Town Hall immediately prior to the meeting. Council staff are also available prior to the meeting to assist.

## **Item 1.**

### **Disclosures of Interest**

Pursuant to the provisions of section 451 of the Local Government Act 1993, Councillors are required to disclose pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting of the Cultural and Community Committee.

Councillors are also required to disclose any non-pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting of the Cultural and Community Committee in accordance with the relevant clauses of the Code of Conduct – February 2016.

In both cases, the nature of the interest must be disclosed.

Written disclosures of interest received by the Chief Executive Officer in relation to items for consideration at this meeting will be laid on the table.



## Item 2.

### Post Exhibition - Local Approvals Policy for Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice

File No: S122196.001

#### Summary

This report proposes that the draft Local Approvals Policy for Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice, placed on public exhibition in September 2018, be adopted by Council with some minor amendments.

On 17 September 2018, Council resolved that a draft Local Approvals Policy for Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice (the Policy) be placed on public exhibition for community feedback.

The draft Policy is the result of an extensive process of research and consultation, arising from an action of the City's live music and performance action plan. The Policy proposes three significant changes to the management of busking in Sydney.

1. That the practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage in public spaces be exempt from requiring an approval to busk.
2. That a new permit system be introduced, categorising busking acts by their impact on public space and the volume and nature of the sound they generate.
3. That the permits and their conditions be supported by a Busking Code that provides proactive guidance on how best to busk, busking etiquette, and the management systems for popular, high-traffic Special Busking Sites.

On exhibition, the Policy was accompanied by an example of the Busking Code and a Busking Policy Review document which outlined six priorities for managing and supporting busking in Sydney. These documents helped steer discussions regarding busking operations, which fall outside the scope of the regulatory framework the Policy deals with.

Engagement activities included information on the Sydney Your Say website and distributed by media releases, social media, postcards and emails to stakeholders. Respondents had an opportunity to make a written submission or to attend one of four consultation workshops that were held at Town Hall House throughout the exhibition period.

The information on Sydney Your Say was accessed 1,172 times, the exhibition documents were downloaded 238 times and the City received 44 written submissions. A further 13 people attended the face-to-face consultation workshops.

Feedback to the Policy is largely supportive and the proposed new permit system has been well received by buskers. Some concerns and queries were raised and to address these some minor edits for clarification have been proposed in the post-exhibition draft Policy (Attachment A).

An Engagement Report outlining feedback to the Policy is attached (Attachment D). A plan for the implementation of the Policy is outlined in this report.

## Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council adopt Sections 2 and 3 of the Local Approvals Policy for Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice, as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council endorse Section 1 of the Local Approvals Policy for Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice, as shown at Attachment A to the subject report, and authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to adopt Section 1 of the policy upon receipt of consent from the Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government, or their equivalent, as required by Section 162 of the Local Government Act 1993;
- (C) Council note the Protocols for the practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture in public places, as shown at Attachment B to the subject report;
- (D) Council note the Sydney Busking Code, as shown at Attachment C to the subject report;
- (E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make minor changes to the Local Approvals Policy for clarity or correction prior to publishing and implementation; and
- (F) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to approve amendments to the Busking Code and the Protocols for the practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture in public places, from time to time.

## Attachments

- Attachment A.** Draft Local Approvals Policy for Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice.
- Attachment B.** Draft Protocols for the Practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture in Public Places.
- Attachment C.** Code of Practice for Busking - "Sydney Busking Code"
- Attachment D.** Engagement Report - Proposed Changes for Busking in Sydney.

## Background

1. From 25 September 2018 to 19 November 2018, the City received community feedback on a proposed Local Approvals Policy for Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice. The Policy proposes changes to the regulation of busking and the practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures in public space.
2. Consultation activities included emailing all registered buskers, face-to-face engagement at consultation workshops, online engagement, postcards ('flyers') and advertisements in local publications.
3. The proposed changes received broad media coverage and the Sydney Your Say webpage attracted strong interest. In addition to feedback at the consultation workshops, the City received 44 formal submissions. An attached report outlines the community engagement activities that took place to support the consultation and summarises the key findings (Attachment D).
4. **The Practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage.**
  - (a) The policy proposes that the practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture no longer be recognised as a busking activity and be respected as a distinct activity that is unique to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The Policy proposes that this activity be exempt from requiring an approval from Council if certain criteria are met.
  - (b) Section 1 of the Local Approvals Policy outlines the criteria for the exemption from approval. Under s 162 of the Local Government Act, this part of the policy requires consent from the Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government before it can be adopted. This consent has been sought and is pending. In order to not delay the implementation of the busking aspects of the policy (Sections 2 and 3), this report recommends Council endorse Section 1 of the Policy and delegate adoption of this section to the Chief Executive Officer upon receipt of the required consent.
  - (c) During the exhibition period there was national and international news coverage representing the section of the policy as providing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performers with "free permits to busk". Whilst most of this coverage was supportive, the premise misrepresents the policy.
  - (d) Nine (9) submissions were received objecting to "free busking permits" for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. These submissions seem to be a response to the incorrect media coverage and contain no clear feedback to the content of the draft policy.
  - (e) Two (2) submissions were received objecting to the policy as it has been proposed.
  - (f) Otherwise, there is evidence of broad community support for the proposal.
  - (g) The submission from Arts Law Australia notes "Arts Law supports the City of Sydney's intention to advocate for a consistent busking system across (Greater) Sydney... City of Sydney should also seek to lead the conversation and advocate for the establishment of consistent recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural practice in these areas."

- (h) Further, the Arts Law Australia submission supports maintaining Protocols for the interpretation and application of the exemption, and recommends "a clear process be developed with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel and community to avoid the exploitation of this exemption by non-Indigenous people". This feedback is noted.
- (i) The City's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel were briefed on 19 September and provided with the draft Policy and Protocols. The Panel supports the adoption of the Policy.
- (j) The submission from Sara Hamilton, co-chair of the Advisory Panel says:

"The existence and development of such policies recognises the inherent right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to maintain their distinct identities and cultures and to practice, express and share these in the public domain.

The introduction of the Busking and Cultural Practice Policy further demonstrates Council's commitment to the achievement of social, cultural and economic outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and it recognises the valuable contribution Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples make to City life.

Developed through principles of respect and recognition, this policy will support cultural practitioners in the City of Sydney to continue to connect to their culture, heritage and identity which is vital in strengthening communities and enabling the wider community to observe and honour cultural practice.

I would like to commend the City for recognising its role and obligation to work in partnership with members of the City of Sydney Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to develop this policy and I look forward to seeing the outcomes it creates for the community as a whole."

## **5. A new approach to regulating busking.**

- (a) The Policy proposes a new permit system for busking in Sydney which uses measures of space, sound and risk to categorise busking acts according to their impact. This will replace the current system which seeks, at times imprecisely, to classify buskers by the nature of their act, which in itself can be open to interpretation.
- (b) The permit categories based on impact are seen as a way of broadly capturing all eligible busking activities by using a measurable set of criteria, regardless of nuance or the particulars of any given act or any new performance trends that may emerge over time.
- (c) Importantly, the proposed categories consider the volume and nature of sound an act will generate in assessing its impact, as well as size, scale and any potential hazards. In consultation and research conducted during the busking policy review, the volume of performances was identified as the primary concern the community had about busking.
- (d) The Policy proposes the following categories of busking permits:

- (i) Low Impact, for acts requiring less than 2 square metres, no higher risk materials or equipment and a volume or sound that is easy to control.
  - (ii) High Impact, for acts requiring more than 2 square metres, or incorporating higher risk materials or equipment, or producing a volume or sound that is naturally loud, repetitive or difficult to control.
  - (iii) Extended Duration, for low impact, non-musical acts or artworks that are continuously created over a long period of time
- (e) High Impact acts will be subject to more restrictive conditions than Low Impact acts, and through working with the City and busking peers, acts categorised as High Impact may choose to alter their performance to be reclassified as Low Impact. Likewise, a Low Impact act causing adverse issues or receiving validated complaints may be reclassified as High Impact.
- (f) The proposed changes to the permit system received broad support, particularly from buskers attending the consultation workshops.
- (g) Three (3) submissions expressed a dislike of busking in general and a desire to see busking reduced or banned, however no submissions were received that directly objected to the regulatory framework proposed in Sections 2 and 3 of the Policy.
- (h) Two (2) submissions expressed doubt over the legislative or statutory power of Council to revoke or suspend busking permits. The wording of the clauses relating to modification (suspension) and revocation of an approval to busk (permit) has been redrafted for clarification.
- (i) The submission from Destination NSW requested greater clarity in the sections of the Policy which deal with the power of Authorised Persons to exclude areas from busking or to move-on buskers when public spaces are required for special events, crowd management, road or building works. An edit to the Policy has been made to satisfy this request.

## 6. Sydney Busking Code

- (a) The Policy proposes the new permit system be supported by a "Sydney Busking Code" - a guidebook for busking, busking etiquette and the management systems for Special Busking Sites such as Pitt St Mall and Martin Place. An example Busking Code was exhibited with the draft Policy.
- (b) The proposal for a Busking Code is strongly supported in feedback from buskers and broadly supported by other submissions.

- (c) The Busking Code will provide an avenue through which to address the operational aspects of busking which received feedback and suggestions during the exhibition consultation. These are:
- (i) Concerns there is inadequate space for circus acts and the High Impact permit will only allow these acts to perform once per day in already limited locations. This feedback is noted and will be addressed in the Busking Code. The Busking Policy Review identified the need to establish more suitable locations for circus acts in the City of Sydney and the operational team are already considering solutions. The Busking Code can provide for certain Special Busking Sites to offer High Impact permit holders greater access and more performances in certain suitable locations. This will also encourage High Impact acts to perform in these more suitable locations.
  - (ii) Concerns about crowding in public spaces. This was also a theme in submissions to the Busking Policy Review. Research concluded that the best way to reduce crowding associated with busking is to provide better guidance and techniques for coping with crowds in the Busking Code. The recommended approach is to provide guidance to buskers to self-manage crowds, rather than impose arbitrary permit conditions or restrictions.
  - (iii) Concerns relating to the safety of buskers and calls for a communication platform to assist buskers who are being threatened or harassed. This is outside of the scope of the Local Approvals Policy but has prompted City staff to research potential platforms for buskers to immediately notify each other if they have been threatened or robbed so they can warn other buskers. Updated guidance about how to respond to harassment and directions for seeking help from appropriate authorities will be included in the Busking Code.

## **7. The sale of artwork and merchandise**

- (a) The reduced restrictions proposed for the type and media of artworks and merchandise that may be sold by buskers was strongly supported by buskers at stakeholder engagement workshops.
- (b) The submission from Destination NSW raised concerns that this may be exploited by unauthorised street vendors. This feedback is noted. The Policy has not been redrafted as the proposed conditions expressly state the sale of artworks or merchandise must be ancillary to an approved busking act and directly related to that act. The application of the new sales conditions will be monitored throughout implementation of the policy.

## Key Implications

### Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision

8. Sustainable Sydney 2030 is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This policy is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
  - (a) Direction 5 - A Lively and Engaging City Centre - sixty-six per cent of respondents to the Busking Policy Review identified that busking brings life and vibrancy to city streets. Busking in Pitt Street Mall regularly attracts large enthusiastic crowds and new busking locations appearing organically along the George Street Light Rail construction zone are regularly attracting public engagement.
  - (b) Direction 6 - Vibrant Local Communities and Economies - over one third of respondents to the Busking Policy Review valued the presence of busking for improving mood, enhancing wellbeing and contributing to a sense of community connection. Busking is widely considered an economic driver in busy tourist destinations and provides a legitimate income source for creative professionals. Feedback from retailers at stakeholder engagement sessions recognised the contribution busking makes to the consumer experience and customer dwell times in places like Pitt Street Mall.
  - (c) Direction 7 – A Cultural and Creative City – over eighty per cent of respondents to the Busking Policy Review recognised the role busking plays in the cultural life of the city. Busking contributes to a number of strategic priorities of the City's Cultural Policy including: creativity in the public domain; increased avenues for creative participation; and sustainability of the creative sector.

### Organisational Impact

9. Implementation of the proposed Local Approvals Policy will require collaboration between the following city business units:
  - Cultural Strategy - coordination and policy oversight
  - Venue Management - operational oversight
  - Customer Service - permit issuing systems and primary interface with buskers
  - Creative Services - design of Busking Code and associated materials
  - Marketing - communications and online resources
  - City Rangers - monitoring and enforcement
10. City staff have commenced planning the implementation of the new Policy. If adopted, the new permit system would be introduced in July 2019.
11. In April, May and June 2019, buskers seeking to apply for or renew their permits will be offered a temporary permit under the current structure, valid until July 2019, free of charge.

12. In the lead-up to the July commencement date of the new permit system, extensive communications will be issued to buskers to prepare them for the permit changes.
13. Buskers who self-assess as meeting the High Impact permit criteria will have a number of opportunities to attend an act assessment prior to the July commencement date to facilitate a smooth, unbroken transition from one permit to next.
14. At the time of the July commencement of the new permit system, further opportunities to attend a High Impact act assessment will be offered through a series of public busking events in Martin Place.

### **Risks**

15. Feedback through exhibition suggests risks associated with implementing the Policy are low and the new permit system has received broad support.
16. Operational risks associated with implementing the Policy have been explored by City staff through extensive internal consultation across all divisions and units with responsibilities associated with busking. Implementation of the new Policy will require considered collaboration across these units, but is considered low risk and has been prepared for in work-plans and budgets.
17. Implementation of the Policy will require a transitional period in which old permits are phased out and new permits introduced. This may cause some confusion amongst buskers, however customer service and operational staff as well as City Rangers will be briefed on responding to and assisting buskers in moving into the new permit system.

### **Budget Implications**

18. A budget has been allocated for the implementation of the new policy and permit system in the Strategy and Urban Analytics 2018-19 and 2019-20 budgets.
19. The ongoing operational costs of implementing the Policy are largely unchanged.

### **Relevant Legislation**

20. Local Government Act 1993.
21. Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.
22. Creative City Cultural Policy and Action Plan 2014 - 2024.
23. Live Music and Performance Action Plan 2014.



**Critical Dates / Time Frames**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Activity</b>
13 May 2019	Council Approval
14 May 2019	New busking permit applications will be issued temporary free permits, under current system, valid until 1 July
3 – 30 June 2019	Communications to buskers advising of changes
21 June 2019	Busking event, city staff commence assessing high impact performances
1 July 2019	New permit system introduced across customer service centres
TBD	If and once consent for Section 1 of the policy is received, implementation of the exemption from approval for the practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture will be implemented within one month of receipt of consent. A communications and engagement strategy will be implemented at this time.

**Options**

24. The current busking policy, permits and guidelines could be maintained.
25. The proposed changes to the permit system reflect community sentiment for better management of loud, repetitive and back-to-back performances in busy busking locations, and clearer guidelines for buskers to adhere to. The proposed permit system aims to address the common issues that arise from busking in Sydney and install a more effective model for managing busking long-term.
26. Public consultation and exhibition of the proposed Policy has received community, industry and stakeholder support.

**Public Consultation**

27. The draft Policy was exhibited from 25 September to 19 November 2018.
28. The Sydney Your Say page with information related to proposed changes to busking was visited 1,172 times.
29. The exhibition documents were downloaded 238 times.
30. The City received 44 written submissions during exhibition.
31. 13 stakeholders (buskers and retailers) attended face-to-face consultation workshops.
32. Public notice advertisements regarding the exhibition and public consultation were placed in the Sydney Morning Herald, Wentworth Courier, Central Sydney, Inner West Courier and Southern Courier.
33. All registered buskers were emailed twice during the exhibition period.
34. Postcard fliers were distributed across Sydney and directly to buskers.
35. Social media posts and media activity further broadcasted the exhibition details.
36. A summary of public consultation activities, submissions made and outcomes from the consultation process is at Attachment D to this report.

**CHRIS DERKSEMA**

A/Chief Operating Officer

Lisa Colley, Manager Cultural Strategy

# **Attachment A**

**Post Exhibition - Local Approvals Policy for  
Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander Cultural Practice**

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# Local Approvals Policy

## Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice

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### Acknowledgement

All buskers and cultural practitioners in the City of Sydney perform on Gadigal Land. The Gadigal people of the Eora nation are custodians of one of the world's oldest continuing cultures, a culture that is practiced, expressed and shared through a tradition of dance, song and storytelling.

### Purpose

This local approvals policy applies to all buskers and cultural practitioners undertaking or wishing to undertake a performance for fee or reward within the City of Sydney. This policy outlines the criteria for exemptions for cultural practitioners as well as the criteria for giving or receiving an approval to busk, the conditions of the approval and regulations that apply to busking in the City of Sydney.

This policy aims to support and promote busking culture in Sydney, in balance with the expectations and needs of all users of public space. The City of Sydney plays two roles in relation to busking:

1. As a creative city that strives to support cultural activity, participation and interaction, the City of Sydney supports busking and the contribution buskers make to the city's character and cultural industries.
2. As the governance authority that regulates the use of public space to ensure the safety, amenity and harmonious enjoyment of these spaces for all, the City of Sydney must establish the rules and a regulatory framework for busking on public land.

This policy aims to consider both these responsibilities in equal measure. It was established in consultation with buskers, businesses, residents and visitors to the City of Sydney and members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. It draws upon learnings from the world's best busking cities.

## Principles

This policy and the City of Sydney's approach to regulating busking is underpinned by the following principles:

- Sydney has a strong tradition of busking and buskers contribute to a sense of place and the character of the city.
- Buskers make an important contribution to the cultural life of the city and help build a social city, they create connections between strangers and bring spontaneity to the everyday, in doing so they help reduce isolation and build community cohesion.
- Buskers contribute to the tourist experience of Sydney and drive foot-traffic and commerce in business districts.
- Busking is a legitimate means for professional artists and performers to make income.
- Busking is a legitimate means for hobbyists, amateur performers, enthusiasts or anyone to express themselves creatively in the public domain.
- Busking is an important part of the ecology of the creative industries. It provides a training ground for emerging artists and self-determined work opportunities for established artists. Busking assists with developing new audiences for live music and performance by exposing people to the creative life of Sydney and new avenues for creative participation.
- The practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage is a unique and important activity that takes place in the public domain. It has a fundamental purpose of maintaining connection to culture for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. For this reason, it is considered to be a distinct activity and is not included in the City's definition of busking.
- Regulation of busking activity should expect nothing more or less of buskers than any other person or group of people using shared public space.
- Other users of public space, residents, business owners and workers in the city have a right to quietly enjoy the city's open spaces and to not be subjected to extended high volume or repetitive performances audible within their homes or places of work, or to be exposed to unsafe or offensive behaviour.

## Scope

This is a Local Approvals Policy under the *Local Government Act 1993*. It relates to activities under section 68 Part D items 2, 4, 5 and 6 and Part E item 2 insofar as those activities relate to the particular activity of busking or cultural practice.

This policy applies to the City of Sydney local government area. It does not cover areas where the City is not the regulatory authority for these activities, presently:

- Areas managed by Property NSW including Darling Harbour, Circular Quay, the Rocks and the Goods Line.
- Areas managed by Transport for NSW including the rail network.
- The Sydney Opera House forecourt.
- The Botanic Gardens, Centennial Park and Moore Park.
- Areas regulated by the Barangaroo Delivery Authority

**Part 1** of this policy sets out the circumstances where an approval is not required.

**Part 2** of this policy outlines the criteria for giving or refusing an approval to busk.

**Part 3** of this policy outlines other matters regarding the regulation of busking.

## Definitions

Term	Meaning
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person	A person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives.
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Heritage	The intangible and tangible aspects of the whole body of cultural practices, resources and knowledge systems developed, nurtured and refined by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and passed on by them as part of expressing their cultural identity. This heritage is a living one, it continues to develop, and includes items which may be created in the future.
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practitioner (“cultural practitioner”)	An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person expressing Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage, including knowledge and cultural expression such as songs, stories, dances, performing arts and creating artistic works.
Act	The performance or artwork that a busker is making. Can be interchangeable with <i>performance</i> .
Animal	Any bird, fish, insect, reptile or animal other than a human.
Authorised Person	An appropriately delegated employee of the City of Sydney or an officer of the police force.
Busker	Someone performing or creating an artwork in a public place with the intention of entertaining the public for financial reward, but does not include an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander cultural practitioner.
Busking Pitch	A site or location where buskers and cultural practitioners perform. Also referred to as a <i>pitch</i> .
The Busking Code	Or <i>Sydney Busking Code</i> outlines the etiquette expected of buskers and the systems by which Special Busking Sites are shared and managed by the busking community.
City of Sydney	May refer to both the Council of the City of Sydney and the Local Government Area of Sydney. Also referred to as <i>The City</i> . The lower case ‘city’ refers to the place known as Sydney.
Higher Risk Materials	Flammable liquids or gases, toxins or extremely hot or cold substances.
Higher Risk Equipment	An object that may pose a risk or hazard to the safety or welfare of a member of the public or the person handling the object. This includes items such as knives, swords, chainsaws and other sharp objects, mallets, chains or other items swung or thrown in the air.

## Consultation

This Policy was placed on exhibition from 25 September to 19 November 2018.

## Approval

Council approved this policy on **XXX date**.

(A copy of the CEO's signature should be inserted here.)

## References

### Laws and standards

- Local Government Act 1993
- Anti-Discrimination Act 1977
- Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998
- Companion Animals Act 1998
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

### Policies, procedures and guidelines

- Creative City Cultural Policy and Action Plan 2014 – 2024
- Live Music and Performance Action Plan 2014
- Eora Journey Economic Development Plan 2016
- City of Sydney Event Guidelines 2015

## Review

Review period	Next review date	TRIM reference
Within one year from the commencement of a newly elected Council	Month, Year	20XX/XXXXX

# Part 1

## Exempt from approvals – the practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

The City of Sydney respects and celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage. The City recognises that practicing culture is vital to maintaining personal identity and connection to culture for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, as well as sharing cultural knowledge with the community and visitors to Sydney.

Whilst the practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, outdoors and in public places, can be both an entertainment and an economic activity, it is primarily the practice of a cultural right, as articulated in Article 11 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People*. For this reason, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people wishing to practice Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander culture in public and on community land are not required to apply for an approval in the circumstances outlined below.

Further information regarding cultural practice can be found in the City's protocols for the practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture in public places.

The following criteria apply to this exemption:

### 1. **Application**

This exemption applies to the practice of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage ("cultural practice") by an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.

### 2. **Times and Durations**

Cultural practice does not require an approval or a permit

- i. between the hours of 6am and 10pm.
- ii. if taking place for no more than two hours per location per day per individual or group.

### 3. **Locations**

Sites for practicing culture must not be established in a location that is likely to block access to an entry or exit of a building (including any fire exit), street, laneway or carpark or within 100 meters of a busker or within 100 meters of an approved outdoor event.



#### **4. Safety**

A minimum one metre perimeter for pedestrian flow must be maintained around any site for practicing culture. Any fire or other higher risk materials or higher risk equipment that may cause harm to any member of the public must remain within the site and surrounding perimeter.

#### **5. Insurance**

Cultural Practitioners are required to maintain adequate Public Liability Insurance coverage for their public activities. Cultural Practitioners may either:

- i. Obtain their own insurance policy and coverage, or
- ii. Register for free cover under the City's Community Engagement Liability Insurance policy by completing a registration form at any City of Sydney customer service centre. Refer to Section 3, Item 16 of this policy for more information about the cover.

#### **6. Queuing**

When a busker or another cultural practitioner is already occupying a site, a queue system should be introduced whereby each person or group awaits the completion of the previous performance and then takes their turn. Cultural Practitioners using Special Busking Sites, as outlined in Section 3 of this policy, must follow the rules of that Special Busking Site.

#### **7. Sales**

Cultural practitioners may receive donations from the public and proceeds from the sale of artworks. The sale of artwork must be secondary and only in addition to the practice of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage.

#### **8. Compliance with laws and directions**

Cultural practitioners shall comply with all relevant laws, regulations and policies and the lawful directions of Authorised Persons. Authorised persons may restrict any public space from use for practicing culture during special events, emergencies or as circumstance may require.

# Part 2

## Busking approvals.

All people wishing to busk in the City are required to obtain an approval to busk in accordance with s68 of the Local Government Act 1993. The following criteria apply to approvals to busk:

### 9. Busking Acts

9.1. Busking Acts are categorised by the amount of space and time they occupy in a public place, and the volume and type of sound they are likely to generate. Busking Acts will fall into one of the following categories.

#### i. Low Impact

Low Impact Acts have a small footprint in public space and have sound that is easily managed. A Low Impact Act is defined by meeting all of the following criteria:

- a. does not need more than 2m<sup>2</sup> performance space
- b. does not use higher risk equipment or materials such as fire or sharp objects, and
- c. does not use instruments that are naturally loud, even without amplification, including drums of any kind, bagpipes and brass instruments

Examples of Low Impact Acts may include: solo musicians or small musical groups, magicians, puppeteers and other solo performers.

#### ii. High Impact

High Impact Acts have a large footprint in public space and/or have sound that is harder to manage and/or incorporate materials and equipment that may pose a greater risk to the busker or their audience. A High Impact Act is defined by any one or more of the following criteria:

- a. needs more than 2m<sup>2</sup> performance space
- b. actively encourages an audience to gather, wait and watch
- c. uses higher risk equipment or higher risk materials such as fire or sharp objects
- d. uses instruments that are naturally loud even without amplification including drums of any kind, bagpipes and brass instruments, or
- e. features 5 or more performers

Examples of High Impact Acts may include: dance groups, acrobats and circus acts, drummers, bagpipe and trumpet players.

#### iii. Extended Duration

An Extended Duration Act has a low impact in terms of the space it requires or the volume of sound it generates, however requires a longer period of time to be performed. An Extended Duration Act is defined by all of the following criteria:

- a. the artwork or performance is made continuously and evolves over a period of more than two hours
- b. the artwork or performance is quiet, non-musical and non-amplified
- c. the artwork or performance does not significantly restrict access or use of the public space in which it is created

Examples of Extended Duration Acts may include: pavement art, chalk art, durational performance art and human statues.

9.2. The following acts will not be approved for a Busking Permit in Sydney.

- i. Acts which involve handing out plastic or paper items that may have an adverse impact on parks, waterways, bird life or marine life, such as balloon sculpting.
- ii. Acts which incorporate any animal, with the exception of a certified assistance animal (as defined by section 5 of the *Companion Animals Act 1998*) who is supporting the performer but is not a feature of the performance.
- iii. Acts which offer or provide a one-to-one service for a fee such as fortune telling, portrait painting, massage or any other therapeutic service.

## 10. Permits

10.1. All buskers (or people wishing to undertake busking) within the City of Sydney must obtain a Busking Permit and must agree to comply with the terms and conditions of the Permit and this Policy.

10.2. The City of Sydney issues three types of Busking Permit:

- i. Low Impact Busking Permit, for Low Impact Acts
- ii. High Impact Busking Permit, for High Impact Acts
- iii. Extended Duration Busking Permit, for Extended Duration Acts

10.3. Low Impact and Extended Duration Busking Permits may be approved by a Customer Service officer of the City of Sydney at the time of application.

10.4. Buskers applying for a High Impact Busking Permit are required to satisfactorily complete an Assessment of their act before a Permit can be issued. If required, to determine the appropriate permit category for an act, any applicant may be requested to attend an Assessment at the discretion of the issuing officer.

10.5. Performers with a PASS (Peer Assessment for Street Safety) accreditation, issued by SPA (Street Performers Australia) are eligible to apply for a High Impact Permit without attending an Assessment.

10.6. Buskers who have previously completed an Assessment can renew their High Impact Busking Permit without attending another Assessment if:

- i. they have been assessed in the previous two years
- ii. their previous permit is current or expired less than six months prior

- iii. their act has not significantly changed since it was approved, and
  - iv. they have not received a formal warning or penalty since their last permit was issued.
- 10.7. All members of a group act are required to obtain a permit.
- 10.8. Proof of identity is required with an application for a Busking Permit.
- 10.9. Proof of parental consent is required for applicants under the age of 16.
- 10.10. Buskers are required to pay a service fee for a Busking Permit. The fees are published annually in the City's register of fees and charges.
- 10.11. If a busker wishes to perform a combination of Low Impact, High Impact and Extended Duration acts from time to time they may apply for multiple permits at an Assessment.

## **11. Act Assessment**

- 11.1. Any Busker whose act might meet the criteria for a High Impact act (as outlined in section 1.1. of this policy) will be required to attend an assessment of their act prior to a Busking Permit being approved.
- 11.2. Assessments are conducted by a City Officer and an experienced Busker engaged by the City as a peer assessor.
- 11.3. The purpose of the assessment is to identify that:
- i. the busking act can be performed safely and measures are in place to mitigate any potential risks to the performer(s) or public
  - ii. the busking act does not generate a sound that could potentially be intrusive or disruptive to nearby businesses or residents, and
  - iii. the sound generated by the performance is being monitored and controlled by the performer(s) as best as it can be
- 11.4. At an assessment the busking act will either be approved for a High Impact Busking Permit or a Low Impact Busking Permit, or will not be approved for a Permit.
- 11.5. At an assessment, a busking act may be assessed as low impact and offered a Low Impact Busking Permit if the busker can demonstrate a capacity to minimise the potentially intrusive elements of their act.
- 11.6. If a busking act is not approved for a Permit they will be told why they have not been approved.
- 11.7. If a busking act is not approved for a Permit they may arrange to attend another assessment on another day.
- 11.8. The artistic quality of the act or any subjective appraisal of the talent or skill of the performer(s) is not an assessment criteria.

# Section 3

## Other Matters.

The following guidelines apply to busking acts in the City of Sydney.

These guidelines for busking are complemented by a Busking Code which outlines expected etiquette for street performers, guidance on managing volume and public safety, and the booking and queuing systems that apply to high-traffic Special Busking Sites in Sydney.

### 12. Busking Permits

- 12.1. Buskers must have a valid permit clearly displayed on their person or pitch when busking.
- 12.2. Permits can be issued for one month, three months or twelve months.
- 12.3. Permits are not transferable or refundable.

### 13. Busking Times

- 13.1. Except where otherwise permitted under the Sydney Busking Code, holders of a Busking Permit may perform:
  - i. 8am – 10pm Sunday to Thursday
  - ii. 8am – midnight Friday and Saturday
- 13.2. Subject to compliance with the Sydney Busking Code:
  - i. Low Impact buskers may busk for up to two hours in any one location per day.
  - ii. High Impact buskers may busk for up to one hour in any one location per day.
  - iii. Extended Duration buskers may busk for up to 8 hours in any one location per day.
- 13.3. Where a site is established as a Special Busking Site under the Sydney Busking Code the times and durations set out in the Sydney Busking Code must be complied with at all times.
- 13.4. Buskers who have performed the maximum time in a location on one day may move their performance to another location at least 100 metres from their previous pitch.
- 13.5. Buskers under the age of 15 must be supervised by an adult guardian whenever busking.

### 14. Busking Pitches

- 14.1. Buskers with a current Busking Permit may busk in any public place or footpath with ample open space for their performance and a further 2 metres on at least two sides of their performance area for pedestrian flow.

- 14.2. High Impact buskers using higher risk materials or equipment must visually demarcate their performance area with a rope or similar boundary placed on the ground.
- 14.3. Busking is restricted to one performance per site at any one time.
- 14.4. Buskers must not busk within 100 meters of another busker (unless busking on a Special Busking Site with multiple busking pitches within 100 metres of each other).
- 14.5. A busking site must not be established where the act or their audience is likely to block access to an entry or exit of a building (including any fire exit), street, laneway or carpark.
- 14.6. Authorised persons may restrict any public space from use for busking during special events, emergencies or as circumstance may require.

## **15. Special Busking Sites**

- 15.1. Some areas in the city are recognised busking locations and have specific, defined busking pitches. These pitches experience high pedestrian traffic and can provide buskers with a very visible performance space and big crowds. In order to provide equitable access to these high-value busking locations for a diverse range of buskers, these Special Busking Sites have certain additional conditions. These conditions are determined by the busking community in consultation with the City and are outlined in the Sydney Busking Code.
- 15.2. Buskers need to familiarise themselves with the locations and conditions of Special Busking Sites in the Busking Code.

## **16. Insurance**

- 16.1. As long as the busker complies with the conditions of their permit, holders of a Busking Permit are covered for public liability under the City of Sydney's Community Engagement Liability Insurance policy.
- 16.2. The City's policy is limited to \$10 million for any one loss and the busker is responsible for the first \$500 of each and every loss. This coverage and excess may be subject to change over time. Current details of the liability insurance policy will be made available to buskers on receipt of their permit.
- 16.3. Buskers may prefer to obtain their own public liability insurance. If a busker is covered by their own or any other public liability insurance policy, they will be considered covered by that policy for their busking activities and not the City's Community Engagement Liability Insurance policy.

## **17. Sales**

- 17.1. Buskers may sell their own original music or video recordings, artwork or merchandise as a complement to their performance.
- 17.2. The sale of music, video, artwork or merchandise must not be delegated to another person and must not dominate the time a busker is occupying a busking pitch.
- 17.3. The primary purpose of busking is to perform an act or to make an artwork for the entertainment of the public, any sales of any products must be secondary to this purpose

and directly related to the approved busker and their busking act.

## **18. Other matters**

- 18.1. Buskers with a valid permit may perform in any public place in Sydney in accordance with the Local Government Act and any other applicable law, this policy and the Sydney Busking Code.
- 18.2. Buskers are responsible for their impact on their environment and should take all necessary precautions and actions to limit any risks or hazards they may pose to the public.
- 18.3. Busking acts must not cause a public disturbance or nuisance, whether by the volume or nature of the sound they produce or the physical impact of the act on other people, property or public space. If a busker is directed to stop or modify their act by any authorised person they must do so immediately.
- 18.4. Where a public space is required for the use of an approved event or an authorised activity such as a retail promotion or public gathering, buskers must make way for those other activities and should not busk within 100 metres of such an event or activity. **This includes areas established for the safe dispersal of crowds at major events such as New Year's Eve and Vivid Sydney.**
- 18.5. Buskers shall comply with all relevant laws, regulations and policies and lawful directions of Authorised Persons. The holding of a busking permit will not constitute a defence where a busker has committed an offence.
- 18.6. The use of political, religious, racist, sexist, sexually explicit, homophobic or transphobic material that may be deemed offensive or discriminatory is prohibited as determined by the *NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977*.

## **19. Suspensions, Modifications, Cancellations and Penalties**

- 19.1. **In accordance with section 108 of the Local Government Act 1993, busking permits may be revoked or modified where a busker has breached any laws, this Policy, or any of the conditions of their Busking Permit.**
- 19.2. A Busker holding a Low Impact Busking Permit who receives multiple complaints about their act or is repeatedly observed playing at excessive volume or is regularly causing a disturbance to foot-traffic in pedestrian zones may be required to attend an assessment and may have their permit re-issued as a High Impact Busking Permit.
- 19.3. Pursuant to sections 109, 110 and 627 of the Local Government Act 1993, City of Sydney may, in certain circumstances, revoke or modify permits or issue an on the spot fine if the permit holder fails to comply with the requirements and conditions of the permit.
- 19.4. **In accordance with section 110 of the Local Government Act 1993, the City will give notice to a busker by way of a written warning before modifying or revoking a permit and the busker will have the opportunity to meet with Council officers to show cause why the permit should not be revoked or modified.**

**20. Responsibilities**

- 20.1. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the Venues Management team of the City of Sydney. Officers monitor and respond to public enquiry or complaints in relation to buskers, manage day to day operations in relation to busking and make recommendations to the Busking Code.
- 20.2. The City's Rangers will enforce the Busking Policy and ensure buskers are compliant with the conditions of their permit.

DRAFT



# **Attachment B**

**Draft Protocols for the Practice of  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
Cultures in Public Spaces**

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# Protocols

## for the practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures in public spaces.

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In 2015 Councillors of the City of Sydney resolved to create a Reconciliation Action Plan that would complement and progress the work that the City does with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The Innovate RAP approach is focused on working with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders to trial new approaches for building relationships, showing respect and improving opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It also includes a focus on raising internal awareness about our organisation's commitment to reconciliation by providing opportunities for our staff to engage in reconciliation activities.

The City has an extensive history working with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and we are excited about the opportunity to pilot new approaches.

### Purpose

The City of Sydney acknowledges the practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures is testament to the resilience, fortitude and continuation of these living cultures. The City of Sydney respects and celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' right and responsibility to practice and maintain their Cultural Heritage. The City recognises that the practice of culture is vital to maintaining cultural identity and connection to place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This intrinsic right to practice culture is respected and valued by the City of Sydney and viewed as a vital conduit to sharing cultural knowledge with the wider community and visitors to Sydney.

The practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, outdoors and in public spaces, is the practice of an inherent cultural right as articulated in Article 11 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

The City of Sydney, in consultation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel and community, has an understanding and expectation that the following protocols will be observed and honoured when the practice of cultures takes place in public spaces.

## Respect

The Gadigal people of the Eora Nation are the traditional custodians of the place we now call Sydney. Practitioners of any Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Heritage are welcome and valued in Sydney, however the Gadigal people should be afforded appropriate acknowledgement and local cultural protocols should be observed and respected.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Control and Self-Determination

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have the right to determine how their cultural and intellectual property is used and the right to maintain control over its depiction, practice and dissemination including involvement in the practice of aspects of their cultures by other people or organisations.

## Interpretation, integrity and authenticity

The City has an understanding and expectation that the practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures in public spaces will be an informed, authentic representation of the cultural intellectual property depicted and will be undertaken with the endorsement of the sitting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander panel and communities. As a guide, the Cultural practitioners and the cultural intellectual property they practice and share in public should meet the following definitions.

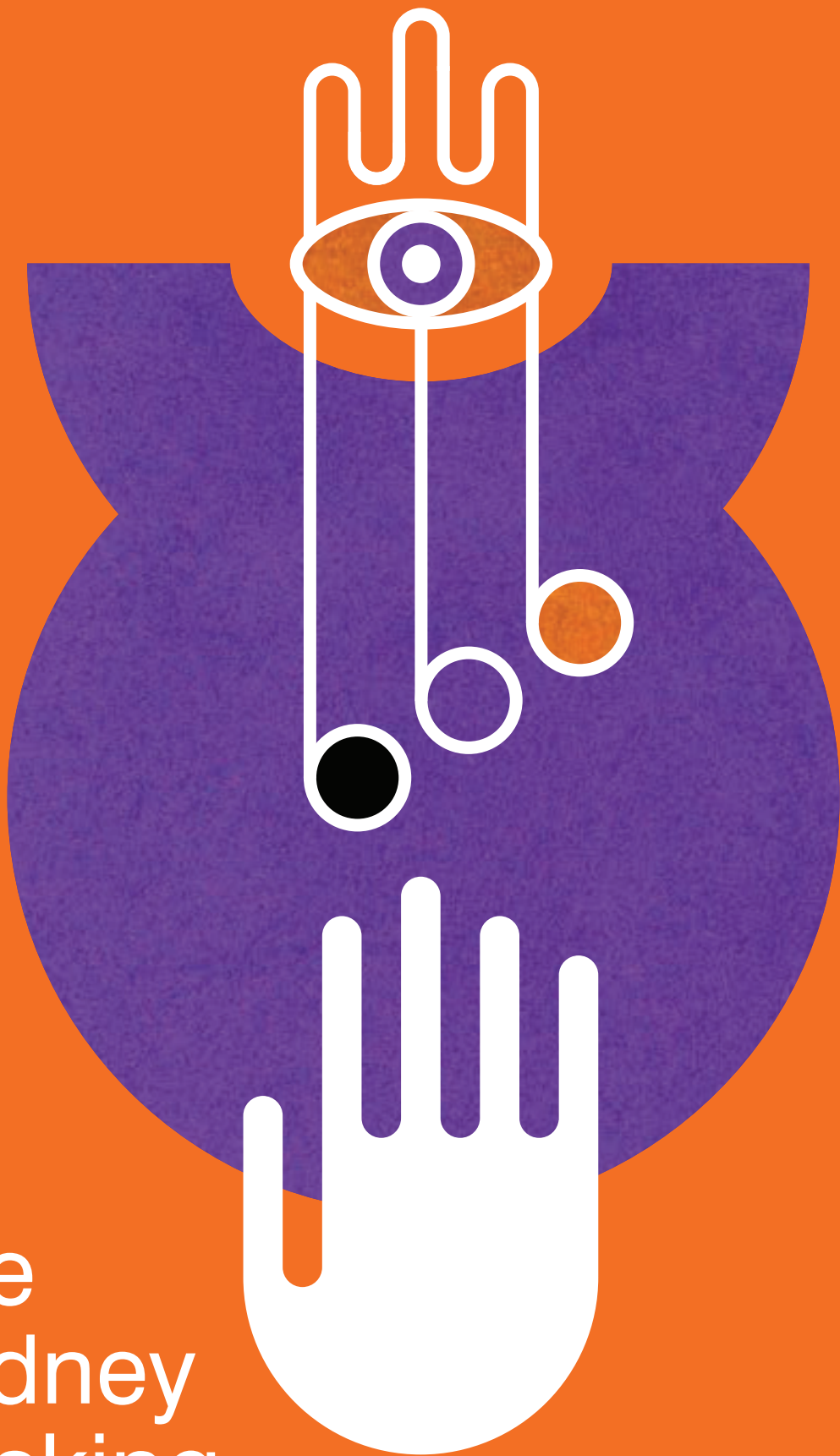
- **Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person**  
*A person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives.*
- **Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Heritage**  
*The intangible and tangible aspects of the whole body of cultural practices, resources and knowledge systems developed, nurtured and refined by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and passed on by them as part of expressing their cultural identity.  
This heritage is a living one, it continues to develop, and includes items which may be created in the future.*
- **Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practitioner**  
*An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person expressing Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage, including knowledge and cultural expression such as songs, stories, dances, performing arts and creating artistic works.*

## Continuing cultures

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have inherent rights and responsibilities to ensure the survival, practice and transmission of their cultures continues into the future. This may include new and emerging styles of performance and expression, and these protocols also apply to any new, contemporary expression of culture as defined by them.

# **Attachment C**

**Sydney Busking Code**



# The Sydney Busking Code





**We, the Buskers  
of Sydney**

recognise and respect that we perform on Gadigal Land. We share our busking spaces with practitioners of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture who experience and share their cultural heritage through dance, song and storytelling.





# The Basics

In Sydney, busking acts are grouped in three categories. Each category has its own set of performance conditions.

## Low impact act

**If your act does not:**

- need more than 2m<sup>2</sup> performance space
- require an audience to gather, wait and watch
- use “naturally loud” instruments such as drums, bagpipes, pan pipes or brass instruments
- use higher risk materials or equipment like fire or sharp objects

**You have a Low Impact act and may busk for up to 2 hours per location per day.**

## Extended Duration act

**If your act:**

- is quiet, non-amplified and non-musical, and
- involves creating a work of art continuously over a long period of time such as pavement art or durational performance art

**You have an Extended Duration act. As long as your pitch isn't restricting other people from using the area around you, you can perform for up to 8 hours per location per day.**

## High impact act

**If your act:**

- needs more than 2m<sup>2</sup> performance space;
- encourages an audience to gather, wait and watch;
- uses “naturally loud” instruments such as drums, bagpipes, pan pipes or brass instruments;
- uses higher risk materials or equipment like fire or sharp objects;
- features 5 or more performers

**You have a High Impact act and may busk for up to 1 hour per location per day.** You'll need to speak to the City of Sydney about attending an act assessment before you can get a permit to busk.

High impact acts often need more space, hence there are less places where they can perform. Keeping acts to 1 hour duration provides more performers with access to these limited larger performance spaces and breaks up the impact of loud or large acts on neighbours, pedestrians and the public.

**We look out for each other, welcome newcomers, and keep fellow buskers in check if they're over-stepping the expectations and obligations of buskers in Sydney.**





## Where to busk

You can establish a busking pitch on any public land in Sydney that meets these criteria:

- there is enough open space for you to conduct your performance plus a further two metres for pedestrian flow on at least two sides of your pitch;
- the site is not being used by an approved event or gathering;
- you are 100 metres from another busker or an approved event or gathering;
- your pitch and your audience does not block access to the entry or exit of any building, street or carpark; and
- if the location is a Special Busking Site with set pitches and a booking or queuing system, you observe the conditions of the site (see Special Busking Sites on page 12).

**We have a right and an opportunity to actively engage in monitoring and improving busking regulations and busking culture in Sydney.**



## Making and managing your pitch

**The pitch is your stage, keep it looking clean, well laid-out and professionally put together.**

Minimise clutter or any unnecessary items that might be a trip hazard.

For Pavement Artists, use a chalk that is entirely removable by water or draw onto a removable canvas that you lay over the pavement. Make sure your materials aren't slippery and your canvas isn't a trip hazard by fixing it to the ground with a tape that does not leave behind an adhesive residue.

For Low Impact Acts, keep your equipment near to you and encourage your audience to gather close.

For High Impact Acts, consider laying a rope on the ground or drawing a chalk circle to show the audience where you want them to gather. You want them to be as close as they can be, while still safely outside your performance area.



# Volume

## Performing too loudly can negatively affect neighbouring homes and businesses and drive your audience away.

Buskers who play too loudly earn less money as crowds keep a distance from the performance. Pushing your audience away with high volume also adds to congestion and crowding in pedestrian zones, so people are less likely to hang around and watch your performance.

Ensuring that your performance cannot be heard at 50 metres from your pitch is a courtesy to other buskers. Busking pitches can be 100 metres apart, and the sound of your act should not affect another busker's performance.

The following are guides to help you monitor if your act is at the right volume. Be aware that an authorised person from the local council or police can tell you to lower your volume at any time and you need to follow their instruction.

- If you cannot hear any background noise during your performance, you are playing too loud.
- If your audience are gathering more than 3 metres from you, you are playing too loud.
- If you can see that your audience is shouting to speak to each other, turn it down.

- If your performance can be heard 50 metres from your pitch, you're playing too loud. Get a friend or fellow busker to walk 50-60 paces from your performance and see if they can still hear you. If they can, turn it down.

- If you find that no one is paying you any tips, try reducing your volume and see if people become more comfortable approaching you.

- If somebody living or working in a building near you complains that they can hear your performance over their own conversation, you are playing too loud. Remember, you can reach a compromise. You don't have to be silenced if a neighbour is bothered by your act, but being a good neighbour is good for all buskers and busking culture in Sydney.

**We are ambassadors**  
for the cultural life of  
Sydney and its diverse,  
harmonious communities.





# Flammable Materials

If you use flammable materials, liquids or gasses in your act:

- Always define the boundary of your performance space using a rope or similar demarcation. The audience should be at least two metres from you on all sides.
- Keep a Work Cover approved Fire Blanket and a wet towel at hand and within reach
- Never carry more than 2 litres of flammable liquids with you. Mark the container with the words “HIGHLY FLAMMABLE” on all sides, along with the name of the combustible such as “Kerosene”.
- Always keep your fuel container securely shut.
- Take all measures to prevent fuel from dripping on the ground. If it does, clean it up immediately.

# Content of your Act

Sydney buskers are ambassadors for the cultural life of the city and values we celebrate: **diversity, generosity, respect and inclusion.**

Buskers do not tease, humiliate or harass anyone.

We have a varied repertoire and never repeat the same material during a set. If you don't have enough content to fill your time at a pitch without repeating anything, then trim your set to the amount of material you have and move to another pitch.

Sydney buskers are some of the best in the world. We have innovative, original, expertly performed acts.



**We work in cooperation with each other,** local government and the police to manage any issues that arise from a busker's performance or behaviour. We understand that the way we conduct ourselves may affect the reputation and livelihood of all buskers in Sydney.

**We perform in public places** to contribute something positive to those spaces. If our performance is having a negative effect on anybody, we do our best to remedy it.



## Special Busking Sites

Special Busking Sites have additional conditions or operating systems. These are self-managed by the buskers who use the pitches and are overseen by City Rangers and City of Sydney staff.

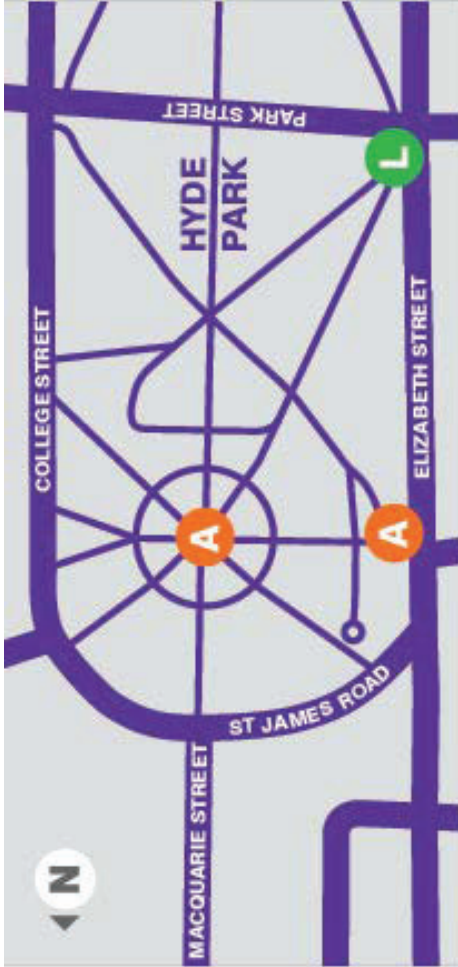
**H** High impact   **L** Low impact   **E** Extended duration   **A** Any act



### Martin Place

There are four pitches in Martin Place. The eastern side of the George Street intersection, facing George St (Low Impact only). The eastern side of the Pitt Street intersection, facing Pitt Street. And in the Mall between Castlereagh and Elizabeth Street. In the Mall between Phillip Street and Elizabeth Street.

Buskers may perform once per day in any of these locations. All acts in all six pitches are limited to a 45 minute duration between 10am and 4pm, Mon – Fri.



### Hyde Park

There are three busking pitches in Hyde Park North.

On the paved area facing Market St, adjacent the St James Station entrance. On the paved area surrounding Archibald Fountain. And one Low Impact pitch by the monument on the corner of Elizabeth and Park Streets.



### QVB Forecourt

The southern forecourt of the QVB may be occupied by one Extended Duration Act and either one Low Impact Act or one High Impact Act at any one time.



## Pitt Street Mall

There are three pitches in Pitt Street Mall

North, near the King Street intersection. Middle, half way between North and South pitches, near Mid City Centre. South, near the Market Street intersection under the Westfield sky-bridge.

The Northern and Southern pitches are for Low Impact and High Impact Acts only.

Buskers may perform in the North and South pitches for a maximum of one hour, per pitch, per day.

One hour sets on the Northern and Southern pitches can be booked on the City's website 24 hours in advance.

The Middle Pitch is for Extended Duration Acts only.

The Middle Pitch is allocated on a first-in basis.

Busking is limited to 11am–10pm, 7 days a week.

## Sales

The sale of buskers' own music, video, artwork or merchandise is encouraged in Sydney, but it has to be supplementary to your performance. You can't spruik your products or get someone else to sell them on your behalf. You are at a busking pitch to busk not to conduct a market stall, if somebody happens to approach you to buy your music or merch, it's a bonus.

SHOT OF FEMALE  
TOWN HALL STREET  
'PERFORMER TO BE  
SHOT BY KATHERINE





**The Busking Code is our guide to busker etiquette and pitch sharing arrangements in Sydney.**

**Sydney has a thriving busking culture and is home to some of the most lucrative busking pitches in the country. We welcome street performers from across Australia and the world to share their performances on Sydney streets alongside our local talent.**

**We ask all buskers in Sydney to follow this code.**

## **For more information**

**For permit enquiries or to report busking issues, please contact City of Sydney Customer Service on (02) 9265 9333 or [council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)**

**Buskers wanting more information about the rules for busking in Sydney can email [busking@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:busking@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)**

# **Attachment D**

**Engagement Report – Proposed Changes  
for Busking in Sydney**

# Engagement Report

## Proposed changes for busking in Sydney

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



January 2019



# Proposed changes for busking in Sydney

## Contents

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Background..... 2

Engagement Summary..... 3

Key findings..... 4

Activities to support and promote the consultation..... 9



## Introduction

From 25 September 2018 to 19 November 2018, we asked the community for feedback on proposed changes to our busking policy and guidelines. The consultation was an opportunity for buskers, stakeholders and the community to provide feedback on the proposed changes. Consultation activities included emailing buskers, face-to-face engagement at consultation workshops, online engagement and postcards ('flyers'). The proposed changes received broad media coverage and the Sydney Your Say webpage attracted strong interest. In addition to feedback at the consultation workshops, the City received 44 formal submissions.

This report outlines the community engagement activities that took place to support the consultation and summarises the key findings from the consultation.

## Background

In April 2014, the City adopted its live music and performance action plan. Within this, the City committed to reviewing its busking policy to identify ways to simplify the busking framework, explore opportunities to support busking and promote buskers to the general public, retail operators, landowners and event producer

Central to the review, in March 2017, the City released a Discussion Paper titled "Busking in the City of Sydney" and called for public feedback on a series of talking points through the Sydney Your Say website.

The review included extensive research into models for regulating busking from around the world, a facilitated stakeholder workshop, and insights from staff involved in managing busking in neighbouring jurisdictions and the City of Melbourne.

The key finding from the review is an opportunity to reform the regulatory framework that manages busking in Sydney. This would include a new permit system that applies conditions and controls to busking performances in balance with the impact the acts have on their immediate surrounds. The proposed new permit system is outlined in the draft Local Approvals Policy for Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture (The Local Approvals Policy).

A number of operational priorities for the City's busking program were also identified. These do not fall within the scope of the Local Approvals Policy, rather, these are considerations for the operational teams responsible for monitoring and supporting busking in Sydney. These operational recommendations were outlined in a Busking Policy and Guidelines Review document that accompanied the policy on exhibition.

# Engagement Summary

## Purpose of the engagement

The purpose of the engagement was to:

- Gather feedback from stakeholders and the community about a proposed new approach to managing busking
- Determine the level of satisfaction with the proposed new approach
- Educate stakeholders and the community on the rules that apply to busking and how the new approach might simplify and clarify these conditions
- Propose a policy position to the community that the practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage in public places is not busking and should not be regulated with busking permits and guidelines.

## Outcomes from the engagement

### 1. Sydney Your Say

The Sydney Your Say page was **visited 1,172 times** during the consultation period and consultation documents were **downloaded 238 times**. This result indicates a high level of interest and that a significant number of people were engaged over the consultation period.

### 2. Submissions

**39 submissions** were received via Survey Monkey and **five (5) submissions** were received via email during the public exhibition period. 39 submissions were from individuals and five (5) were from agencies/organisations.

A list of the agencies/organisations that made submissions is:

- Scentre Group
- Arts Law Centre of Australia
- Destination NSW
- Ziggy Zapata Enterprises
- Potts Point & Kings Cross Heritage & Residents' Society

### 3. Stakeholder Workshops

A series of face-to-face workshops were conducted throughout the exhibition period to directly engage with key stakeholders effected by the proposed Local Approvals Policy. Three workshops focused on buskers and practitioners of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage. One workshop focused on retailers near busy busking locations.

The workshops were facilitated by JOC Consulting and **13 people** participated.

## Key findings

- The proposed draft Local Approvals Policy and new approach to regulating busking activity is supported.
- The proposal to provide an exemption from approval for the practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture in public spaces is supported.
- The implementation of site-specific conditions for Special Busking Sites with a high volume of busking activity is supported.
- Removing current restrictions on the sale of artworks and merchandise that directly relate to a busker's act, in contemporary media and formats, is strongly supported by buskers.
- Replacing the current Busking Guidelines with a Sydney Busking Code is supported.

In addition, some concerns and ideas were raised about operational elements of the City's Busking Program. Many of these are outside of the scope of the Local Approvals Policy but will help inform the Sydney Busking Code – a more flexible guidance document that assists with managing busking in the City. Those issues have been included in the feedback summary below.

## Feedback

The following topics or themes were raised in submissions and workshop feedback.

### **Objection to “free busking permits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people”.**

During the exhibition period there was extensive and syndicated news coverage representing the policy as providing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performers with free permits to busk. Whilst most of this coverage was supportive and championed the idea, the premise is erroneous and misrepresents the policy.

Examples of this coverage include:

- Guardian Australia, October 2 2018, *Indigenous Performers Could Busk Without Permits Under City of Sydney Plan*.
- Channel Ten (10 Daily), October 2 2018, *Indigenous Buskers May Not Need a Permit in Some Parts of Sydney*.
- Daily Telegraph, October 3 2018, *Ridgy-Didgeridoo*.
- Daily Mail UK, October 2 2018, *Sydney Indigenous Busking Permit-Free Call*.

Nine (9) submissions objected to “free busking permits” for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The respondents are concerned that the City may be applying different rules to certain buskers on the basis of race. These submissions seem to be a response to the incorrect media coverage and contain no feedback to the actual content of the draft policy.

The policy proposes that the practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture no longer be recognised as a busking activity and be respected as a distinct activity that is unique to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. It is proposed that this activity be exempt from requiring an approval from Council as long as it meets the criteria outlined in Part 1 of the Policy. Two (2) submissions objected to this policy as it has been proposed.

**Concerns about permit suspensions or revocations being inconsistent with legislations.**

Two (2) buskers submit that there is no statutory power or provision which authorises the suspension of busking permits.

Under s108 of the Local Government Act 1993, a Council may revoke or modify an approval to busk. A modification may take the form of the imposition of an additional condition or variation or rescission of a condition to which the approval is subject. To this extent, a “suspension of a permit” is a modification of an approval to busk.

The authority to modify, condition or revoke an approval to busk is assigned to suitably qualified management staff in the Register of Delegations from the CEO to Directors and Staff.

Section 109(d) of the Local Government Act 1993 states that an approval to busk may be revoked or modified for any failure to comply with a condition of the approval. The items outlined in Sections 2 and 3 of the Local Approvals Policy are the conditions of a busking approval.

Although the City of Sydney does have the authority to revoke, modify and “suspend” a busking approval for any breach of the Busking Policy, the City continues to take a proactive approach to dispute resolution and working with buskers who have intentionally or unintentionally breached the conditions of their approval to busk.

As per s110 of the Local Government Act 1993, before revoking or modifying an approval to busk, Council officers will notify the busker with the reason for the revocation or modification and provide the busker with an opportunity to “show cause” as to why their approval should not be revoked or modified. Additional information about how a busker may appeal the revocation or suspension of their permit has been added to the draft Local Approvals Policy for greater clarification.

**Concerns there is inadequate space for circus/circle acts and the High Impact permit will only allow these acts to perform once per day, in already limited locations.**

One (1) busker submits that there is already considerable pressure on buskers who perform circus and physical theatre style acts to find adequate, permissible space in the City. Placing these acts on the proposed conditions of a High Impact permit will limit them to only performing once, for a maximum of one hour, in these locations a day. Currently, in high season, certain professional acts will perform shorter shows multiple times a day in the few areas that can accommodate them.

The Busking Policy Review recommended that particular thought be given to increasing the number of suitable locations for circus and physical theatre acts in the development of Special Busking Sites. Further, in suitable locations, a number of performances by the same busker in one day may be permitted.

To clarify this, an additional clause has been added to the post-exhibition draft policy to explicitly state that Special Busking Sites may provide performers with a different set of times, durations and frequencies than the base permit conditions. This was always the intention of the policy and should satisfy the respondent’s concerns.

### **Concerns about high volume and amplification, and that greater volume controls are needed.**

16 submissions mention the loud volume of busking acts in Sydney and that greater efforts are required to reduce the volume of performances.

The draft Local Approvals Policy is proposing a new approach to volume controls for busking.

The research conducted for the Busking Policy Review suggests that imposing decibel limits on busking does not effectively reduce the volume of busking performances and, rather, imposes complicated guidelines that are difficult for both buskers and City staff to measure. Buskers are unable to effectively monitor their decibel limits mid-performance and hence an approach that uses practical guidance and peer review has been proposed.

Requiring loud performances to sit an assessment prior to obtaining a permit gives the City an opportunity to negotiate the right volume for any given performance with the performer. This will be done with the support of an experienced busking peer.

Banning amplification is not supported by the community as a majority of contemporary busking performances rely on some kind of amplifier, and the community overwhelmingly supports busking in Sydney.

### **Comments recommending a quality standard be applied to busking, or that permits should be issued on merit.**

This approach is generally not supported by feedback to the Local Approvals Policy and research undertaken for the Busking Policy Review. The community have demonstrated strong support for busking as an organic, open-access activity available to all.

### **Comments relating to overcrowding in public spaces.**

Eight (8) submissions mention concerns about crowding caused by buskers. This was also a common theme in consultations for the Busking Policy Review and research concluded that crowding is better managed through the operational monitoring of busking and through guidance issued to buskers through the Sydney Busking Code.

The conditions regarding where and how a busking pitch can be established in Sections 2 and 3 of the Local Approvals Policy require buskers to minimise obstruction to public thoroughfares caused by their act or their audience.

### **Clarity on the powers of Authorised Persons to exclude areas from busking or to move on buskers in public areas required for special events or works.**

The submission from Destination NSW requested greater clarity be introduced in the sections of the Local Approvals Policy which deal with the power of Authorised Persons to exclude areas from busking or to move-on buskers when public spaces are required for special events, crowd management, road or building works. An edit to the Draft Local Approval Policy has been made to satisfy this request.

## **Comments relating to the safety of buskers.**

During the consultation workshops with buskers a few alarming stories were raised relating to buskers being harassed and robbed while performing. This prompted conversations regarding how the City might facilitate a communication platform for buskers whereby they may call upon each other for help if needed, or warn others of incidents occurring around busking pitches.

This is being further investigated and scoped by City staff.

## **Support for the Policy**

35 submissions, roughly 61%, expressed support for the Policy. All face-to-face workshop participants expressed support for the Policy. The high level of engagement with the policy documents on the Sydney Your Say website, and relatively small number of objections or concerns submitted is also considered evidence of support for the Policy.

The submission from Arts Law Centre of Australia notes:

Arts Law acknowledges and supports the City of Sydney's proposed changes to exempt Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural practice from the activities that require a busking permit. Arts Law, through its Artists in the Black program, is a strong advocate for the respect and protection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage and traditional knowledge. In principle we support, the City of Sydney's proposal to exempt cultural practice from the busking approvals process and the development of protocols to support this practice.

The submission from the Co-Chair of the City's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel notes:

The existence and development of such policies recognises the inherent right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to maintain their distinct identities and cultures and to practice, express and share these in the public domain.

The introduction of the Busking and Cultural Practice Policy further demonstrates Council's commitment to the achievement of social, cultural and economic outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and it recognises the valuable contribution Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples make to City life.

Developed through principles of respect and recognition, this policy will support cultural practitioners in the City of Sydney to continue to connect to their culture, heritage and identity which is vital in strengthening communities and enabling the wider community to observe and honour cultural practice.

I would like to commend the City for recognising its role and obligation to work in partnership with members of the City of Sydney Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to develop this policy and I look forward to seeing the outcomes it creates for the community as a whole.

## Key themes from consultation

Topic	Written Submissions	W'shops	Totals	
Broadly supportive of busking and the busking aspects of the policy although may suggest some operational actions.	3, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 36, 37, 38, 39, 1b, 2b	13	35	<b>61%</b>
Objection to “free busking permits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people”. (out of scope)	2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 18, 27, 40	0	9	<b>16%</b>
Do not support an exemption from requiring a permit for the practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.	12, 37	0	2	<b>4%</b>
Concerns about permit suspensions or revocations being inconsistent with legislation.	30, 31	0	2	<b>4%</b>
Concerns there is inadequate space for circus/circle acts and the High Impact permit will only allow these acts to perform once per day, in already limited locations.	32	0	1	<b>2%</b>
Concerns about high volume and amplification. Greater volume controls are needed.	1, 10, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 28, 29, 34, 35, 37, 39, 4b	2	18	<b>32%</b>
Comments recommending a quality standard be applied to busking, or that permits should be issued on merit.	6, 18, 20, 27, 28, 33, 35, 36	2	10	<b>18%</b>
Comments relating to overcrowding in public spaces.	1, 1b, 19, 22, 25, 35	1	6	<b>11%</b>
Concerns about permit suspensions or revocations being inconsistent with legislation.	30, 31		2	<b>4%</b>
Clarity on the powers of Authorised Persons to exclude areas from busking or to move on buskers in public areas required for special events or works.	1b		1	<b>2%</b>
Comments relating to busker safety		3	3	<b>5%</b>



# Activities to support and promote the consultation

## a. Sydney Your Say webpage

A Sydney Your Say webpage <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/council/your-say/proposed-changes-for-busking-in-sydney> was created. The page included an electronic copy of the proposed new policy and other key information about the policy review.

## b. Online feedback form via Survey Monkey

The community and stakeholders were able to give feedback using an online feedback form on the Sydney Your Say website.

## c. Public notice ads

Public notice ads were published in several newspapers to notify stakeholders and the community of the consultation.

SYS-branded public notice ads were placed in the local papers listed below:

- 26 September - Wentworth Courier
- 26 September - Central Sydney
- 25 September - Inner West Courier
- 25 September - Southern Courier

A standard CoS lineage ad was placed in the Sydney Morning Herald on 25 September.

## d. Consultation workshops

Buskers and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practitioners were invited to attend one of three consultation sessions about the proposed changes to busking. These sessions were held at Town Hall House on 6 October, 11 October and 17 October 2018. 11 buskers attended.

A consultation session was also held for retailers in the City. The session was held at Town Hall House on 24 October 2018. 2 retailers attended.

## e. Stakeholder email and letter

An email notifying of the proposal and inviting stakeholders to provide feedback was sent to all 471 currently registered buskers who had provided an email contact with their permit application. This includes some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural practitioners. The information was also sent to stakeholders in key organisations and neighbouring councils, and members of the community who had previously responded to the busking discussion paper in 2017.

A notification letter was distributed to street level retailers on George Street, between Bathurst and King Street, to invite them to a retailers' consultation session. It is anticipated this pedestrianised area of George Street will attract buskers once the new light rail service is operational.



## **f. Postcards ('flyers')**

200 postcards were printed and handed out across the city, particularly targeting Buskers and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practitioners.

**Item 3.**

**Festivals and Events Sponsorship (Village and Community) - Metropolitan  
Local Aboriginal Land Council - Eora Inner City NAIDOC**

Document to Follow

**Item 4.****Post Exhibition - A City for All: Community Safety Action Plan 2019-2023****File No: X006829.002****Summary**

On 13 August 2018, Council approved the draft Community Safety Action Plan 2018-2023 for public exhibition. The draft plan was developed through engagement with residents, community groups, government and non-government agencies, academics and peak bodies.

The plan sets out the City of Sydney's contribution to making Sydney a safe and resilient place to live, visit, work and study. It describes the City's commitment to safety and our areas of focus for the next five years.

The draft plan was placed on exhibition from 14 August to 4 September 2018 to allow an opportunity for the community to provide feedback. Consultation activities included direct engagement with stakeholders and online through the Sydney Your Say page.

During the public exhibition period, the City received submissions from local residents, members of the City's Inclusion (Disability) Advisory Panel and government and non-government agencies. The overall feedback indicated positive support for the City's commitment to increasing actual and perceived safety in Sydney. Submissions suggested minor improvements to the plan and identified additional actions or themes for inclusion.

The final Community Safety Action Plan 2019-2023 is provided at Attachment A. The plan has been amended to incorporate all feedback from the public exhibition. A Summary of the Public Exhibition Submissions is provided at Attachment B

It is recommended that Council adopt the Community Safety Action Plan 2019-2023.

## **Recommendation**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council adopt the final Community Safety Action Plan 2019-2023 , as shown at Attachment A to the subject report:
- (B) Council note the amendments and additions to the draft Community Safety Action Plan 2018-2023 made in response to the public consultation process, as detailed in Attachment B to the subject report; and
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make amendments to the Community Safety Action Plan 2019-2023 in order to correct any minor drafting errors and finalise design, artwork and alternative format translations.

## **Attachments**

**Attachment A.** Community Safety Action Plan 2019-2023

**Attachment B.** Summary of Public Exhibition Submissions

## Background

1. The plan outlines the City's role in increasing actual and perceived safety in our Local Government Area for the five years 2019-2023. The plan sets out four priority areas for action:
  - (a) Safe streets and spaces - working with partners to increase actual and perceived public safety in Sydney's streets and spaces;
  - (b) Crime prevention and response - contributing to reducing local crime and initiatives that address domestic and family violence, sexual assault and safeguarding children from abuse;
  - (c) Ready and resilient - working together to better prepare for and respond to emergencies that may arise, and strengthening community resilience; and
  - (d) A safe global destination - supporting visitors and international students to feel welcome and experience the city safely, and promoting Sydney as a safe place to visit, study and invest.
2. If endorsed, the Community Safety Action Plan 2019-2023 will guide the City of Sydney's contributions to making Sydney a safe and resilient place to live, visit, work and study over the next five years.

## Public Consultation

3. The draft plan was endorsed by Council for public exhibition on 13 August 2018.
4. It was placed on exhibition from 14 August until 4 September 2018 to allow an opportunity for the community to provide feedback. Consultation activities included direct engagement with stakeholders and online through the Sydney Your Say page. The Sydney Your Say page was visited 276 times during the consultation period and consultation documents were downloaded 92 times.
5. During the public exhibition period the City received eight submissions from local residents, the City's Inclusion Disability Advisory Panel and government and non-government agencies.
6. The overall feedback indicated positive support for the City's commitment to increasing actual and perceived safety in Sydney. Some submissions suggested minor improvements to the plan and identified additional actions or themes for inclusion.
7. The City has formulated a response to the submissions, and amendments to the plan have been made accordingly.
8. There have been no significant changes made to the overall content of the plan.
  - (a) Community Safety Action Plan 2019-2023 (final) is provided at Attachment A
  - (b) Summary of Public Exhibition Submissions is provided at Attachment B

**Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision**

9. The City's Community Strategic Plan: Sustainable Sydney 2030 is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond.
10. The plan includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. The Community Safety Action Plan 2019-2023 is aligned with the multiple objectives of Sustainable Sydney 2030, particularly:
  - (a) Strategic Direction 1 - A Globally Competitive and Innovative City
  - (b) Strategic Direction 4 - A City for walking and Cycling
  - (c) Strategic Direction 6 - Vibrant Local Communities and Economies
  - (d) Strategic Direction 9 - Sustainable Development, Renewal and Design and
  - (e) Strategic Direction 10 - Implementation through Organisational Impact.
11. The Community Safety Action Plan 2019-2023 contributes to Resilient Sydney - A Strategy for City Resilience 2018, in particular:
  - (a) Strategic Direction 1 - People Centred City
  - (b) Strategic Direction 3 - Connect For Strength
  - (c) Strategic Direction 4 - Get Ready
  - (d) Strategic Direction 5 - One City.

**Social / Cultural / Community**

12. Safety is fundamental to the cultural and social sustainability of communities. The City uses community development approaches to build social cohesion and to empower communities to participate in decision-making processes.
13. The plan has a focus on strengthening informal networks and enhancing community structures with the potential to build community capacity. This provides opportunities to mobilise communities to address local issues and increase safety.

**Economic**

14. The plan also supports the City's objectives for a city that is globally competitive, offering an attractive and safe destination for investment in business, education, tourism and entertainment.

**Budget Implications**

15. Nil. Actions arising from the plan will be included in annual budgets adopted by Council.

### **Relevant Legislation**

16. Local Government Act 1993.
17. Liquor Act 2007.
18. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
19. Roads Act 1993.
20. Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (NSW).
21. Government Sector Employment Act 2013.
22. Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012.
23. Advocate for Children and Young People Act 2014.

### **ANN HOBAN**

Director, City Life

Edward Greenaway, Safe City Manager

# **Attachment A**

**Community Safety Action Plan 2019 - 2023**





Sydney2030/Green/Global/Connected

CITY OF SYDNEY  

# A City for All

## Community Safety Action Plan 2019–2023



*city of villages*

Contributing to the Our Resilient Sydney plan directions 1, 3, 4 & 5

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East Ocean Arcade

Telephone

FINISHED WITH  
OR DRINK?  
Piggy Bank



# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander statement

The Council of the City of Sydney acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of our land Australia. The City acknowledges the Gadigal of the Eora Nation as the traditional custodians of this place we now call Sydney.

In 1788, the British established a convict outpost on the shores of Sydney Harbour. This had far-reaching and devastating impacts on the Eora Nation, including the occupation and appropriation of their traditional lands.

Today, Sydney is of prime importance as the first place in Australia where invasion disrupted longstanding ways of life, as well as an ongoing centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, cultures, traditions and histories.

Despite the destructive impact of this invasion, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures have endured and are now globally recognised among the world's oldest living cultures. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have shown, and continue to show, enormous resilience coupled with generosity of spirit towards other peoples with whom they now share their land.

The City of Sydney recognises that, by acknowledging our shared past, we are laying the groundwork for a future that embraces all Australians, a future based on mutual respect and shared responsibility for our land. The ongoing custodianship of the Gadigal of the Eora Nation is an essential part of this future, as is Sydney's continuing place as a centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and communities. There are many sites across our local area with historical and cultural significance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The City has documented many of these in Barani/Barrabagu (Yesterday/Tomorrow) as its first expression of the Eora Journey project.

The City works with, and has achieved much with, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the City's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel, consistent with the Principles of Cooperation signed between the City of Sydney and the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council in 2006. The City is deeply committed to reconciliation in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and in 2015 we adopted our inaugural Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan. In 2016, we adopted the Eora Journey Economic Development Plan. These actions and others will help to ensure their political, economic, social and cultural rights are embedded in subsequent economic, social, environmental and cultural change.

The City of Sydney is committed to acknowledging, sharing and celebrating a living culture in the heart of our city.

**“The City of Sydney is committed to acknowledging, sharing and celebrating a living culture in the heart of our city.”**







# Summary

## Sydney is safe

The City of Sydney local area is home to over 220,000 residents, and over the last decade had one of the fastest growing populations in NSW. On an average day, including visitors and students, it is estimated that there are more than 1.2 million people in the city. By 2030, the City's population is estimated to have grown by around 46 per cent.<sup>1</sup>

Sydney is recognised internationally as a safe city. In 2016, metropolitan Sydney ranked the third highest of 30 cities around the world in terms of its performance in 'health, safety and security' in PwC's major comparative report on global city performance.<sup>2</sup>

Globally competitive cities are liveable cities, and safety is fundamental to the liveability of a city. The actual and perceived safety of our residents, businesses and visitors continues to be a priority for the City.

The NSW Government is responsible for law and order, public housing, health and public transport, and lead on responses to these issues in the City.

The Community Safety Action Plan (the plan) sets out the City of Sydney's contribution to making Sydney a safe and resilient place to live, visit, work and study. It describes our commitment to safety and our areas of focus for the next five years.

## Our priority areas for Sydney's safety

The plan sets out four priority areas for action:

### Safe streets and spaces

Working with partners to increase actual and perceived public safety in Sydney's streets and spaces as well as management of lighting, CCTV, parks, footpaths, graffiti and waste management.

### Crime prevention and response

Contributing to reducing local crime and supporting initiatives that address domestic and family violence, sexual assault and safeguarding children from abuse.

### Ready and resilient

Working together to better prepare for and respond to emergencies that may arise, and strengthening community resilience.

### A safe global destination

Helping visitors and international students to feel welcome and experience the city safely, and promoting Sydney as a safe place to visit, study and invest.

We recognise that there are critical links across these action areas – initiatives to reduce crime and increase public safety under these themes can be interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

# Our priority areas




Safe streets and spaces

- Increase actual and perceived public safety in city streets and spaces and ensure they are well lit and attractive
- Promote a creative and vibrant night life to reduce alcohol related anti-social behaviour
- Improve road, public transport and pedestrian safety




Crime prevention and response

- Reduce the opportunities for crime to occur
- Contribute to reducing domestic and family violence and sexual assault
- Contribute to preventing child abuse and supporting effective responses



Ready and resilient

- Ensure Sydney knows how to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies
- Build resilient and connected communities to increase safety
- Reduce harm from drugs and alcohol



A safe global destination

- Ensure visitors feel safe and welcome in Sydney
- Promote Sydney's safety globally
- Help international students to live, study and work safely in Sydney



Catherine Smith and William Kwong visit the Customs House Library / Photographer: Katherine Griffiths

## Contributing to Sustainable Sydney 2030

Public safety influences many different aspects of our city's quality of life and sustainability for its growing population of residents, workers and visitors. Consequently, the areas for action in this plan contribute broadly to the City's overarching vision for Sydney set out in our *Sustainable Sydney 2030: Community Strategic Plan 2017–2021*.

In particular, the plan supports our objectives for:

- a city that has a lively, safe and engaging city centre for all to enjoy, supporting a vibrant economy
- safe and accessible travel through Sydney's walking and cycling networks and at public transport hubs
- high quality inclusive urban design, enhancing safety and amenity in the built environment
- resilient local communities that are strengthened by social connections in challenging times
- a city that is globally competitive, offering an attractive and safe destination for investment in business, education, tourism and entertainment
- robust partnerships that maximise impact through a culture of collaboration and sharing of knowledge and resources across the city
- effective governance to help safeguard the significant number of children and adults that engage with our services or attend events, and Sydney's broader residential and business communities.

The priorities outlined in the Community Safety Action Plan also contribute to directions 1, 3, 4 and 5 of the Our Resilient Sydney Plan.

## Alignment with other strategies and plans

The plan supports the strategic objectives and planning priorities set out in the new long-term district and metropolitan plans for Sydney – the Eastern City District Plan and Greater Sydney Region Plan.<sup>3</sup>

The plan also draws on and aligns with a range of state and national strategies and plans that relate to crime prevention, emergency response and community safety. These are referred to under the relevant priority areas.

## Developing the action plan

The plan builds on the City's current strategies, plans and policies, and draws on our day-to-day experience working with our many partners, networks and community members to address Sydney's safety.

To identify immediate and longer-term priorities and desired outcomes for the action plan, the City:

- engaged with community members, NSW Police, non-government organisations, academic institutions, government agencies and peak bodies
- drew on outcomes from extensive community and stakeholder engagement undertaken for:
  - the development of the City's Social Sustainability Action Plan from 2015
  - the Our Resilient Sydney Plan across greater Sydney, to provide a wider metropolitan lens
- analysed long-term trends in local crime data and community indicators to identify risks and areas of resilience and strength to build on
- reviewed community safety and crime reduction initiatives from comparable cities.







# Our role and approach to community safety

While NSW Government is responsible for law and order, public housing, health and public transport, we contribute to the safety of the community in a number of ways led by a set of key principles that guide how we work.

## 1. Safety is central to our approach

Safety is fundamental to how we approach our work and how we deliver our services. Under the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW), the City of Sydney can influence some of the drivers of crime and public safety issues in the city through:

- using our planning controls to specify the design quality and safety of new buildings and infrastructure, and regulate their usage (for example, licensed premises)
- directly managing the public domain, including waste, street lighting, public events, public art and community recreational spaces
- using our regulatory functions to promote safety, including outdoor alcohol restrictions and our animals policy
- maintaining a high standard of governance to ensure policy and procedures contribute to a safe organisation and community.

## 2. We work together for collective impact

No one organisation can solve complex safety issues in isolation. The City works with a range of partners including community members, government agencies, non-government organisations, universities and businesses to identify agreed solutions and share resources to respond to priority issues.

Community feedback plays a key part in developing our priorities. Our residents, visitors and businesses are

essential partners in making Sydney safer. We recognise the valuable skills, experience and knowledge they hold and create the conditions for them to collaborate and contribute to decision making.

## 3. We co-design solutions with community members

Where possible, we seek to co-produce our programs with community members. Co-production means delivering programs through an equal and reciprocal relationship between professionals, people using services, their families and their neighbours. This involves both designing and delivering initiatives with those who are likely to be impacted the most by the changes implemented. Where activities are co-produced in this way, both services and neighbourhoods can become far more effective agents of change.<sup>4</sup>

Some of the ways we do this are through our involvement in community-led working groups, our safety audits and our participation in place-based initiatives.

## 4. We take a proactive and informed approach

Changes in infrastructure and technologies; shifts in patterns of behaviour; and broader social, economic and environmental factors can impact community safety and patterns of crime. To keep informed, we work closely with our partners and draw on available evidence to identify and understand emerging risks to Sydney's safety and, where possible, put pre-emptive measures in place to mitigate risks.

We recognise the need for flexibility and will adjust our areas of focus and activities in the plan as required to reflect local, regional and even global changes that affect our urban environment over the next five years.







# Safe streets and spaces



Safe streets and spaces are clean, active, inviting, well designed and cared for, and welcoming for everyone. The positive ‘look and feel’ of our streets and spaces can contribute to reducing crime and increase feelings of safety. A priority of the City is to ensure our streets, network of walking paths and cycleways, entertainment precincts, parks and outdoor spaces provide a vibrant, safe and welcoming environment that can be enjoyed by all both day and night.

## Increasing actual and perceived public safety

Perceptions of safety often come from how people feel about an area or place. These fears can impact people’s quality of life and the social and economic wellbeing of communities.<sup>5</sup>

Perceptions can be influenced by environmental and design factors such as poor lighting; lack of clear sight lines; the presence of graffiti, damaged property or rubbish; an absence of other people; or a lack of seating or recreational spaces. They can also be influenced by social factors including the behaviour of other people – for example, alcohol or drug consumption in public places, dogs off-leash, or unsafe road and cycling behaviour.

Making changes to the environment through designing, activating and managing the city’s streets and public places can reduce fear of crime and opportunities for actual crime to occur.

## Safe streets and welcoming public spaces

The City is responsible for our streets and public spaces. Our priority is to have well-designed, walkable, well lit streets and public spaces that are attractive with more plant life, making it more pleasant and safe for residents, workers and visitors to access the City.

One of our key responsibilities is to ensure the City is designed and planned to minimise the potential for crime to occur – an approach known as ‘Crime Prevention through Environmental Design’.

Design techniques to improve safety include implementing ample lighting, clear sight lines, space activation and the use of physical barriers to control access. Which is why we’ve identified key pedestrian areas and are rolling out a program of lighting for every major thoroughfare, and are committed to increasing our landscaping and urban canopy. We also consider the safety implications of proposed designs of new major developments at the planning stage. As well as discouraging opportunistic crime, these interventions increase people’s sense of personal safety when out and about in the city.



Prince Alfred Park / Photographer: Joseph Nalevansky

### Designing out crime – the CPTED approach

The public domain can be designed to discourage criminal activity by ensuring there is more chance for offenders to be seen, challenged or caught; reducing opportunities for criminal activity; and creating the impression that more effort is required to commit a crime, with limited rewards. This approach is referred to as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, CPTED. Aspects such as poor lighting, amenity, visibility and wayfinding, and limited natural surveillance and patronage, may present greater opportunities for crimes to occur.

CPTED provides strategies for urban designers and planners to contribute to local crime prevention and increase perceptions of safety.

### Our street safety camera program

The City has a network of almost 100 street safety cameras located across the city centre, monitored by specially trained security personnel at a Town Hall control centre 24 hours a day. These CCTV cameras are installed in selected areas based on risk and criminal activity.<sup>6</sup> This helps NSW Police detect, prevent and prosecute assaults and robberies, and other serious offences such as property damage. The presence of these cameras can also increase public perceptions of safety.

### Managing and maintaining our streets and spaces

A cared for environment can also give the impression that greater effort is required to commit a crime, with heightened risks of being seen or caught. The ongoing process of maintaining, cleansing and removing waste from our city streets and spaces contributes to enhancing actual and perceived safety for members of the public.

Our work includes upgrading our infrastructure such as cycleways, footpaths, parks and signage. We also have a focus on improving and maintaining a high standard of lighting across the city.

As part of managing our streets and spaces, the City aims to ensure that pets and people live together harmoniously. Our policy for animals balances the rights of animals and their owners with the needs of the wider community and environment, and encourages responsible animal ownership.<sup>7</sup> We also promote community connection through a shared love of animals through our neighbourhood pet day events.



10th Anniversary Northcott Pet Day / Photographer: Katherine Griffiths





Welcome to Country directed by Rhoda Roberts, New Year's Eve, Sydney Harbour / Photographer: Ryan Pierse

### Creating culturally safe and welcoming spaces

An important aspect of feeling safe is for people to feel welcome and respected for who they are. To create and champion safe and welcoming spaces for all, we use inclusive language, signage and cultural symbols in City facilities, venues and parks. This includes recognised symbols such as flags, artwork, multilingual resources and place names.

The City acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the traditional custodians of this place we now call Sydney. The City of Sydney is committed to acknowledging, sharing and celebrating a living culture in the heart of our city. We work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the City's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel to provide a safe, respectful and welcoming environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living, working, studying, visiting and accessing services in the City of Sydney.

Since 2005 we have been an official refugee welcome zone, welcoming refugees and asylum seekers to our City. As part of ensuring new arrivals feel welcome in Sydney, we coordinate programs such as Refugee Week and the Welcome Dinner Project for refugees and asylum seekers. This includes an orientation tour of the city to help them get to know their way around.

Symbols of recognition can contribute to people feeling safer. The City partners with our community to create welcoming and inclusive spaces.

### Rainbow Crossing

The iconic rainbow crossing returned to Darlinghurst in 2019 becoming the first rainbow shaped crossing in the world. The City of Sydney is home to the largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) population in Australia. The rainbow crossing is a symbol celebrating the diverse communities who live, work and visit the City.



City of Sydney Photographer: Katherine Griffiths



Rides the Night Festival / Photographer: Hired Gun

### Promote a creative and vibrant night life to reduce alcohol related anti-social behaviour

Another key focus for the City is to work with our partners to continue to promote a creative and vibrant night life. This involves our work with small bars and promoting a vibrant night life through our Cultural Policy, Live Music Action Plan, and the work from our newly established Night Life Creative Sector Advisory Panel.

#### Night Life Creative Sector Advisory Panel

The Nightlife and Creative Sector Advisory Panel advises the City on how we can best work with industry, business and other government agencies to support a thriving, diverse and safe nightlife. It also advises on new initiatives, identifies emerging issues and opportunities for Sydney's night-time economy, and helps the City engage with local creative, cultural and nightlife communities. Panel members were selected based on their skills and experience, and with the aim of ensuring they represent the diversity of the nightlife and creative sectors, including various age groups and cultural backgrounds.

The panel have identified their top five priorities: to change the narrative about Sydney's nightlife, reduce regulation, promote stronger collaboration among stakeholders, deliver flexible buildings to enable more creativity and advocate for the introduction of 24-hour public transport.

The panel is similar to models already operating in other global cities such as Amsterdam, Berlin, London and New York.

**“As part of the City’s most recent community consultation, over 10,000 people told us they wanted more late night areas, extended opening hours and more things to do after dark.”**



Nightlife and Creative Sector Advisory Panel pictured at “Since I left You Bar”/  
City of Sydney Katherine Griffiths





The Dock / Jamie Williams / City of Sydney

There are over 3,700 licensed premises in the City of Sydney local area, comprising cafes, restaurants, hotels, small bars, registered clubs and nightclubs. From January 2017 to December 2017, there were 1,952 alcohol-related assaults in the City of Sydney local area.<sup>8</sup> The City works in partnership with the police, Liquor & Gaming NSW, representatives from liquor accords, venue operators, the community and non-government services to reduce alcohol-related antisocial behaviour. A priority of this partnership is to create a positive social and physical environment around licensed premises to attract patrons and help people to feel and be safe.

### Outdoor alcohol restrictions

Alcohol restrictions in public places help prevent alcohol-related antisocial behaviour, including offensive behaviour, littering and excessive noise, and help mitigate crimes such as malicious damage and acts of violence. They assist NSW Police existing powers to intervene early by confiscating alcohol within designated areas. The City considers applications for new restrictions every year, by analysing applications, submissions and current crime statistics.

### The Vibe

The City is a member of the Newtown Vibe Roundtable. The purpose of the Roundtable is to develop initiatives to actively preserve the character and diversity of Newtown, to promote the Newtown vibe and to develop strategies to address shared issues. Participants include representatives from the Newtown Police Station, the Newtown Precinct Business Association, the Newtown Liquor Accord, ACON and Reclaim the Streets, as well as City of Sydney councillors and staff. Initiatives have included establishing late-night taxi ranks, providing training for bar staff and promoting respect for the area's diversity to visitors at free outdoor events.



Newtown / Photographer: Katherine Griffiths





Take Kare Safe Space visual messaging, Sydney CBD / Photographer: Adam Hollingworth

Providing assistance to people who are intoxicated when out in the city at night can also be effective in reducing harm to themselves and others in the area. We support initiatives that provide on-the-spot interventions, which are proving effective in reducing risks.


### Take Kare program


Since December 2014, we have been providing funding and support for the Take Kare program, which operates in the city each Friday and Saturday night. Roving teams of trained volunteer ‘ambassadors’ provide on-the-spot assistance to people vulnerable to becoming offenders or victims of crime in the city at night. A dedicated Safe Space provides vulnerable young people a place to rest, rehydrate, charge their phones, get first aid, find transport home, or wait for friends or family. The trained volunteers routinely assist people who have passed out alone, who are receiving unwanted attention or who are involved in situations of verbal and physical aggression.


**“12,801 people were supported by the Safe Space & Take Kare Ambassador program in 2017/2018.”**

 **1,416** people were provided with first aid

 **2,562** phones were charged at a Safe Space

 **1,283** people were helped with directions

 **512** people were given assistance regarding public transport

 **258** people were assisted to reconnect with friends/family

 **10,241** people spent time at a Safe Space



Suit Ride through the city / City of Sydney photographer

### Improving road, public transport and pedestrian safety

Together with our expanding resident population, Sydney draws huge numbers of people each day for work, shopping, entertainment, public festivals and events. We are committed to promoting safe and sustainable modes of transport into, out of and across the city.

Our residents now walk or cycle for nearly half of their average weekday trips. More than 7,000 people ride to work in the city centre each day – the equivalent of 116 full buses or seven Sydney trains.<sup>9</sup>

One of the ways we can increase road and pedestrian safety is through planning, designing, constructing and maintaining safe and accessible infrastructure for people to walk, cycle or use wheelchairs or other mobility devices around the city. An example of this is the establishment of secure taxi ranks, in partnership with Roads and Maritime Services, in late-night trading areas to ensure people get home safely late at night.

Our Liveable Green Network is linking high-quality walking and riding routes across the city. Crucial safety features include traffic calming measures, lowered speed limits, widened footpaths with more pedestrian crossings, dedicated cycleways, plants for shade, bubblers, seating, quality lighting, and wayfinding tools such as maps and signage.

**“We are committed to promoting safe and sustainable modes of transport into, out of and across the city.”**

Another vital approach to increasing road safety is through providing public education to encourage safe behaviour. This may involve people adapting their behaviours in response to changes in transport infrastructure such as the integration of the new light rail service or increased congestion at busy hubs. We work with our NSW Government partners to promote road safety messages and to facilitate targeted programs.

We also deliver training to give people the confidence to cycle safely in the inner city, and run regular Share the Path sessions for people riding and walking.

The following table outlines the key actions the City will undertake over the next five years to contribute to making our city streets and spaces safe.

The following table outlines the key actions the City will undertake over the next five years to contribute to making our city streets and spaces safe.

Safe streets and spaces
<b>Increase actual and perceived public safety in city streets and spaces to ensure they are well-lit and attractive</b>
Continue to deliver high-quality cleansing and waste services to the community
Continue to implement our Street Safety Camera Program and security services
Continue to use CPTED principles in the design of the public domain
Activate spaces in the public domain through events and programs to enhance safety
Use culturally inclusive language, signage and symbols in City facilities, venues and parks to create and champion safe and welcoming spaces for all
Promote responsible pet management and safety in the public domain
<b>Promote a creative and vibrant night life to reduce alcohol related anti-social behaviour</b>
Continue to promote and support a vibrant night life through our Cultural Policy, Live Music Action Plan, and the work from our newly established Night Life Creative Sector Advisory Panel
Manage outdoor alcohol restriction compliance through alcohol-free zones and alcohol-prohibited areas
Create a positive social and physical environment around licensed premises and events to attract patrons and help people to feel and be safe
Support initiatives to deliver safety interventions for people in the city who are intoxicated at night
<b>Improve road, public transport and pedestrian safety</b>
Continue to improve safety for people walking, using wheelchairs and cycling through the design and renewal of footpaths and cycleways across the city, and the use of accessible wayfinding
Partner and work with government stakeholders to improve road and pedestrian safety through behaviour change and education
Work with the NSW Government to ensure safety at high-use or late-night transport departure points

These actions contribute to direction 1 and 3 of the “Our Resilient Sydney Plan”



**DIRECTION 1** People Centred

Action 3: Collaborate for cross-city active transport

**DIRECTION 3** Connect for strength

Action 18: Support communities to know their neighbours

Action 19: Encourage cross-city visitation and understanding

Action 20: Promote safety and tolerance in everyday interactions



# Crime prevention and response



## Our approach

Crime prevention refers to the range of strategies that are implemented by individuals, communities, businesses, non-government organisations and all levels of government to target the various social and environmental factors that increase the risk of crime, disorder and victimisation.<sup>10</sup>

The social approach to crime prevention focuses on addressing the underlying social and economic causes of crime in the community (such as a lack of social cohesion, and limited access to affordable and secure housing, employment, education and health services) and the motivations for people to commit offences.<sup>11</sup>

The environmental approach to crime prevention aims to modify the physical environment to reduce opportunities for crimes to occur. This includes situational crime prevention techniques and broader urban planning initiatives. This approach is referred to as 'crime prevention through environmental design' (CPTED), and is discussed under *Safe streets and spaces*.

Our focus areas are determined by an analysis of crime problems affecting our local area. To inform our work and respond to changing patterns of crime, we:

- identify crime hotspots in the local area and continually monitor crime trends using data from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR)
- regularly consult with stakeholders, such as NSW Police, community members, businesses and other levels of government
- conduct surveys with residents, businesses and visitors on their perceptions of safety and get insights from members of the public on an ongoing basis through our customer service channels.

We can also direct people impacted by crimes – including bystanders, victims and survivors of crime – to relevant information and support services.

## Reducing opportunities for crime to occur

Certain types of crime are often opportunistic. Situational crime prevention aims to change contextual factors to reduce opportunities for offenders to engage in criminal behaviour. An example would be locking windows and doors when leaving your home or not leaving valuables in plain sight in an unattended vehicle to reduce the risk of burglary or theft.

The City of Sydney operates in close proximity to our businesses, visitors and residents. This level of community engagement positions us well to support local preventive activities that reduce the opportunities for crime to occur, such as raising awareness, providing information and building skills and knowledge.

An example of collaborative work with the community is the neighbourhood safety audits we conduct to identify and reduce crime and safety risks in local neighbourhoods.



Redfern Community Christmas party, Redfern Community Centre / Photographer: Katherine Griffiths

### Redfern Safety Audit

The City in partnership with the Redfern Neighbourhood Advisory Board, NSW Family and Community Services, NSW Police, the Sydney Local Health District, community groups and local residents undertook a safety audit of the Redfern social housing estate.

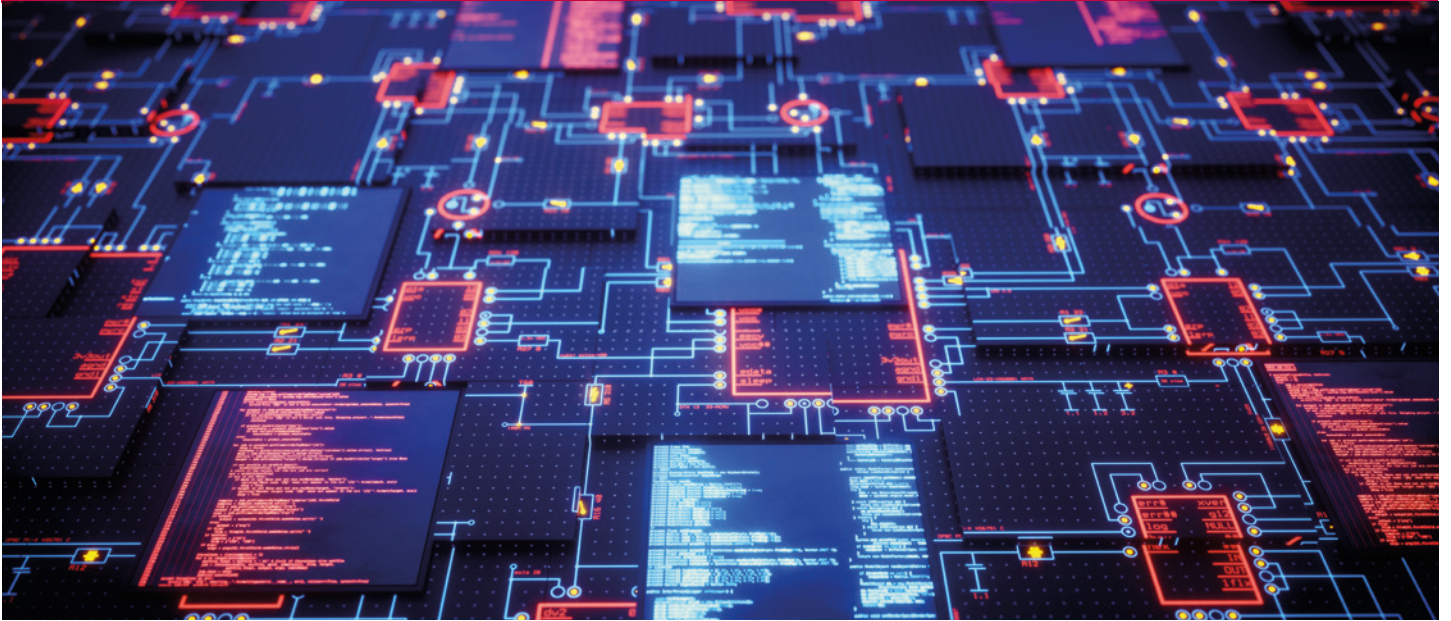
This involved a collaborative approach, using CPTED principles to:

- identify possible safety concerns and community perceptions of safety using group 'walk throughs' in a local area
- make recommendations to appropriate agencies to respond to safety concerns such as maintenance issues, lighting etc
- enable the community to monitor the implementation of recommendations.

A community safety audit for Glebe is planned for 2019.

**“Well-planned crime prevention strategies not only prevent crime and victimisation, but also promote community safety and contribute to the sustainable development of countries. Effective, responsible crime prevention enhances the quality of life of all citizens. It has long-term benefits in terms of reducing the costs associated with the justice system, as well as other social costs that result from crime.”**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



### Helping local businesses reduce crime

We also work with local businesses to help them reduce opportunities for crime to occur. A key area of focus is helping retailers protect themselves from retail theft and fraud, which is reportedly costing Sydney businesses \$2.3 billion a year.<sup>12</sup>

### Video podcasts to help city businesses protect themselves

In 2017, with cooperation from NSW Police, we shared a series of Business Crime Prevention video podcasts, available on our website.<sup>13</sup> These provide local retailers with practical steps they can take to help protect themselves against in-store crimes.

This includes advice on how to reduce shoplifting, credit card scams and risks from the use of 'tap and go' technology, with information on retailer rights and crime scene preservation.

### Protection against cybercrime

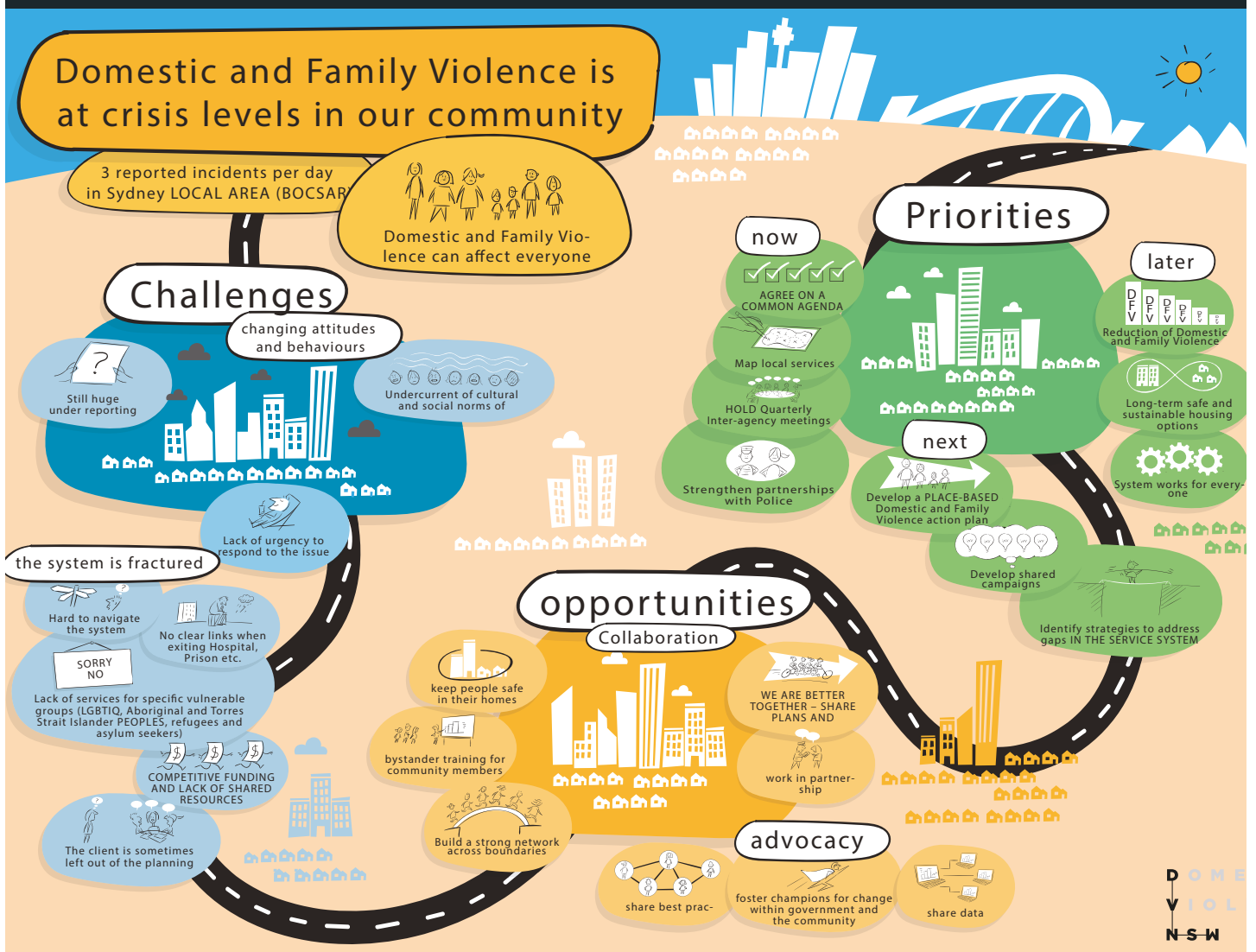
As technologies and online behaviours rapidly evolve, so do the risks of crime that can be associated with digital technologies for organisations, businesses and members of the public.

Fraud is an ongoing problem and is constantly changing as new technologies and payment options are introduced. BOCSAR reports that 35 per cent of fraud crimes are related to credit cards.<sup>14</sup> The City works with Police and others to reduce these risks for residents and businesses.

In line with our digital strategy, we are expanding access to free public wi-fi around the city and provide digital facilities at our libraries and community centres. This provides an opportunity to promote awareness of safer internet use for residents, workers and visitors, including reducing the risks of identity fraud, scams, exploitation, and online abuse of children and young people.

For our organisation, we have protections in place to safeguard our digital infrastructure and the data we hold that has been provided to us by the public and local organisations, and we continue to assess risks and upgrade protections on a regular basis.





## Contributing to reducing domestic and family violence, and sexual assault

Over the last five years, recorded crimes in the Sydney local area have largely been declining. However, reported incidents of domestic violence related assault have remained stable. Over the last two years, reports of indecent assault, acts of indecency and other sexual offences have increased by over 50 per cent.<sup>16</sup>

The NSW government are leading the response to domestic and family violence and sexual assault through the *NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform 2016–2021*<sup>17</sup> and the *NSW Strategy for Sexual Assault 2018-2021*<sup>18</sup> which outline the priorities and reforms to reduce these crimes in our community. The City works in partnership with the state government, non-government agencies and peak bodies to contribute to reducing domestic and family violence and sexual assault.

Ensuring Sydney is safe for our residents, workers and visitors is a key priority for the City. Police are responsible for responding to crime and safety issues, and we work in partnership with them and others to improve safety in our community. An example of a partnership program to enhance safety is the Ask for Angela Campaign launched in July 2018.

## Ask for Angela

The City of Sydney in partnership with Sydney City Police command, the Australian Hotels Association and local licensees launched The Ask for Angela campaign in July 2018. The campaign encourages people who are uncomfortable or unsafe in a licensed premises to discreetly ask staff for help by ‘Asking for Angela’- a code word aimed at alerting bar staff to help so they can help defuse the situation. Pioneered in the UK, as an initiative of Lincolnshire County Council, the campaign has been internationally recognised as a successful intervention for reducing sexual violence. Posters making patrons aware of this will be displayed in toilets of bars and clubs. Bar and security staff receive training in how to appropriately respond and contact police where necessary.



**“One in 6 Australian women and 1 in 16 men have been subjected, since the age of 15, to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or previous cohabiting partner.”<sup>15</sup>**

Anyone can experience domestic and family violence, and sexual assault, regardless of their age, gender, sexuality or cultural background. However, it is widely recognised that women are disproportionately affected by these forms of violent crime. In the period from 2012 to 2014, one woman was killed every week by a partner or former partner in Australia, compared with one man every month. These crimes have complex underlying social factors that require a whole of community approach to reducing the prevalence and impact of these crimes.

The City of Sydney is dedicated to supporting White Ribbon Australia and was officially awarded its workplace re-accreditation in 2017, as a pioneer in contributing to national cultural change to prevent and respond to violence against women. The City was first accredited in 2013. White Ribbon Australia seeks an Australian society in which all women can live in safety, free from violence and abuse. White Ribbon works through a primary prevention approach to stop violence against women before it happens.

In addition to our work with White Ribbon, we lead and support interagency networks to improve collaborative responses locally. We partner with NSW Elder Abuse Hotline to provide monthly drop in support services at our community centres in Ultimo and Kings Cross. We also help people who are experiencing homelessness to access support services and housing many of whom have experienced domestic and family violence.

### **Contributing to preventing child abuse and supporting effective responses**

The City has invested significantly in ensuring the safety of children who are under our duty of care or who engage with our organisation (for example, through our childcare facilities, community programs, and sport and recreational venues). This includes developing and implementing revised child protection policies and procedures that reflect current child protection legislation, and compulsory tailored training for staff.

The Final Report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse was released in December 2017.<sup>19</sup> The Royal Commission's work has shown that sexual offences against children are not confined to the past. Incidents continue to occur in wide-ranging contemporary institutional and community settings, including through online platforms. Child sexual abuse is still significantly under-reported to police and typically involves delayed disclosure and reporting. Crime data reflects only a small proportion of incidents.

The Royal Commission identified 10 Child Safe Standards that are seen as essential for all child-safe institutions. The City continues to embed these standards across our organisation. Beyond our legislative role as a childsafe organisation, the City also takes a proactive role in contributing to preventing child abuse and ensuring effective responses in our local area. In line with recommendations from the Royal Commission, this will include helping local child-related businesses and organisations to be child-safe, and supporting future community initiatives implemented by the State or Federal government to prevent child abuse.

The following table outlines the key actions the City will undertake over the next five years to contribute to preventing and responding to crime in Sydney.

Crime prevention and response
<b>Reduce the opportunities for crime to occur</b>
Build the capacity of businesses and the community to prevent crime
Conduct safety audits with NSW Police, businesses and residents to reduce the risk and impact of crime
Protect our digital infrastructure and promote cyber safety in the community
Track crime trends and community perceptions of crime and safety to identify priorities and emerging risks
<b>Contribute to reducing domestic and family violence, and sexual assault</b>
Increase collaboration across agencies to reduce domestic and family violence in Sydney
Partner with NSW Police and other agencies to encourage bystanders to support victims and increase reporting of domestic and family violence
Support prevention strategies to reduce violence against women
Partner with government and non-government agencies to provide information and support for victims of sexual assault and harassment
<b>Contribute to preventing child abuse and supporting effective responses</b>
Continue to embed and promote child-safe standards across our organisation
Support local child-related businesses and organisations to be child-safe
Support community initiatives to prevent child abuse

These actions contribute to direction 1, 3 and 4 of the “Our Resilient Sydney Plan”



**DIRECTION 1** People Centred

Action 2: Network metropolitan practitioners for community agency

**DIRECTION 3** Connect for strength

Action 16: Monitor metropolitan social cohesion and wellbeing

Action 18: Support communities to know their neighbours

**DIRECTION 4** Get Ready

Action 23: Get Prepared – 100,000 ready Sydneysiders

Action 28: Support small businesses to manage cybersecurity

# Ready and resilient



A resilient city is prepared and connected. It has networks primed and ready to act together in an emergency or in response to chronic issues. The systems and infrastructure that support how it functions are diversified to enable essential businesses and institutions to keep running during shock emergency events. Strong connections between organisations, governments and communities help them to recover from shocks and to deal with longer-term stresses together. People participate in decision-making and are agents of change, contributing to shared solutions.

## Shocks and stresses that impact Sydney

The work underway for the Resilient Sydney initiative is looking at ways to address both the shocks and the stresses that can impact Greater Sydney (see below).

Sudden shocks that cause short-term, acute disruptions include emergencies such as extreme weather events (heatwaves and storms), water supply issues, infrastructure failures (for example, power outages or building collapses), digital network failures, terror attacks, cyber attacks and disease pandemics.

Examples of stresses that weaken the fabric of a city over the longer term include high unemployment, an overtaxed or inefficient public transportation system, a lack of affordable and secure housing, increasing rates of chronic disease, diminishing social cohesion, drug and alcohol abuse, high crime rates, and increased inequality across communities.

With strong connections and a commitment to sharing knowledge and creating opportunities for diverse perspectives, we can better prevent or mitigate such stresses and shocks, adapt to situations, and rapidly recover and thrive after disruptions.

## Resilient Sydney initiative

Resilient Sydney is part of the 100 Resilient Cities initiative pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation. The initiative is helping cities around the world adapt to the complex physical, social and economic challenges that are a growing part of the 21st century.<sup>20</sup> This includes looking at ways to strengthen the ability of urban communities to survive, adapt and thrive in the face of increasing uncertainty and disruptions.

Resilient Sydney involves collaboration between the City of Sydney, the other metropolitan councils of Sydney and the NSW Government. The strategy and action plan is scheduled to be released in late 2018.



SYDNEY





City aerial view

### Ensuring Sydney knows how to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies

The City of Sydney has a population of over 220,000 residents, and more than 1.2 million workers and visitors occupy our area each day.<sup>21</sup> As with any large city, being prepared for an emergency or an unexpected disaster helps save lives.

In resilient cities, communities are aware and prepared. They know how they can prepare and equip themselves in the event of a major shock, both as individuals and as members of their local neighbourhoods and communities. We create opportunities for residents, services and local businesses to share their knowledge and skills to help build everyone's capacity to prepare for and respond to emergencies.

**“City resilience is the capacity of individuals, communities, businesses and systems within a city to survive, adapt and thrive no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience.”**

“Our Resilient Sydney”

Certain emergencies in the city require a significant coordinated response from emergency services and other government agencies, such as those responsible for health and transport. To manage a coordinated response, emergency service agencies in the local area work with us to develop our local emergency management plan, which describes the local arrangements to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies. As part of this, we also have ancillary plans to address differing contexts. This includes plans for vulnerable communities – for example, people sleeping rough who are at risk from the adverse effects of extreme weather events. The City chairs the Local Emergency Management Committee and coordinates regular testing and review of the local emergency management plan.

We also work in partnership to protect crowded places (such as shopping centres, pedestrian malls and major events) against planned deliberate acts of harm. As outlined in Australia's Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places from Terrorism<sup>22</sup>, the City works in partnership with government and the private sector to better protect places in our local area.

Owners and operators have the primary responsibility for protecting their sites, including a duty of care to take steps to protect people that work, use or visit their site. By working together to implement this strategy, owners and operators are in a better position to protect crowded places. An example includes vehicle mitigation measures taken at Martin Place.





Image courtesy of #WeLiveHere2017. The #WeLiveHere2017 team collaborated with Waterloo residents to create a light project with the tenants of Matavai and Turanga towers.

### Martin Place Vehicle Mitigation

In consultation with the NSW Police, the City installed temporary vehicle mitigation in Martin Place, including the installation of bollards and concrete spheres.

The City is developing a 'kit of parts' for vehicle mitigation infrastructure and a design and policy framework. This will be used as a basis for longer term mitigation measures not only in Martin Place, but also for the protection of other crowded places across the City.



Vehicle Mitigation Measures at Martin Place/ City of Sydney

We continue to work on the self-assessments for crowded places across the City. These assessments will help determine our priorities for the implementation of protective infrastructure. These mitigation measures are to manage all types of security risks, and will include a diverse range of projects such as bollards, street furniture, vehicle calming, CCTV, detection systems, alarm and warning systems.

### Building resilient and connected communities to increase safety

#### Appropriate housing contributes to safer communities

Access to safe and sustainable housing is fundamental to increasing safety and building community resilience.

Homelessness can be both a cause and a consequence of being a victim or an offender of crime. Domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness in Australia.<sup>23</sup> Victims fleeing an unsafe home environment are often left without the resources to access alternative accommodation. There are also well-documented links between homelessness, offending and reoffending<sup>24</sup>. Findings from the Inner Sydney Registry Week 2015 showed that one in two people experiencing homelessness in Sydney had spent time in prison. People who find suitable, supported and stable housing are more likely to stay out of prison, particularly those with complex needs.<sup>25</sup>

The City has a dedicated team to help people experiencing homelessness access long-term housing with support. To increase opportunities to access housing that is affordable, the City continues to invest in a range of initiatives, including:

- making land available to the community housing and non-government sector at a subsidised rate
- establishing an Affordable and Diverse Housing Fund to assist development projects that meet social needs in the city
- providing grant funding that enables NSW Family and Community Services and non-government agencies to deliver housing assistance and support to people experiencing homelessness.

We also have a long and proud history of advocating for and with social housing tenants to increase the supply and quality of social housing in Sydney.



Woolloomooloo Social Housing / Photographer: Katherine Griffiths

### Focus on working in social housing communities

There are more than 9,700 social housing properties in our local area – one of the largest concentrations in Australia. The social housing stock is primarily concentrated in a few high density estates in the suburbs of Redfern, Waterloo, Surry Hills, Glebe and Woolloomooloo, with some smaller concentrations scattered throughout our local area.

Our close proximity to the community affords us a unique understanding of local conditions and issues. Our strong relationships across communities, service sectors and government also means we can provide a valuable supporting role in coordinated service delivery responses.

Managing the physical environment on which social housing is built requires a close partnership between the City, NSW Family and Community Services, community housing providers and residents to ensure the best outcomes for social housing tenants. Impacts to the environment are often related to social issues, including illegal dumping, street drinking, discarded drug paraphernalia, graffiti, property damage and public urination.

The City uses community development approaches to build social cohesion and to empower communities to participate in decision-making processes. Our programs focus on strengthening informal networks and enhancing community structures with the potential to build community capacity. This can, in turn, provide opportunities to mobilise communities to address local crime problems and increase safety.

In the inner city the growing inequality between residents of social housing estates and those living in more affluent surrounding neighbourhoods poses a risk to community cohesion. There are major redevelopments underway that are changing the physical and social environment for established social housing communities. The City provides support to social housing tenants to create opportunities for them to influence and contribute to positive outcomes from urban renewal.

### Supporting Waterloo social housing residents through the Waterloo redevelopment

The City is supporting Waterloo social housing residents through the redevelopment of the Waterloo public housing estate by funding the Redfern Legal Centre to provide relocation advice and support as well as funding the Waterloo Public Housing Action Group to run tenant led consultation activities. City representatives attend the community led Waterloo Redevelopment Group to advocate for the needs of residents.





Street art in Redfern / Photographer: Adam Hollingworth

### RedLink

The City was a key partner in establishing the RedLink multi-service centre, based in the Redfern social housing estate. RedLink operates as an integrated, place-based program that seeks to reduce community disadvantage, increase social inclusion, and improve individual and community wellbeing, particularly for the most vulnerable and socially isolated tenants living in Redfern. The City supports this initiative through participating in community development activities and events, and by supporting coordinated service delivery in the area.

**“We include communities in decision making for growth and equity, so people connected to where they live and able to access transport, affordable housing and education and employment opportunities.”**

“Our Resilient Sydney”

### Reducing harm from drugs and alcohol

In line with the national drug and alcohol strategies<sup>26</sup>, we take a harm minimisation approach to reducing the social, economic and health problems that can be associated with the consumption of alcohol and use of other drugs. This approach focuses on minimising the harm drug use causes to the community and to the user. This includes providing information to help link people to local drug and alcohol services, and supporting targeted harm minimisation initiatives.

The City manages a network of around 140 community sharps disposal bins. The bins provide options to dispose of sharps safely to prevent needlestick injury in our public places. Where a bin is located, 99 per cent of all sharps are disposed of appropriately. The City works in partnership with NSW Health’s needle clean-up hotline to manage the removal of discarded sharps in the public domain.

In 2016, the City put in place permanent smoke-free zones in Pitt Street Mall and Martin Place. This followed a successful smoke-free trial in Martin Place that demonstrated strong public support for expanding the regulation of smoking in areas of the public domain in the CBD.



The following table outlines the key actions the City will undertake over the next five years to contribute to ensuring the city is ready and resilient.

Ready and resilient
<b>Ensure Sydney knows how to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies</b>
Develop an emergency preparedness program for residents and local businesses
Work with emergency services, relevant agencies and the community to build resilience in communities to prevent, respond to and recover from emergencies
Implement the recommended approach of Australia’s Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places from Terrorism
<b>Build resilient and connected communities to increase safety</b>
Collaborate with the NSW Government, non-government agencies and residents to address safety and amenity issues for social housing residents (for example, RedLink)
Provide and support community capacity – building initiatives in social housing neighbourhoods to increase tenant participation in increasing safety
Coordinate community events to increase opportunities to meet with police, neighbours and local services, and increase knowledge about safety
Support people sleeping rough to access safe and sustainable housing and health services
Support social housing tenants to influence and contribute to positive outcomes from urban renewal
<b>Reduce harm from drugs and alcohol</b>
Provide support for targeted harm minimisation initiatives in Sydney
Increase community awareness of where to get help and support with drug and alcohol issues

These actions contribute to direction 1, 3 and 4 of the “Our Resilient Sydney Plan”



**DIRECTION 1** People Centred

- Action 1: Network metropolitan practitioners for community agency
- Action 6: Build community capacity through co-design
- Action 7: Advocate for affordable housing for everyone
- Action 8: Develop skills for equity

**DIRECTION 3** Connect for strength

- Action 18: Support communities to know their neighbours

**DIRECTION 4** Get Ready

- Action 23: Get Prepared – 100,000 ready Sydneysiders
- Action 24: Pilot disaster preparedness program for councils
- Action 25: Mapping vulnerabilities at a District planning level
- Action 29: Help communities to train and volunteer to prepare for disasters

# A safe global destination



Sydney is one of the safest cities in the world. In 2016, metropolitan Sydney ranked the third highest of 30 cities around the world in terms of its performance for 'health, safety and security' in PwC's major comparative report on global city performance.<sup>27</sup>

This included being in the top 10 cities for crime performance, road safety and resilience to major security threats (such as terrorism, cyber attacks, market crashes, power outages and human pandemics). Sydney also ranked very highly overall in relation to its risk of exposure to natural disasters and its level of preparedness to deal with these.<sup>28</sup>

Sydney has a worldwide reputation for being a great place to live and visit, and is known for its attractive environment, cultural vitality and safety.

Maintaining and promoting Sydney's welcoming, safe and inclusive character will help to increase economic prosperity; create a thriving, globally connected community; and further enhance Sydney's international reputation as a great place to visit, live, work, invest and study.

**“Safety and security was the highest rated factor when selecting a holiday destination for consumers in Australia's key international markets in 2016.”<sup>32</sup>**

## Our valued visitors

Sydney is Australia's premier destination city and the gateway to NSW, attracting over 13 million visitors in 2017. The iconic city is the economic heart of metropolitan Sydney and, in addition to overnight visitors, received 20 million domestic daytrip visitors in 2017.<sup>29</sup>

Visitors play a vital role in enhancing the vibrancy of our city – increasing cultural awareness and understanding, strengthening our trade and business connections, and boosting Sydney's global reputation.

People visiting Sydney make a significant contribution to Australia's prosperity and local job creation. Direct expenditure from the tourism sector alone contributed over \$16 billion to Sydney's economy in 2017.<sup>30</sup> Sydney also benefits greatly from the international student market, as Australia's leading international education destination. In 2015, around 36 per cent of NSW's export income was generated by international students (around \$7.7 billion), with a further estimated \$2.8 billion received from direct spending.<sup>31</sup> Our local area was a major beneficiary, as the epicentre of the international student market in Sydney and NSW.

## Keeping Sydney globally competitive as a destination of choice

Sydney is a globally competitive and innovative city – and a key contributor to the NSW and Australian economies. It is also the premier place in Australia to live, work, study, invest and visit. Sustaining Sydney's global competitiveness is central to Sydney's and Australia's future. We know that personal safety is a key factor when people make decisions about where to travel or study.

'Safety and security' was the highest rated factor when selecting a holiday destination for consumers in Australia's key international markets in 2016.



New Year's Eve, Sydney Harbour / Photographer: Scott Barbour

Ninety-three per cent of international students chose 'safety and security' as a key factor that influenced their decision to study in Australia in research involving over 65,000 students – putting safety in the top three considerations for students overall.<sup>33</sup>

We recognise that today's visitors are tomorrow's ambassadors for the city. Retaining our strong reputation for safety and security is critical to maintaining Sydney's role as a leading destination for tourists, business visitors and students.

### Hosting our visitors

We are proud of the global reputation that Sydney has earned as a safe and secure place to visit, live, work, invest and study, and will continue to work with our partners to sustain and promote Sydney as a safe destination.

As a key priority in this plan, we need to help ensure that everyone feels welcome and safe during their visit, and can access information and help when needed.

Many of the 35,000 international students studying at local campuses<sup>34</sup> are living away from home for the first time. During their stay, their families and communities look to us – as the host city – to provide a safe and rewarding experience for these students. By doing so, they will form a lifelong connection with our city.

### Ensuring visitors feel safe and welcome in Sydney

We have a number of initiatives in place to welcome visitors and to help them familiarise themselves with Sydney. This includes a welcome desk and a range of information on arrival at Sydney International Airport, and a roving ambassador program to meet and greet visitors across the city. A key focus of this program has been to welcome international cruise ship passengers arriving via Sydney Harbour.

We will also maintain our strategically located visitor information centres and kiosks around the city centre to help visitors maximise their stay and support safe experiences in the city.

Our actions to increase actual and perceived safety in our city streets and spaces also contributes to visitors' experiences. This includes providing effective signage and wayfinding tools to help visitors easily and safely navigate to popular destinations; our commitment to the quality of design of the public domain; and maintaining the cleanliness, security and activation of city streets and public spaces.

Our vibrant late-night entertainment areas attract both locals and visitors, and the experiences they offer shapes their impressions of Sydney and its reputation.



## A safe global destination



Lord Mayor's Welcome for International Students / Photographer: Katherine Griffiths

### Helping international students to live, study and work safely in Sydney

In 2016, 35,000 international students were studying at local campuses, with 10,000 in accommodation within our local area.<sup>35</sup>

Our research has shown that international students often face many challenges while living and studying in Sydney. These can include culture shock, limited community participation and language barriers<sup>36</sup>, as well as difficulty accessing appropriate accommodation and employment opportunities.

We work closely with our partners – including StudyNSW, NSW Police, NSW Fair Trading, the Redfern Legal Centre, education providers and students – to welcome newly arrived international students and help them to access the services and support they may need in Sydney. Our welcome program throughout the year includes activities such as supporting the Sydney International Airport welcome desk; hosting an official welcome to international students at Sydney Town Hall; and producing an international student guide to help students transition to life in Sydney.

We provide events and resources designed to support students so they have a safe and rewarding study experience during their time in Sydney.

### Promoting Sydney's safety globally

The City has a partnership in place with Destination NSW to promote Sydney as a destination of choice in both domestic and international markets through a variety of ways. This includes local and international marketing campaigns through media channels as well as strategic partnerships.

We will continue to work with partners that have global reach to ensure Sydney's safety is included in promotional initiatives, including state and federal government counterparts, consular corps, bilateral chambers of commerce, international cities, and global influencers both in Australia and overseas.

Using available data sources, we will also track perceptions of Sydney's safety globally across key markets to monitor our progress.

### Official welcome

For more than a decade, the City of Sydney – in partnership with StudyNSW, the University of Sydney, the University of New South Wales and University of Technology Sydney – has delivered the annual Lord Mayor's Welcome for International Students. Over 1,000 students from different institutions and disciplines attend the event every year, marking the start of their lifelong link with Sydney. This event provides an opportunity for international students to access information on their rights in Australia and on how to keep safe while studying, working and living in Sydney. Students can engage with more than 20 agencies representing health, safety, financial and accommodation services.



The following table outlines the key actions the City will undertake over the next five years to ensure that Sydney maintains its standing as a safe global destination.

A safe global destination
<b>Ensure visitors feel safe and welcome in Sydney</b>
Continue to implement programs to welcome visitors as they familiarise themselves with Sydney
Provide safety information to visitors
Engage with consulates to promote safety in Sydney
<b>Help international students to live, study and work safely in Sydney</b>
Provide events and activities to welcome international students
Provide information for international students about living and working safely in Sydney
<b>Promote Sydney’s safety globally</b>
Work with partners that have global reach to ensure Sydney’s safety is included in promotional initiatives
Track perceptions of Sydney’s safety globally from available data sources

These actions contribute to direction 3 and 5 of the “Our Resilient Sydney Plan”



**DIRECTION 3** Connect for strength

Action 19: Encourage cross-city visitation and understanding

**DIRECTION 5** One City

Action 35: Learn and share with other cities through the 100 Resilient Cities network

# Measuring success



The community, all levels of government, and the private and non-profit sectors all contribute to making Sydney safer. Safety in our local area is influenced by a range of factors, including government policy settings, and economic and social conditions. Therefore, we have two distinct roles, which are to:

- monitor safety outcomes at the population level
- measure the outcomes our own activities.

## Monitoring safety outcomes across the city

We use a Results-Based Accountability (RBA) framework to measure the plan's outcomes:

- **Level 1** tracks the population indicators
- **Level 2** measures the direct outcomes as a result of a specific program. It does this by asking three questions:
  - How much did we do?
  - How well did we do it?
  - Is anyone better off?

## Population indicators for safety

The population indicators signal broader trends for how safety (actual and perceived) and crime are tracking in Sydney.

While we can contribute to population trends, they are the result of a range of influences outside of our control. These indicators are not intended as direct measures of our performance.

Nevertheless, it is important to understand and monitor these trends and to use this information to review priorities and actions.

## Measuring our actions

We will regularly measure the outcomes of the actions in this plan and report against these.

We will also regularly review the actions in the plan to ensure they align with community needs.

Our first major review of this policy and action plan will be conducted in four years, in 2022.

Key data sources we will use to monitor the performance of the action plan are shown in the table on the following page.

# Indicator framework

Key objectives	Key performance measures (# = number % = percentage)	Key population indicators
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## Safe streets and spaces

Increase actual and perceived public safety in city streets and spaces	% of people who feel safe in Sydney	% of people who feel safe in Sydney <i>Source: City of Sydney residents, survey and Perceptions of Safety biennial research</i> Sydney local area crime rates <i>Source: BOCSAR</i>
Promote a creative and vibrant night life to reduce alcohol related anti-social behaviour	# of people supported through the Take Kare program % of people who feel safe in Sydney	% of people who feel safe in Sydney <i>Source: City of Sydney residents, survey and Perceptions of Safety biennial research</i> Sydney local area crime rates <i>Source: BOCSAR</i>
Improve road, public transport and pedestrian safety	# of crashes in the City of Sydney # of public transport trips in the City of Sydney % of vulnerable road users involved in crashes in the City of Sydney	Road safety statistics <i>Source: NSW Centre for Road Safety Annual Statistical Statement Report</i>

## Crime prevention and response

Reduce the opportunities for crime to occur	# of capacity-building initiatives delivered on crime and safety # and % of participants who report increased skills or knowledge relating to safety and crime prevention	Sydney local area crime rates <i>Source: BOCSAR</i>
Contribute to reducing domestic and family violence, and sexual assault	# of information sessions, inter-agency events and campaigns held on domestic and family violence, and sexual assault # and % of participants who report increased skills or knowledge in responding to domestic and family violence, and sexual assault	Sydney local area crime rates <i>Source: BOCSAR</i>
Contribute to preventing child abuse and supporting effective responses	# of training initiatives delivered to staff and community members # and % of participants who report increased skills or knowledge relating to child safety	Sydney local area crime rates <i>Source: BOCSAR</i>

Key objectives	Key performance measures (# = number % = percentage)	Key population indicators
----------------	---	---------------------------

## Ready and resilient

Ensure Sydney knows how to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of capacity-building initiatives and information sessions delivered on emergency preparedness</li> <li># and % of participants who report increased skills or knowledge relating to emergency preparedness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% of people who know what to do in an emergency</li> <li>Source: <i>City of Sydney Perceptions of Safety biennial research</i></li> </ul>
Build resilient and connected communities to increase safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of programs and events delivered that promote community connectedness</li> <li># and % of participants who report increased connectedness to the community</li> <li># and % of people who report increased, or a willingness to increase, participation in the community to respond to crime and safety issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% of residents who feel connected to the community</li> <li>Source: <i>City of Sydney residents, survey</i></li> </ul>
Reduce harm from drugs and alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of harm minimisation initiatives delivered</li> <li># of smoke-free areas in the city</li> <li># of sharps collected in public sharps bins</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health risk factors</li> <li>Source: <i>City of Sydney Community Wellbeing Indicators</i></li> </ul>

## A safe global destination

Ensure visitors feel safe and welcome in Sydney	# of visitors who know where to get help if they need it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% of people who feel safe in Sydney</li> <li>Source: <i>City of Sydney Perceptions of Safety biennial research</i></li> </ul>
Help international students to live, study and work safely in Sydney	# of international students who know where to get help if they need it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% of people who feel safe in Sydney</li> <li>Source: <i>City of Sydney Perceptions of Safety biennial research</i></li> </ul>
Promote Sydney's safety globally	Ranking in The Economist Intelligence Unit's Safe Cities Index	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global ranking for health, safety and security</li> <li>Source: <i>PwC Cities of Opportunity report</i></li> </ul>







# Glossary of key terms

## **Alcohol-free zones and alcohol-prohibited areas**

Alcohol-free zones and alcohol-prohibited areas are established in public places across NSW to restrict the consumption of alcohol to help prevent alcohol-related antisocial behaviour and crime. These outdoor alcohol restrictions provide NSW Police with the authority to tip out or confiscate alcohol within designated areas.

## **Bystander approach**

The bystander approach aims to build shared individual and community responsibility for responding to and preventing violence or abuse by encouraging people not directly involved in violence – as a victim or perpetrator – to take action.

## **Child sexual abuse**

Child sexual abuse refers to any act that exposes a child to, or involves a child in, sexual processes beyond their understanding or contrary to accepted community standards. It can include child grooming, which refers to actions deliberately undertaken with the aim of befriending and establishing an emotional connection with a child to lower the child's inhibitions in preparation for sexual activity with the child.<sup>37</sup>

## **Community sharps**

Community sharps are needles, syringes and lancets that are used to administer medications and drugs outside a clinical setting.

## **Cultural safety**

An environment that is culturally safe for people is one where there is no assault, challenge or denial of their identity, of who they are or of what they need. It is about shared respect, shared meanings, shared knowledge and experience.<sup>38</sup> This concept can be used in the way community services are provided to ensure respect for cultural and social differences.

## **Crime prevention**

Crime prevention refers to the range of strategies that are implemented by individuals, communities, businesses, non-government organisations and all levels of government to target the various social and environmental factors that increase the risk of crime, disorder and victimisation.<sup>39</sup> Situational crime prevention aims to change contextual factors to reduce opportunities for offenders to engage in criminal behaviour.

## **Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED)**

This approach uses the design of the environment to discourage criminal activity by ensuring there is more chance for offenders to be seen, challenged or caught; reducing opportunities for criminal activity and creating the impression that more effort is required to commit a crime, with limited rewards. This can also be referred to as 'safety by design' or 'designing out crime'.

## **Cybercrime**

Cybercrime is defined as a crime in which a computer is the object of the crime (for example, hacking, phishing and spamming) or is used as a tool to commit an offence electronically (for example, theft, fraud, distribution of child pornography, online abuse and hate crimes).

## **Designing out crime**

See CPTED

## **Domestic and family violence**

Domestic and family violence is when someone intentionally uses violence, threats, force or intimidation to control or manipulate a family member, partner or former partner. It is characterised by an imbalance of power whereby the perpetrator uses abusive behaviours and tactics to obtain power and control over the victim, causing fear.<sup>40</sup>

### **Harm minimisation**

Harm minimisation aims to address alcohol and other drug issues by reducing the harmful effects of alcohol and other drugs on individuals and society. This approach acknowledges that drug use, both licit and illicit, is an inevitable part of society. A range of harms are associated with different types and patterns of use, and a broad range of approaches can be used to minimise these harms.

### **Outdoor alcohol restrictions**

See alcohol-free zones and alcohol-prohibited areas.

### **Neighbourhood advisory boards**

Neighbourhood advisory boards are made up of elected tenant representatives and representatives from both government and non-government agencies, who work together to discuss and address issues and concerns important to tenants in social housing areas.

### **Resilience**

We are using the term 'resilience' here to refer to the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems within a city to survive, adapt, grow and thrive no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience.

### **Safety by design**

See CPTED.

### **Sexual violence**

Sexual violence refers to behaviours of a sexual nature carried out against a person's will. It can be perpetrated by a current or former partner, other people known to the victim, or strangers.

### **Sexual assault**

Sexual assault is a crime. It occurs when a person is forced, coerced or tricked into sexual acts against their will or without their consent, or if a child or young person under 18 is exposed to sexual activities.<sup>41</sup>

### **Social cohesion**

Social cohesion is a core feature of an inclusive, socially sustainable society. It is indicated by positive relationships and strong bonds among members of the community, and can be measured through levels of community trust, reciprocity and belonging.

### **Wellbeing**

Physical health, social and emotional wellbeing.

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Destructive Steps street dance competition, Customs House Lane / Photographer: Katherine Griffiths





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# **Attachment B**

<h2><b>Summary of Public Submissions</b></h2>
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Attachment B. Summary of public exhibition submissions

#	Author	Summary of submission/comments	City response
1	Inclusion Disability Advisory Panel member	Add definition of wellbeing to include physical, social and emotional wellbeing.	Definition has been added to glossary of terms.
		Suggests a link to the City's Community Wellbeing Indicators & Framework 2016.	Wellbeing indicators are included as a key population indicator in the plan on page 36.
		Requests the City consider providing disability awareness training to volunteers as part of Take Kare Safe Space & Ask Angela programs.	Noted.
2	Resident	Sought enforcement of off-leash dogs for safety and amenity reasons. Requests off-leash dogs restricted to fenced dog parks.	Noted. The City provides mix of locally accessible off-leash and on-leash parks for the welfare and benefit of dog owners and their dogs.
		Sought right-of-way for pedestrians at all times to make for a safer, more walkable city.	Noted. This request is within the scope of state government.
3	Resident	Raised concerns about alcohol related anti-social behaviour and crime in Kings Cross area including police responses.	Noted.
4	Kings Cross Police Area Command NSW Police Force	Requested a City plan to address rough sleepers and drug & alcohol use in public places.	Noted. The City works in collaboration with state government, including all six Police Area Commands and non-government agencies to support rough sleepers. The City has a dedicated Homelessness Team.  The City addresses public amenity issues arising from drug and alcohol use through a comprehensive sharps management program in collaboration with NSW Health and through health promotion initiatives.
		Commended the City for the Ask for Angela campaign, outdoor alcohol restrictions, street safety cameras and working with social housing residents.	Noted.
5	Inner Sydney Voice	Requested change on page 29. Ready and Resilient table – first point under 'Ensure Sydney knows	Supported. Change 'for' to 'with' in final version of the plan.

		<p>how to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.’ Develop emergency preparedness program for with residents and local businesses.</p>	
		Inquired about the City’s evaluation strategy for its emergency preparedness programs.	Noted. The City will continue to work with community and relevant stakeholders to evaluate our emergency preparedness.
6	Counterpoint Community Services Inc.	<p>Suggested a range of ways in which the City could further collaborate with residents, community groups, non-government and government agencies to enhance community safety outcomes for the City’s most disadvantaged communities.</p> <p>Areas for suggested focus included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Place making approaches and a focus on social housing estates – especially Redfern and Waterloo</li> <li>2. Use and sharing of key community safety related data</li> <li>3. Safety Audits</li> <li>4. International students</li> <li>5. Focus on drug demand and supply reduction as well as harm minimisation</li> <li>6. The benefits of social programs for crime prevention</li> <li>7. The safety benefits of well-designed built environments</li> <li>8. Family and domestic violence and sexual assault prevention</li> <li>9. Emergency preparedness</li> </ol>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The City:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Works to prioritise and highlight the safety and amenity of our social housing communities, including through place making collaborations.</li> <li>2. Uses a range of data sets and survey methods to measure performance and will report on the outcomes of the plan.</li> <li>3. Facilitates regular community safety audits.</li> <li>4. Works with education providers and student organisations to support international students.</li> <li>5. Takes a harm minimisation approach to drug issues – however treatment is primarily the responsibility of NSW Health (demand reduction) and enforcement of drug trafficking and supply (supply reduction) falls within the remit of NSW Police.</li> <li>6. Provides a range of social services and supports which contribute to a safer city.</li> <li>7. Uses best practice planning principles and Crime Prevention through Environmental Design to minimise the potential for crime to occur.</li> <li>8. Works in partnership with key stakeholders to help reduce domestic and family violence and sexual assault.</li> <li>9. Is a partner agency of the Surry Hills and Redfern Community Resilience Innovation program.</li> </ol>

			These comments did not require any changes to the plan.
7	Plan International	<p>Provided a range of comments focusing on gender-based harassment in public spaces and advocated for gender-sensitive urban design.</p> <p>Areas for suggested focus included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Suggested use of <i>Free to Be</i> data on street harassment to inform projects including <i>Ask for Angela</i>.</li> <li>2. An emphasis on safe public transport.</li> <li>3. Initiatives to decrease incidents of gender-based harassment in public spaces.</li> </ol>	<p>Noted. The City acknowledges that the design of public spaces needs to reflect a diverse population inclusive of all genders, ages, abilities, sexuality and cultures. The City achieves this through community consultation in all city developments as well as community safety audits.</p> <p>In terms of the specific suggested focus areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Free to Be</i> data is anecdotal and not comparable to available data sets.</li> <li>2. Whilst the NSW Government has primary responsibility for the safety of public transport, the plan includes public transport safety as priority area.</li> <li>3. The City delivers programs that include a focus on safety for women in public spaces.</li> </ol> <p>These comments did not require any changes to the plan.</p>
8	Inclusion Disability Advisory Panel	Requested good lighting and accessible footpaths as a priority.	Noted. The City is continuing to improve the accessibility of the public domain for people of all ages and abilities.
		Supported inclusion of child safety initiatives and noted importance of safety considerations for older people and people with disability.	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The City is committed to child-safe standards across the community and supports initiatives to prevent child abuse.</p> <p>The City recognises safety campaigns must be inclusive of older people and people with disability.</p>
		Requests the City consider providing disability awareness training to volunteers as part of Take Kare Safe Space & <i>Ask for Angela</i> programs.	Noted.
		Asked for plan to be updated to state that Resilient Sydney Strategy has been endorsed.	Completed.



		Add physical health, social and emotional wellbeing as a definition of wellbeing.	Added to the glossary of terms.
		Raised concerns about the use of the term social housing communities.	Noted. This is accepted terminology within Australia and within our Local Government Area to describe people who live in public or community housing.
		Circulate plan to disability peak bodies as part of public exhibition.	Completed.

## Item 5.

### Policy – Adoption- Companion Animals Policy

File No: S103490.004

#### Summary

This report recommends that Council adopt the revised Companion Animals Policy (Policy).

The City's existing Policy was adopted by Council on 16 June 2014. Its purpose is to encourage and reinforce the responsible management of companion animals for the benefit of the community through education and information, consistent with the City's responsibilities under the *Companion Animals Act 1998* (NSW).

The existing Policy has been reviewed and updated to incorporate legislative changes, as well as guidelines issued by the Division of Local Government since 2014. No other changes are proposed.

The Companion Animals Policy must be regularly reviewed and adopted by Council.

The draft Policy at Attachment A is consistent with the previous Policy. The proposed changes to the Policy are detailed in the report and have been incorporated into the draft Policy.

#### Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council endorse the draft updated Companion Animals Policy, as shown at Attachment A to the subject report; and
- (B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make minor amendments to the Companion Animals Policy, as required from time to time, subject to all Councillors being informed of any such changes.

#### Attachments

**Attachment A.** Draft Companion Animals Policy

## Background

1. The City's Companion Animals Policy (the Policy) has been in place since December 2011 and was last reviewed in June 2014. It has now been reviewed as part of the regular periodic review of all administrative policies. Minor changes have been made to ensure the document aligns with the Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW) as well as guidelines issued by the Division of Local Government, since 2014.
2. The amendments to the Policy include:
  - (a) updated definitions of "dog attack", "dangerous dog", "menacing dog" and "restricted dogs";
  - (b) new legislative requirement for cats to be registered by 4 months of age;
  - (c) two new definitions of "off-leash area" and "authorised officer" - to ensure clearly defined and consistent terminology is used throughout the document; and
  - (d) clarification that designation of off-leash areas will require approval by the City's Chief Executive Officer.

## Key Implications

### Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision

3. Sustainable Sydney 2030 is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This policy is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
  - (a) Direction 1 - A Globally Competitive and Innovative City - This policy aims to encourage and reinforce the responsible management of companion animals for the benefit of the broader community through education and public information. In a Globally Competitive and Innovative City there is a place for everyone including companion animals.

### Organisational Impact

4. The Policy sets the approach taken by the City to promote, encourage and reinforce the responsible management of companion animals through education and mutual understanding of the roles and responsibilities of all members of the community. It is important for the content of this Policy to continue as it is regularly referred to by both City staff and the community.
5. The content within the Policy is not duplicated in other policies. The Companion Animals Policy is related to the City's Compliance Policy and Companion Animals Guidelines, however, combining the content of this Policy with others is not considered appropriate.

**Risks**

6. The current policy contains definitions that are not consistent with the definitions in the Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW). If the Policy is not amended, it will not be legally up to date and there would be a risk that the City would be guided by incorrect information about responsible management of companion animals. This could lead to an accidental infringement of the relevant legislation.

**Social / Cultural / Community**

7. Ineffective management of Companion Animals can have a negative impact on the community including perceptions of poor safety. This Policy aims to reduce these impacts. This policy will inform the community of the rights and responsibilities of the owners of companion animals.

**Budget Implications**

8. Implementation of the amendments to the Companion Animals Policy has no significant budget implications.

**Relevant Legislation**

9. The Companion Animals Policy relates to all enforcement action taken in accordance with Council's statutory functions under legislation, including but not limited to:
  - (a) Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW);
  - (b) Local Government Act 1993;
  - (c) Companion Animals Regulation 2018; and
  - (d) Impounding Act 1993.

**Public Consultation**

10. The draft Companion Animals Policy has not been placed on public exhibition. Proposed amendments to the existing policy have only been made to align the policy with changes to the relevant legislation.

**DAVID RIORDAN**

Director City Services

Mary-Anne Priest, Manager City Rangers



# **Attachment A**

## **Draft Companion Animals Policy**

# Companion Animals Policy

## Purpose

To encourage and reinforce the responsible management of pets for the benefit of the community through education and information, consistent with the City’s responsibilities under the *Companion Animals Act 1998* (NSW).

## Scope

The Policy seeks to promote compliance through education and mutual understanding of the roles and responsibilities of all members of the community in relation to companion animals.

The Policy applies to the City of Sydney’s local government area including public parks and open spaces. The Policy also is applicable to privately owned areas where complaints about companion animals may be generated.

## Definitions

Term	Meaning
Companion animal	a dog, a cat, or any other animal that is prescribed by the <i>Companion Animal Regulations (the Regulations) 2018 (NSW)</i> as a companion animal. <del>As at the date of the implementation of this Policy, no other animals have been classified as companion animals.</del>
Dangerous dog	a dog for the time being the subject of a declaration by an Authorised Officer of a council or a court under the <i>Companion Animals Act 1998</i> (NSW) that the dog is a dangerous dog. <del>Which has, without provocation, attacked or killed a person or animal, repeatedly chased a person or animal, or is kept or used for the purposes of hunting, and is the subject of a declaration by an authorised officer of a council or a court that the dog is a dangerous dog.</del>
Dog attack	<del>the act of</del> when a dog “ <b>rushesing</b> at, <b>attacksing</b> , <b>bitesing</b> , <b>harassesing</b> or <b>chasesing</b> any person or animal (not vermin), whether or not any injury is caused to the person or animal.
Menacing dog	a dog <del>which has displayed unreasonable aggression towards and person or animal, or has, without provocation, attacked a person or animal (not vermin) but without causing serious injury or death, and is the subject</del> <b>for the time being the subject</b> of a declaration by an Authorised Officer of a council <b>under section 34 (1A)</b> or a court <b>under section 45 (1A) of the Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW)</b> that the dog is a menacing dog.
Nuisance cat	a cat <del>which</del> <b>is a nuisance if the cat:</b> (a) makes <del>a persistent</del> noise that <b>persistently occurs or continues to such a degree or extent that it</b> unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of any person in any other premises, or (b) repeatedly damages anything outside the property on which it is ordinarily kept.

<b>Nuisance dog</b>	<p>Is a dog which <del>is</del> <b>is a nuisance if the dog:</b></p> <p>(a) is habitually at large, or</p> <p>(b) makes <del>a persistent</del> noise, by barking or otherwise, that persistently occurs or continues to such a degree or extent that <b>it</b> unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of any person in any other premises, or</p> <p>(c) repeatedly defecates on the property of others (<b>other than a public place) outside the property on which it is ordinarily kept</b>, or</p> <p>(d) repeatedly runs at or chases any person, animal (<del>not</del> <b>other than vermin and, in relation to an animal, otherwise than in the course of droving, tending, working or protecting stock</b>) or vehicle, or</p> <p>(e) endangers the health of any person or animal (<b>other than vermin and, in relation to an animal, otherwise than in the course of droving, tending, working or protecting stock</b>), or</p> <p>(f) repeatedly causes substantial damage to anything outside the property on which it is ordinarily kept.</p>
<b>Restricted breeds dogs</b>	<p>Some dogs are considered to be restricted breeds. These currently include – <b>The following dogs are restricted dogs for the purposes of the Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW):</b></p> <p>(a) American pit bull terrier <b>or</b> pit bull terriers,</p> <p>(b) Japanese tosa,</p> <p>(c) dogo Argentino (<del>Argentinian Fighting Dog</del>),</p> <p>(c1) <b>Perro de Presa Canario or Presa Canario</b>,</p> <p>(d) <del>fila Brasileiro (Brazilian fighting dog)</del>,</p> <p>(d1) <b>any other dog of a breed, kind or description whose importation into Australia is prohibited by or under the Customs Act 1901 (Cth)</b>,</p> <p>(e) <b>any dog declared by an Authorised Officer of a council under Division 6 of this Part to be a restricted dog</b>,</p> <p>(f) <b>any other dog of a breed, kind or description prescribed by the Companion Animals Regulation 2018 (NSW).</b></p>
<b>Off-Leash Area</b>	<p><b>A public place that is declared to be an off-leash area by order of council.</b></p>
<b>Authorised Officer</b>	<p><b>An employee of the City of Sydney authorised to perform regulatory functions for the purposes of the Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW).</b></p>

### Policy statement

The City recognises that effective management of domestic pets needs a balanced approach, due to the significant social and health benefits of pet ownership. The City of Sydney's Companion Animals Policy intends to achieve this by:

- Implementing, wherever possible, a 'No Kill' policy and working in conjunction with the 'No Kill' Sutherland Shire Council Animal Shelter to achieve this.
- Promoting the importance of companion animals to the wellbeing of people living in an urban environment and encouraging responsible pet management.
- Promoting responsible pet ownership through education, information and encouraging pet owners to register, microchip and desex their cats and dogs.

- Reducing the number of lost and wandering cats and dogs by educating pet owners about the importance of identifying, registering and maintaining control of their animals
- Meeting the requirements of the *Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW)* in relation to dogs which may be considered a nuisance, menacing, or dangerous, as well as restricted breeds **dogs**.
- Identifying and, promoting, **and assessing the suitability** and sufficiency of off-leash parks and open space areas for dog exercise **relative to continuing changes in population demographics**.
- **Monitoring compliance with the Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW) and Companion Animals Regulation 2018 (NSW), and** using enforcement sanctions where appropriate.

### Community Education

Education and awareness are critical to achieving responsible pet ownership and community harmony. This will be achieved by a range of innovative, non-regulatory approaches that focus on community engagement.

The City will implement ongoing, effective and community-sensitive education strategies to encourage and reinforce responsible pet ownership. The City's Companion Animals Liaison Officer and Authorised Officers will be at the forefront of this community education strategy.

### Identification and registration of cats and dogs

Cats and dogs must be microchipped by 12 weeks of age ~~and~~. **Dogs must be** registered by 6 months of age, **and cats must be registered by 4 months of age**.

This system helps the City and other councils in returning pets to their owners if the pets are lost, hurt or stolen.

If registration details change, **companion animal** owners must inform the City.

### Desexing

Desexing helps to reduce aggressive behaviour in animals and helps owners control their cats and dogs. It is preferable that pets be desexed unless they are intended for breeding.

Desexing greatly assists in reducing the number of abandoned companion animals and serves to prevent unnecessary suffering of unwanted animals.

### Lost, seized or surrendered pets

The City will do everything possible to return a lost pet to its owner, rather than having the animal impounded. Returning a pet safely home, rather than impounding it, is much easier if the animal is microchipped and the registration details are up to date, **and if the animal is wearing a tag on its collar with the owner's current contact phone number**.

Owners have 14 days to claim impounded microchipped pets or 7 days to claim non microchipped pets, before the animal may be re-homed.

The City is unable to accept surrendered pets from owners who no longer wish to have them. The City can provide the names and contact details of organisations who may accept surrendered pets.

The City is not authorised to accept animals seized under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (NSW)*, or seized when there is no-one available to care for the animal. In these circumstances, it is appropriate to contact the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals or other animal welfare organisations which operate under a 'No Kill' policy.



## Cat management

Cats must be identified by a form of identification that enables council to ascertain the name of the cat and the address or telephone number of the owner of the cat.

Cats are prohibited from wildlife protection areas and food preparation areas. ***Cats found in prohibited areas may be trapped and removed.***

~~Cats without an identifiable owner may be trapped and removed if they are a danger to themselves or others.~~

***The City encourages*** cat owners ~~should~~**to** keep their pets indoors after dark to minimise the opportunity for injury to the animal, protect wildlife and to reduce instances of nuisance.

## Control of dogs

Dogs must always be under the effective control of their owners, including when they are let off the leash in designated off-leash areas. A dog is not considered to be under the effective control of a person if that person has more than four dogs under his or her control.

The City encourages all dog owners to enrol their dogs in a training course if they feel they are not able to effectively control their dog. ~~The City sponsors and facilitates free dog obedience courses for City residents, run by external trainers.~~

## Off leash areas

In a high density, inner city area such as the City of Sydney, public spaces to walk or run the dog are very important. Off-leash exercise helps to relieve boredom and reduce incidences of unacceptable nuisance behaviour such as uncontrolled barking. ***The City may designate areas to be off-leash at all times or restricted times.***

To maximise opportunities for off-leash exercising and socialising of dogs, the City will provide designated off-leash parks with open space areas and ~~progressively~~**proactively** explore opportunities for additional off-leash areas ***in response to changing demographics and/or following*** ~~when~~ community feedback indicates this is appropriate. ***Designation of off-leash areas will require an approval by the City's Chief Executive Officer.***

Effective, welcoming and informative signage will be used to identify off-leash parks and open spaces. Dog-tidy stations will be installed and maintained in off-leash parks. ***The City will routinely sign-post all off-leash areas, including time restrictions where applicable.***

~~Dogs must be on a-leash unless the signs permit otherwise.~~

## Prohibited areas

Dogs are prohibited from some public places at all times, which include:

- Children's playgrounds.
- Sport and recreation areas, such as sports fields, ovals, pitches and courts (subject to Council determination and signage).
- School grounds.
- Childcare centres.
- Shopping areas (subject to Council determination and signage).
- Wildlife protection areas (subject to Council determination and signage).

- Food preparation and consumption areas, such as public barbeque facilities, although there are some exemptions to this as detailed below -
  - When in an on leash area, a dog may be in a food preparation and consumption area if it is under the effective control of a person, restrained, kept on the ground and not fed,
  - When in an off leash area, a dog may also be in a food preparation and consumption area. However, the dog does not need to be restrained, it can be fed provided it is on the ground, or it can sit on a person's lap.

A person with a disability is entitled to be accompanied by an assistance animal into or onto any building or place open to the public, including public transport.

### **Dog waste**

Owners have a legal responsibility to pick up after their dogs.

The City will provide dog tidy stations (including dog litter bags) at off-leash parks and other suitable locations.

The City's ~~rangers~~ **Authorised Officers** and the Companion Animals Liaison Officer will work with dog owners in promoting awareness of these responsibilities to encourage owners to clean up after their dogs.

### **Barking**

Persistent barking can be a nuisance for the neighbourhood and a source of community complaints.

To address dog barking the City will pursue positive and proactive approaches such as:

- Providing off-leash areas for dogs to socialise.
- Providing community education and targeted training for dog owners.
- Investigating reports of persistently barking dogs and taking appropriate action to remove any nuisance caused by barking.

### **Nuisance orders**

If the City becomes aware of any dog behaviour that may be considered a nuisance, an investigation will be undertaken by the City's ~~staff~~ Authorised Officers.

### **Dog attacks**

Dog attacks should be reported to the City as soon as practicable so that they may be investigated.

### **Menacing or dangerous dogs**

The *Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW)* details the requirements and actions which must be taken if the behaviour of a dog is considered to be menacing or dangerous.

### **Applications seeking to revoke a declaration that a dog is menacing or dangerous**

Once a declaration has been in place for 12 months, the dog owner can apply to the City to revoke the declaration that their dog is menacing or dangerous. ***Such applications will be reviewed on a case by case and merit basis. Any revocation is at the full discretion of the City.***

### **Restricted ~~breeds~~ dogs**

The owner of a restricted dog must comply with a number of control requirements:

- The dog must be desexed.

- The dog must not be in the sole charge of someone under 18 years of age.
- Signs must be displayed on the property showing the words “Warning Dangerous Dog”.
- The dog must wear a distinctive collar as prescribed by the ~~Regulations~~**Companion Animals Regulation 2018 (NSW)**.
- While the dog is on the property where it is normally kept, it must be kept in an enclosure that complies with the requirements prescribed by the ~~Regulations~~**Companion Animals Regulation 2018 (NSW)**.
- Whenever the dog is outside its enclosure it must be on a leash and must also be muzzled.

Restricted dogs may also include cross-bred dogs.

A dog owner may request a review of the breed classification applied to their animal. If so, the owner will be asked to provide an independent breed assessment report. This report and any other submissions made by the owner will be considered by qualified personnel in determining whether a reclassification is required.

### Privacy

City staff will respect the confidentiality of complainants where requested, except where disclosure is authorised by law.

Records will be kept of all complaints for future reference and will be referred to if further complaints about the particular dog or cat are received.

### Staff qualifications

City staff who are directly involved in the implementation of this Policy, such as community education, reviewing complaints about the behaviour of a dog or cat, or reviewing applications for the revocation of declarations issued under the *Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW)*, have a comprehensive understanding of the relevant legislation, as well as associated guidelines issued by the Division of Local Government.

### References

<b>Laws and standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)</i></li> <li>• <i>Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW)</i></li> <li>• <i>Companion Animals Regulation 2008<del>2018</del> (NSW)</i></li> <li>• <i>Impounding Act 1993 (NSW)</i></li> </ul>
<b>Policies and procedures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>City of Sydney</b> Compliance Policy</li> <li>• <del>Prosecution and Civil Enforcement Policy</del></li> </ul>

### Approval status

The Council approved this policy on XX Month 20XX.

### Approval history

Stage	Date	Comment	TRIM Reference
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Original Policy	23 June 2014	Approved by Council/ Endorsed by the Executive	20XX/XXXXXX
Review	October/November 2018	Full review. Changes to reflect amendments to the companion animals' legislation. Approved by Council/ Endorsed by the Executive	20XX/XXXXXX
Next review	December 2022		

### Ownership and approval

Responsibility	Role
Author	Companion Animals Liaison Officer, City Rangers
Owner	Manager, City Rangers
Endorser	Director, City Services
Approver	City of Sydney Council