

2 December 2019

At 2.00 pm



## Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee

Sydney 2030 / Green Global Connected

**Agenda**

- 1. Disclosures of Interest**
- 2. Investments Held as at 31 October 2019**
- 3. Investments Held as at 30 November 2019**
- 4. Sustainable Sydney 2050 Update**
- 5. Land Classification - 546-552 George Street, Sydney**
- 6. Licence Approval – Part of the Grandstand and Redfern Oval**
- 7. Lease Approval – Ground Floor, Level 1 and Level 2 - 46-52 Mountain Street, Ultimo**
- 8. Tender – Reject and Negotiate – Perry Park Recreation Centre Stage 2**

**Economic Development and Business Sub-Committee**

- 9. Grants and Sponsorships - NSW Business Chamber Awards Sydney City Region 2020-2021**



# 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 the City of Sydney Code of Meeting Practice and the City of Sydney Code of Conduct, Councillors are required to disclose pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting.

Councillors are also required to disclose any non-pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting.

This will include receipt of reportable political donations over the previous four years.

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.

### Investments Held as at 31 October 2019

File No: X020701

#### Summary

This report provides details of the City's investment portfolio and performance to 31 October 2019.

The City's total Investment and Cash position was \$685.1M at the end of October, with investments earning interest of \$1.1M for the month.

The majority of the City's cash and investments portfolio is held as internally restricted (\$363.3M) or externally restricted (\$116.5M) cash reserves, to satisfy the City's legislative responsibilities and to set aside specific funds for Council's funding commitments to the major initiatives within the Sustainable Sydney 2030 Community Strategic Plan.

Key commitments within the City's Long Term Financial Plan include public domain works in the CBD to support the implementation of the CBD and South East light rail project and stormwater, town centre infrastructure and community facilities in the Green Square urban renewal area. The balance of investment funds represent working capital and funding required for the City's operating and capital expenditure commitments.

The City achieved an annualised monthly return of 1.91 per cent for October, above the 30 Day Bank Bill Rate (BBR) of 0.91 per cent, the AusBond Bank Bill Index (published by Bloomberg) of 0.96 per cent and the enhanced benchmark of 1.36 per cent (BBR + 0.45 per cent) as endorsed in October 2019 as part of the Investment Strategy.

The City's annual rolling return of 2.17 per cent also continues to exceed the 12 month average 30 Day Bank Bill Rate of 1.52 per cent, AusBond Bank Bill Index of 1.65 per cent and the enhanced benchmark of 1.97 per cent (BBR + 0.45 per cent) as endorsed in the Investment Strategy in October 2019.

The structure of the City's investment portfolio continues to reflect the conservative approach outlined in the Investment Policy and Strategy, which remains appropriate for the current global and domestic economic conditions. The policy and strategy also maintain the City's commitment to sustainable investments where returns and risks are equivalent, under the environmentally and socially responsible investment criteria.

**Recommendation**

It is resolved that the Investment Report as at 31 October 2019 be received and noted.

**Attachments**

**Attachment A.** Register of Investments and Cash as at 31 October 2019

**Attachment B.** Investment Performance as at 31 October 2019

## Background

1. In accordance with the principles of financial management, cash that is surplus to the City's immediate requirements is invested within acceptable risk parameters to optimise interest income while ensuring the security of these funds.
2. Surplus cash is only invested in authorised investments that comply with governing legislation and the City's Investment Policy and Strategy.
3. The benchmark performance goal of the City's Investment Policy and Strategy is to surpass the 30 Day Bank Bill Rate (BBR) by 45 basis points while performance also continues to be measured against the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index.
4. The City's total Investment and Cash position as at 31 October 2019 was \$685.1M, a decrease of \$26.9M from the \$712.0M reported at 30 September 2019, reflecting operating income, in particular the impact of the payment of the first rates instalment for 2019/20, offset by capital works expenditure and other operational payments. A schedule detailing all of the City's investments as at the end of October is provided at Attachment A.
5. The majority of the City's cash and investments portfolio is held as internally restricted (\$363.3M) or externally restricted (\$116.5M) cash reserves, to satisfy the City's legislative responsibilities and to set aside specific funds for Council's funding commitments to the major initiatives within the Sustainable Sydney 2030 Community Strategic Plan.
6. Key commitments within the City's Long Term Financial Plan include public domain works in the CBD to support the implementation of the CBD and South East light rail project and stormwater, town centre infrastructure and community facilities in the Green Square urban renewal area. The balance of investment funds represents working capital and funding required for the City's operating and other capital expenditure commitments.
7. The City achieved an annualised monthly return of 1.91 per cent for October, above the 30 Day Bank Bill Rate (BBR) of 0.91 per cent, the AusBond Bank Bill Index (published by Bloomberg) of 0.96 per cent and the enhanced benchmark of 1.36 per cent (BBR + 0.45 per cent) as endorsed in October 2019 as part of the Investment Strategy.
8. The City's annual rolling return of 2.17 per cent also continues to exceed the 12 month average 30 Day Bank Bill Rate of 1.52 per cent, AusBond Bank Bill Index of 1.65 per cent and the enhanced benchmark of 1.97 per cent (BBR + 0.45 per cent) as endorsed in the Investment Strategy in October 2019.
9. The RBA last adjusted the official cash rate on 1 October 2019, when it was reduced to 0.75 per cent. The market had anticipated a reduction and responded accordingly, and lower yields on investments have had a sustained adverse impact on the City's portfolio return. These low interest rates are anticipated to continue, though in recent periods some improvement in longer term interest rates has been noted.
10. The structure of the City's investment portfolio continues to reflect the conservative approach outlined in the Investment Policy and Strategy, which remains appropriate for the current global and domestic economic conditions.

11. As noted in previous investment reports, the downgrade of 23 financial institutions' global ratings by Standard and Poors in May 2017 incorporated a downgrade of both Bank of Queensland and Bendigo & Adelaide Bank long-term rating from an A- to a BBB+. As the City's Investment Policy limits the maximum amount that may be invested with sub 'A' rated institutions to \$10M each, the policy's "grandfathering" provisions have been applied to allow the existing investments to be maintained or divested in accordance with all regular investment considerations.

## **Key Implications**

### **Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030**

12. The City's investments accord with all legislative and policy requirements, as detailed below, and continue to achieve returns above minimum benchmark rates.

### **Financial Implications**

13. The City's investments earned interest of \$1.1M for the month of October 2019 which is in line with the budgeted earnings of \$1.1M. Investment earnings for the full year are forecast to be on budget at \$13.8M.

## **Relevant Legislation**

14. Council is authorised to invest its surplus cash under Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993.
15. The Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 (Clause 212) requires the City to provide a written monthly report of all monies invested, under Section 625 of the Act.
16. The Investment Policy and Strategy was revised in October 2019, maintaining Council's commitment to give preference to sustainable investments where returns and risks are equivalent to other investments. The revision also maintained the broadening of the definition of environmentally harmful activities to include specific reference to coal, gas and oil.
17. The City's investments accord with the Minister's Investment Order, the Office of Local Government's Investment Policy Guidelines, and the City's own Investment Policy and Strategy as adopted by Council on 28 October 2019.

## **Critical Dates / Time Frames**

18. A monthly investment report must be submitted for Council's information and review within the following month.

**Public Consultation**

19. Consultation is regularly undertaken with a number of financial institutions and investment advisers to consider options and ensure the City continues to maximise its investment return within appropriate risk parameters.
20. City staff meet regularly with representatives of each of the 'Big 4' banks and NSW TCorp. At these meetings City staff actively advocate for Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) opportunities.
21. To date, feedback from these meetings has been that there is a well-known appetite in the market for these products and they are investigating the development of suitable products, however it has been challenging to match the level of funds to available Socially Responsible Investment opportunities that meet both the credit risk and maturity profile requirements of Council.
22. As noted in previous Investment Reports, Westpac has been able to bring a Green Tailored Deposit product to market. Since November 2018, the City has invested \$70M in eleven tranches, including two additional acquisitions of \$15M in October 2019.

**BILL CARTER**

Chief Financial Officer

# **Attachment A**

**Register of Investments and Cash  
as at 31 October 2019**



**Register of Investments and Cash as at 31 October 2019**

Institution	Rating	Face Value \$	Amortised Value at 31 Oct 2019 \$	Monthly Net Returns	Monthly Net Return Annualised	Net Returns Rolling 12 Months	Maturity Date	Investment Date	Term (months)
<b>Call Account</b>									
Westpac Bank	AA	79,631,910.97	79,631,910.97	0.10%	1.25%	1.25%	31-Oct-19	22-May-12	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>79,631,911</b>	<b>79,631,911</b>	<b>0.10%</b>	<b>1.25%</b>	<b>1.25%</b>			
<b>Term Deposits (TD)</b>									
Bankwest	AA	10,000,000.00	10,000,000.00	0.11%	1.30%	1.30%	7-Nov-19	8-Oct-19	1
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.10%	1.25%	1.25%	12-Nov-19	9-Oct-19	1
Bankwest	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.10%	1.25%	1.25%	13-Nov-19	14-Oct-19	1
IMB	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.13%	1.60%	1.60%	28-Jan-20	30-Oct-19	3
National Aust Bank	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.13%	1.58%	1.58%	29-Jan-20	31-Oct-19	3
Bank of Queensland	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.13%	1.60%	1.60%	27-Apr-20	30-Oct-19	6
Bank of Queensland	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.13%	1.60%	1.60%	28-Apr-20	31-Oct-19	6
Credit Union Australia	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.13%	1.61%	1.61%	9-Jun-20	8-Oct-19	8
Commonwealth Bank	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.13%	1.54%	1.54%	29-Nov-19	30-Sep-19	2
ME Bank	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.13%	1.50%	1.50%	1-Nov-19	24-Sep-19	1
Commonwealth Bank	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.13%	1.60%	1.60%	11-Nov-19	10-Sep-19	2
Commonwealth Bank	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.13%	1.62%	1.62%	15-Nov-19	17-Sep-19	2
ME Bank	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.13%	1.60%	1.60%	27-Nov-19	27-Sep-19	2
Commonwealth Bank	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.13%	1.67%	1.67%	2-Dec-19	2-Sep-19	3
IMB	A	10,000,000.00	10,000,000.00	0.13%	1.67%	1.67%	3-Dec-19	3-Sep-19	3
Suncorp	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.13%	1.65%	1.65%	6-Mar-20	4-Sep-19	6
Suncorp	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.13%	1.70%	1.70%	10-Mar-20	9-Sep-19	6
Suncorp	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.13%	1.70%	1.70%	12-Mar-20	10-Sep-19	6
Commonwealth Bank	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.13%	1.64%	1.64%	31-Mar-20	3-Sep-19	7
Suncorp	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.13%	1.70%	1.70%	9-Apr-20	9-Sep-19	7
National Aust Bank	AA	10,000,000.00	10,000,000.00	0.14%	1.65%	1.65%	4-Nov-19	6-Aug-19	3
National Aust Bank	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.14%	1.65%	1.65%	5-Nov-19	5-Nov-18	12
National Aust Bank	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.15%	1.76%	1.76%	6-Nov-19	6-Nov-18	12
National Aust Bank	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.14%	1.71%	1.71%	8-Nov-19	12-Aug-19	3
Bank of Queensland	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.14%	1.65%	1.65%	12-Nov-19	15-Feb-19	9
Commonwealth Bank	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.14%	1.65%	1.65%	26-Nov-19	26-Aug-19	3
Credit Union Australia	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.15%	1.76%	1.76%	28-Nov-19	29-Nov-18	12
Commonwealth Bank	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.15%	1.75%	1.75%	29-Nov-19	29-Aug-19	3
National Aust Bank	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.14%	1.72%	1.72%	4-Dec-19	6-Aug-19	4
Credit Union Australia	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.14%	1.72%	1.72%	6-Dec-19	7-Dec-18	12
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.14%	1.65%	1.65%	9-Dec-19	30-Aug-19	3
ME Bank	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.14%	1.67%	1.67%	10-Dec-19	29-Mar-19	8
Bank of Queensland	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.16%	1.86%	1.86%	13-Dec-19	25-Feb-19	10
Commonwealth Bank	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.17%	2.00%	2.00%	17-Dec-19	22-Jul-19	5
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.15%	1.85%	1.85%	20-Dec-19	25-Mar-19	9
Credit Union Australia Ltd	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.23%	2.73%	2.73%	3-Jan-20	5-Jul-19	6
ME Bank	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.23%	2.73%	2.73%	10-Jan-20	14-Aug-19	5
Bankwest	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.23%	2.75%	2.75%	17-Jan-20	24-Jul-19	6
ME Bank	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.23%	2.77%	2.77%	20-Jan-20	21-Feb-19	11
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.24%	2.85%	2.85%	4-Feb-20	30-Aug-19	5
Credit Union Australia	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.21%	2.55%	2.55%	10-Feb-20	11-Feb-19	12
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.23%	2.70%	2.70%	14-Feb-20	19-Aug-19	6
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.21%	2.55%	2.55%	17-Feb-20	20-Aug-19	6
Bankwest	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.23%	2.75%	2.75%	18-Feb-20	21-Aug-19	6
Bank of Queensland	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.23%	2.78%	2.78%	6-Mar-20	8-Mar-19	12
ME Bank	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.23%	2.70%	2.70%	16-Mar-20	18-Mar-19	12
Commonwealth Bank	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.22%	2.65%	2.65%	20-Mar-20	23-Aug-19	7
National Aust Bank	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.21%	2.55%	2.55%	31-Mar-20	1-Apr-19	12
Westpac Banking Corporation (3 months BBSW + 80 points)	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.15%	1.77%	2.29%	13-Feb-20	12-Feb-19	12
ANZ Bank (90 days BBSW + 98 points)	AA	10,000,000.00	10,000,000.00	0.16%	1.93%	2.62%	28-Aug-20	28-Aug-15	60
ANZ Bank (90 days BBSW + 95 points)	AA	10,000,000.00	10,000,000.00	0.16%	1.95%	2.59%	31-Aug-20	1-Sep-15	60
Westpac Bank (3 months BBSW + 88 points)	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.16%	1.87%	2.20%	14-May-21	16-May-19	24
Westpac Banking Corporation (2.80% Fixed 1 year & 90 days BBSW + 82 points)	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.15%	1.75%	2.62%	20-Sep-21	21-Sep-18	36
Westpac Banking Corporation (2.90% Fixed 2 years & 90 days BBSW + 90 points)	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.14%	1.67%	2.80%	11-Oct-21	12-Oct-17	48
Westpac Banking Corporation (2.94% Fixed 2 years & 3 months BBSW + 82 points 3 years)	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.25%	2.94%	2.94%	8-Nov-21	6-Nov-18	36
Westpac Banking Corporation (3% Fixed 2 years & 90 days BBSW + 133 points 3 years)	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.20%	2.37%	2.93%	15-Dec-21	15-Dec-16	60
Westpac Banking Corporation (3% Fixed 2 years & RBA cash rate + 126 points 3 years)	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.19%	2.32%	2.89%	31-Aug-22	31-Aug-17	60
Westpac Banking Corporation (2.80% Fixed 1 year & 90 days BBSW + 85 points)	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.15%	1.80%	2.72%	27-Sep-22	28-Sep-18	48
Westpac Banking Corporation (2.98% Fixed 2 years & 3 months BBSW + 82 points 2 years)	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.25%	2.98%	2.98%	21-Nov-22	21-Nov-18	48
<b>Term Deposits (TD) 'Green Tailored Deposits'</b>									
Westpac Bank - Green Tailored Deposit	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.13%	1.67%	1.67%	17-Apr-20	1-Oct-19	7
Westpac Bank - Green Tailored Deposit	AA	10,000,000.00	10,000,000.00	0.13%	1.67%	1.67%	24-Apr-20	1-Oct-19	7
Westpac Bank - Green Tailored Deposit (90 days BBSW + 75 points)	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.23%	1.73%	1.73%	26-Aug-20	27-Aug-19	12
Westpac Bank - Green Tailored Deposit (90 days BBSW + 75 points)	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.23%	1.71%	1.71%	27-Aug-20	28-Aug-19	12
Westpac Bank - Green Tailored Deposit (90 days BBSW + 75 points)	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.13%	1.72%	1.72%	2-Sep-20	2-Sep-19	12
Westpac Banking Corporation - Green Tailored Deposit (3 Months BBSW + 93 points)	AA	10,000,000.00	10,000,000.00	0.23%	1.89%	2.48%	27-Nov-23	26-Nov-18	60
Westpac Banking Corporation - Green Tailored Deposit (2.97% Fixed 2 years & 3 months BBSW + 93 points 3 years)	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.23%	2.97%	2.97%	29-Nov-23	30-Nov-18	60
Westpac Banking Corporation - Green Tailored Deposit (3.00% Fixed 1 years & 3 months BBSW + 105 points 4 years)	AA	10,000,000.00	10,000,000.00	0.25%	3.00%	3.00%	24-Jan-24	25-Jan-19	60
Westpac Banking Corporation - Green Tailored Deposit (2.85% Fixed 1 years & 3 months BBSW + 100 points 4 years)	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.23%	2.85%	2.85%	28-Feb-24	1-Mar-19	60
Westpac Banking Corporation - Green Tailored Deposit (2.75% Fixed 1 year & 3 months BBSW + 100 points 4 years)	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.23%	2.75%	2.75%	11-Mar-24	13-Mar-19	60
Westpac Banking Corporation - Green Tailored Deposit (2.65% Fixed 1 year & 3 months BBSW + 100 points 4 years)	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.23%	2.65%	2.65%	22-Mar-24	25-Mar-19	60
<b>Total</b>		<b>390,000,000</b>	<b>390,000,000</b>	<b>0.17%</b>	<b>1.99%</b>	<b>2.11%</b>			

**Register of Investments and Cash as at 31 October 2019**

Institution	Rating	Face Value \$	Amortised Value at 31 Oct 2019 \$	Monthly Net Returns	Monthly Net Return Annualised	Net Returns Rolling 12 Months	Maturity Date	Investment Date	Term (months)
<b>Floating Rate Notes (FRN)</b>									
Westpac Banking Corporation (90 days BBSW + 90 points)	AA	10,000,000.00	10,000,000.00	0.15%	1.80%	2.51%	22-Jan-20	22-Jan-15	60
Royal Bank of Canada (90 days BBSW + 95 points)	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.16%	1.92%	2.59%	10-Feb-20	10-Feb-15	60
Bank of Queensland (90 days BBSW + 105 points)	BBB	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.17%	2.02%	2.69%	12-Feb-20	12-Feb-15	60
Greater Bank (90 days BBSW + 145 points)	BBB	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.20%	2.41%	3.01%	24-Feb-20	24-Feb-17	36
Newcastle Permanent Building Society (90 days BBSW + 135 points)	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.18%	2.20%	2.97%	7-Apr-20	7-Apr-15	60
Newcastle Permanent Building Society (90 days BBSW + 135 points)	BBB	7,500,000.00	7,440,825.00	0.18%	2.20%	2.97%	7-Apr-20	18-Jul-16	45
National Australia Bank (90 days BBSW + 80 points)	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.15%	1.78%	2.44%	3-Jun-20	3-Jun-15	60
Commonwealth Bank (90 days BBSW + 90 points)	AA	10,000,000.00	10,000,000.00	0.15%	1.81%	2.52%	17-Jul-20	17-Jul-15	60
Westpac Banking Corporation (90 days BBSW + 90 points)	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.15%	1.81%	2.46%	28-Jul-20	28-Jul-15	60
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank (90 days BBSW + 110 points)	BBB	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.17%	2.07%	2.71%	18-Aug-20	18-Aug-15	60
AMP Bank (90 days BBSW + 75 points)	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.13%	1.60%	2.37%	6-Oct-20	6-Oct-17	36
Suncorp Bank (90 days BBSW + 125 points)	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.18%	2.16%	2.82%	20-Oct-20	20-Oct-15	60
Westpac Banking Corporation (90 days BBSW + 108 points)	AA	15,000,000.00	15,000,000.00	0.16%	1.97%	2.64%	28-Oct-20	28-Oct-15	60
National Australia Bank (90 days BBSW + 108 points)	AA	10,000,000.00	10,000,000.00	0.17%	2.07%	2.70%	5-Nov-20	5-Nov-15	60
ME Bank (90 days BBSW + 125 points)	BBB	2,250,000.00	2,250,000.00	0.18%	2.20%	2.88%	9-Nov-20	9-Nov-17	36
Commonwealth Bank (90 days BBSW + 115 points)	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.17%	2.05%	2.77%	18-Jan-21	20-Jan-16	60
Heritage Bank (90 days BBSW + 123 points)	BBB	3,500,000.00	3,500,000.00	0.18%	2.18%	2.82%	29-Mar-21	29-Mar-18	36
ANZ Bank (90 days BBSW + 118 points)	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.17%	2.03%	2.80%	7-Apr-21	7-Apr-16	60
Suncorp Bank (90 days BBSW + 138 points)	A	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.19%	2.23%	2.99%	12-Apr-21	12-Apr-16	60
ME Bank (90 days BBSW + 127 points)	BBB	2,500,000.00	2,500,000.00	0.18%	2.12%	2.88%	16-Apr-21	17-Apr-18	60
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank (90 days BBSW + 146 points)	BBB	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.20%	2.37%	3.08%	20-Apr-21	20-Apr-16	60
Bank of China - Sydney Branch (90 days BBSW + 103 points)	A	4,500,000.00	4,500,000.00	0.17%	2.02%	2.66%	15-Nov-21	15-Nov-18	36
Commonwealth Bank (90 days BBSW + 85 points)	AAA	4,600,000.00	4,600,000.00	0.15%	1.82%	2.46%	17-Nov-21	17-Nov-16	60
ANZ Bank (90 days BBSW + 88 points)	AA	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	0.16%	1.87%	2.43%	8-Feb-22	8-Feb-19	36
Credit Union Australia (90 days BBSW + 123 points)	A	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00	0.19%	2.23%	2.71%	4-Mar-22	4-Mar-19	36
ME Bank (90 days BBSW + 98 points)	BBB	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	0.16%	1.88%	2.07%	18-Jul-22	18-Jul-19	36
Suncorp Bank (90 days BBSW + 97 points)	A	2,500,000.00	2,500,000.00	0.16%	1.94%	2.58%	16-Aug-22	16-Aug-17	60
Suncorp Bank (90 days BBSW + 97 points)	A	4,000,000.00	4,013,240.00	0.16%	1.94%	2.58%	16-Aug-22	31-Oct-18	45
Bank of Queensland (90 days BBSW + 105 points)	BBB	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	0.17%	2.04%	2.68%	3-Feb-23	5-Feb-18	60
Westpac Bank (90 days BBSW + 83 points)	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.15%	1.82%	2.45%	6-Mar-23	6-Mar-18	60
ANZ Bank (90 days BBSW + 90 points)	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.15%	1.85%	2.51%	9-May-23	9-May-18	60
National Australia Bank (90 days BBSW + 90 points)	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.16%	1.87%	2.51%	16-May-23	16-May-18	60
Commonwealth Bank (90 days BBSW + 93 points)	AA	3,500,000.00	3,500,000.00	0.16%	1.90%	2.54%	16-Aug-23	16-Aug-18	60
Suncorp Bank (90 days BBSW + 77 points)	A	4,500,000.00	4,500,000.00	0.15%	1.82%	2.39%	13-Sep-23	13-Sep-18	60
National Australia Bank (90 days BBSW + 93 points)	AA	3,500,000.00	3,500,000.00	0.16%	1.87%	2.52%	26-Sep-23	26-Sep-18	60
ANZ Bank (90 days BBSW + 103 points)	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.17%	2.02%	2.63%	6-Dec-23	6-Dec-18	60
National Australia Bank (90 days BBSW + 104 points)	AA	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	0.17%	1.99%	2.46%	26-Feb-24	26-Feb-19	60
National Australia Bank (90 days BBSW + 92 points)	AA	3,200,000.00	3,200,000.00	0.15%	1.84%	2.03%	19-Jun-24	20-Jun-19	60
Westpac Banking Corporation (90 days BBSW + 88 points)	AA	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	0.15%	1.85%	2.15%	16-Aug-24	16-May-19	63
ANZ Bank (90 days BBSW + 77 points)	AA	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	0.15%	1.74%	1.74%	29-Aug-24	29-Aug-19	60
<b>Floating Rate Notes (FRN) 'Green/Climate Bonds'</b>									
ANZ Bank Green Bond (Fixed rate @ 3.25% semi annual)	AA	5,000,000.00	4,994,281.93	0.27%	3.25%	3.25%	3-Jun-20	3-Jun-15	60
Commonwealth Bank Climate Bond (90 days BBSW + 92 points)	AA	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	0.16%	1.87%	2.59%	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-17	60
<b>Total</b>		<b>210,550,000</b>	<b>210,498,347</b>	<b>0.17%</b>	<b>2.00%</b>	<b>2.62%</b>			
<b>Total Investments</b>		<b>680,181,911</b>	<b>680,130,258</b>	<b>0.16%</b>	<b>1.91%</b>	<b>2.17%</b>			
<b>Benchmark: 30 Day Bank Bill Index</b>				<b>0.08%</b>	<b>0.91%</b>	<b>1.52%</b>			
<b>Benchmark: Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index</b>				<b>0.08%</b>	<b>0.96%</b>	<b>1.65%</b>			
<b>City of Sydney's available bank balance as at 31 October 2019</b>		<b>4,979,017.88</b>	<b>4,979,018</b>						
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS &amp; CASH</b>		<b>685,160,929</b>	<b>685,109,276</b>						

**Summary of Net Investment Movements - October 2019**

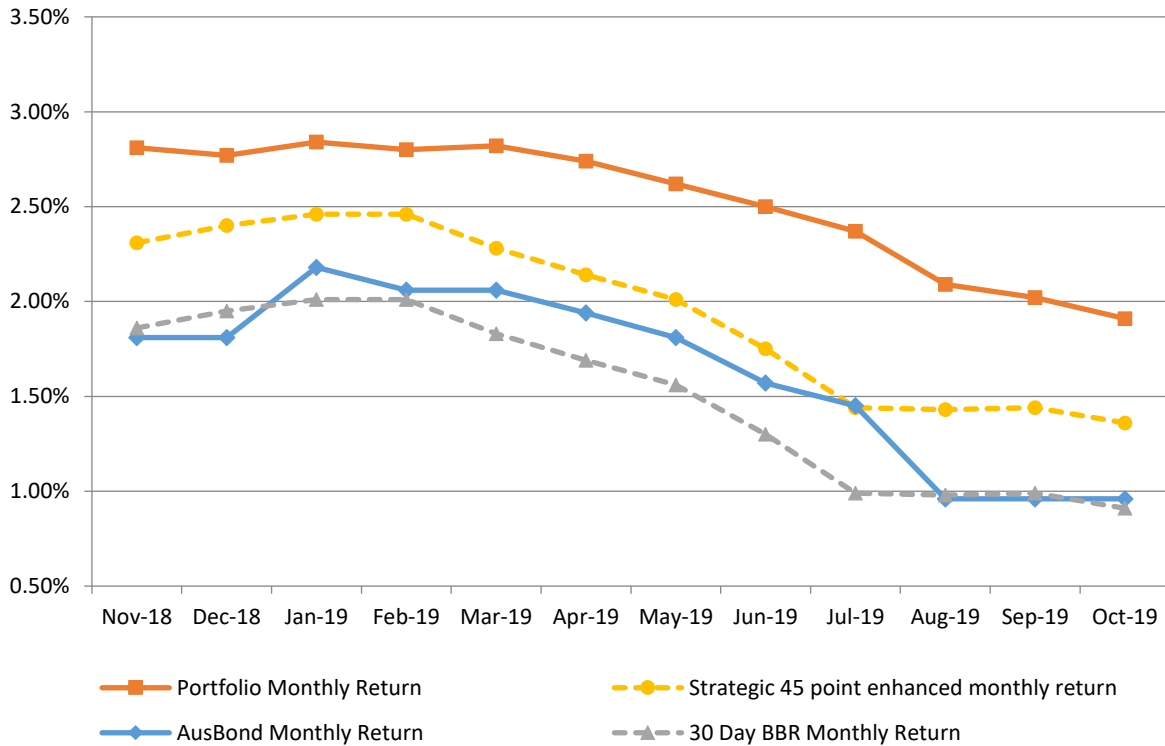
Financial Institution	Fund Rating	Net Invest/(Recall) Amount \$	Commentary
<b><u>Call Account</u></b>			
Westpac Banking Corporation	AA	50,000,000	Redeemed matured investments and placed in Call account for operational use.
<b><u>Term Deposits (TDs)</u></b>			
Bank of Queensland	A	10,000,000	Redeemed matured investments and placed in higher yielding Term Deposits.
Credit Union Australia Ltd	A	5,000,000	
IMB	A	5,000,000	
Westpac Banking Corporation	AA	15,000,000	
Bankwest	AA	(40,000,000)	Redemption of matured Term Deposits, placed in call account for operational use or reinvested with higher yielding products.
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	AA	(20,000,000)	
Members Equity Bank	A	(10,000,000)	
National Australia Bank	AA	(25,000,000)	
<b><u>Floating Rate Notes (FRNs)</u></b>			
No new investments or redemptions in October			

# **Attachment B**

**Investment Performance  
as at 31 October 2019**

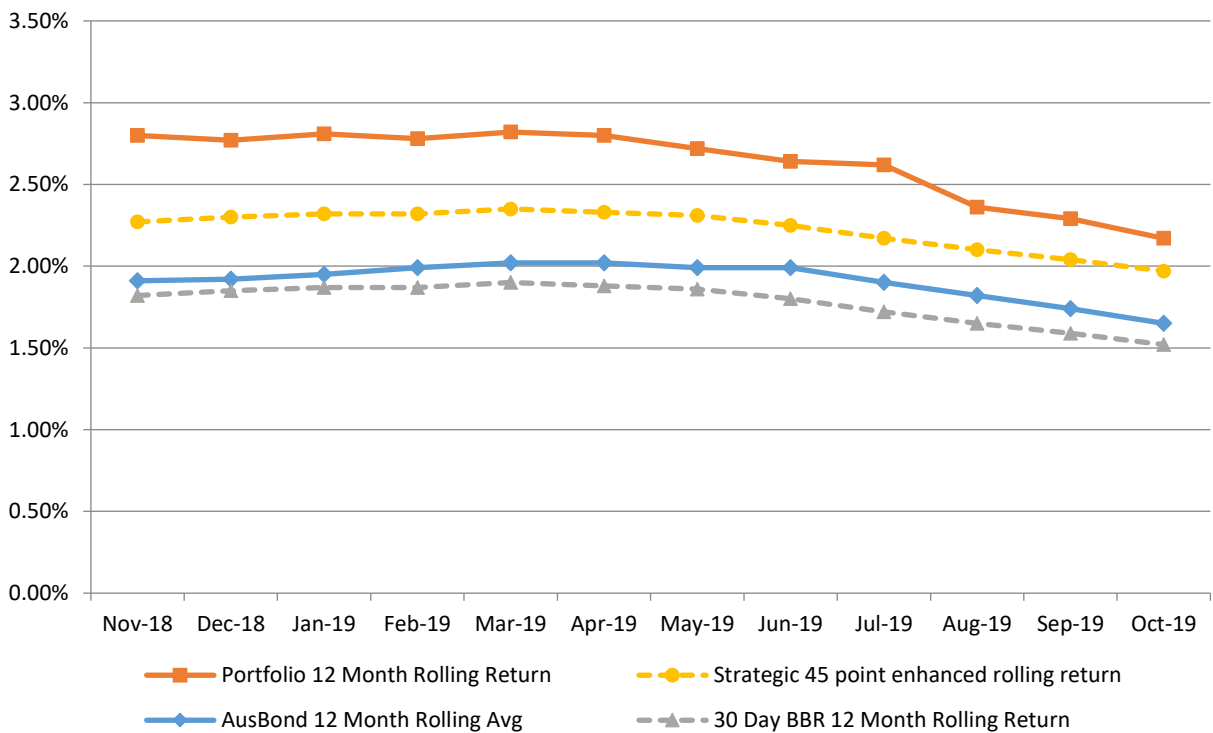
## Monthly Results

**Actual Portfolio vs Strategic Enhanced Benchmark vs AusBond Benchmark vs 30 Day BBR Benchmark  
October 2019**



## 12 Month Rolling Averages

**Actual Portfolio vs Strategic Enhanced Benchmark vs AusBond Benchmark vs 30 Day BBR Benchmark  
October 2019**



**Item 3.**

**Investments Held as at 30 November 2019**

Document to Follow

## **Item 4.**

### **Sustainable Sydney 2050 Update**

**File No: X012101**

#### **Summary**

In August 2018, Council resolved to begin work to develop Sustainable Sydney 2050; an evolution of Sustainable Sydney 2030 that incorporates the Resilient Sydney Strategy, includes new research and technical advice and is underpinned by comprehensive engagement with all those who have an interest in our city.

Considerable work has taken place to progress the development of Sustainable Sydney 2050.

A comprehensive community engagement program was developed and implemented, ensuring all those who have an interest in the future of our city have had an opportunity to contribute.

This has been complemented by a research program that explored global and local issues likely to impact our city and community in the decades to 2050.

The analysis and insights from this work have begun to shape the structure and contents of Sustainable Sydney 2050.

This report provides a summary of the activities undertaken to date to develop Sustainable Sydney 2050 and the key findings from the community engagement and research programs. Components of the draft framework and proposed structure for Sustainable Sydney 2050 are also included in this report for endorsement.

## Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the Sustainable Sydney 2050 Update report;
- (B) Council note the Sustainable Sydney 2050 Community Engagement reports included as Attachments A to J to the subject report; and
- (C) Council note the Citizen's Jury report included as Attachment K to the subject report, and direct the Chief Executive Officer to respond to the Citizen's Jury recommendations at the appropriate time.

## Attachments

- Attachment A.** Community Engagement Insights Report
- Attachment B.** Shaping Sydney to 2050 Stakeholder Event Summary Report
- Attachment C.** The Outcomes of the Children and Youth Engagement Program
- Attachment D.** Small Business Workshop Report
- Attachment E.** Late Night and Creative Sector Workshop Report
- Attachment F.** First Peoples Dialogue Forum Report
- Attachment G.** Mandarin Speaking Community Sessions Report
- Attachment H.** Spanish Speaking Community Sessions Report
- Attachment I.** Hearing From You Community Sessions Report
- Attachment J.** I Am Sydney
- Attachment K.** Citizen's Jury Report (Unedited Version)



## Background

1. In August 2018, Council resolved to begin work to develop Sustainable Sydney 2050; an evolution of Sustainable Sydney 2030 that incorporates the Resilient Sydney Strategy, includes new research and technical advice and is underpinned by comprehensive engagement with all those who have an interest in our city.
2. This report provides a summary of the activities undertaken to date to develop Sustainable Sydney 2050 and the key findings from the community engagement and research programs. Components of the draft framework for Sustainable Sydney 2050 are also included in this report for consideration.

## Research

3. A comprehensive research program has been undertaken which includes studies commissioned by the City as well as the review and analysis of pre-existing reports commissioned and published by other organisations.
4. The studies commissioned by the City explored three key areas of interest. The first was to provide new information on important content areas for the 2030 to 2050 time period. This enabled a deeper exploration of areas where considerable change is forecast in the decades beyond 2030. Sydney's future economy for example, is one area that was examined broadly. As well, specific areas such as the green economy and innovation precincts were also studied. The Camperdown Ultimo Collaboration Area Innovation Study will be reported to Council in December as part of the Camperdown Ultimo Alliance and Workplan Report. Two other economic studies will be provided to Councillors via CEO update and published on the City's website.
5. The City also commissioned environmental research including work from the Cooperative Research Centre for Low Carbon Living. This study drew from their previously completed research to provide advice specific to our local area on how to mitigate urban heat. The work will inform Sustainable Sydney 2050, is aligned with Resilient Sydney action 9, and will be incorporated in design codes as they are updated. The report is currently available on the website for the Cooperative Research Centre for Low Carbon Living  
[http://www.lowcarbonlivingcrc.com.au/sites/all/files/publications\\_file\\_attachments/sp0012u3\\_-\\_cooling\\_sydney\\_strategy\\_final\\_-\\_web.pdf](http://www.lowcarbonlivingcrc.com.au/sites/all/files/publications_file_attachments/sp0012u3_-_cooling_sydney_strategy_final_-_web.pdf).
6. The second area of research focus was to inform our ongoing benchmarking programs by providing an additional data set. The City's Community Wellbeing Indicators and Public Spaces Public Life studies have been updated with new, current information as a result. The Community Wellbeing Indicators have been published on the City's website following its circulation to Councillors in early November. The Public Spaces Public Life study will be reported to Council in early 2020.
7. The third area of research was to examine new issues; those that have recently emerged as well as those that might not have been addressed in Sustainable Sydney 2030. Understanding inequality in our community, understanding the need for cultural infrastructure and the use of technology in the city were just some of the areas explored. The draft Smart City Framework was reported to Council in November. The Cultural Infrastructure Study: Making Space for Culture and the Sydney Equality Indicators Framework will be provided to Councillors via CEO update and published on the City's website early 2020.

8. The jobs and housing targets for Sustainable Sydney 2050 have been provided from the research that supports the draft Local Strategic Planning Statement. The jobs and housing targets will be the same in both plans. The draft Local Strategic Planning Statement was reported to Council in August 2019 for exhibition and is intended to be brought back to Council in early 2020 for adoption.
9. Additionally, the insights drawn from published reports have informed a deeper understanding of the major trends and issues influencing Sydney and people's experience of our city over coming decades. Rapid urbanisation and the consequences this brings, the climate emergency, the mass confluence of disruptive technologies, an ageing population and chronic affordability issues are global trends or issues that will require a response that takes account of our local context.
10. The findings from the research program have been used to inform engagement activities and are an important part of the evidence base for Sustainable Sydney 2050.

### Community Engagement

11. The community engagement program was guided by the City's community engagement principles. Clear outcomes and enabling actions were identified against each of the principles to ensure a rigorous and robust process. These are described below.
  - (a) Principle 1: integrity - the outcome identified was that the engagement would be timely, accessible, planned and meaningful. Early engagement was undertaken with community groups, advisory panels and staff to co-design aspects of the consultation.
  - (b) Principle 2: inclusive - the outcome identified was that the engagement would include young people, people with disability, people from linguistically and culturally diverse communities, and vulnerable people. It would target residents, workers, visitors, businesses and land owners, and we would actively seek engagement from the 18-35 year old demographic which is the largest age group in the city and most difficult to reach.
  - (c) Principle 3: promotes dialogue - the outcomes identified were that conversations would not be siloed, people from community and experts would have the opportunity to hear each other's perspectives, the engagement would build civic efficacy and would contribute to a more empathetic, connected community.
  - (d) Principle 4: influence - outcomes identified were that we would report back to our communities and review and evaluate the effectiveness of our engagement activities.
12. Phase 1 of the community engagement program (November 2018 - June 2019) consisted of:
  - (a) an online survey of 5,091 people;
  - (b) phone survey of 301 residents;
  - (c) thirty-three pop-ups at events in our villages and libraries including at the disability expo held in Town Hall, at the Wayside Chapel and three community housing forums;

- (d) twelve local community sessions (Attachment I) including two in Mandarin, one in Spanish (Attachments G and H) and one with strata residents;
  - (e) twenty-three workshops with young people (20 schools, one university, one Museum of Contemporary Art youth ambassadors, one childcare centre);
  - (f) two creative and community leadership programs (I am Sydney - Collection of Citizens Stories attached at Attachment J) with the Story Factory and Emerging Civic Leaders with YVote);
  - (g) five stakeholder workshops with First Nations, business, cultural and night life sectors, all City advisory panels as well as a large stakeholders workshop at Sydney Town Hall;
  - (h) briefings of community and business groups including Pymont, Millers Point, Alexandria resident groups, Pymont Business and Surry Hills Business and Better Buildings Partnership;
  - (i) one stakeholders update briefing; and
  - (j) meetings with the City's advisory panels.
13. A community engagement insights report (Attachment A) has been prepared that analyses the data inputs from the first phase of engagement (November 2018 - June 2019). The key themes identified across all the engagement are described below.
- (a) A city for people - People want a city that is green with trees and plants, has quality public spaces and different types of housing that is affordable. It is a socially supportive community that is safe and inclusive.
  - (b) A city that moves - People want to be using public transport, walking and bikes to move around. There is a reduction of cars, where streets and public spaces are easily accessible to people. The city is welcoming and people can readily get to where they need to go.
  - (c) An environmentally responsive city - People overwhelmingly want a response to climate change and the climate emergency. They want a city with sustainable waste management and use of resources. People want to see a reduction in emissions, greater recycling and reusing of products and changes to how we use our city to reduce our impact on the environment.
  - (d) A lively, cultural and creative city - People want a vibrant city, weaving its culture, heritage, entertainment and bold ideas through the workings of the city. The city has diverse shopping and entertainment options and lively nightlife that includes many options. Locals and visitors gather for events and cultural experiences in public spaces.
  - (e) A city with a future focused economy - People want a city that is supported by digital infrastructure that sustains the creation of new jobs and allows businesses to respond to changing customer needs. People are optimistic about the opportunities that will be available in terms of education, jobs, innovation and the economy.

14. An additional report (Shaping Sydney to 2050 Stakeholder Event Summary Report at Attachment B) was produced to analyse the data captured at the large stakeholder event held in June 2019 where 300 stakeholders undertook workshop activities at Sydney Town Hall. The overarching sentiment was that Sydney should be focused on being a place that prioritises people. To achieve this principle the common themes from the workshop were that Sydney needs to be more affordable, foster an inclusive community, reconsider and repurpose public and private space, have future focused transport solutions, improved environmental outcomes and an innovative economy that assists all to prosper.
15. The outcomes of the children and youth engagement program (Attachment C) showed young people want a city that is green with plants and nature; sustainable where people use resources efficiently; safe, accessible and easy to get around by public transport, walking and bike riding; creative and innovative - a place where people have fun; diverse, welcoming, free from discrimination where lots of different people live happily together.
16. The top issues of concern to high school students were climate change and housing affordability.
17. The report from the business workshop (Attachment D) showed alignment with the broad community engagement. Businesses were looking to a future focused economy, pleasant streets and public spaces for people, a lively 24 hour city and sustainability was seen as a business advantage.
18. The nightlife and creative sector workshop (Attachment E) also aligned with the broad community engagement. It highlighted the need for Sydney to be brave and confident in its own unique identity. The participants strongly advocated for an accessible and inclusive cultural environment where creatives have the opportunity to live and work.
19. The first nations dialogue forum report (Attachment F) strongly recommended the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authority in governance and decision making, truth telling, financial security for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and respect of the natural world and returning to values that are in sync with nature.
20. Phase 2 of the engagement program (August 2019 - November 2019) consisted of a series of deliberative engagement processes including a children's and a youth summit and a citizens' jury as well as five Round Tables with invited stakeholders and a day long 'Sydney Emergent' innovators expo.
21. The children's and youth summits were day-long workshops where the students from different schools in and around the local area worked together to develop ideas for action for Sydney in the future (Attachment C).
22. The City partnered with New Democracy to coordinate a citizens' jury of 43 randomly selected and demographically matched community members which included residents, students and workers. The Jury worked together over three months to make recommendations to the City on what concepts should be implemented in Sydney by 2050 so the community's vision for the city is realised. The Jury deliberated on the many hundreds of responses to the public call for project ideas as well as the similar number of ideas that had come through all facets of the engagement program.
23. The City will provide a detailed response to the Jury's recommendations (Attachment K) at a later time.

### Proposed Framework

24. The draft Sustainable Sydney 2050 plan (the Plan) is being developed using the structure of Sustainable Sydney 2030 as its basis. That is, the Plan will include a vision for our city to 2050, 10 targets will measure progress and 10 strategic directions will provide the framework for action. In addition, it is proposed to include a set of 10 principles into the structure of the Plan.
25. The vision, principles and strategic directions are expanded in the sections that follow. The targets are still in development and will be included in the draft Plan.
26. Consistent with Sustainable Sydney 2030, the vision for 2050 is for our city to be green, global and connected.
27. The development of the principles has been informed by the findings of our research and engagement program. It is intended that their application will influence the City's decision making. The proposed principles are:
  - (a) We listen to the voices and value the knowledge of the First Peoples of Australia
  - (b) We respond to the climate emergency
  - (c) We respect and care for the natural environment
  - (d) We promote a just transition to a zero carbon economy
  - (e) We champion a green and circular economy that gives highest value to our resources
  - (f) We empower the community in the governance of their city
  - (g) We build the resilience of our society and economy
  - (h) We protect the commons and public interest
  - (i) We support the ethical use of data and technology
  - (j) We lead through stewardship and collaboration
28. The intention of the proposed ten principles is set out below. It is proposed that they are further refined and finalised during the preparation of the draft Plan:
  - (a) *We listen to the voices and value the knowledge of the First Peoples of Australia:* This principle is still to be developed and is subject to further consultation.
  - (b) *We respond to the climate emergency:* Sydney responds to the climate emergency by taking bold steps to reduce the city's environmental footprint and promoting transformative change in energy production, resource consumption, water use and climate adaptation in a way that is inclusive and supports a just transition across all communities.
  - (c) *We respect and care for the natural environment:* Sydney is a place where there is synergy between the built environment and the natural world. We see the future as not only belonging to us, but to the ecosystems of Sydney – indigenous plants and animals and natural systems such as water. A balanced and valued relationship with nature is the foundation of a sustainable city.

- (d) *We promote a just transition to a zero carbon economy:* The City makes considered and deliberate choices in the transition to a zero carbon economy. Careful planning of our own actions as well as our advocacy and influence will support no-one being left behind or bearing an unfair burden as a consequence of long-term structural change to jobs and industries.
- (e) *We champion a green and circular economy that gives highest value to our resources:* The City champions a circular economy; maximising the value of resources by keeping them in use for as long as possible to help eliminate waste by promoting significant changes to product design, material use, producer responsibility, consumer behaviour and economic structures.
- (f) *We empower the community in the governance of their city:* Sydney is a democratic city where people have the opportunity to influence decisions. People are empowered to be connected and effective community builders. Government involves communities in change in their city. Elected representatives share some of their authority to act with everyday citizens.
- (g) *We build the resilience of our society and economy:* Sydney is a place where partnerships between government, business and community strengthen Sydney as a beautiful, healthy, prosperous and multicultural city; building resilience in our communities to respond, recover and adapt to a range of chronic stresses such as lack of affordable housing, transport congestion, and be prepared for shock events such as heatwaves, storms and cyber-attacks.
- (h) *We protect the commons and public interest:* The City upholds the value of the commons recognising the sharing of tangible and intangible assets, services and infrastructures is essential for health, well-being and equally shared prosperity. This includes the natural elements essential for life such as air, water and a habitable earth. Built on human connection, the commons comprise the spaces, resources and knowledge shared by a community who act collectively as stewards of their care and regeneration.
- (i) *We support the ethical use of data and technology:* The City has an 'ethical by design' approach to smart city transformation, embedding security and privacy protocols at the outset to safeguard digital rights. We recognise technological change will often outpace regulation and we will mitigate unintended consequences by embedding strong ethical frameworks.
- (j) *We lead through stewardship and collaboration:* The City will lead by engendering social harmony and inclusion while also acting as a steward of the environment and the economy. This requires understanding what our communities' value, where those values are held in common; and holding ourselves to account to act in accordance with those shared values. As stewards of this city, we embrace innovation and change. We acknowledge that our communities are impacted by decisions outside our boundaries and seek to work collaboratively with partners, our neighbours and across all levels of government for the benefit of current and future generations.

29. The 10 strategic directions that provide the draft framework for action have been developed in response to the findings from our research and community engagement programs. New issues and opportunities have emerged, necessitating changes in emphasis and focus of the strategic directions for the proposed Plan when compared with Sustainable Sydney 2030. For example, equity and inclusion is an area of increased focus in Sustainable Sydney 2050. The proposed strategic directions are:
- (a) A leading environmental performer
  - (b) A competitive global economy
  - (c) A cultural and creative city
  - (d) An equitable and inclusive city
  - (e) A resilient city
  - (f) Housing for all
  - (g) Great and green public spaces
  - (h) A walking, cycling and public transport city
  - (i) Good design and sustainable development
  - (j) Good governance and stewardship

## Key Implications

### Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision

30. 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 report is aligned with all the strategic directions and objectives. It sets out how the current strategic directions will be revised and updated in the forthcoming Sustainable Sydney 2050.

### Relevant Legislation

31. Section 402 of the Local Government Act 1993 provides that each local government area must have a community strategic plan that has been developed and endorsed by Council. The Council must ensure the community strategic plan is developed having due regard to the State Government's State Plan and other relevant State and regional plans of the State Government.
32. The NSW Government's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework provides direction for the development of Sustainable Sydney 2050. As a community strategic plan, it must identify the main priorities and aspirations of the community, and provide a set of strategies to achieve their vision for the future. The plan must be based on the social justice principles of access, equity, participation and rights and address social, environmental, economic and civic leadership issues.

**Critical Dates / Time Frames**

33. It is intended that the draft Sustainable Sydney 2050 will be presented to Council in early 2020 for approval to be placed on public exhibition. Following the incorporation of public feedback, it is intended the final draft will be presented to Council in mid-2020.

**Public Consultation**

34. Refer to the Community Engagement section above.

**KIM WOODBURY**

Chief Operating Officer

Andrea Beattie, Executive Manager, Strategic Outcomes

Yvette Andrews, Manager Strategic Community Consultation



# **Attachment A**

## **Community Engagement Insights Report**

# Community Engagement Insights Report

## Planning for Sydney 2050



Photographer: Jessica Lindsay

Photographer: Damian Shaw



## From Astrolabe Group

Astrolabe Group was commissioned by the City of Sydney to develop an independent review of the outcomes of the community engagement from this phase of planning for Sydney to 2050. Astrolabe analysed all the qualitative and quantitative data provided by the City, bringing the outcomes together to identify the consistent messages and identifying the overarching values and themes articulated by the community.

Astrolabe works with clients on strategy, data insights, engagement and co-design to deliver positive impacts for people and places. We seek to understand the challenges and opportunities for each client and the values driving them. Our focus is on delivering projects that generate increased investment value as well as improved liveability outcomes for people.

Our clients include local government, state and federal governments, peak representative bodies and universities.

**[www.astrolabegroup.com.au](http://www.astrolabegroup.com.au)**

# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	4
<b>Engagement Process</b>	5
Context of engagement – asking questions	5
Hearing a full range of views from a diverse community	6
Planning for Sydney 2050 Survey	8
Communicating opportunities to provide input	8
<b>Insights from Engagement</b>	10
Key themes identified	10
A city for people	15
A city that moves	18
An environmentally responsive city	20
A lively, cultural and creative city	22
A city with a future-focused economy	24
<b>Appendix A. Principles of Engagement</b>	26
<b>Appendix B. Engagement Activities</b>	27
<b>Appendix C. Who completed the survey</b>	28
<b>Appendix D. Marketing and Communications</b>	30



# Introduction

## What are your hopes for Sydney? What excites you? What concerns you?

Every day 1.3 million people live, work, do business, go out and study within the City of Sydney. The relatively small local government area creates more than 7% of Australia's gross domestic product and is rich in globally recognised landmarks, cultural and financial institutions. It has been a key place for both the Aboriginal custodians of the land and the migration of Sydney's newest residents.

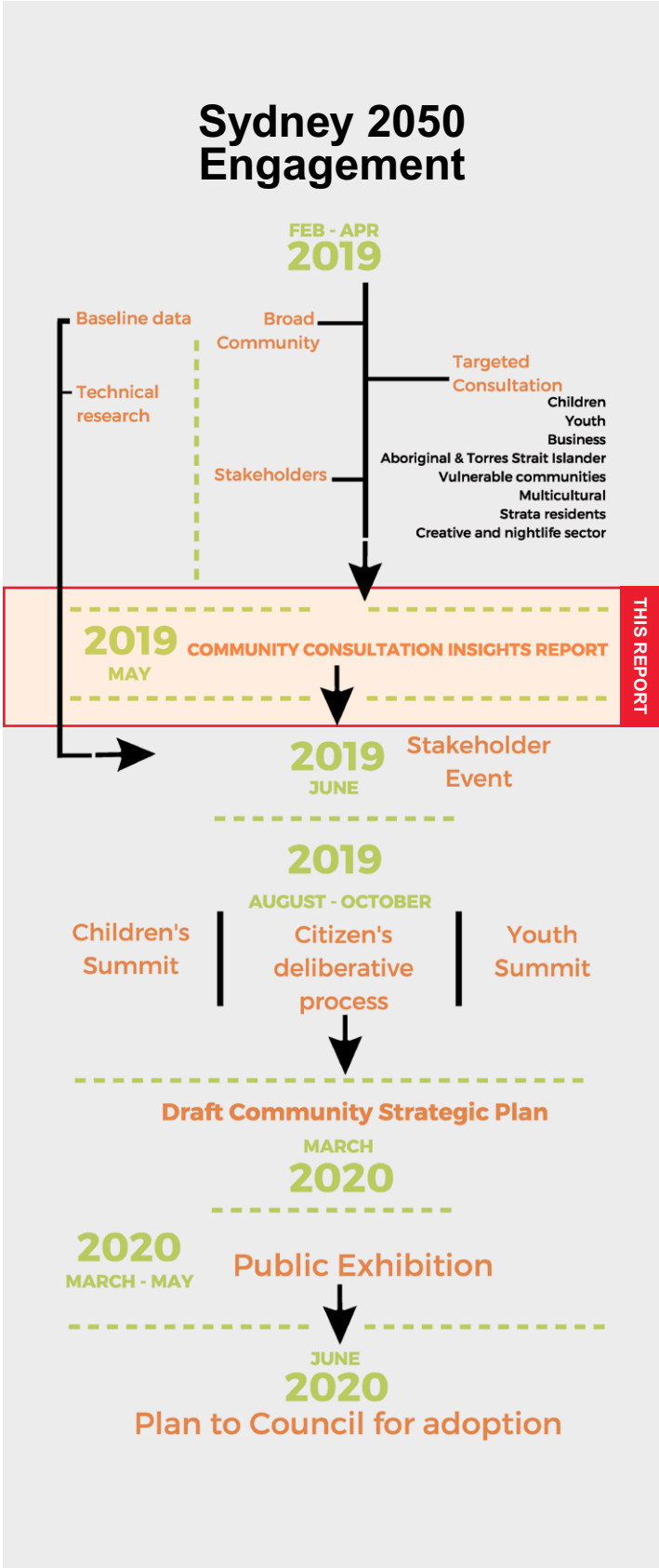
As part of the City planning for 2050, all of these people who have an interest in the future of Sydney have been invited to have their say in the development of the new community strategic plan through a range of engagement opportunities.

**At the foundation of every Community Strategic Plan are the hopes, vision and aspirations of its community.**

For this phase of engagement, the City wanted to explore the high-level themes, values and issues that people saw as important to the development of a new community strategic plan for Sydney to 2050. The City asked the community what are your hopes for Sydney, what excites you and what concerns you about the future of Sydney.



Photographer: Damian Shaw



# Engagement Process

## Context of engagement – asking questions

This engagement was all about asking questions. It was an exploration between the City and community to identify the community's values and aspirations for the future of Sydney.

The outcomes of this process will be used to inform the content development of the City of Sydney's new community strategic plan for Sydney to 2050.

This essential phase has worked with the community to check, validate and explore areas of action for Sydney's future.

The engagement process is guided by the City's Community Engagement Strategy. The engagement principles from this strategy are available at appendix A.



Photographer: Mark Metcalfe

## Hearing a full range of views from a diverse community

The engagement was open to the City of Sydney's community – residents, workers, visitors, students, property owners and business.

All community members were able to provide feedback at 11 community sessions across the city. Three of these sessions were targeted towards the multicultural community. A separate session was held specifically for those residents living in strata.

An invitation was sent to Resident Action Groups to provide their insights. Residents, as well as workers, business owners, students and visitors could participate in pop up events, through social media, host your own Discussion Guide and the *Planning for Sydney 2050* survey.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members were invited to participate and share their insights at a half day First Nations Dialogue Forum. Pop ups and intercept surveys were also held at locations attended by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

A strong component of engagement activities was targeted to children and young people to ensure they had input into a strategy that will have a significant impact on their future. These activities included school workshops, a UTS student project on the future of work, a workshop with MCA Youth Ambassadors, Emerging Civic Leaders Program and pop ups at events attended by younger people.

The City also engaged its advisory panels to provide specific input – the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander, retail, disability (inclusion), design, public art, nightlife & creative sector and curatorial panels.

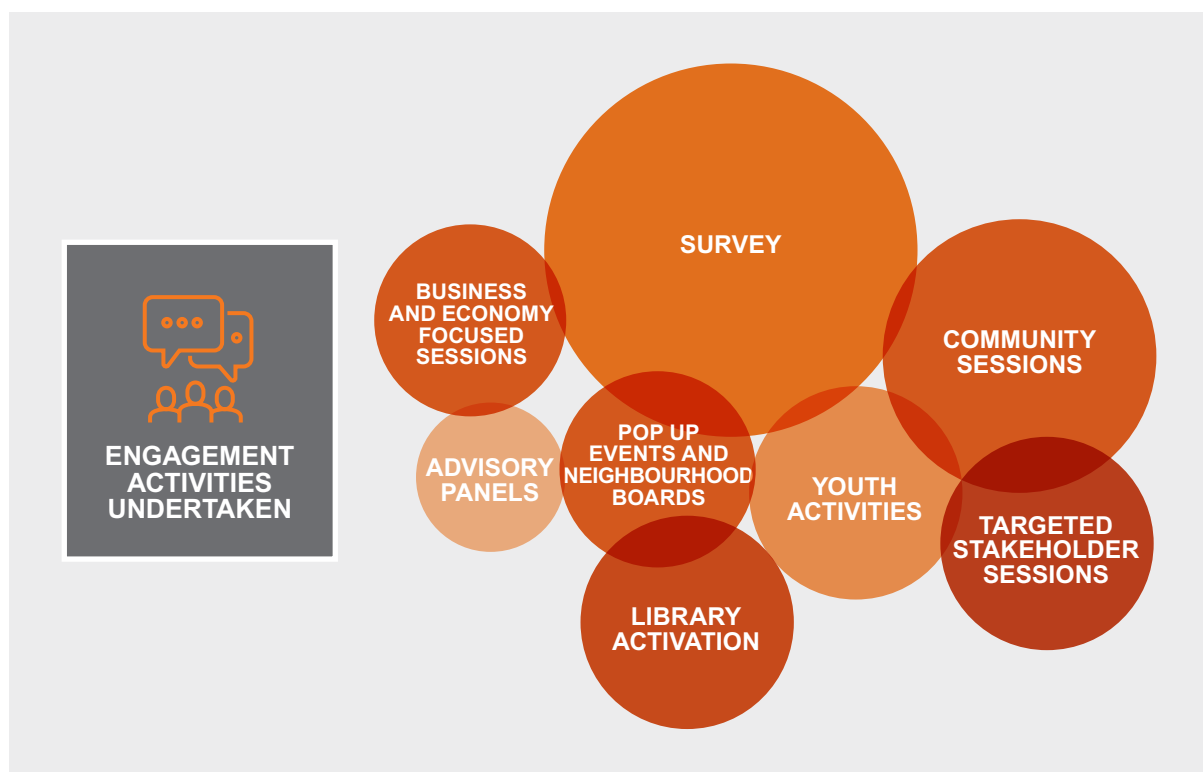
The business community and property owners were directly invited to participate in the *Planning for Sydney 2050* survey. Targeted groups were consulted through the City business program, a pop up at a Business 101 event, the Better Buildings Partnership annual event and an invitation to all local business chambers to provide their insights.

The nightlife and creative sector were invited to a workshop to develop a vision for the city. A half day workshop, *Sydney 2050 for Business*, was held with the small to medium business community, which included representatives from retail, property, finance and services, tech start-ups, tourism and hospitality, creative, social enterprise, education and government.

There were activations at libraries, extensive social media, an online and phone survey as well as online data stories and VR experiences to help support conversations about the future.

### The broad range of activities sought to:

- Hear what people value about Sydney
- Explore hopes and concerns for the future
- Challenge people to develop a vision for the future
- Test people's response to possible future scenarios
- Review perceptions on climate change and what people were prepared to do personally to address it in their lives
- Ask what people wanted in their local neighbourhoods and what local services they valued
- Test the importance of cultural life and technology
- Understand perceptions on prosperity, population and economic growth of Sydney
- Reflect on how governments and the community work together and what is needed for the future



A full list of activities is listed in Appendix B.





**5,091**  
RESPONDENTS  
SURVEYED



**MORE THAN**  
**50%**  
OF RESPONDENTS WERE  
AGED UNDER 40



**57%**   
OF RESPONDENTS  
IDENTIFIED AS FEMALE

**RESPONDENTS  
INCLUDED**



RESIDENTS 46%  
WORKERS 44%  
VISITORS 10%  
BUSINESS OWNERS 9%



## Planning for Sydney 2050 survey

The *Planning for Sydney 2050* survey, carried out predominantly online with an accompanying phone survey and face-to-face with members of vulnerable communities at pop-up events, was the largest of the engagement activities. The survey featured 26 questions that allowed multiple choice and open-ended responses.

A detailed breakdown of who completed the survey is available in Appendix C.

## Communicating opportunities to provide input

To make sure as many participants as possible could provide their insights across the many engagement opportunities, the City undertook a comprehensive approach to the promotion of how to contribute your say, and to raise the general awareness of the Sydney 2050 process.

A full list of communication is listed in Appendix D.



Photographer: Katherine Griffiths



Photographer: Jessica Lindsay



Photographer: Damian Shaw



Photographer: Mark Metcalfe



Photographer: Mark Metcalfe



Photographer: Damian Shaw



Photographer: Katherine Griffiths



# Insights from Engagement

## Key themes identified



### **A city for people**

People want a city that is green with trees and plants, has quality public spaces and different types of housing that is affordable. It is a socially supportive community that is safe, and inclusive.



### **A city that moves**

People want to be using public transport, walking and bikes to move around. There is a reduction of cars, where streets and public spaces are easily accessible to people. The city is welcoming, and people can readily get to where they need to go.



### **An environmentally responsive city**

People overwhelmingly want a response to climate change. They want a city with sustainable waste management and use of resources. People want to see a reduction in emissions, greater recycling and reusing of products and changes to how we use our city to reduce our impact on the environment.



### **A lively, cultural and creative city**

People want a vibrant city, weaving its culture, heritage, entertainment and bold ideas through the workings of the city. The city has diverse shopping and entertainment options and a lively nightlife that includes many options. Locals and visitors gather for events and cultural experiences using public spaces.



### **A city with a future focussed economy**

People want a city that is supported by digital infrastructure that sustains the creation of new jobs and allows businesses to respond to changing customer needs. People are optimistic about the opportunities that will be available in terms of education, jobs, innovation and the economy.

## Survey snapshot

“ When asked for words to describe Sydney in the future - **safe, sustainable, green** and **walkable** consistently came up as the most popular choices. ”

From the *Planning for Sydney 2050* survey (survey), some recurring ideas and challenges, listed here in order of frequency, have been identified by respondents across all questions of the survey.

Priority ideas from respondents:	Challenges for Future Sydney from respondents:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Green - plants, trees, gardens and urban farming</li> <li>2. Public transport</li> <li>3. Entertainment: arts, exhibition, performances</li> <li>4. Local activities - markets, festivals, outdoors</li> <li>5. Local community services - health, libraries</li> <li>6. Address climate change and sustainability</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Green - plants, trees, gardens and urban farming</li> <li>2. Convenience/accessibility to places and services</li> <li>3. Environmental sustainability and management</li> <li>4. Spending free time in cultural activities/entertainment and open spaces</li> <li>5. Creative, character/heritage, social and culturally diverse</li> <li>6. Technology and economic growth</li> </ol>

## Community Sessions snapshot

Across the community sessions held in local communities, with strata residents and cultural sessions in Mandarin and Spanish, a number of common themes emerged:

- Capacity to support a growing population
- Addressing climate change and living more sustainably
- A greener, more liveable city
- Less cars and more active transport
- A diversity of housing types
- A socially connected, sharing city
- An equitable city



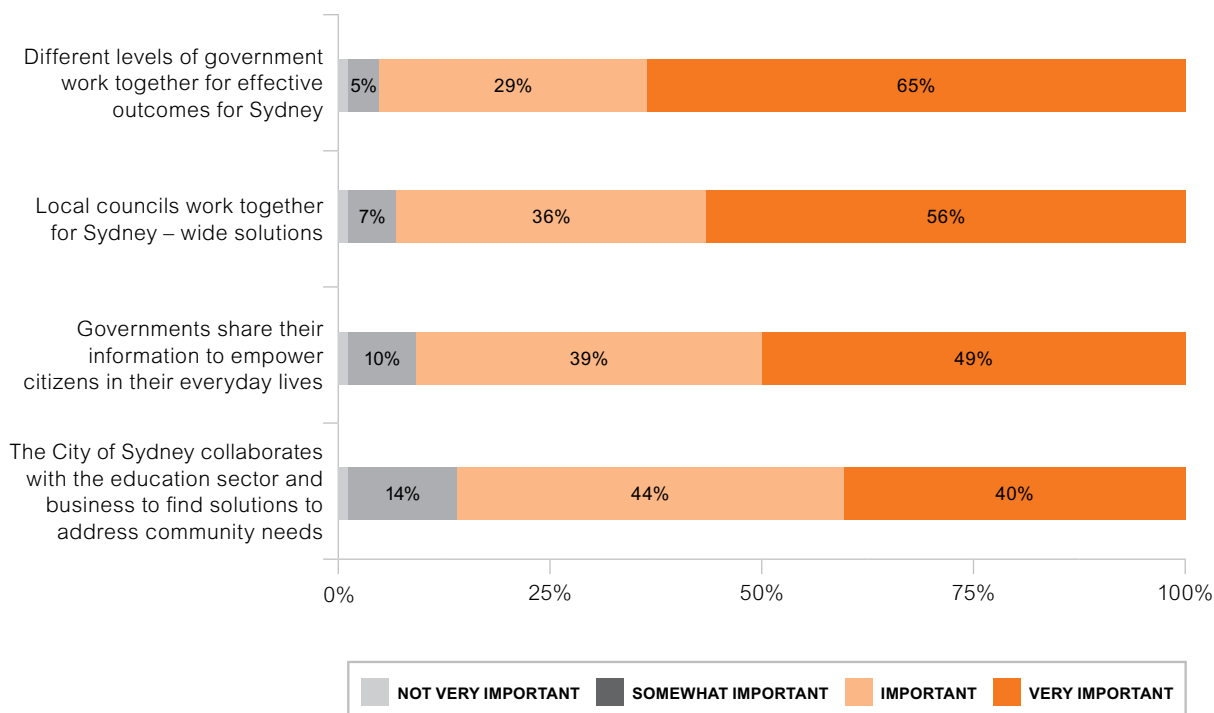
Photographer: Damian Shaw



## The importance of working together

There is an expectation by everyone consulted that governments should work better together to deliver outcomes for the community. Governments should share their data and be more transparent.

**In the future, how important, if at all, is it that...** – Survey



Communities should have greater opportunity to participate in decision-making. There is also strong agreement that the City should be collaborating with communities to create solutions for Sydney's future.

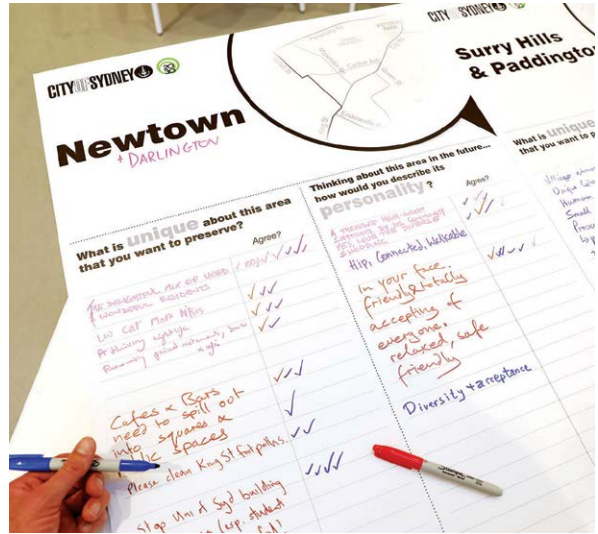
*“ To achieve our super connected city in every way, the first thing for us is good governance on all levels implemented to restore true democracy. This means for us meaningful community consultation at every stage... – All Advisory Panels Workshop ”*

*“ The City will know it has done a good job planning for Sydney 2050 when the diversity of community engagement matches diversity of community; age, cultural background, disability... – Community Sessions ”*





Photographer: Unknown



Photographer: Damian Shaw



Photographer: Damian Shaw



Photographer: Katherine Griffiths



Photographer: Mark Metcalfe



Photographer: Damian Shaw





## Key theme: **A city for people**

**People want a city that is green with trees and plants, has quality public spaces and different types of housing that is affordable. It is a socially supportive community that is safe and inclusive.**

Access to green spaces and a commitment to environmental policy have been the recurring themes of this engagement phase. There is resounding enthusiasm for a **green** city. People love flowers, trees and plants in their backyards as well as in public spaces, and hope to see more trees and green along their streets with **buildings covered in plants and rooftop gardens**.

Green in the city is also seen as a sign of a healthy community. People want **green public spaces** as a place to be active, to recharge their mental health, and to gather and socialise in their community. Through the library activation and schools program, people repeatedly mentioned green, open space, parks and playgrounds and trees in their hopes for Sydney's future.



Photographer: Damian Shaw

“ **77%** OF RESPONDENTS WANT A **GREEN CITY WITH PARKS, TREES AND NATURE** ”



– Survey


“ ...Sydney is a big city and so it needs to compensate for reduced air quality with more trees and parks, which are necessary for living a healthier and better life. ”

– Spanish Community Session

“ **85% of respondents want buildings covered with plants and that incorporate nature into their design.** ”

– Survey

“ **UNDERGROUND CARS AND GREEN UP TOP** ”



– Primary School Students Survey



**Housing affordability** was a key concern. People are concerned about the availability of rental housing and social housing, and how this is a barrier to a **diverse and equitable** city. They want the city to be a place that is **inclusive** of people regardless of your age, gender and cultural background, what you do as a job and how much you earn. This was a strong theme expressed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and seen as essential to ensuring a strong Aboriginal community and cultural identity remains part of the city.

*“ We need to have visibility right smack bang in the middle [of Sydney], but also to let people know about the sense of community for Aboriginal people... and that the identity of all Australians who choose Sydney as a place to live be connected to place, be connected to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, heritage and culture. ”*  
 – First Nations Dialogue Forum participant

*“ ...maintaining a city of diversity in language, culture, but also economic diversity where everyone felt supported and part of something – ‘sense of community, village, belonging, sharing, caring, central, social’. ”*  
 – Sydney 2050 Business workshop

Concerns about **housing affordability** were noticeably higher amongst women and younger people including 90% of high school students, who feel they are most impacted or will be impacted by a city that becomes less accessible.

Are you concerned about housing affordability? – Survey			
Male	Female	Under 40	40+
49%	64%	71%	45%

There is an understanding that **housing options** need to change, but not at the expense of quality. With the rise of apartments within the City, the provision of **community facilities**, such as childcare and open space nearby was also a suggestion to ensure that quality apartment living is provided that accommodates families as well as smaller households.

The City should also be a **supportive** and **safe** city. An active community allows people to feel **safe** in public spaces 24/7 and people are not at risk of **social isolation**.

*“ A future community that is socially connected and embraces a way of living that is about sharing of spaces, resources and knowledge was an ideal that many were excited about and was important for the future city. ”*  
 – Sydney 2050 Business workshop

*“ Community life is under pressure from the destruction of public spaces, lack of public access, over policing and under surveillance. ”*  
 – Nightlife & Creative Sector Advisory Panel

A **supportive and collaborative** city is at top-of-mind for young people.

“ *My idea for our city’s future is that we live in a collaborative society where everyone’s strengths are utilised to make our environment a better place.* ”  
– Library Activation

“ *Dear Sydney, in the future I hope you ...are one of the leading sustainable and creative cities in the world. That the Sydney landscape and work environment are not solely run by profits or politics.* ”  
– Library Activation

Aboriginal community members spoke of being truthful about our past, learning from the past and connecting people in the future – having a city that is safe for people to come together.

“ *How do we unlearn our history to relearn the truth about our history so that we can inform the future? How do we make camp sites to gather in Sydney?* ”  
– First Nations Dialogue Forum participant

**Safety** is a foundation of a liveable city. From the survey, there was a strong endorsement for a safe city that doesn’t just translate into specific concerns regarding physical safety. People see safety in having more activity in public spaces and better street lighting. Feeling safe is associated with being **free from discrimination** based on to gender or race, providing a more inclusive society.

There was serious discussion about the idea of **everyone being able to prosper in Sydney**. The Spanish community session highlighted concerns for homeless people, better services for the elderly, more social activity and access to public health services. At the Mandarin community session, the most discussed topics that concerned people were public services and facilities, security and safety, and aged care.

*I am colourful and festive Newtown on the weekend and festival time.*  
*I am full of food dining at small Asian eateries.*  
*I am a slip-on dress with maybe a jacket or cardigan.*  
*I am the smell of fried garlic and interesting influences from around the world.*  
*I am eating local sustainable food – Singapore chilli crab but at a reasonable price.*  
*I am birds tweeting in the trees, they’re so alive!*  
*I am the rage when drivers honk constantly, and loud cars or motorbikes screech down the street – Hoons! Petrol-heads!*  
*I am soft early morning light, just as dawn has broken.*  
*I am shadows of trees, providing shade on sizzling hot pavements.*  
*I am kindness courtesy, public transport where and when you need it, something for everyone – affordable food, clothing and housing.*

– By Pauline as part of “I am Sydney” writing workshop



## Key theme: **A city that moves**

**People want to be using public transport, walking and bikes to move around. There is a reduction of cars, where streets and public spaces are easily accessible to people. The city is welcoming, and people can readily get to where they need to go.**

Frequent, reliable and affordable **public transport** appeared as a high priority across every response group in the survey, expressing a desire for a network that integrated walking and cycling and pedestrianised sections of the city. Part of this desire came from a concern about worsening traffic and congestion, and the intensifying competition for parking across the city.

Residents are excited by an integrated and efficient transport system to use throughout the city with the possibility of less cars leading to more open public space.

“ *Having a quality integrated and active transport network gained the highest level of agreement when people were asked what they were excited about for Sydney in 2050. – Community Sessions* ”

“ **78%** OF RESPONDENTS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND INADEQUATE PUBLIC TRANSPORT – Survey ”



Photographer: Katherine Griffiths

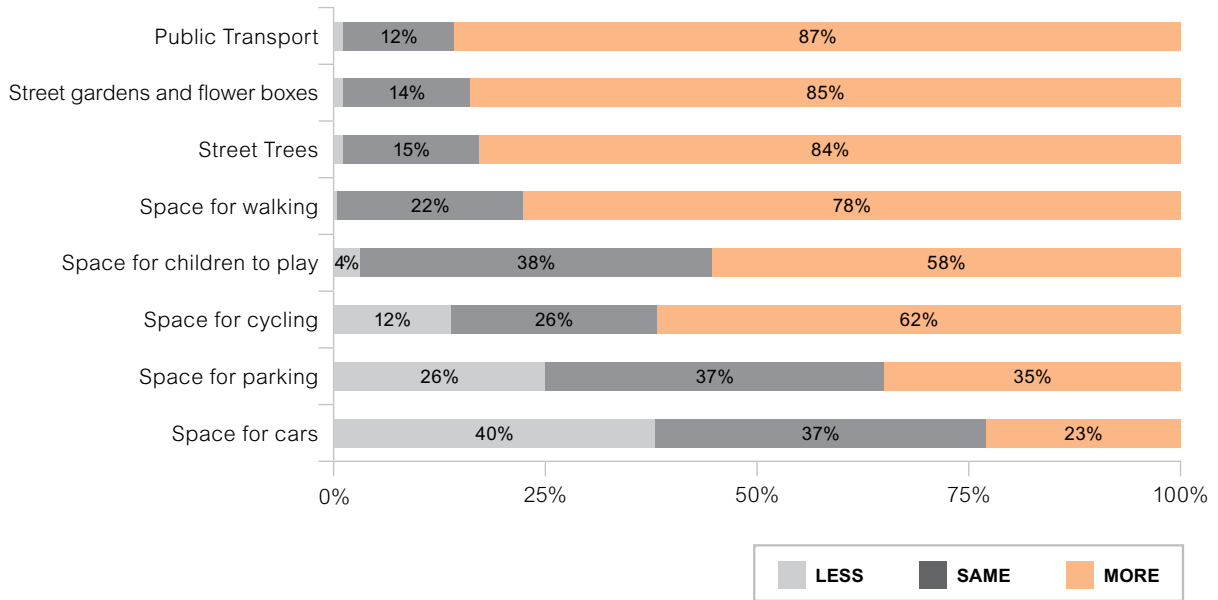
Business owners and people with a disability have a strong vision of what changes in accessibility and technology can mean for a more open city.

“ *Advances in accessibility and technology will allow for more flexible work arrangements – dispersing the business traffic out of the city centre... the City will become more pedestrian friendly. – Sydney 2050 Business workshop* ”

“ *I’m excited about driverless cars so I can drive, because I am vision impaired and can’t drive now, all good technology that makes life easier. – All Panels Workshop* ”

People want to be able to access the city through different transport options. 4 out of 5 of high school students are excited of the idea that Sydney’s future would include being able to get anywhere you like by public transport, walking or riding your bike. They want streets that are green and pleasant, have trees and are free of congestion. Residents want to see streets used for walking, playing and public transport.

## What would you like to see more of in your local streets? – Survey



An accessible city with good public transport and active transport opportunities was considered an effective way to overcome issues of equality and increased happiness. Participants from the [Mandarin](#) Community Sessions saw a strong connection between access to public transport and being active socially, which increased overall wellbeing.

*“ The better the transportation system, the happier we will be. – Mandarin Community Session ”*

*“ There will be more caring for the residents. For example, we will have free shuttle buses to the fish market. – Mandarin Community Session ”*



Photographer: Katherine Griffiths





## Key theme: An environmentally responsive city

People overwhelmingly want a response to climate change. They want a city with sustainable waste management and use of resources. People want to see a reduction in emissions, greater recycling and reusing of products and changes to how we use our city to reduce our impact on the environment.

Climate change is an important issue for everyone. Across age groups, gender and other demographics, responding to climate change was a key response. 86% of online survey respondents agree the City should be investing and advocating to address climate change.

How we manage our environment and climate change is a top priority for young people. Climate change received the most votes among 'top issues' by the Emerging Civic Leaders Program. Nine out of ten high school students surveyed were most concerned about climate change effects such as heatwaves and storms affecting Sydney's future. Primary school students wanted their voices heard about the environment because Sydney in 2050 will be their future.

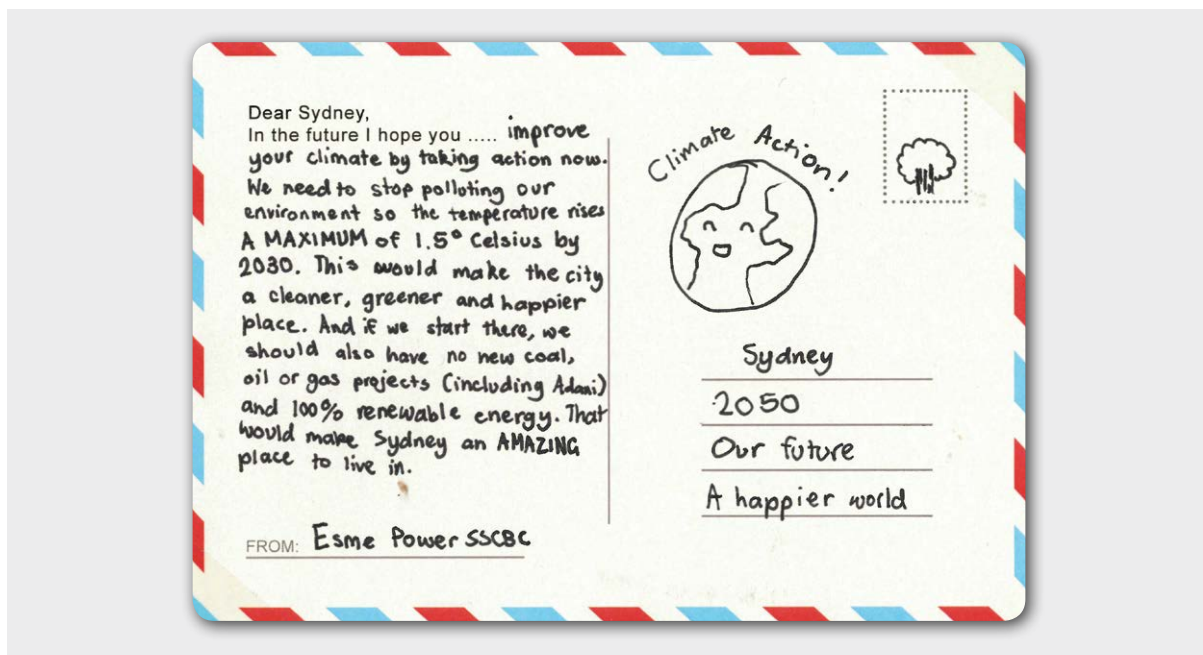


Image: Visual response from Library Activation

The First Peoples Dialogue Forum identified addressing climate change and living sustainably as a key priority. Mapping the **water** flows of Sydney was seen as a way of healing country and returning to values that are in-synch with the environment.



People also strongly endorsed better **waste management** with more recycling, reuse and waste reduction, especially plastic. How we manage waste in the future was a specific discussion of residents at the community sessions. Many participants were eager to see more education programs and initiatives that encourage people to reduce their waste as well as the City initiating new technologies to manage waste and recycling more efficiently.

“ People want their city as well as their own actions to have less of an impact of the environment.  
– Survey ”

“ Dear Sydney, in the future I hope you have a ban on plastics and overcoming climate change.  
– Library Activation ”

“ THEY ARE POSITIVE ABOUT:   
– Urban farming on rooftops (82%)  
– A city that uses resources, water, energy and waste efficiently (72%) ”

“ THEY SAID THEY WOULD:   
– Recycle products rather than having them go to landfill (86%)  
– Stop using single-use plastic (82%)  
– Reuse products rather than having them go to landfill (78%) ”

In addition, people aged under 30 are more likely to undertake and **endorse environmentally sustainable practices** at an individual level including planting trees on their property and flush toilets or wash clothes with recycled water.

Business owners acknowledge that a sustainable environment is essential for the City's future and are already preparing for the corresponding changes in consumer behaviour.

“ There will be a ‘major shift in consumer behaviour related to sustainability’, with trends in local, second-hand and recycled goods.  
– Sydney 2050 Planning, Business workshop ”

“ ...sustainability in energy, transport, design, materials were all seen as an essential part of a vision for the future. – Sydney 2050 Planning, Business workshop ”

*I am nature, trees, grass in autumn, gum leaves, birds calling  
I am relaxing, reading, eating, drinking, walking, strolling  
I am a white shirt soft cotton, comfy jeans, favourite shoes  
I am gum leaves, smell of rain in the air, eucalyptus, jasmine  
I am slow cooked chicken on a barbeque, crispy yet soft, smokey  
I am kookaburras laughing, birds chirping, wind blowing, rain falling  
I am the rage when I'm told what to do and how  
I am sunset, golden and rose hues  
I am shadows of trees and leaves shaking, moving  
I am people, relationships, harmony.*

– By Audrey as part of “I am Sydney” writing workshop



## Key theme: A lively, cultural and creative city

People want a vibrant city, weaving its culture, heritage, entertainment and bold ideas through the workings of the city. The city has diverse shopping and entertainment options and a lively nightlife that includes many options. Locals and visitors gather for events and cultural experiences using public spaces.

Sydney 2050 should be a vibrant city that is **friendly, lively and creative**. Locals and visitors can gather at cultural events to celebrate the diversity of our community and the beautiful **outdoor spaces** of the city. While the museums, libraries and cinemas continue to be popular, people want to be **entertained** with more local and international festivals, art exhibitions and installations in **public** spaces.

People want to see **late night trading** brought back, so they can visit their local bars, restaurants, and boutique shopping, but they especially miss the once famous live-music scene. There is a strong desire to revive Sydney's nightlife. We will need to nurture a **creative** culture where there are rehearsal spaces, maker spaces and local markets to show-off our creative practice.



Photographer: Jessica Lindsay

The city should also play up its unique **character**, such as our local **architecture** and beautiful public spaces, as well our unique **heritage** which includes First Peoples of Australia.

The First Peoples Dialogue Forum challenged the City to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people benefit economically from their **cultural knowledge** and proposed it would be a bold move for the City to embed First Peoples cultural authority and **voice** in governance structures and decision making.



Young people were keen to embrace greater recognition of First Peoples culture in the city demonstrating a shift in understanding of Sydney as an Aboriginal place.

“ **70% PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS AND 58% OF PEOPLE UNDER 30 SAID THEY WERE EXCITED ABOUT A CITY THAT CELEBRATES ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND CONNECTION TO COUNTRY.** – Survey ”

The nightlife and creative sector of the city identified its “wants” for the future as a city that makes us proud, that welcomes all and dares to lead. Business owners want the city to be competitive and attractive compared to our global peers. Our diversity and cultural activity are definite strengths, but the limited trading hours have been a setback. Business owners are most excited by a city with **vibrant local businesses and main streets**.

“ *Sydney’s future as a bold and daring city, where new ideas flourish... it should strive to be resilient and supportive... embrace arts and culture to guarantee its success as a true global City.* – Nightlife and Creative Sector workshop ”

“ *...supported, thriving, diverse, inclusive, representative and accessible. Internationally reputable and locally valued and celebrated.* – Nightlife and Creative Sector workshop ”

“ *[Sydney 2050 would be known for...] multiculturalism, history and diversity. The future of Sydney could be “designed to honour and enjoy cultural diversity and diverse experience”.* – Sydney 2050 Business workshop ”

Residents want to see the city as **lively, entertaining and creative**, with a strong interest in local markets and public art and installations. Mandarin and Spanish speaking community sessions both saw strong value in a **vibrant night-time economy**, for the city to feel alive and to compete as a global city.

Young people want a broader range of **entertainment** including local performances and places to learn, dance, act, and create art were in high demand. High School students also want to have more access to cinemas for entertainment.

“ *In the future I hope Sydney... brings back nightlife, be less expensive, ... more things to do.* – Library Activation ”

“ *... more 24/7 availability to align more closely with other global cities. Our nightlife would be “more immersive, inclusive and culturally relevant.* – Sydney 2050 Business workshop ”





## Key theme: A city with a future-focused economy

People want a city that is supported by digital infrastructure that sustains the creation of new jobs and allows businesses to respond to changing customer needs. People are optimistic about the opportunities that will be available in terms of education, jobs, innovation and the economy.

Four out of five survey responses thought that it was important that the City supports the local economy and jobs. Young people see the future of jobs as automated and highly connected. They want this to translate to better places for people to live and greater business transparency.



Photographer: Katherine Griffiths

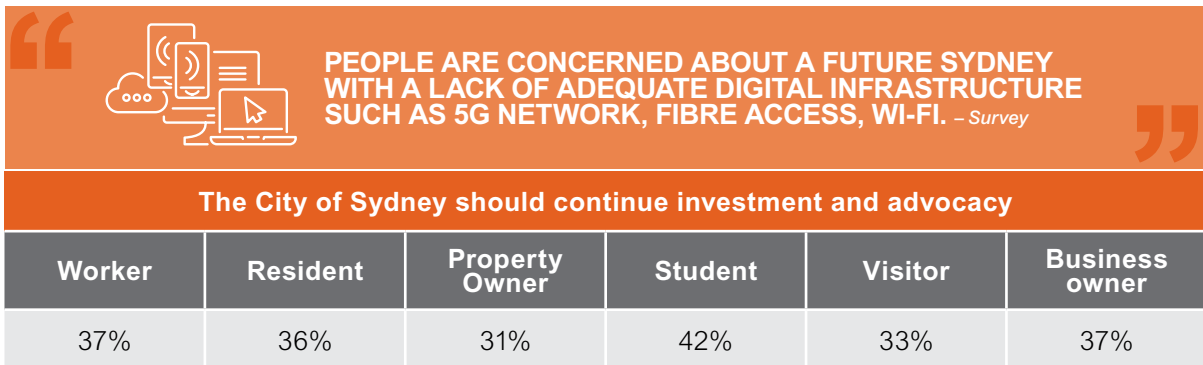
“ My idea for our city’s future is for inclusive and connected workplaces: technology used as a tool for equality; more automation; need for human creativity. – Library Activation ”

“ I’m excited about Sydney’s future that supports entrepreneurship and innovative ideas and start ups. – All Advisory Panels Workshop ”

Just over half of the survey respondents were excited by a future that uses **innovation** and **technology** to improve our lives. However, two thirds were concerned or not sure about emerging technologies such as the use of drones and artificial intelligence to help make decisions.

Business owners want a city that is globally connected, with a technology-agile economy, a more flexible workforce and sophisticated customers. This agility was seen as supporting the city to be experimental, driving increased diversity of talent, industries and community.

Across the city there is concern about the lack of adequate **digital infrastructure** such as the 5G network, fibre access and Wi-Fi. Concern was highest among students and young people. Over one in three visitors, residents, workers and business owners shared this concern, highlighting the importance of a digital future to everyone with a relationship to the city.



Business owners recognise that across all sectors technology offers significant opportunities to use nimble, fit for purpose technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Augmented Reality (AR) for automation and improved customer experience.

For young people, their concerns about work in the future was focused on what they will be doing, how they will be doing it, and the purpose of work. UTS students surveyed were very concerned about the changing nature of employment. With **automation** being a reality, they observed young people are not only having to master innovation, connectivity, and the technology that underpins it, they also want the City to harness it to ensure **social good** grows along with the economy.

Our 2050 Future of Work is entirely driven by the envisioned high demand for care workers in the coming years. With fundamental shifts in policies regarding equal parental leave, the value of care work in this world has increased.  
- Team 7, Unsexy Jobs, UTS Envisioning Futures

Dear Sydney, in the future I hope that your citizens live in a transparent business environment that enables truth and honesty. And that work infrastructure promotes a positive mindset.  
- Library Activation



Photographer: Jessica Lindsay

# Appendix A

## Principles of Engagement



Photographer: Unknown

**Community engagement brings the voice of the people to the decisions that affect their lives. The City's approach to community engagement is described in the City's Community Engagement Strategy, with four principles of engagement:**

- 1. INTEGRITY:** Engagement should be transparent – clear in scope and purpose.
- 2. INCLUSIVENESS:** Engagement should be accessible and balanced – capturing a full range of values and perspectives.
- 3. DIALOGUE:** Engagement should promote dialogue and open up genuine discussion. It should be supported by timely and accurate information – a space to weigh options and develop common understanding.
- 4. INFLUENCE:** Engagement should be reflected in outcomes – the community should be able to see and understand the impact of their involvement.



# Appendix B

## Engagement Activities

ENGAGEMENT TYPE	PARTICIPATION*	OUTCOMES PRODUCED
Advisory Panels: Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander, retail, disability (inclusion), design, public art, nightlife & creative sector and curatorial	83	Feedback through panel meetings and survey
All Advisory panel including Youth Curators workshop	47	Creating a vision for the future
Business Chambers: Pyrmont Ultimo Business Chamber, Surry Hills Creative Precinct	40	Feedback from members
Sydney 2050 Workshop for Business	72	Development of insights and report
Community Sessions: 12 sessions across the city, including two Chinese sessions, one Spanish session and one session with residents living in strata	464	Development of insights and reports
Community Resident Action Groups: briefings with Pyrmont, Millers Point and Alexandria	-	Feedback from members
Community Discussion Guides	39 attendees from 3 community events	Self-directed community feedback generated using the City's discussion guide
Library activation across nine locations: Glebe, Customs House, Kings Cross, Haymarket, Newtown, Waterloo, Green Square, Ultimo, Surry Hills	392	Postcard submissions about what makes Sydney special and vision for the future
Internal Engagement Activation: Listening Champions	7	City staff could report back on community feedback received while at work
Nightlife and Creative Sector workshop	44	Development of insights and report
Pop Up Activities: 24 locations city wide featuring Neighbourhood boards and survey	2800 contributions	Top priorities for Sydney – over 350 unique ideas collected Responses to “What makes Sydney Special?” – over 70 unique ideas collected
School workshops and surveys: 9 primary schools and 11 high schools	364 students	Development of insights through workshops and surveys
UTS Bachelor of Creative Intelligence and Innovation – course project	61	Group projects imaging the future of work in Sydney
Emerging Civic Leaders Program	20 ambassadors & 117 youth responses	Top 3 priorities for Sydney
International Student and Young Ambassadors Committee: two workshops	-	Development of insights
MCA Youth Ambassadors: workshop	15	Development of insights
First Nations Dialogue Forum	35	Development of insights
I am Sydney: story writing program with the Story Factory	25	Creation of stories and poems about experiencing and living in Sydney
Online Survey	4790	Responses to 26 questions that were a combination of multiple choice and open-ended responses
Phone Survey	301	A shorter version of the online survey conducted over the phone

\*Not all activities collected participation, these are best estimates based on information provided.

Note: All photos featured in this report are from engagement activities and copyright of the City of Sydney.

# Appendix C

## Who completed the survey

Quantitative analysis was conducted and reported for the overall sample and any differences across demographic groups. Representation of key characteristics in the survey are compared to their distribution as measured by the 2016 Census of Population and Housing:

GENDER	SURVEY % OF RESPONDENTS	2016 CENSUS (USUAL RESIDENTS)
Male	41%	52%
Female	57%	48%
Other	2%	-

AGE GROUP	SURVEY % OF RESPONDENTS	2016 CENSUS (USUAL RESIDENTS)
Under 20 years	7%	11%
20-29	23%	32%
30-39	21%	25%
40-49	16%	12%
50-59	15%	9%
60-69	12%	7%
70-79	5%	3%
80 years and over	1%	2%

LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH SPOKEN AT HOME	SURVEY % OF RESPONDENTS	2016 CENSUS (USUAL RESIDENTS)
Yes	24%	41%
No	76%	59%

IDENTIFIED AS LIVING WITH A DISABILITY	SURVEY % OF RESPONDENTS	2016 CENSUS (USUAL RESIDENTS WITH CORE ACTIVITY NEED FOR ASSISTANCE)
Yes	5%	3%
No	92%	97%
Prefer not to say	3%	-



Photographer: Adam Hollingworth

RELATIONSHIP TYPE	ONLINE	PHONE	TOTAL
Worker	44%	42%	44%
Resident	44%	85%	46%
Property Owner	30%	53%	31%
Student	18%	10%	18%
Visitor	11%	8%	11%
Business Owner	9%	9%	9%

Note: respondents could identify as more than one relationship type.

# Appendix D

## Marketing and Communications

On websites managed by the City, there were over 20,000 unique page views of webpages related to Sydney 2050. Each page had a call to action to complete the *Planning for Sydney 2050* survey, as well as an opportunity to sign up to the Community Panel, to be contacted to participate in future engagement activities.

The first story post on Instagram, shared spaces, reached 9622 people and had the most 'swipe ups' of any Instagram story the City has posted to date.

Information about events, community workshops and survey were circulated in the City's community news, delivered to every dwelling in the city, advertised through partnerships such as UTS and the University of Sydney, as well as radio and print advertising.

MARKETING TYPE	REACH*
<b>Email Correspondence</b>	
CEO email to business chambers, resident action groups, sporting groups & organisations, businesses and property owners	25,000
E-news – multiple channels	86,000
<b>Working with Partners</b>	
University of Sydney student e-news	65,000 subscribers
UTS student e-news and Facebook page	–
Go Get email list	35,000 subscribers
NSW Business Chamber promotion of Business Event	–
<b>Physical Collateral</b>	
Posters and flyers in all City of Sydney libraries and community centres	–
Lord Mayor letter letterbox drop to all residents x 2	108,500
Flyer letterbox drop to main streets and CBD businesses	2,000
<b>Social Media</b>	
Facebook	18,756 reach and 442 clicks
Instagram	3 stories totalling 27,641 reach
Twitter	11,249 and 54 clicks
LinkedIn	4,391 and 81 clicks
<b>Advertising</b>	
Facebook	–
Vice Online Magazine	–
Print – Inner West Courier, Central Sydney, Wentworth Courier, City Hub	–
Radio – Fbi 64.5FM, Eastside 89.7FM, 2SER 107.3FM, Koori 93.7	–
Online Display Ads	–

\*Where available and/or supplied.





Photographer: Damian Shaw



Photographer: Damian Shaw



Photographer: Mark Metcalfe



Photographer: Mark Metcalfe



Photographer: Damian Shaw



Photographer: Damian Shaw





# **Attachment B**

<p><b>Shaping Sydney to 2050 Stakeholder Event Summary Report</b></p>
---

# Shaping Sydney To 2050 Stakeholder Event

SUMMARY REPORT: Polls and comments results

16 August 2019

Prepared by Global Research Ltd  
For





## Global Research

150 Office Rd

Merivale

Christchurch 8014

New Zealand

+64 3 355 4562

[www.globalresearch.nz](http://www.globalresearch.nz)

# Contents

- Sydney 2050 A City For People ..... 4
- Overview ..... 8
- Polls of all participants ..... 10
- Big ideas for Sydney ..... 12
- What excites most about Sydney’s future..... 16
- Biggest concerns about Sydney’s future..... 20
- Hopes for Sydney in 2050..... 24
- Organisational actions to achieve shared vision..... 28
- Table discussions and polls..... 30
- How the city retains its diversity..... 32
- How Sydney’s competitive advantage can be strengthened..... 40
- How Sydney maintains its liveability..... 46
- How the city should grow..... 55
- How we live within our environment ..... 62



# Sydney 2050 A City For People



# Ideas, actions and desires

Across all the opinions and comments, in summary, the overriding sentiment was that Sydney should be focused on being a place that prioritises people.

Six overarching approaches to creating a city for people were identified from the Shaping Sydney to 2050 stakeholder workshop information.

## More affordable, particularly housing

Workshop participants strongly supported Sydney becoming an affordable city by 2050. Housing, rental accommodation, and space for creatives were considered to be out of reach for many and, as such, actions to increase the availability of affordable housing and space were frequently proposed.

Funding for the arts, environmental initiatives and placemaking were also requested across themes. Collaboration between business, Government, and creative agencies in order to provide funding, support and space for creatives to perform/work in were suggested.

Cost of living challenges, such as the need for affordable public transport were frequently identified.

Sustainability actions were considered hampered by affordability, for example, retrofitting “green” initiatives in commercial and residential buildings. Developing new technology, industries, and housing developments were also considered unaffordable in the current economic climate.

## An inclusive community that involves and celebrates all people

An inclusive, people-centered, liveable city which supports its most vulnerable and is inclusive of and celebrates diversity was sought by participants.

Diversity was considered to be the differences in cultural, ethnic, age, employment, industry, ability, and economic background. Actions for cultural diversity included providing creative space within commercial and community districts. Participants valued creatives and the arts in general.

Celebration of ethnic diversity and respecting/valuing all people, regardless of their background was desirable. Respect for and the inclusion of First Peoples’ ideas, history and culture were also valued.

Support for people of all ages and collaboration between generations were proposed. Some elderly people were considered vulnerable to isolation and participants sought more local community involvement for elderly people. Future employment, space, and entertainment for young people were also sought.

Inclusivity for people who identified as having a disability was discussed, including one idea to provide funding for sign language interpreters and wheelchair access to events.

Supporting those on low incomes and providing shelter/community services to the homeless were frequently mentioned actions also.

## Reconsidering and repurposing public and private space

Developing mixed-use spaces, which would support Sydney in becoming a vibrant 24/7 city was considered important. Words such as multi-purpose, multi-use, diverse, shared and affordable-for-all were used to describe how they would like to see space used in the CBD and other parts of Sydney. Some suggested that space for creatives be mandated in all new commercial buildings.

Creating more green space was also proposed when participants spoke of what a future Sydney looks like and included initiatives such as green roofs, walls and public squares.

Participants suggested that urban design should incorporate areas where people can live/work/play and that space should be “people-centered” instead of centered around personal vehicle requirements.

Gaining official support for creating space in the city was important to participants. For creatives, thinking outside of the square to create space for their work was important. For example, they

suggested using lobby space for performances/pop-up craft stalls, and the outside of buildings and inside commercial offices as places to display their work.

### **Future focused transport solutions**

Vehicle reduction and development of public and active transport options were key changes sought. Reducing cars on Sydney's roads was a key action to increase city liveability, as it would reduce congestion, and allow car parks to be repurposed for more people-friendly uses. Reduced traffic congestion could also be achieved by increasing the provision of public and active transport.

Participants were in favour of increased active transport options and more efficient, affordable and sustainable public transport. The creation of space such as walkways, cycleways and shared bike and bike storage facilities were key active transport actions to create a city where people want to walk and cycle.

Cost and political factors such as political will and approach were the most frequently mentioned barriers to reducing reliance on cars in favour of public and active transport options.

### **Act to improve environmental outcomes**

Climate change impacts on the City of Sydney were a concern. Participants were primarily concerned about Government and community inaction, as well as the severity of the climate crisis. Participants opined that the status quo cannot continue, and more sustainable developments and initiatives need to be implemented.

Improving the environmental performance of the city through smart urban design, and advanced building material use, was proposed. Smart green space provision/use such as rooftop gardens, and public city green spaces were suggested to improve energy efficiency and to mitigate against urban heat.

Water, waste, and energy were key discussion points. These ideas centred around the conservation, reuse, and recycling of water resources and waste products, such as food scraps and plastics. Energy ideas included the provision of off- and on-site renewable resources, such as solar and wind power and the shift to E-transport options.

Political measures and education, awareness and perception were considered key actions and barriers to creating a sustainable city. This is because political will and the type of policies and regulation dictate the uptake of environmental and sustainable initiatives and development. The level of education and awareness that residents receive would dictate their perception of environmental issues and actions and whether or not they would take such actions to reduce environmental harm in their own home, workplace or community.

### **An innovative economy that assists all to prosper**

Creating a circular economy that encourages recycling/reuse of material as well as product stewardship was considered important by participants. As was creating an economy that is strong and that enables all of Sydney's citizens to be supported and prosperous.

Investing in innovation and diversifying the economy in order to retain a competitive edge was frequently mentioned by participants. From the perspective of creatives, valuing and supporting the creative economy was anticipated to benefit all of Sydney, and would attract more visitors to the city, thus also increasing tourism revenue.

Developing a night-time economy would help Sydney create a reputation as a vibrant and diverse city.



# Barriers to achievement

Most of the ideas and actions proposed by participants included barriers that would need to be overcome so that they could be implemented. The barriers most frequently identified were cost, politics and attitudes/attitudinal reactions/fears.

## Cost/affordability impacts in multiple ways

Cost/affordability was the most frequently mentioned barrier to the implementation of many of the ideas and actions discussed by participants. Cost was defined in a range of ways: the cost of the action or idea was prohibitive; the relative cost of the action or idea in comparison of the cost to retain the status quo; the viability of the action or idea; the opportunity cost; and, the affordability of certain measures, such as housing.

## Positive political will and approach necessary

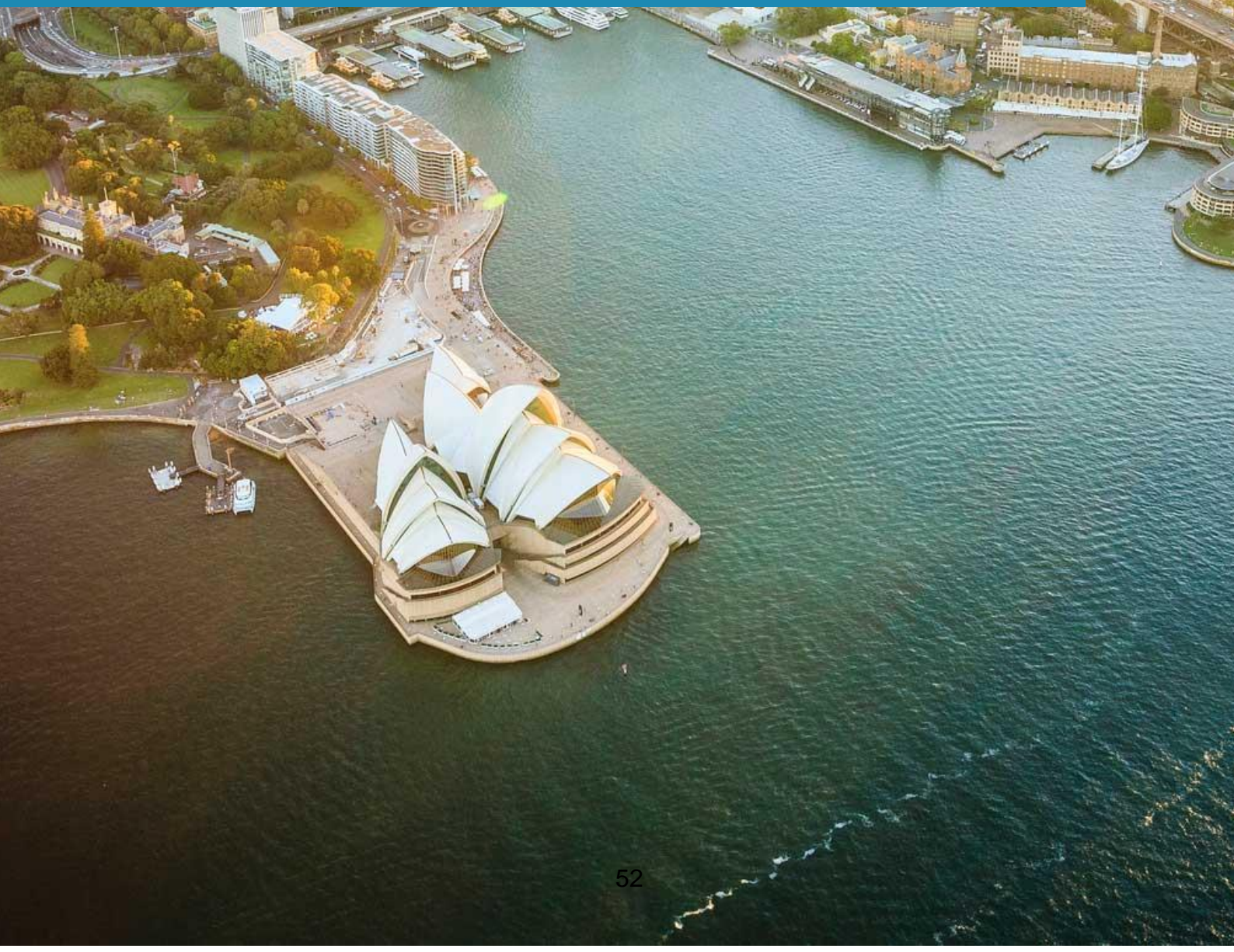
Political barriers included, political will and approach and policy, regulation and planning. These barriers were frequently noted in relation to the ideas and actions commented on by participants. Policy, regulation and planning measures were discussed as key barriers to the implementation of new initiatives. The will of Government and their approach to various actions and ideas was noted as a barrier.

## Attitudes receptive to change required

Attitudes of different groups were frequently considered barriers to a range of actions and ideas. There was a belief that Australia is a lucky country and therefore there was no need to change/improve society, the economy, the environment or policy and regulations – which can hinder progress. Lack of education/public awareness and perception of environmental issues was also cited as a barrier to many actions.



# Overview





## Project background

The City of Sydney ran the Shaping Sydney 2050 multi-stakeholder event on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

The event was attended by 283 stakeholders from a variety of community sectors, including: Cultural; Economic; Environmental; Governance; Planning; Public Domain; Social; and, Transport/Access.

Information was collected from participants in two ways.

Participants were invited to respond to 10 poll questions via an app. Some participants voted on the responses posted by other participants and questions covered topics such as: “*What’s your big idea for Sydney’s future?*” and “*In one word, tell us what concerns you most about the future of Sydney*”.

Information was also collected via table discussions, where participants proposed *ideas, actions* and *barriers* for the city to be successful across five themes: city growth, diversity, liveability and competitive advantage, environment.

Global Research, an independent consultancy, prepared this report.

In total, around 3,000 written statements/comments were collected to inform the findings in this report.

## Analysis approach

The two data sources (polls and comments) were analysed similarly.

Comments from the poll questions were organised into key themes and topics, and were dependent on the content of statements and single word answers provided by participants. In most cases, this was around 20 topics. For each of the topics, the total comments and votes on comments were tallied to identify the most and least popular comments/ideas. These results have been presented as charts. The content/sentiment of comments relative to particular topics have been presented as summary discussions.

The table discussions recorded data in a variety of ways. Three of the five themes, *Diversity, Competitive Advantage* and *Environment* captured data from particular perspectives. For example, the *Diversity* theme captured data from the perspectives of creatives, key workers and vulnerable people. Two themes, *Liveability* and *Growth* captured comments from one perspective only. All of the ideas proposed were read by analysts and categorised into topics relevant to their content. Each *Ideas* topic was then synthesised to identify common points and singular ideas. The actions and barriers associated with each of the ideas were then synthesised following the same approach. The total number of ideas, actions and barriers under topics were presented as summaries.

## Report structure

This report commenced with the Sydney 2050 – a City for People section, which provides a summary of the comments made and opinions expressed across all of the workshop exercises. This section, Overview, outlines the project background, analysis approach and report structure.

The body of the report then follows, which is divided into two main sections. The first section includes the Poll question results – summary charts, a synthesis of written comments and word clouds for some of the data. The second part of the body of the report presents the findings from the five table discussions. These commence with a summary of what was said, followed by charts presenting the total number of comments made on topics under each of the ideas. When poll questions were asked on particular themes, the results are presented following the summary of what was said.



# Polls of all participants



This section contains the results from workshop participants responses to the following polls:

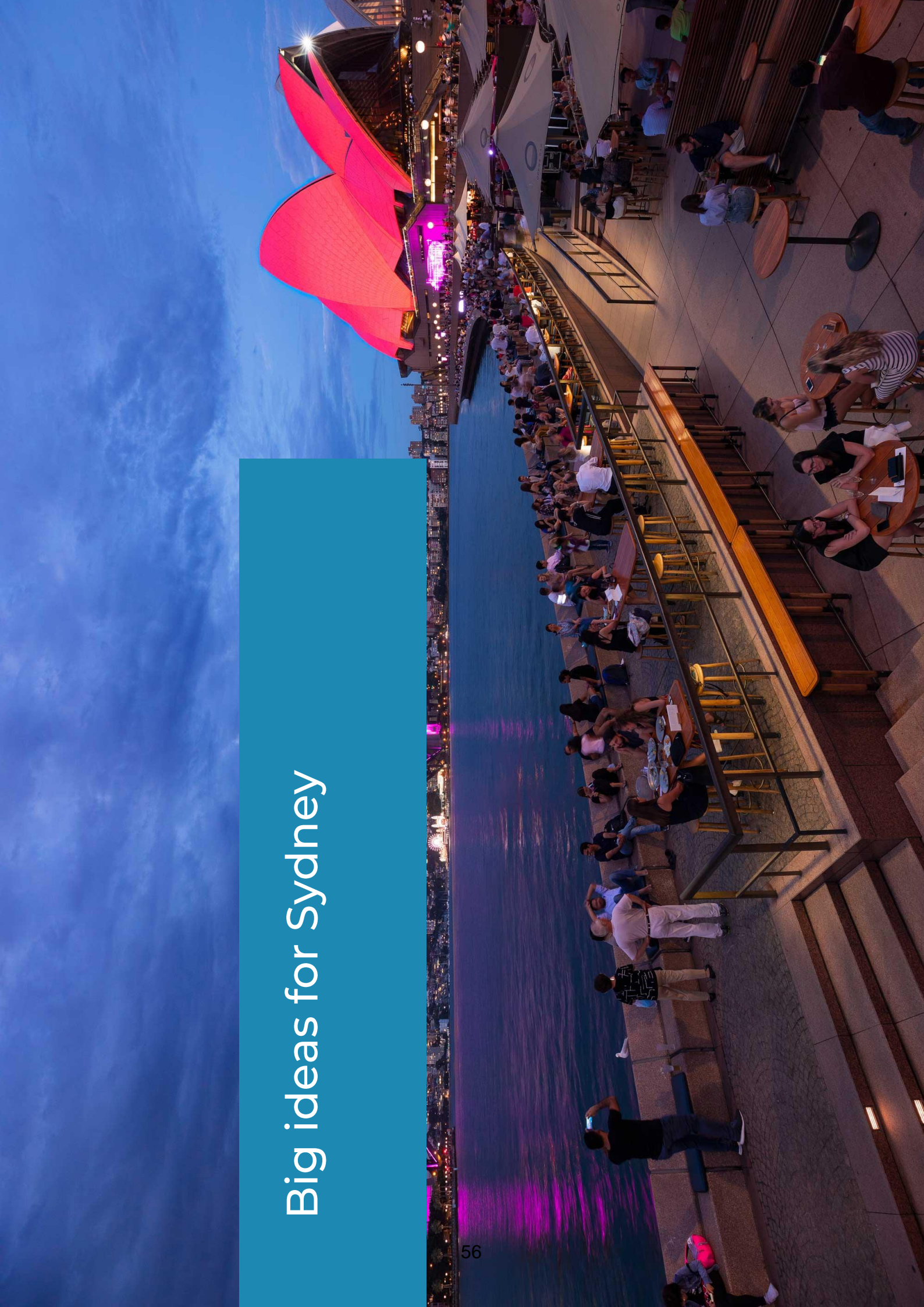
- Big ideas for Sydney
- What excites most about the future
- Biggest concerns about Sydney's future
- Hopes for Sydney in 2050
- Organisational actions to achieve shared vision

Within the poll discussions, to consistently indicate the amount of comments on each topic, the following key is referred to describing the number of comments made within particular topics:

- Very large amount/number of comments = 150+
- Large amount = 100-149
- Sizeable = 75-99
- Substantial amount = 50-74
- Considerable amount = 25-49
- Moderate amount = 15-24
- Several comments = 8-14
- Small number = 4-7
- Few = 3
- Couple = 2



# Big ideas for Sydney

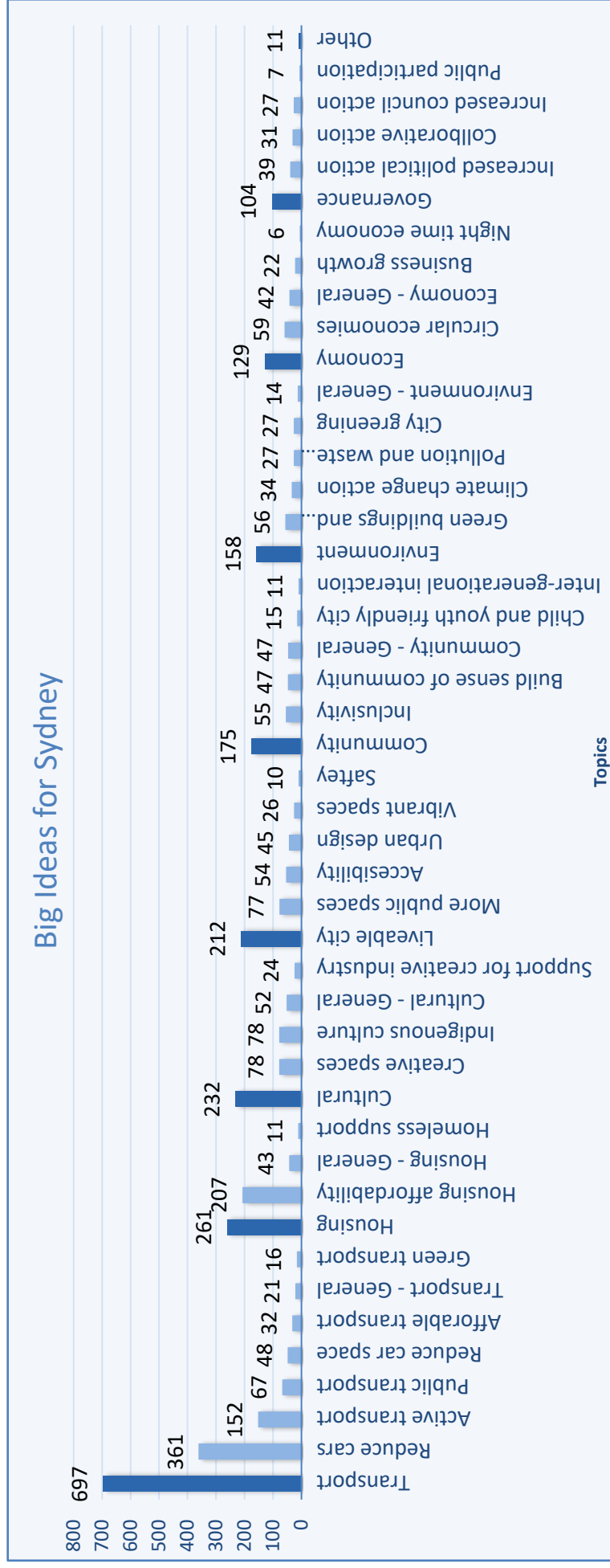


Participants responded to: **What's your big idea for Sydney's future?** They were also able to vote in favour of ideas. The count of ideas and votes is presented in the table. Note, the darker blue bars are the tally of all the light-blue bars under each topic.

**What was said**

- Transport was the most discussed and voted for idea, particularly: **reduced cars, active transport and public transport.**
- Housing **affordability** was the second most discussed and voted for big idea.
- Cultural **initiatives** were the third most important idea, particularly: **provision of space for creatives and Indigenous people.**

**Number of ideas on topics**





## Comment discussion

The following summarises comments made by participants on each topic. Included with each brief discussion is the number of comments made, plus the number of supporting votes for each topic.

### **Transport (697)**

Big ideas for the future of transport in Sydney were provided by a very large number of participants. Half of these ideas proposed reducing or removing cars from the CBD. A large number of comments were in favour of increasing active transport options, e.g. walking and cycling. A substantial number of comments wanted efficient and affordable public transport within the city.

### **Housing (261)**

Housing affordability was a key issue for a very large number of participants – there was a desire for urban residential spaces to always be affordable.

### **Cultural (232)**

The provision of cultural/creative spaces was important to a large number of participants. A substantial number favoured increasing the inclusion of Indigenous culture/practise in the city of Sydney. Providing more support in the future to creative industries was proposed by a moderate number of participants.

### **Liveable city (212)**

Liveability was discussed by a large number of participants, with nearly half desiring public spaces within the city. Other liveability ideas focused on accessibility, vibrancy, and safety throughout Sydney.

### **Community (175)**

Creating inclusivity, building stronger CBD communities, and increasing inter-generational interaction were ideas suggested by a large number of participants.

### **Environment (158)**

The environment was discussed by a large number of participants. Increasing the number of green buildings and infrastructure in the city was requested, as was a call for collective action on climate change. Reducing waste and pollution, and greening the city in general were ideas proposed by a considerable number of participants.

### **Economy (129)**

The city's economy concerned a large number of participants, with a third of comments favouring a transition to a circular economy model.

### **Governance (104)**

An increase in political action, including actions undertaken by the City Council, were proposed by a considerable number of participants. People also favoured collaborative actions between councils, communities, and commercial interests.

## Big Ideas for Sydney

(The 50 most popular words: the size of each word is relative to the number of times it was used by participants. Similar words (synonyms) have been combined.)







What excites most about  
Sydney's future

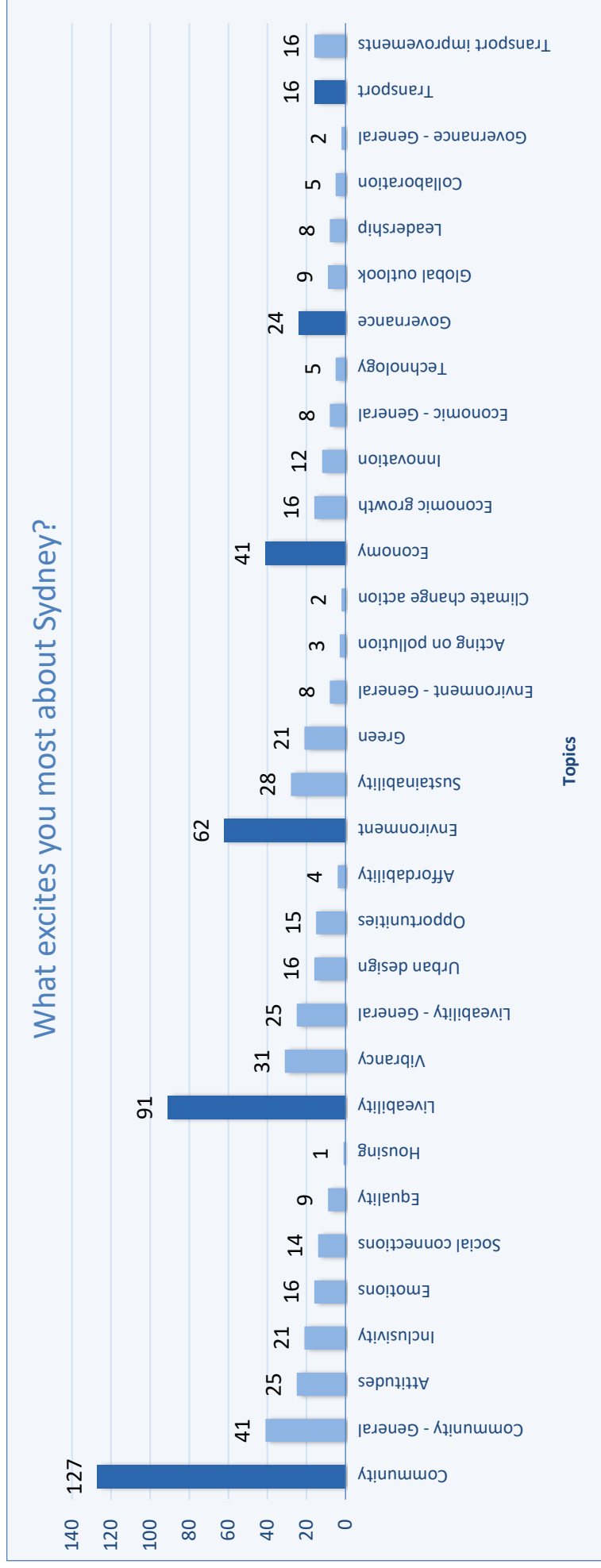


Participants respond to: In one word, tell us **what excites you most about the future of Sydney?**

**What was said**

- **Liveability aspects** were the most raised and voted on topic that excited participants, particularly the prospect of a **vibrant** city.
- **Community aspects** were raised and supported by participants, with **people** the most commented/voted on aspect.
- **Environmental aspects** such as **sustainability** featured as the third most popular response about what excites people about Sydney.

**Number of ideas on topics**



## Comment discussion

### Community (127)

Community was mentioned by a sizeable number of participants. Attitudes or approaches to living that excited participants were noted a considerable number of times. People spoke of change, potential resilience, progressiveness and ethical living. Inclusivity was the most exciting thing about Sydney for a moderate number of participants. Emotions such as happy, healthy and hopeful were descriptors used in a moderate number of comments. Social connections and equality were exciting for several people.

### Liveability (91)

Liveability was exciting to a sizeable number of participants. Vibrancy and liveability in general were cited by a considerable number of participants, whilst urban design and opportunity were stated as most exciting for a moderate number. Affordability was noted by a small number of people.

### Environment (62)

The prospect of a sustainable Sydney was considered exciting by a considerable number of participants. A moderate number of people were excited about the city being 'green' [note – this could be interpreted as more environmentally aware, or having more vegetation in the city]. Environment was simply stated by several people, and action on climate change was proposed by a couple of participants.

### Economy (41)

Economic growth and/or prosperity were noted by a moderate number of participants in response to the question of what excites them most about the future of Sydney. Several people responded with innovation and remaining comments were split between general 'economy' and technology.

### Governance (24)

Several participants were excited about Sydney having a global outlook, and a similar number cited leadership. Collaboration was viewed as an exciting aspect by a small number of people.

### Transport (16)

Transport options such as walkability, light rail and active transport modes were what most excited a moderate number of participants about the future of Sydney.







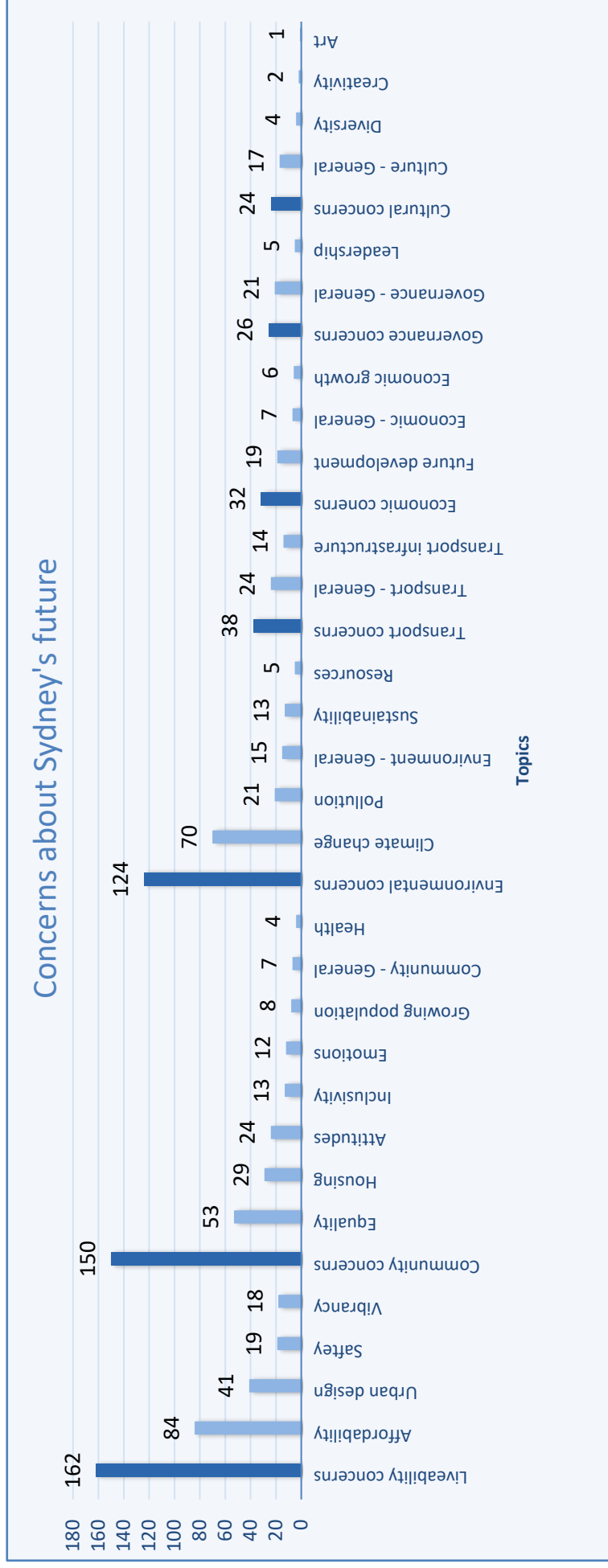
Biggest concerns about  
Sydney's future

Participants respond to: In one word, tell us what concerns you most about the future of Sydney?

### What was said

- **Liveability** was the biggest concern regarding the future of Sydney, in particular, **affordability**.
- **Community aspects** were prominent, with concerns about **social cohesion** visible.
- **Environmental concerns** were the third biggest concern regarding the future of Sydney, with **climate change** the particular concern.

### Number of ideas on topics





## Comment discussion

### Liveability concerns (162)

Affordability was the biggest concern for a sizeable number of participants, regarding liveability. A considerable number of other comments on liveability were related to enhancing urban design. Safety and vibrancy were concerns for a moderate number of participants.

### Community concerns (150)

Equality was important to a substantial number of participants with regards to community. A considerable number of people were concerned about housing and a moderate number were concerned about attitudes. Several people were concerned about inclusivity, emotions and the growing population.

### Environmental concerns (124)

Environmental concerns were important for a large number of participants. Climate change was the second highest commented on topic overall, with a substantial number of participants worried about its impacts. Pollution and the environment in general were of concern to a moderate number of people. Sustainability was noted several times and resources were a concern for a small number of participants.

### Transport concerns (38)

Transport concerns were generalised, with only a small number related specifically to transport infrastructure.

### Economic concerns (32)

Future economic development was a concern for a moderate number of participants. A small number of people were concerned about economic growth. The rest of the comments were about economic concerns in general.

### Governance (26)

Leadership and political concerns in general were highlighted by a considerable number of people. Nearly all of these were generalised comments, with only a small number citing leadership issues as the most concerning aspect for the future of Sydney.

### Cultural concerns (24)

Cultural concerns were generalised and often simply stated as 'culture'. Concerns about diversity and creativity were raised by a small number of participants.







Hopes for Sydney in 2050

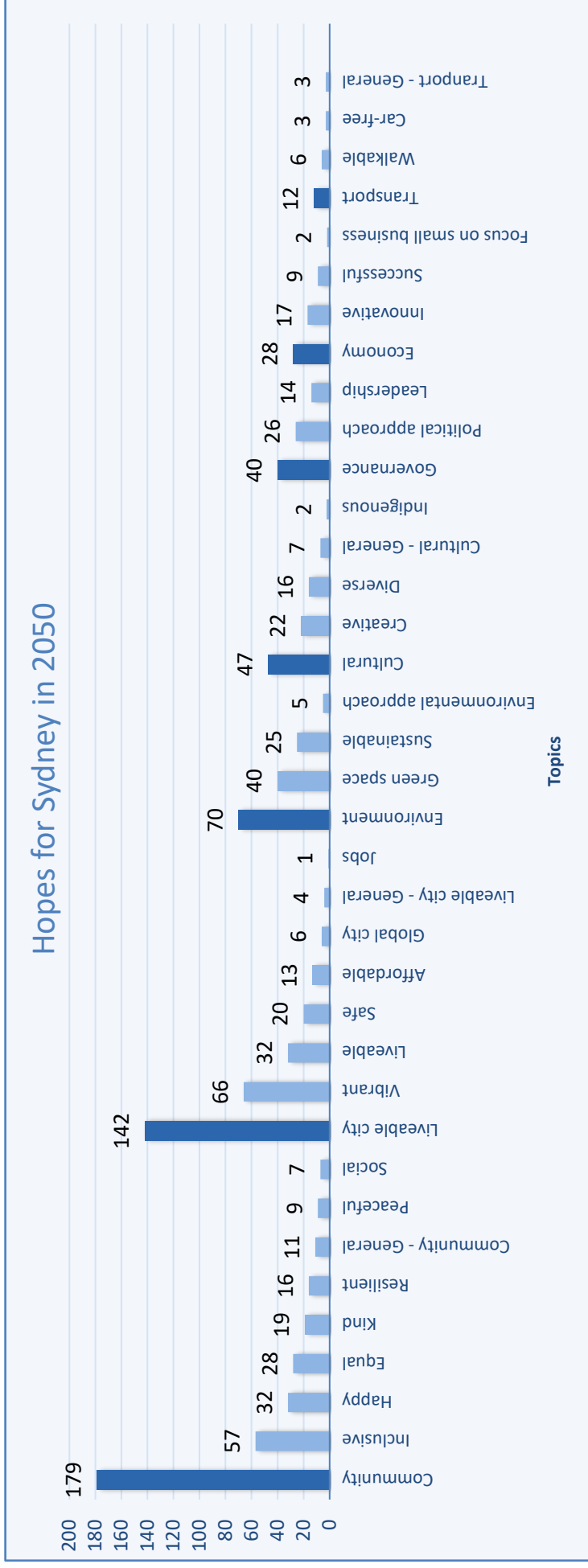


Participants responded to: **In one word, tell us what is the Sydney you hope for in 2050?**

### What was said

- **Community** was the biggest hope regarding the future of Sydney, particularly around ideas of **inclusivity** and **happiness**.
- **Liveable city** was the second biggest hope regarding the future of Sydney; participants spoke of Sydney being a **vibrant** and **liveable** city.
- **Environmental** was the third biggest hope regarding the future of Sydney; **green space** and **sustainability** were the most discussed ideas.

### Number of ideas on topics



## Comment discussion

### Community (179)

In the very large number of comments on community, participants conveyed that they hoped mainly for inclusivity in 2050. A considerable number of people each hoped for happiness and equality, while a moderate number hoped for kindness and resilience. Several participants stated that their hope was for generally positive community outcomes, peace, and social outcomes.

### Liveable city (142)

For a very large number of people, hopes for Sydney on 2050 were centered on it being a liveable city. A substantial number of people stated 'vibrant', while a considerable number stated 'liveable'. A moderate number wanted a safe Sydney in 2050, and several hoped for affordability. A small number hoped for Sydney in 2050 to be a global city, and one simply stated 'jobs'.

### Environment (70)

For a substantial number of participants who contributed to the poll, environmental hopes were prioritised. Over half of the environmental hopes were about green or natural space in the city, while a third hoped for sustainability. A small number wanted the environment prioritised in general ways.

### Cultural (47)

Cultural hopes were centered around creativity, with a moderate number of participants hoping for a creative Sydney in 2050. A moderate number also hoped for a diverse Sydney, while a small number of people noted general cultural hopes, and a couple of peoples' hopes were 'Indigenous'.

### Governance (40)

Various political approaches were cited in response to the question of what hopes people have for Sydney in 2050. Several participants cited leadership as a hope.

### Economy (28)

An innovative and successful economy were hoped for by a considerable and moderate number of participants respectively. Economic hopes were a priority for a considerable number in total.

### Transport (12)

Transport hopes were few, with several people citing aspects of this in their responses. A small number wanted a walkable Sydney and a few participants each noted car-free and general transport hopes in comments.





# Organisational actions to achieve shared vision





Participants responded to: **To achieve our shared vision for the future between now and 2025, my organisation will...** (participants could select more than one option)

*Partner with the City and/or other city stakeholders; Collaborate with the City or other stakeholders; Contribute resources, including finance; Advocate with the City and/or other stakeholders.*

### What was said

- **Collaborate with the City or other stakeholders** was the most commonly selected option – **80%**
- **Advocate with the City and/or other stakeholders** was the second most commonly selected option – **72%**
- **Partner with the City and/or other city stakeholders** was the third most commonly selected option – **63%**



A nighttime photograph of a city skyline with illuminated buildings. A large blue rectangular overlay covers the upper portion of the image, containing white text. The text is arranged in three lines: 'Table', 'discussions', and 'and polls'.

# Table discussions and polls



The sections that follow summarise the findings for the discussions held on five key topics for Sydney to 2050: How the city retains its diversity; How Sydney's competitive advantage can be strengthened, How Sydney maintains its liveability; How the city should grow, and, How we live within our environment. Each section commences with a summary of findings for each theme, then provides results of Topic Polls that were held, and finally the number of Ideas, Actions and Barriers comments is presented in charts. The Full Report (separate to this report) contains a full synthesis of all comments that were provided by participants.





## How the city retains its diversity





## What we heard

### Creative perspective

**Availability of space** ideas primarily covered providing space for creatives to work and display their work. It was important to participants that there are varied options, and that these are accessible. Some practical actions associated with this included the identification of locations suitable for arts initiatives (such as the use of foyers and/or vacant buildings, and, creativity hubs), and initiatives to promote a diverse population of creatives (such as subsidies, or designating certain Government buildings for arts). Barriers foreseen included tensions between those with different objectives, and a lack of funding.

**Affordability** issues were viewed as impacting on creatives' ability to live and work in Sydney. The availability of affordable housing was the main issue, actions suggested to support affordability were consistently about initiatives designed to 'free up' under-used spaces, or regulations to ensure the provision of affordable housing. Barriers to this were typically financial, but also related to housing supply and broader societal factors such as attitudes and values.

**Regulations** were criticised by participants as hindering the ability of a diverse creative city to evolve. Fewer regulations around noise were called for, particularly in the case where an existing venue is encroached upon by a new development. Local residents were seen as a potential barrier to these actions, and their expectation of peace and quiet was viewed as being at odds with city living.

**Support for creatives** was envisaged in the following forms: increased opportunities to showcase work, community support, Council support (such as free transport during arts festivals or exhibitions, and subsidised rental for art studio or band practice spaces). Barriers were again around costs and the difficulties of implementation due to bureaucratic and administrative roadblocks.

**Community development** ideas were centered on the concept of a 'city of villages' and the promotion of these as independent creative locales. Precinct-level support services (i.e. de-centralisation) was thought to enable better communication and collaboration at a 'village' level. The few barriers identified were around unsystematic approaches which were viewed as ineffective.

**Economy** ideas, actions and barriers were few. Participants supported the embedding of a cultural economy and identified socio-economic inequality and the lack of person-centered approaches as barriers.

### Key worker perspective

**Transport** ideas were typically about reducing commute times and the availability of affordable and reliable public transport. Barriers identified were systemic, such as the economy, and the will of the Government.

**Affordability** issues, such as for housing, were viewed as potentially limiting diversity and stifling creativity in Sydney. Suggested actions proposed included the idea that accessible housing be located close to transport and health services, and also that co-working spaces be made available for digital nomads to be able to take a flexible approach as to their work location. Affordable housing was viewed as crucial to attracting key workers to the city.

**State-Federal Government initiatives** suggestions involved clear mandate/policy targets on inclusionary zoning (or equivalent) in order for the city to retain its diversity from the perspective of key workers. Government intervention through planning and zoning was thought to achieve this, and barriers were again identified as being of a systemic nature.

### **Vulnerable persons perspective**

**Affordability** was seen to mostly impact on elderly women. Actions to combat high housing costs were identified as zoning changes, investment in social housing, and reducing land costs. Barriers were money, space, and allocation of resources.

**Availability of space** was an issue affecting the ability of Sydney to retain its diversity. Ideas to combat this included the utilisation of existing spaces for creative networking, and the provision of accessible support services for vulnerable people. Some of this could be funded by developers, according to one participant. Barriers raised were those to do with policy and/or decisions around who would administer initiatives and how.

**Community development** ideas and actions were around inclusivity for those with a disability, or the elderly – and involved funding arts ventures for physical infrastructure (i.e., ramps) to improve accessibility, as well as social support in the form of Auslan interpreters, although it was acknowledged that resourcing this might be a barrier to its implementation.

**State-Federal Government initiatives** were supported in theory, with participants' ideal scenario involving all levels working together. This was considered difficult to enact on the basis that the three-tiered system is embedded, and that the will to change operationally might not be present.

**Homeless support** services of a sustainable and connected nature were suggested, with both actions and barriers involving funding. One suggestion included mandatory donations from businesses.



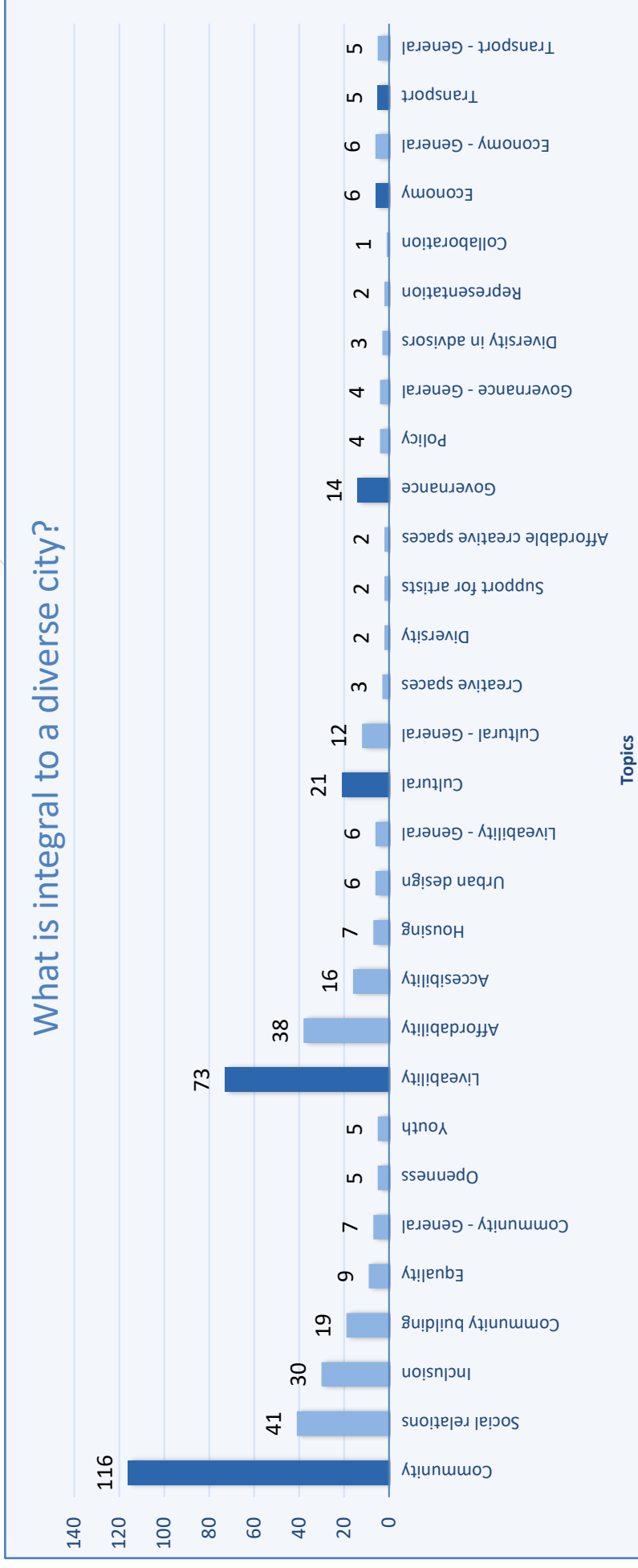
# Topic poll: Integral for diversity in the city

Participants respond to: What is the one thing that is integral to having a diverse city?

## What was said

- Community was important for a diverse city, with positive relationships and good **social relations** viewed as integral aspects of this.
- **Liveability** was the second most important thing for a diverse city; **affordability** was particularly highlighted.

## Number of ideas on topics



## Comment discussion

### Community (116)

A large number of participants discussed community aspects of diversity, such as relationships, inclusivity, and equality. Of these, a considerable number said that social relationships between people were crucial to fostering diversity in Sydney. Others noted that in order to be diverse, Sydney should be inclusive and open to all members of society.

### Liveability (73)

Affordable living was a key part of ensuring diversity in Sydney according to a considerable number of participants. This particularly related to the availability of affordable housing in the city. A moderate number of participants spoke about accessibility and ensuring that the city was accessible to all.

### Cultural (21)

A moderate number of participants said that culture was important to creating diversity in Sydney. Particular cultural aspects mentioned by a few participants included the importance of creative spaces, support for artists, and affordable creative spaces.

### Governance (14)

Several participants said that effective governance was integral to encouraging diversity in Sydney. They spoke of improved policies, increased representation and diversity of advisors in Government, as well as collaboration – as all being integral to diversity.

## 88

### Economy (6)

The economy was viewed as integral to having a diverse city by a small number of participants, with finance, money, productivity and jobs cited as being important.

### Transport (5)

Transport was cited as integral to diversity by a small number of people.



# Table discussion

## Description of table exercise

Participants were invited to reflect and discuss within their tables the following question:

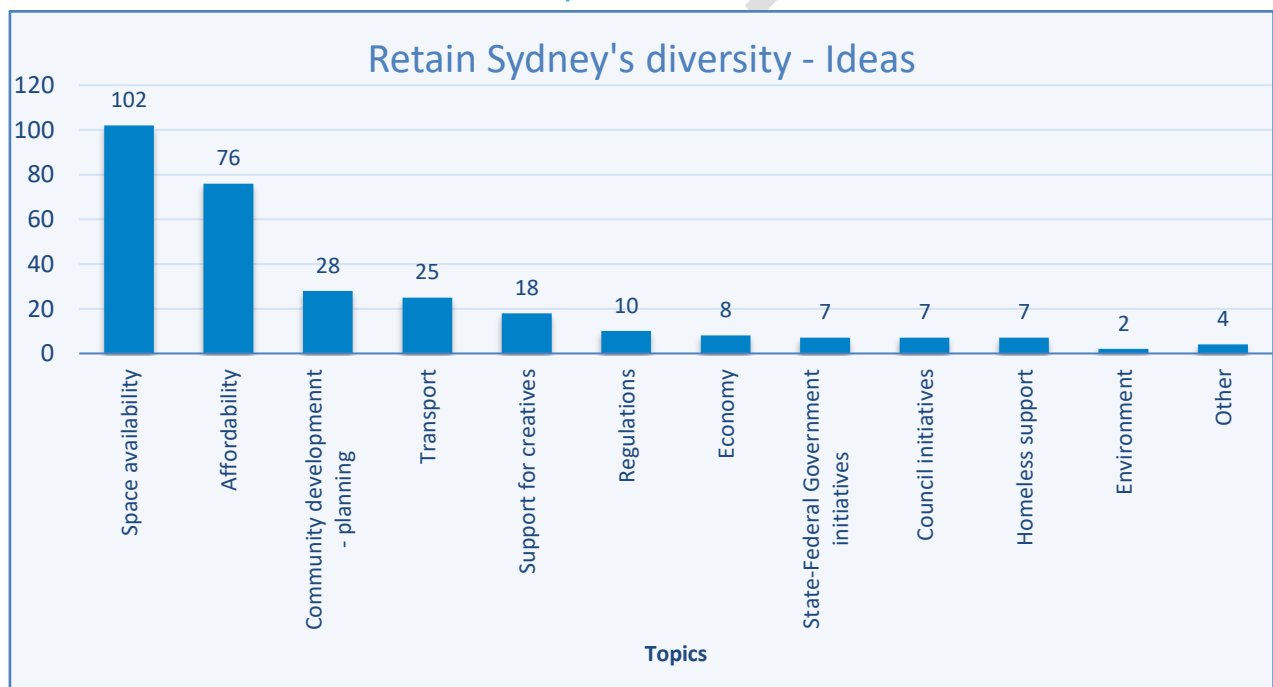
**'What do we need to do to respond to the needs of our creatives? The most vulnerable? Key workers? If we want to have a city that is diverse, inviting, lively and creative.'**

At each table, participants were provided with blank cards and were invited to write down their ideas, the actions to be taken and the barriers related to that idea. Their responses were divided into the perspectives outlined in the above question. The perspectives were – creatives, key workers and vulnerable persons.

## Number of Ideas, Actions and Barriers

The three charts that follow present the number of ideas, actions and barriers comments made during the discussions on *'What do we need to do to respond to the needs of our creatives? The most vulnerable? Key workers? If we want to have a city that is diverse, inviting, lively and creative.'* Note that these charts include all the perspectives, and are not split into the perspectives of, creatives, key workers and vulnerable persons.

### Ideas: number of comments on topics

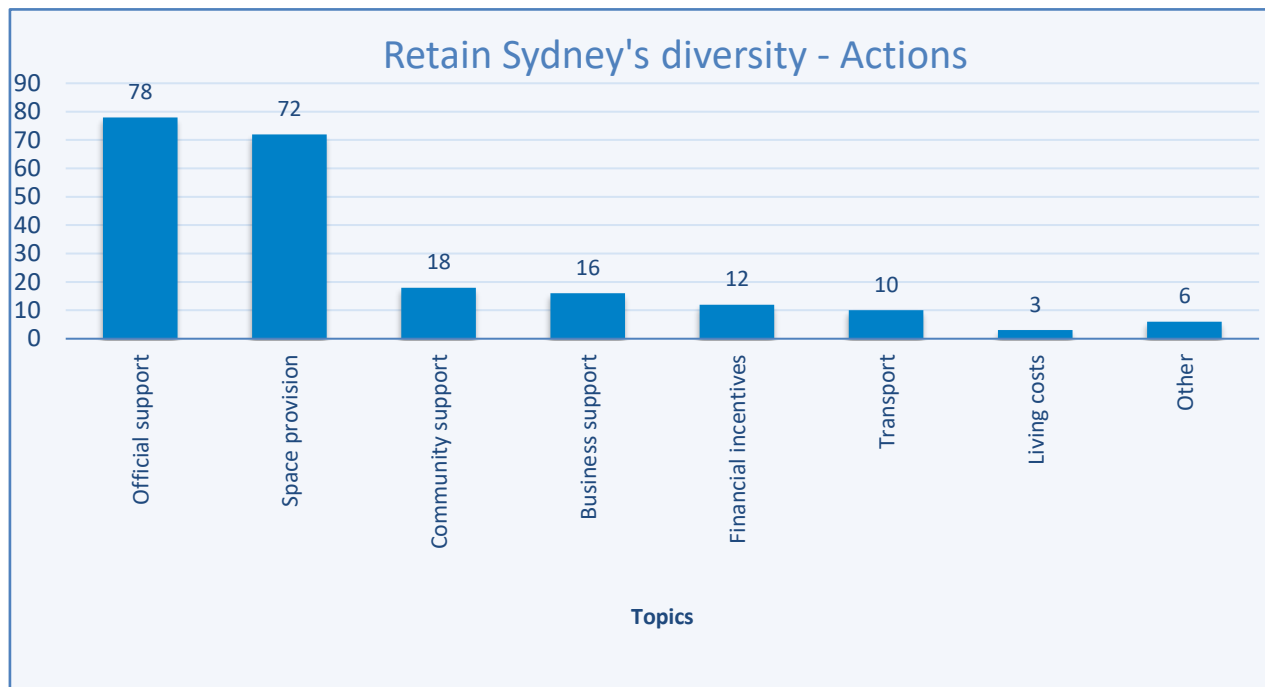


## Results

- *Space availability* ideas were the most commonly suggested.
- Other commonly suggested barriers were those about *affordability*.



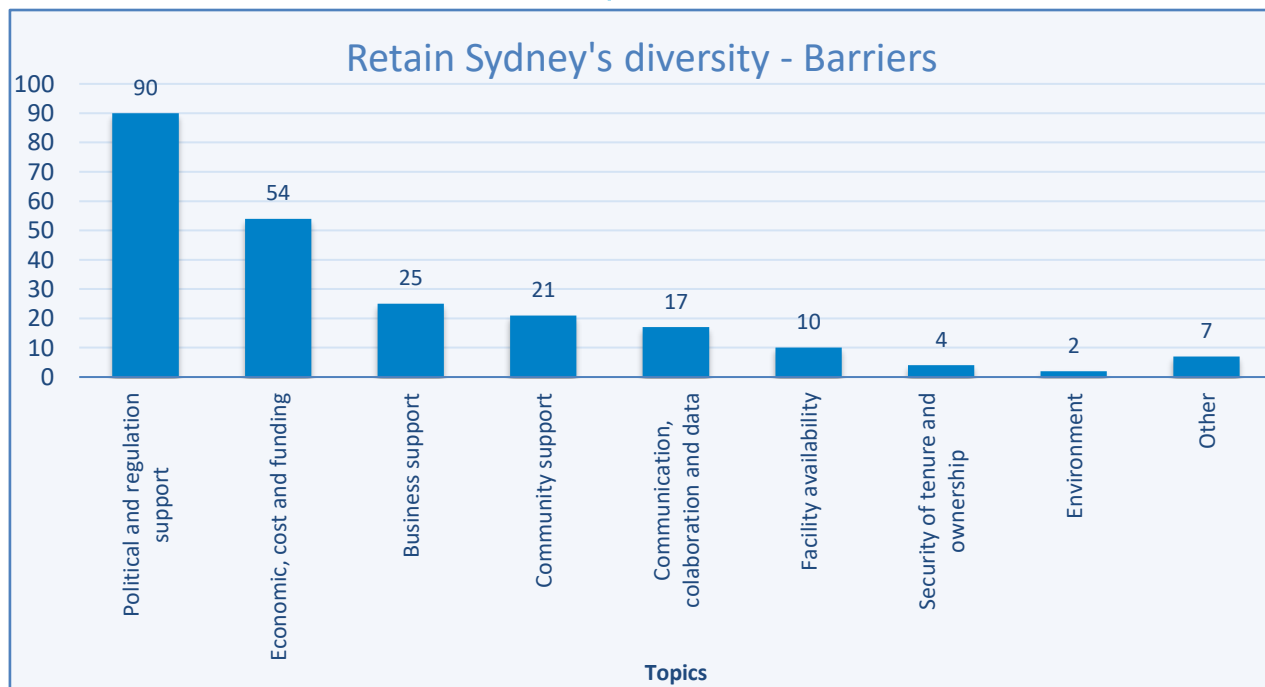
Actions: number of comments on topics



Results

- *Official support* actions were the most commonly suggested.
- Other commonly suggested barriers were about *space provision*.

Barriers: number of comments on topics

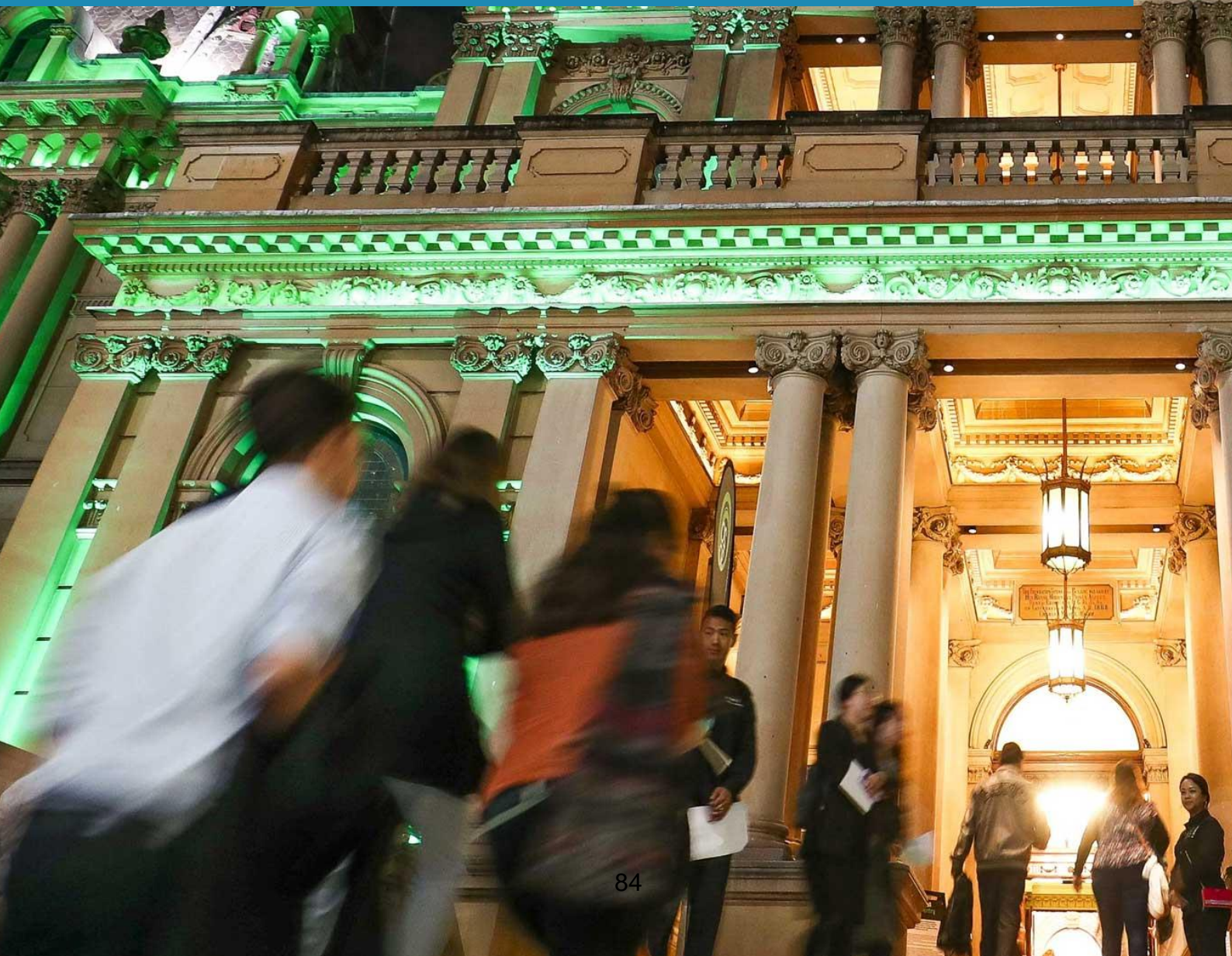


Results

- *Political and regulation support* barriers were the most commonly suggested.
- Other commonly suggested barriers were those about *economic, cost, funding*.



# How Sydney's competitive advantage can be strengthened





# What we heard

## 0–5-year time period

**Establishing and growing innovative businesses** was a popular idea cited for maintaining Sydney's competitive advantage, and reducing risk was a key outcome sought. Actions to achieve this were the provision of affordable building space for various uses and the reduction of tax and insurance liabilities. Enticing successful businesses to Sydney by supporting their growth was another suggested action. Barriers identified were entrenched business management practices that don't embrace technology-based development options, such as working remotely.

**Supporting artistic development**, such as making Sydney Australia's cultural hub was proposed. A centralised hub, as well as repurposing spaces for artistic purposes were suggested actions. Improved affordability for providers and audiences was another suggestion. Specific actions for Local and Federal Government were funding and supporting artistic programmes. The key barrier to delivery was considered lack of understanding and acknowledgment of the importance of the arts.

**An equitable, diverse city with high quality of life** was interpreted as the need for building social capital, social connections and equity for all including the most vulnerable. The sentiment within actions to deliver on equity outcomes was being flexible and adaptive to community needs, including: tech/innovative designs to improve city life, community environmental actions/activities, and authentic cultural celebrations. Government actions included facilitating and tracking change. Barriers were considered the need for affordable housing and freeing up floor space, along with the issue of Sydney citizens' mindset and cultural attitudes.

Other ideas suggested were:

- **Improving human capital**, through improving salaries, job centres and educational opportunities. More training and jobs growth were key actions, and barriers were the current institutional systems and equitable opportunities.
- **More, improved affordable housing** to attract a more diverse Sydney population, particularly young people. Actions included reusing and repurposing existing space. The main barriers included the matter of funding and the need for private business to return profits.
- **Support for a more diverse Sydney** was suggested in a few ideas. Actions to achieve this were the promotion and delivery of Government programmes. A barrier was the need to prioritise and take meaningful action.

## 6–10-year time period

**Support for clean tech/green innovative businesses** over financial and professional services was a popular idea for the medium term, to maintain Sydney's competitive advantage. Actions to achieve this were Government support through grants and investment, and supporting affordable commercial space through structural policy changes. The main barriers were identified to be financial/cost and uncertainty around skills availability.

**Improving city liveability** through physical infrastructure – such as walkability and spaces that facilitate human interactions – were other ideas. Actions to achieve this were providing space for creatives within new buildings and green interaction space within all new developments, as well as improving active movement infrastructure (walkability) in public spaces. Providing computer terminals in public spaces for the disadvantaged was also suggested. The key barrier was the lack of will to make changes to the public realm to improve walkability, and the need for ongoing support to access services for underprivileged communities.

**Fostering human capital** through a variety of ideas was suggested, such as investing in talent, and educating young people to work in new industries. Actions to achieve this were focused on teaching young people what they will need to know so as to be successful in the future. Barriers to delivering ideas were a lack of investment in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) research, youth lacking the confidence to take learning risks, and the undervaluing of international education.

**Reduced traffic congestion** through better public and active transport was suggested. Actions to achieve this were a comprehensive metro, cargo bikes for last-km deliveries, charging points, and diversified activity centres. Barriers to achievement were cost and political will.

**Improving environmental resilience** was proposed in other ideas. Actions to achieve this included embedding resilience and climate risk management into every planning decision. Heat mitigation included green roofs and an urban tree canopy, improving building efficiency and light-colored roads, promotion of repair and recycle to reduce consumption was also suggested. Barriers included a lack of integrated thinking across sectors.

### 11–30-year time period

There were fewer ideas suggested for the 11–30-year time period than there were for the two shorter time periods.

**Building on competitive strengths** through exporting professional services and education technology were proposed ideas. Actions to deliver these included the enhancement of multiculturalism and links to places outside of Sydney. Barriers were cost efficiency of geographic connectivity and collaboration.

**Business initiatives were relatively diverse** and included implementation of a modern slavery bill, diversifying work centres to Parramatta, ensuring diversity of space, and filling the gaps between seed funds. Actions to deliver these were the provision of affordable business space, realignment of the metro system to Parramatta, lobbying Federal Government and incentivising exploitation-free workplaces. Barriers to achievement were the value of Sydney's real estate and political criteria.

**Improving liveability** through changing where people live was expressed in ideas to increase the number of people living in the CBD or to establish Parramatta as more of a centre. Actions to achieve this were increasing CBD residential living options and improving transport connections to Parramatta. Barriers to achievement were the need to create an attractive city that draws people, such as one that isn't dominated by personal vehicles.

Other ideas suggested were:

- **Council and Government improvements** through increased efficiency, increasing commercial space through rezoning. Actions to achieve this were increased Council influence with a Swedish approach, incentivising space development and reducing Government control. Barriers to achievement were the lack of trust between authorities and developers.
- **Develop a culture hub** was one long-term idea, with actions to achieve this being an investment in creativity and the development of Government policy to create culture hubs. A lack of policy was identified as a barrier.
- **Improved active transport** and reduced vehicles, through actions such as improving the city's pedestrian master plan. Barriers identified were cost and political will.
- **Improved housing** through better environmental options or a mix of residential and commercial space. Actions included support for 5/6-star environmental standards and local Government initiatives. Barriers to achievement were cost and prioritisation.

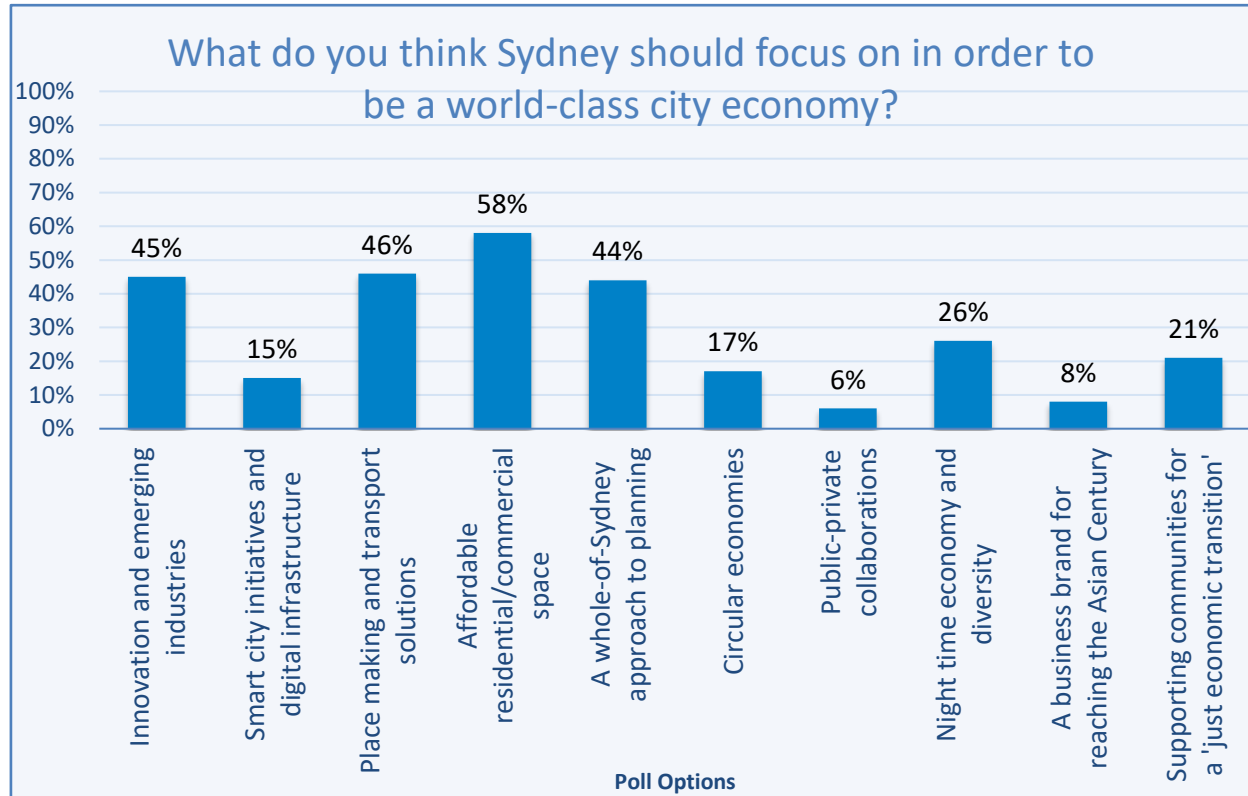


# Topic poll: Sydney's focus to be a world-class city economy

Participants were invited to answer the question below, by selecting options presented in the chart below. Note that multiple options could be selected, and 78 participants completed the activity.

'What do you think Sydney should focus on in order to be a world-class city economy?'

## Sydney's focus to be a world-class economy



## Results

- The most commonly selected option (58%) to focus on what *affordable housing and commercial space*.
- Three other options were also considered important (+44%): *place-making and transport solutions*; *innovation economy and emerging industries*; and, *A whole-of-Sydney approach to planning*.

# Table discussion

## Description of table exercise

Participants were invited to reflect and discuss within their tables the following two questions:

‘What do we need to do to build on our competitive strengths as a job centre, tourism attractor and cultural hub?’

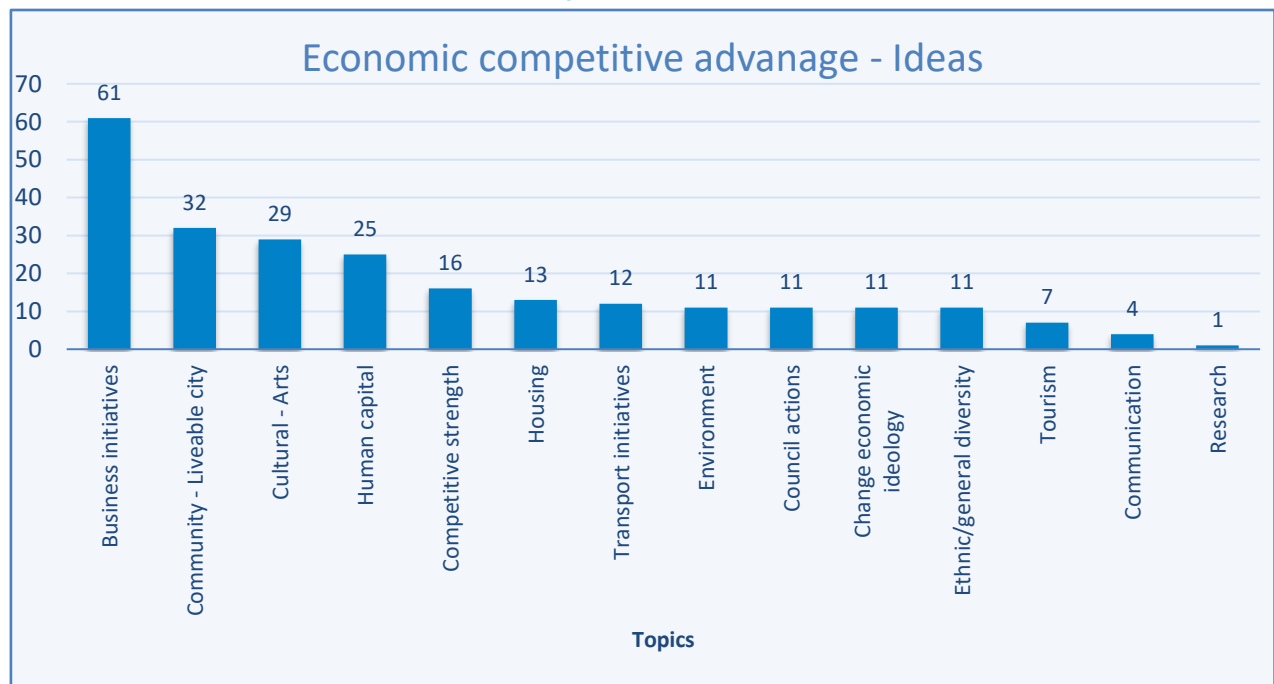
‘How do we ensure the city’s economy is resilient, agile and inclusive to prosper in the face of change?’

At each table, participants were provided with blank cards to write down their ideas, the actions to be taken and the barriers to that idea and then to plot the cards into a timeline of 0-5 years (by 2025), 6-10 years (by 2030) and 11-30 years (by 2050), according to the timing they considered important for that idea to be implemented.

## Number of Ideas, Actions and Barriers

The three charts that follow present the number of ideas, actions and barriers comments made during the discussions on “How do we strengthen Sydney’s competitive advantage?”. Note that these charts are for all time periods, and have not been split by the 0–5 ; 6–10 and 11–30 year time periods.

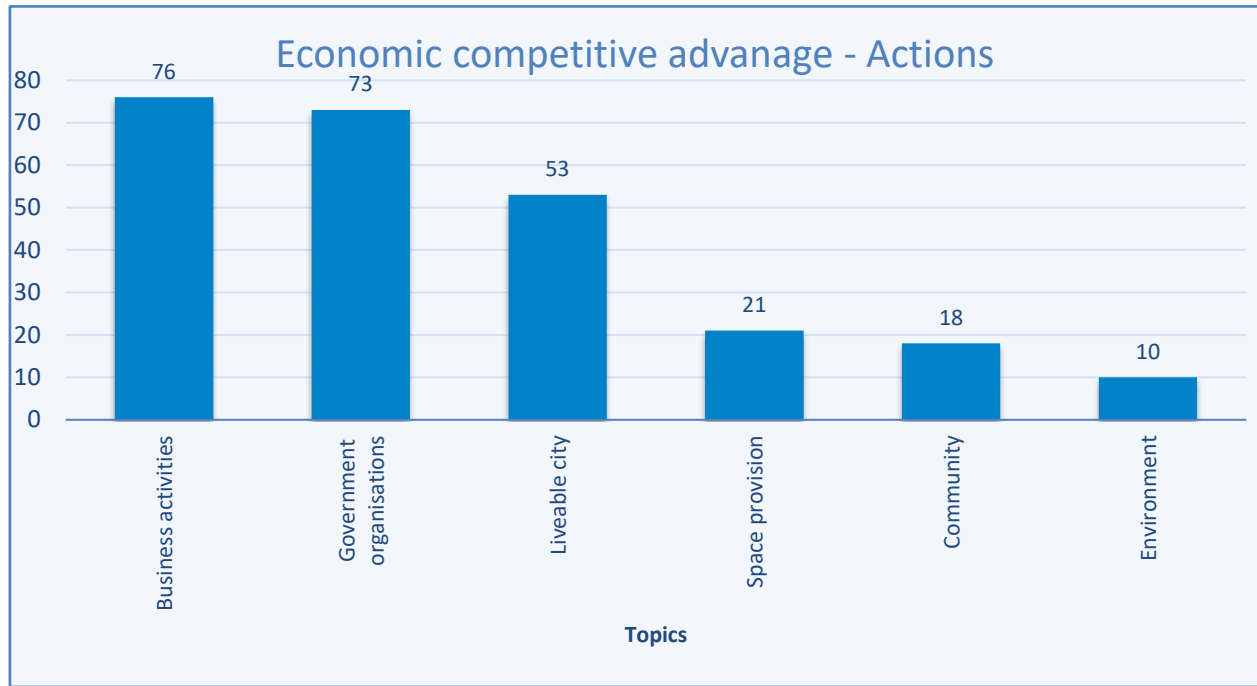
### Ideas: number of comments on topics



## Results

- *Business initiatives* were the most commonly suggested ideas.
- Other commonly suggested ideas were: *community-liveable city*; *cultural-arts*; and, *human capital*.

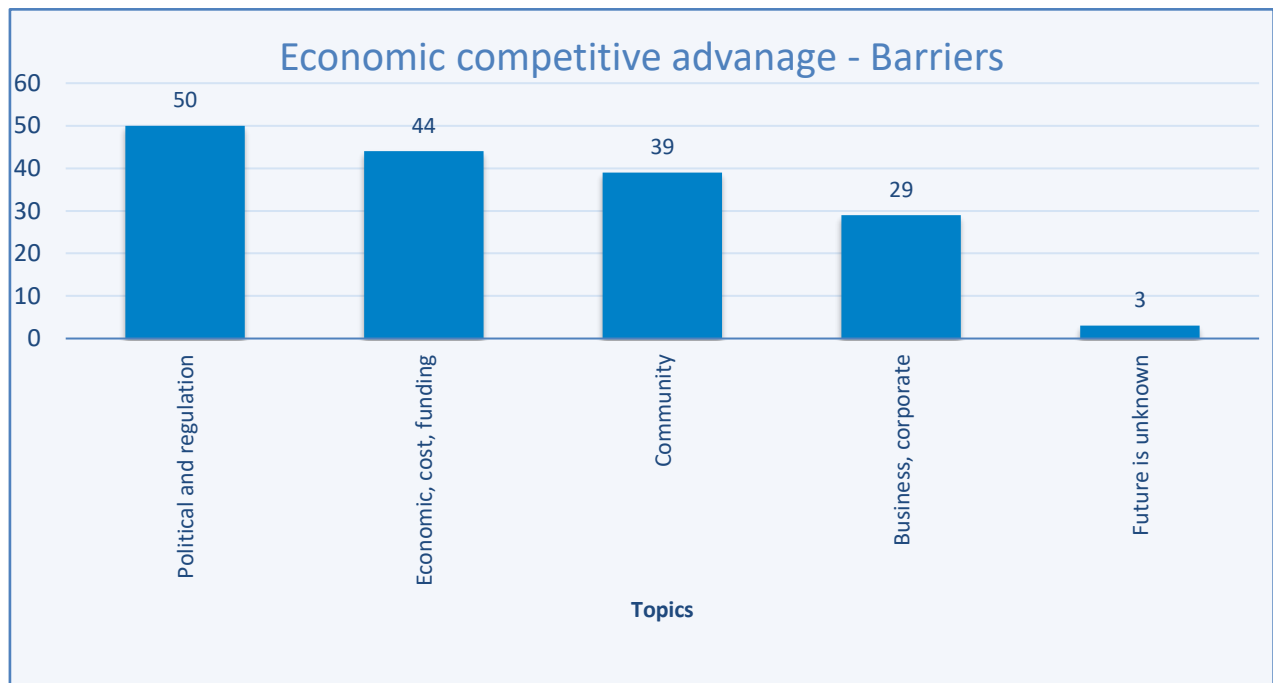
### Actions: number of comments on topics



### Results

- *Business activities* were the most commonly suggested actions.
- Other commonly suggested activities were those regarding: *Government organisations* and *liveable city*.

### Barriers: number of comments on topics



### Results

- *Political and regulation* barriers were the most commonly suggested.
- Other commonly suggested barriers were: *economic, cost, funding, community, and business, corporate*.



# How Sydney maintains its liveability





## What we heard

**Green the city** was the most discussed idea as to how Sydney could maintain its liveability. This idea involved finding ways to increase the number of trees and greenery in the city, and the connection of green open spaces, as well as improving cooling, air quality, and climate resilience. The most popular action to 'green' the city was the development of vertical and rooftop gardens. Other suggestions included urban rewilding, vines across streets and on wires, the repurposing of existing space to green space and increased access for the community to plant and care for green space. Key barriers to the greening of the city included infrastructural, policy, cost, and regulation and planning barriers.

**Create more space for people** by calming the city centre to create more space for people to walk, cycle and 'stay' supported by a great public transport system. Increasing the number of public transport options and the amount of public transport that was available were suggested actions, along with extensions to, and development of, new cycle ways, the removal and use of cars, and the creation of park-and-ride and underground parking facilities. Cost, infrastructure availability, investment and not enough focus on integrating public transport and cars or creative solutions to current problems were all identified as key barriers.

**Create a city for walking**, with investment in calm, cool, green, connected streets to encourage more people to walk more often. The most popular action was to create spaces for walking in the city. Other actions included the development of infrastructure, such as a skywalk, public water fountains and shade panels to encourage people to walk. Green building design and the 'greening' of streetscapes and corridors were also discussed. Cost was the biggest barrier. Other barriers included public resistance and ingrained dependence on cars, as well as regulatory and policy barriers.

**Support night-time economy**, by encouraging a range of activities, supported by good public transport – to ensure the city has a vibrant, safe and flourishing night-time economy. The key actions to achieve this idea were to create, change or remove policy and regulations and to develop activities and spaces to better support a night-time economy. The most identified barriers were planning, policy and regulatory functions.

**Re-prioritise road space in the city centre** by re-routing traffic from the city centre to around the city centre – to decrease congestion and make more space available for public life. A range of actions was suggested, including: limiting traffic on the roads; the implementation of a road toll to enter the city, or a congestion tax; reducing speed limits; the creation of shared roads; and, reclaiming parking spaces for other uses. The barriers to re-prioritisation of road space were highly varied. The barriers included private industry will, policy and regulatory barriers, effects on city transport and parking reduction, as well as conventional hours of transport.

**Create a city for cycling, through** investment in bike routes that connect the city centre to surrounding areas so as to encourage more people to cycle more often. The development of infrastructure, such as interconnected and protected bikeways, bike storage facilities and transport solutions were the most popular actions identified to create a city for cycling. Other actions included the implementation of education programmes in order to rectify driving culture and the attitudes of drivers towards cyclists and pedestrians, implementation of share- and e-bikes, and policy and regulatory controls to increase the 'greening' of the city. The key barriers were education, public awareness and perception, the driving culture, public and motorist resistance, and political will and approach.

**Leverage public transport investment**, investing sufficiently in public transport to move people across metropolitan Sydney into the city centre and creating great places around public transport infrastructure. Over half of the actions suggested concerned 'green' infrastructure, particularly the implementation of electrified buses, such as those that run on solar or battery power. Cost was the biggest barrier, followed by political will and approach.

**Create a city for staying** by improving the quality and expansion of public spaces across the wider City of Sydney. Public spaces were seen as spaces for people to come together, for recreation, sporting activities, events, and cultural activities. Suggested actions centered around developing community and shared spaces. Three key barriers were identified, including: private industry will, space, and governmental barriers.

**An inclusive city** is a child-friendly and age-friendly city – a city that works for everyone of all ages and abilities and is welcoming. Two key actions were identified to achieve an inclusive city. Suggested actions were to increase the interactions between children and adults, especially the elderly, and also to increase accessibility of buildings for all peoples. Cost, stereotypes and inadequacy of exiting spaces, buildings and facilities were barriers that were each identified twice. No one barrier was identified more than a couple of times.

**A cultural and creative city**, by encouraging more small scale, localised cultural activity in Sydney. Key actions to improving cultural activity included grants for community, creative and cultural activities, the use of existing spaces or 'cheap' spaces for cultural and creative activities. Affordability and funding issues were highlighted as key barriers to a cultural and creative city.

**Retain the character** of particular areas of the city and identify the qualities that make that area unique – its character, or heritage or fine-grained nature for example – and work to retain them. A range of actions were identified to retain, prioritise, value or save character areas. Research and development actions were also proposed to identify areas of character importance. The provision of money and cost was the biggest barrier.

**Celebrating First Peoples' cultures** through telling the stories of the First Peoples of Sydney and celebrating the oldest continuous living cultures. The most popular action was to celebrate First Peoples stories, through education programmes, naming, cultural celebrations, tourism, digital forums and the creation of related cultural space and activities. First Peoples' community actions included the development of community projects, centres and culturally appropriate and affordable housing solutions. Funding was identified as the key barrier.

**Digital place-making** was an idea that encompassed utilising data and technology to inform better decision-making and bring the unique character, history and culture of the city to life with place-based digital storytelling. A range of actions was discussed. The actions fell into the categories of the development of digital infrastructure and hubs, storytelling platforms and digital promotion. No barriers were discussed.

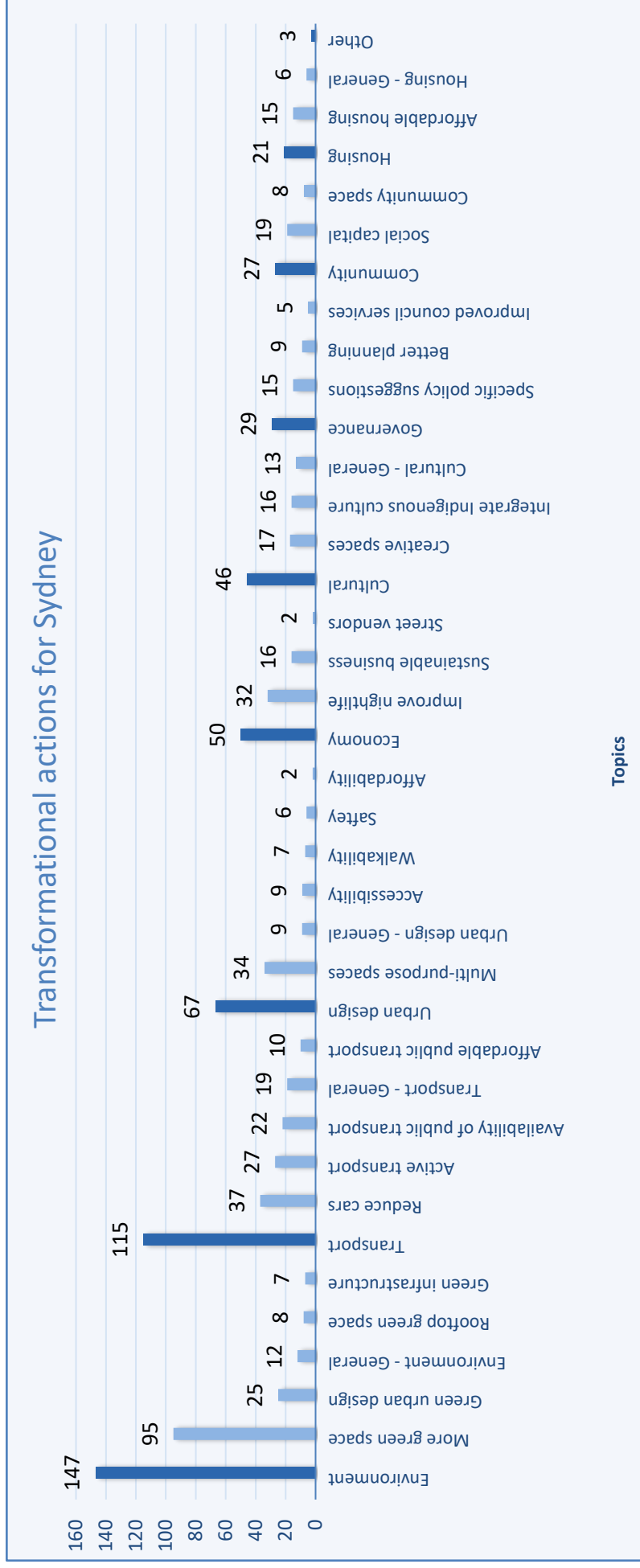
# Topic poll: Transformative actions for Sydney's future liveability

Participants responded to: What are the three most transformative actions the City could take to ensure our future liveability?

## What was said

- **Environment** was the most discussed and voted for action, particularly: **more green spaces and green urban design.**
- **Transport** was the second most discussed and voted for action, particularly: **reduced cars.**
- **Urban design** was the third most important action, particularly: **multi-purpose spaces.**

## Number of ideas on topics



## **Comment discussion**

### **Environment (147)**

The environmental was important to a large number of participants, two-thirds of whom stated that more greenery in the city would be the most transforming action for the city in terms of liveability. Second to increased greenery (in the form of parks, trees, spaces), was environmentally sensitive design and environmental concerns generally. Several people each noted green rooftops and green infrastructure as transformative.

### **Transport (115)**

Transport issues were also a concern for a large number of people, a quarter of these wanted the number of cars to be reduced in the city. A considerable number of people stated that active transport as the primary means of getting about would positively impact liveability, and a similar number were in favour of increasing the uptake of public transport. General transport improvements and more affordable public transport were noted by several people.

### **Urban Design (67)**

A substantial number of participants felt that urban design actions would be the most transformative in terms of creating a liveable city. Half of these were about the ability to use spaces in a variety of ways. Remaining urban design initiatives suggested included comments from several people who each advocated for accessibility, walkability and safety features. A couple noted the issue of public transport affordability.

### **Economy (50)**

A substantial number of people stated that aspects of the economy were transformational actions so far as Sydney's liveability is concerned. Two-thirds of these (a moderate number) stated that an improved night-time economy, such as more opportunities for nightlife, was integral to liveability. A moderate number cited sustainable businesses as transformational for liveability, and a couple thought street vendors were a key to a liveability.

### **Cultural (46)**

Socio-cultural aspects such as creative spaces and the integration of Indigenous peoples' perspectives in city life were reported by a moderate number of people each. Other general cultural issues were viewed as adding to liveability by several participants.

### **Governance (29)**

There were specific policy suggestions from a moderate number of participants while several people called for better planning. A small number of participants thought that improved Council services would improve liveability, and a few had other governance ideas.

### **Community (27)**

A considerable number of people thought that community aspects would improve liveability; these included a moderate number who supported social capital initiatives and several who felt that the provision of appropriate community spaces would be transformational for Sydney's liveability.

### **Housing (21)**

A moderate number of participants raised housing as a transformational aspect to improve liveability. Most of these were about affordability, others were general.



## Transformative Actions for Sydney's Future Liveability

(50 most popular words: the size of the word is relative to the number of times it was used by participants)



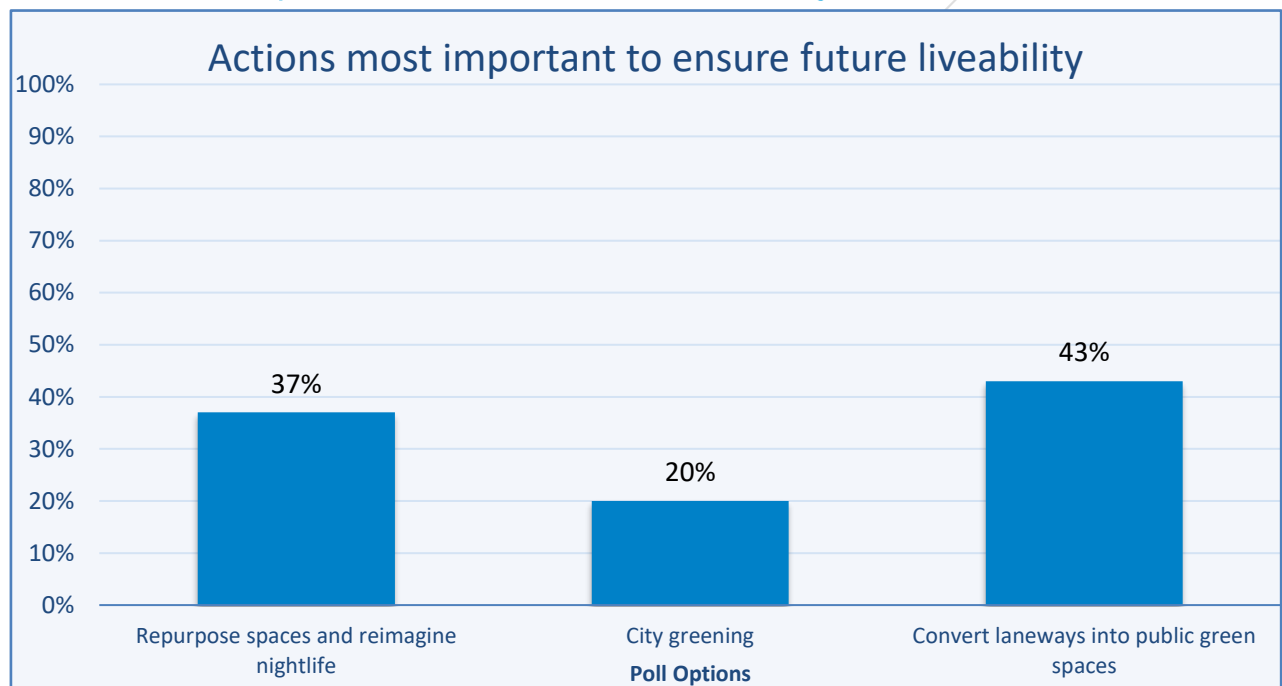
# Topic poll: Actions most important to ensure future liveability

Participants responded to: **Of the three transformative actions below, what is the most important one to ensure future liveability?** Respondents could select one option.

## What was said

- **Convert laneways into public green spaces** was the most popular option, selected by 43% of participants.
- **Repurpose spaces and reimagine nightlife** was the second most popular option, selected by 37% of participants.
- **City greening** was the third most popular option, selected by 20% of participants.

## Actions most important to ensure future liveability



# Table discussion

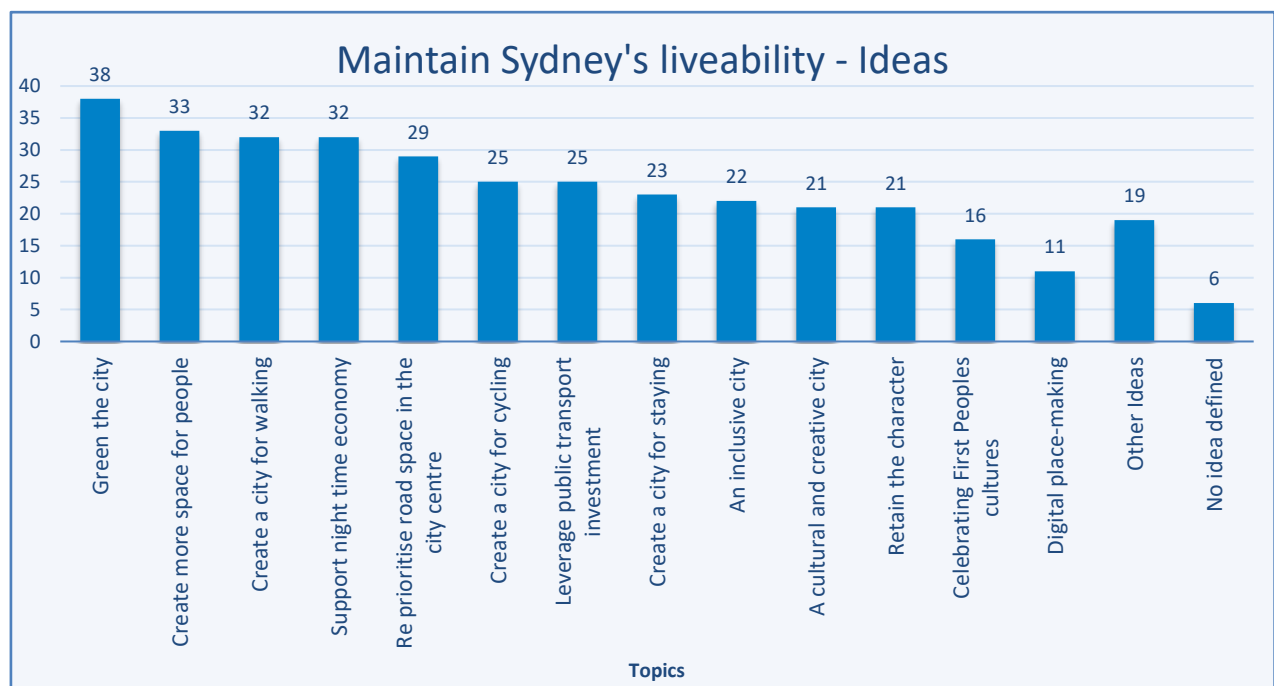
## Description of table exercise

Each table was provided with cards pre-populated with 13 different ideas. Participants were asked to identify the actions to be taken and the barriers to each idea. Blank cards were also provided to participants to write down ideas not covered by the pre-populated cards.

## Number of Ideas, Actions and Barriers

The three charts that follow present the number of ideas, actions and barriers comments made during the discussions of the pre-prepared ideas.

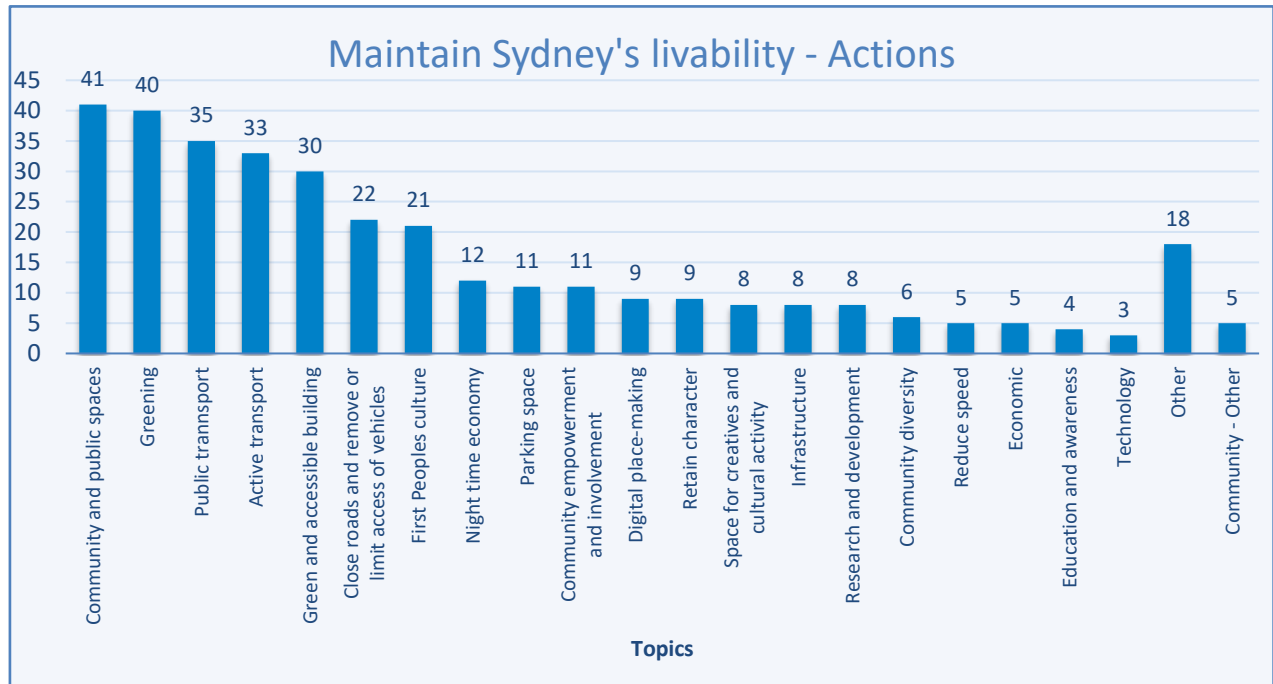
### Ideas: number of comments on topics



## Results

- Ideas to *Green the city* were the most commonly suggested.
- Other commonly suggested ideas were: *create more space for people*; *create a city for walking*; and, *support night-time economy*.

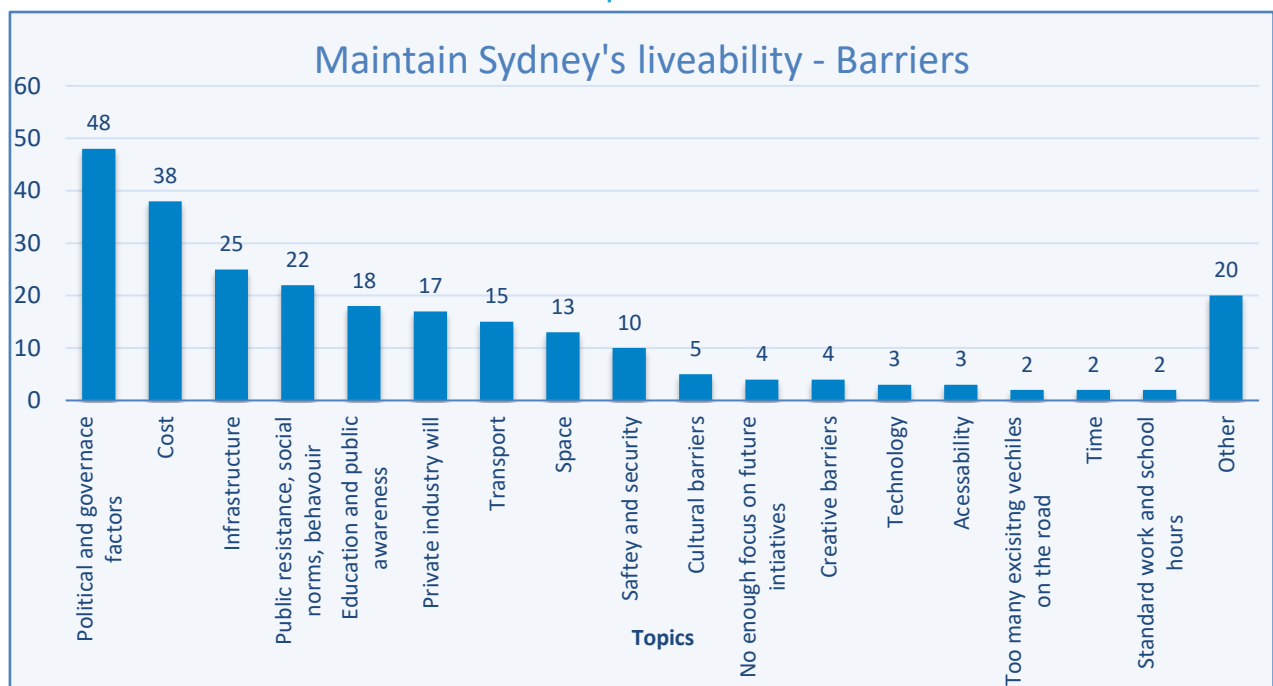
### Actions: number of comments on topics



### Results

- *Community and public spaces* actions were the most commonly suggested.
- Other commonly suggested activities were: *greening; public transport; and, active transport.*

### Barriers: number of comments on topics



### Results

- *Political and governance factors* were the most commonly identified barriers.
- Other commonly suggested barriers were: *cost; infrastructure; and, public resistance, social norms, behaviour.*





# How the city should grow



## What we heard

**Space provision and availability of space** for creative or innovative purposes were viewed as the most prized way to achieve good growth.

The idea of **creative corridors** was frequently supported, with the idea that this initiative would activate the city and foster creativity/innovation generally. Actions proposed to activate this idea were varied and included allocating dedicated space, and either conversion or more efficient use of existing space for creative collaboration. This meant promoting a culture that values trialing new things, requiring open-mindedness and leadership from Council as well as support from developers.

Barriers were mostly viewed as being financial or economic. Participants agreed that costs can hamper initiatives, and that those with a financial interest in building-use (i.e., landlords, developers) have profit as a primary goal, which can exclude creative and/or innovative endeavors.

**Mixed and multi-use spaces** were suggested to facilitate good growth; participants envisaged smarter use of spaces, and spaces (including housing) accessible to people from a range of ethnicities, incomes, lifestyles and ages. There was strong support for actions to reduce emphasis on real estate as a vehicle for profit, and the need to re-conceptualise private/public space to better cater to social needs. Barriers to this were viewed as being both systemic and at the micro level, with financial and economic barriers again the most prominent in discussion.

**Public and active transport and good mobility** were considered essential for the good growth of Sydney. Ideas centered on accessibility and connectivity, with support for reduced car-use and increased cycling, walking, and public transport. Suggested actions included better management of public transport (e.g., by the state), coordination of transport routes and housing areas (to enable better accessibility), and congestion tax.

Barriers included aspects around collaboration and the perceived lack of ability of bureaucratic systems to achieve this.

**Urban design** ideas included calls for good, high quality and forward-thinking design to ensure good growth. A dense yet attractive city was viewed as ideal, alongside which smarter and more efficient ways of living should be promoted. Actions included people-focused design (mandated if required). Barriers to this were seen in the form of regulatory and legislative limitations.

### Other city growth topics included:

- Ideas around the **protection of city heritage and character** were popular; this aspect was viewed as an important aesthetic amenity in Sydney and an attraction for visitors. Actions suggested included resourcing for preservation and clear design standards. Foreseen barriers included accessing funding and also negative influence from those with vested interests.
- Ideas in support of a **creative economy** were suggested by several participants, such as cultural programmes, and initiatives to support and nurture creative enterprise. Suggested actions included: CoS role-modelling creativity; collaboration with artists and including them in decision making; and, financial support. The lack of the latter was viewed as one of a few barriers to the development of a thriving creative economy.

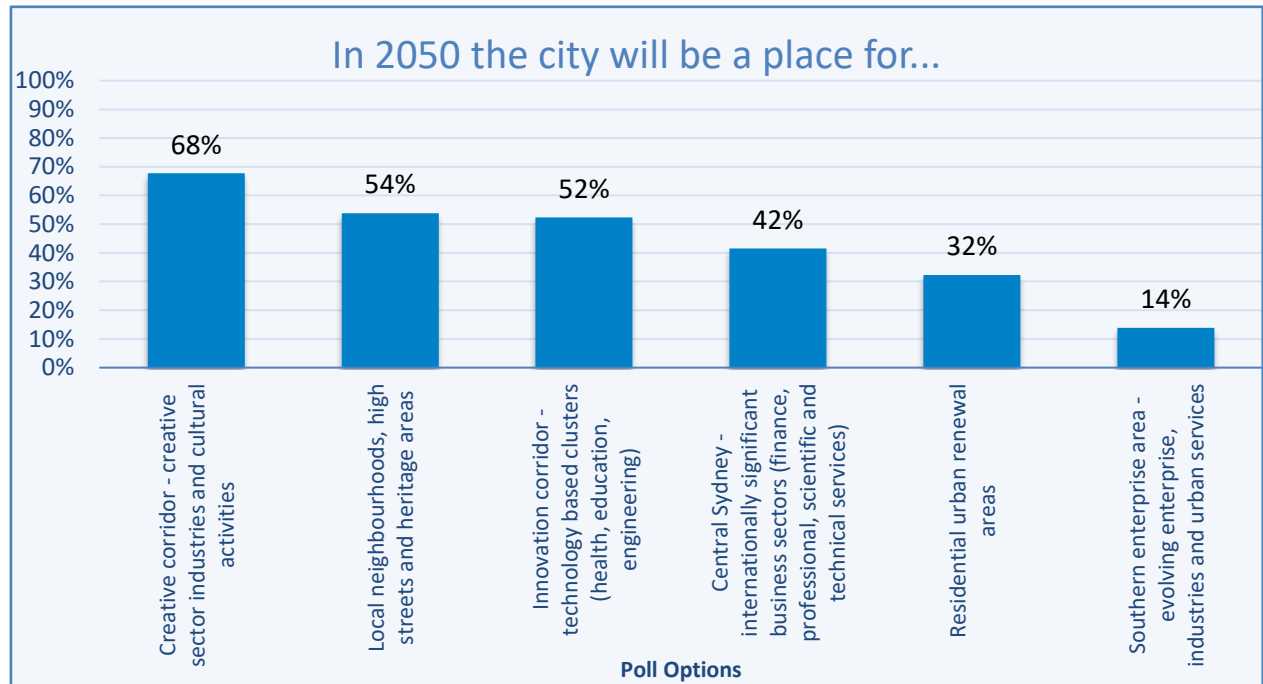
- **Collaborative approaches** were supported by several participants as an aspect of good growth. Ideas included inter-sector and inter-industry collaboration, and better or increased communication between community, business and CoS leaders was also sought. Barriers to this were perceived in the form of the difficulties in actuating meaningful relationships.
- **Social and walkable streets** ideas and actions included those for a greener, activated people-oriented, safe city. Barriers were that there are conflicting ideas about how to achieve this, and a lack of coordinated approach as to how to act on it.
- **Cultural identity and inclusivity** ideas included a small number that wanted to see Sydney being a more diverse and inclusive city.
- **A healthy city** with increased emphasis on physical health and improvements to infrastructure for physical activity were called for. More hospital beds, and better overall public health was the goal, and barriers were again financial and systemic.
- **Other** ideas were varied and included support for more: innovation, environmental/ social focus; better inclusivity for all ages; less rules/red tape; a night-time economy; and, a welcoming city. Barriers were just as varied and included: associated costs; administrative time/costs; general difficulties in activating change; balancing stakeholder needs; and, lack of cohesive and coordinated response(s).

# Topic poll: Sydney's focus as it grows

Participants were invited to answer two question (below), by selecting options presented in the charts. Note that multiple options could be selected, and 65 and 64 participants respectively responded to each question.

Thinking about the city's role in greater Sydney, in 2050 the city will be a place for....'

## In 2050 the city will be for

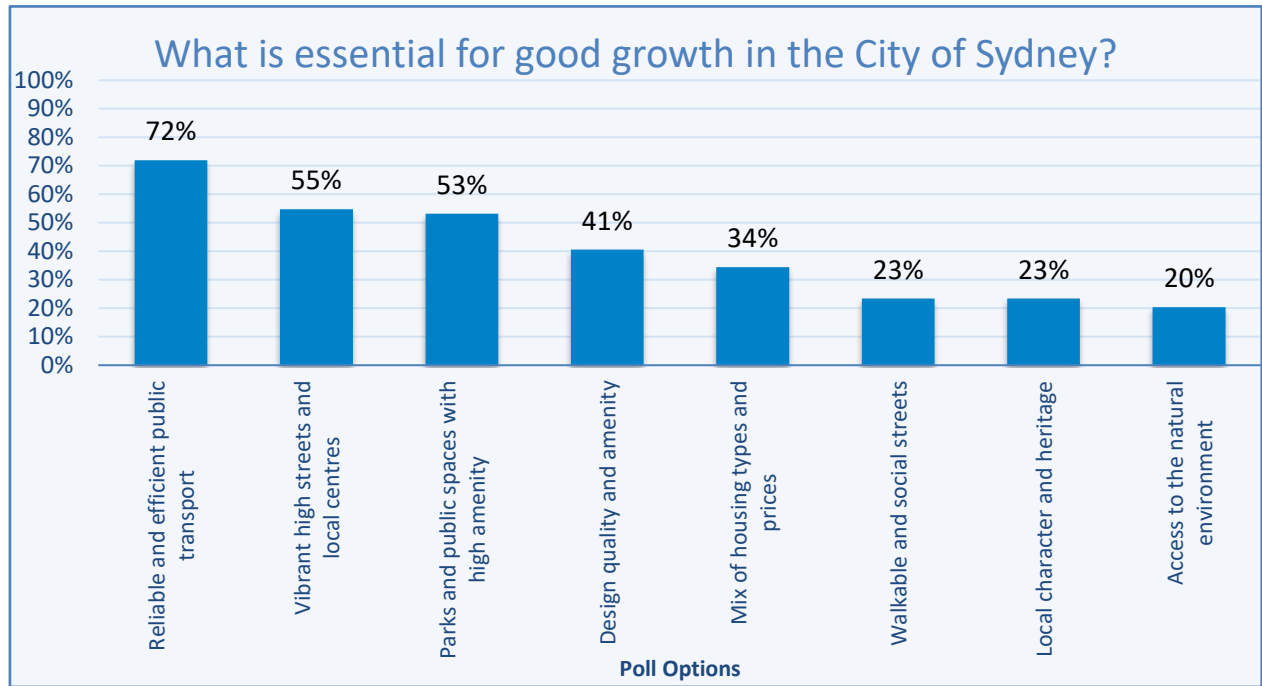


## Results

- The most commonly selected option (68%) that the city was considered to be in 2050 was *Creative corridor – creative sector industries and cultural activities*.
- The second most commonly selected option (54%) that the city was considered to be in 2050 was *Local neighbourhoods, high streets and heritage areas*.
- The third most commonly selected option (52%) that the city was considered to be in 2050 was *Innovation corridor – technology-based clusters (health, education, engineering)*.



## What's essential to good growth in the City of Sydney?



### Results

- The most commonly selected option (72%) that the city was considered to be in 2050 was *Reliable and efficient public transport*.
- The second most commonly selected option (55%) that the city was considered to be in 2050 was *Vibrant high streets and local centres*.
- The third most commonly selected option (52%) that the city was considered to be in 2050 was *Parks and public spaces with high amenity*.

# Table Discussion

## Description of table exercise

Participants were invited to reflect and discuss within their tables the following two questions:

- 'Thinking about the city's role in greater Sydney, in 2050 they city will be a place for?'
- 'What is essential to good growth in the City of Sydney?'

At each table, participants were asked to choose 3 preferred options for each question.

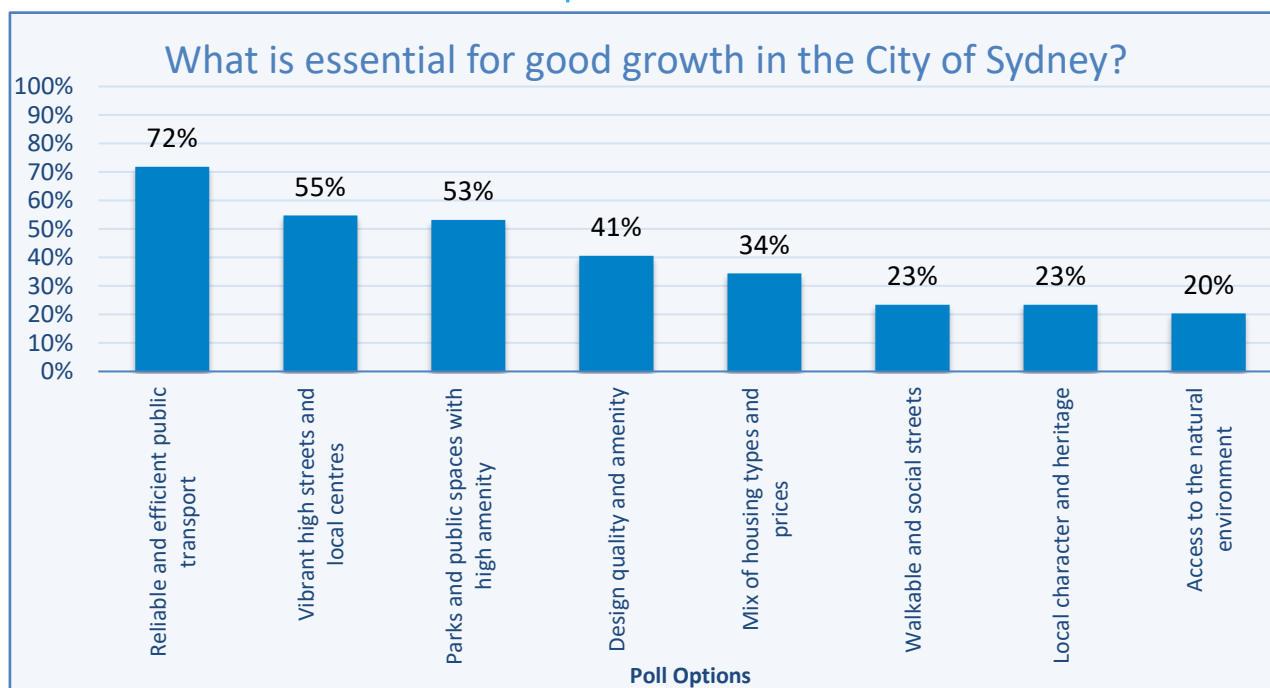
Participants were also asked to write down the reason for their responses on blank cards, and to write down any new ideas and the actions and barriers related to these.

Each table was also provided with blank cards, and participants were asked to write down the reasons that they chose their responses to the above questions, and also any new ideas and the actions and barriers related to their ideas.

## Number of Ideas, Actions and Barriers

The three charts that follow present the number of ideas, actions and barriers comments made during the discussions on; *Thinking about the city's role in greater Sydney, in 2050 they city will be a place for?;* and, *What is essential to good growth in the City of Sydney?.*

### Ideas: number of comments on topics



## Results

- *Space provision and availability* was the most commonly suggested idea
- Other commonly suggested ideas were: *transport mobility accessibility;* and, *urban design.*

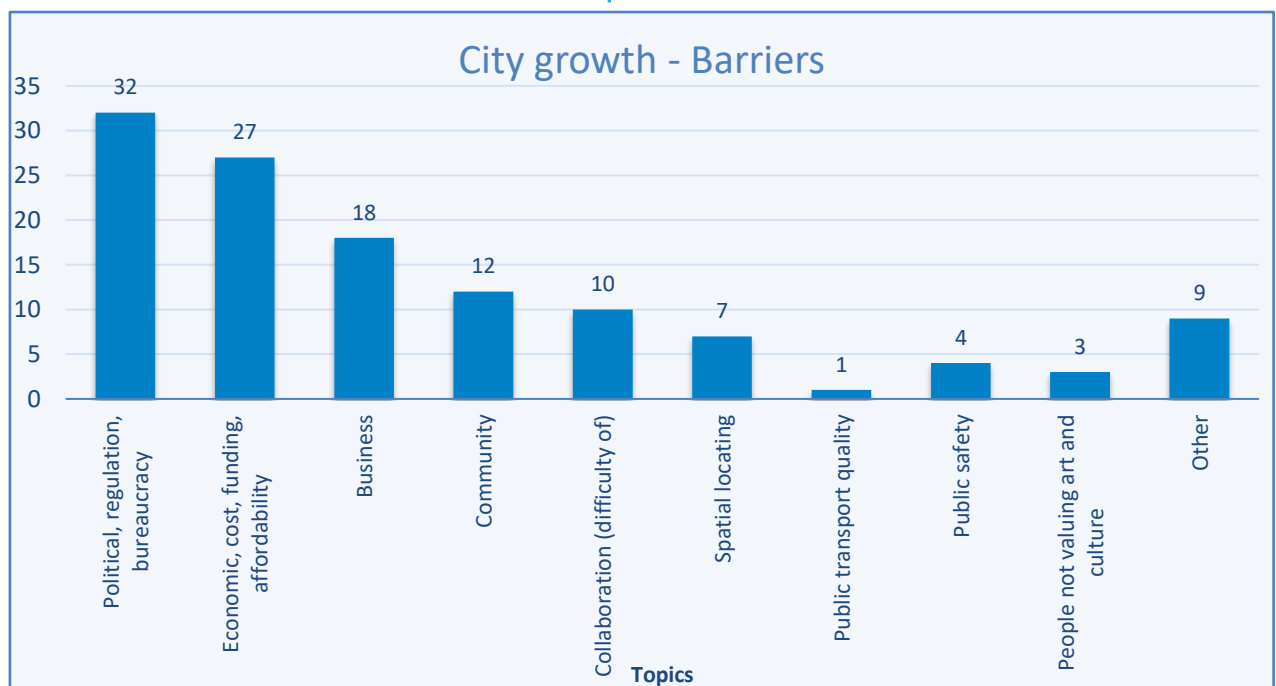
### Actions: number of comments on topics



### Results

- *Official support and action* were the most commonly suggested actions.
- Another commonly suggested action was *space provision*

### Barriers: number of comments on topics



### Results

- *Political, regulation, bureaucracy* barriers were the most commonly suggested.
- Other commonly suggested barriers were *economic, cost, funding, affordability*.





# How we live within our environment



# What we heard

## High impact

### Water

- **Conservation actions** suggested included replacing ageing infrastructure and the implementation of smart water use (including education on the topic). Barriers identified were cost and the monopoly on water services.
- Actions to implement **indirect potable water reuse** included exploring options for a Sydney reservoir, public education, commercial recycling, and political advocacy. Barriers identified were cost, space, negative perceptions of science, and lack of technology.

### Waste

- **Avoidance of waste** actions suggested educating the population about more efficient ways of operating. Barriers were identified as manufacturer opposition.
- **Circular economy** actions included promoting these to the commercial sector, and introducing targets, while barriers to this were viewed solely in the form of resistance from the commercial sector.

### Energy-off-site renewable energy

- Actions to consider included exploring options for wind-farm operators, while barriers identified included the issue of gaining sufficient buy-in to make wind-farming viable.

## High impact-easy to implement

### Water

- **Water recycling** – actions considered easy to implement included incentivising the practice and encouraging rethinking to more clearly understand uses for grey water and the means by which water can be reused. Barriers were considered to be the lack of political will, outdated planning and the costs of infrastructure.
- **Water conservation** actions included initiatives to reduce water use – such as restrictions and the provision of public fountains to reduce water bottle purchases. Barriers included awareness, the difficulties in changing culture around water, and costs.
- **Water desalination** was considered an idea worth revisiting to test its suitability. Cost was identified as a barrier to this process.
- **Indirect potable use** was supported as an initiative; participants viewed this action as one worth implementing. Barriers were foreseen in community attitudes being difficult to shift, awareness, and associated costs.

### Waste

- **Reducing and reusing** actions included banning single use plastic items, mandating longer warranties on products, shifting the onus to manufacturers to tackle waste, and implementing recycling stations, which could perhaps also supply employment opportunities. Minimising landfill was thought to be aided with the incineration of some refuse. Barriers to the reduction and reuse of waste included concern for profits over the environment, lack of commercial incentive, cost, and “business as usual” mentality.

- Actions to **expand product stewardship** were suggested; these included legislating to ensure end-of-life considerations by manufacturers, incentives to recycle, and stronger leadership on these issues. Barriers were cost, and the availability of alternatives.
- **Circular economy** actions included using technology and partnerships (commercial-government-community) to develop and instigate start-to-end-of-life monitoring and recycling for products. Promoting a shared sense of purpose in the need for a circular economy. Barriers were lack of systems to support this style, complacency and cost.

## Energy

- Actions to support the development of **E-transport** included increased research and development, phasing out diesel buses, incentivisation and e-vehicle infrastructure. Reported barriers were politicking and cost.
- **Waste-energy resource recovery** actions were viewed as the responsibility of the Government and leadership was deemed necessary for this to be implemented. Barriers, again, were cost and lack of knowledge about the possibilities and benefits.
- **Renewable energy** for off- and on-site renewables were viewed as achievable with the following actions: collaboration with tech companies and local Governments, Government subsidies for solar panels, better understanding of the opportunities (and costs of not implementing), and the creation of efficient systems to achieve goals. Barriers were local opposition to wind farms, and questions about reliability.

## Environmental standards

- Increasing environmental standards was only proposed under high impact ideas that were easy to implement and did not easily fit into the themes of waste, water or energy because they were applicable to all.

## High impact-hard to implement

### Water

- **Recycling** actions favoured were the implementation of domestic and commercial recycling as a standard feature. Rainwater capture was supported, as were incentives to implement systems. Barriers were the cost of retrofitting, lack of investors, and overcoming community attitudes.
- **Water conservation** actions were around promoting a conservative mindset when it comes to water use. Education and targets were recommended. Barriers to this were infrastructural, systemic (i.e., at policy levels) and investment related.
- **Indirect potable use** actions supported changing policy, updating infrastructure and encouraging neighbourhood use. Barriers were cost, community perception (e.g., around water quality) and managing inflows.
- **Desalination** actions were cautions about reliance on this method, and support for it's a future-proof solution. Barriers were related to community fear around new processes.

### Waste

- Actions around the **avoidance of waste** included legislating to reduce waste at the point of manufacture, eliminating single-use plastics, public education, collaborating with business owners, making recycling a profit-making endeavor, and systemic inclusion of infrastructure to promote waste reduction. Barriers to these actions included cost, public and commercial

resistance, manufacturers passing the costs to consumers, and difficulties in enacting embedded lifestyle changes.

- **Refurbishments and retrofits** were seen as being able to be enacted through the following actions: using roofs for water capture, legislating businesses, incentivising, low-cost loans for building upgrades and addressing outdated legislation.
- **Expand product stewardship** actions were around encouraging producers to embrace a triple bottom line approach which encompasses sustainability as well as profit. Barriers to this were identified in the context that producers will naturally concern themselves with profit over much else.
- **Local or regional recycling processing** was viewed as achievable through Government investment. Difficulty to implement and cost were the identified barriers.

## Energy

- **E-transport options** were supported through the following actions. E-public transport (buses), charging stations as a matter of course in new developments, supporting a transition to e-transport with appropriate time frames and incentives, and exploring hydrogen cell technology as an option. Barriers to these actions were foreseen in the form of complacency and inaction, lack of affordability and financing options, and difficulties in providing infrastructure.
- Actions to **reduce car use** were also raised (such as encouraging bikes, and carless CBDs). Barriers to this were viewed as ensuring alternatives exist for those who currently use cars (such as the elderly and those with children or a disability), and managing the transition to minimise impacts.
- Actions to support **waste-energy resource recovery** were around making it profitable, accessible and easy to use. Barriers included NIMBY-ism, and finding appropriate financial and raw material resources to implement it.
- Actions to produce **off- and on-site energy** included leadership from Government, exploring renewable natural gas (e.g., biomethane from waste sites), and programmes to promote initiatives to the wider public. Barriers to these actions were seen to be landlords being preoccupied with profit (and so not enacting initiatives), lack of leadership, and lack of sun in the city (due to overshadowing) leading to ineffective solar power, and lack of support and incentives.

## Low impact

### Water

- **Desalination** was supported as a low impact, easy to implement action. Barriers to this were that it was perceived that desalination ought to be used only as a last resort.

### Waste

- No low impact ideas were recorded.

### Energy

- **On-site renewable energy** actions included greater implementation of solar and wind in new developments, and as a standard feature.
- **Waste-energy resource recovery** actions included using compost and food waste as energy sources. Barriers included challenges of waste separation and that the costs may not compete with those of solar energy.

## Low impact-easy to implement

### Water

- **Desalination** powered by renewables was a supported action. Costs were the only barrier raised.
- **Indirect potable use** actions included addressing public concerns about the potability of recycled water. The sole barrier was health concerns.
- **Water conservation** actions raised included changing domestic behaviours around water, reducing evaporative losses and leakage losses. Barriers were around the age and cost of replacing infrastructure.

### Waste

- **Waste avoidance** was viewed as achievable through increasing the number of reuse centres and the repurposing of materials such as cloth and furniture. Barriers to this included cost of implementation.
- Actions to deliver **indirect potable use** included addressing public concerns about the potability of recycled water. The sole barrier was health concerns.
- **Water conservation** through changing behaviour and installing water-saving devices into infrastructure were actions considered by participants.

**Energy** [no low impact-easy to implement ideas were presented]

## Low impact-hard to implement

### Water

- A holistic review of water use in order to **identify opportunities to reuse water** was requested.
- Desalination of water was only to be undertaken when all other avenues of natural water sources were unavailable.

### Waste

- Turning organic waste into biogas was suggested as a way to reduce waste to landfill.
- Increasing efficiency in recycling through local/regional sorting stations was considered.
- Reducing waste in grocery stores through giving consumers more choice in order to avoid packaging was suggested.

### Energy

- Actions to support **off-site renewable energy** included offering discounted energy 'through an incubator'. The barrier identified was in relation of the ability of the incubator to produce energy.

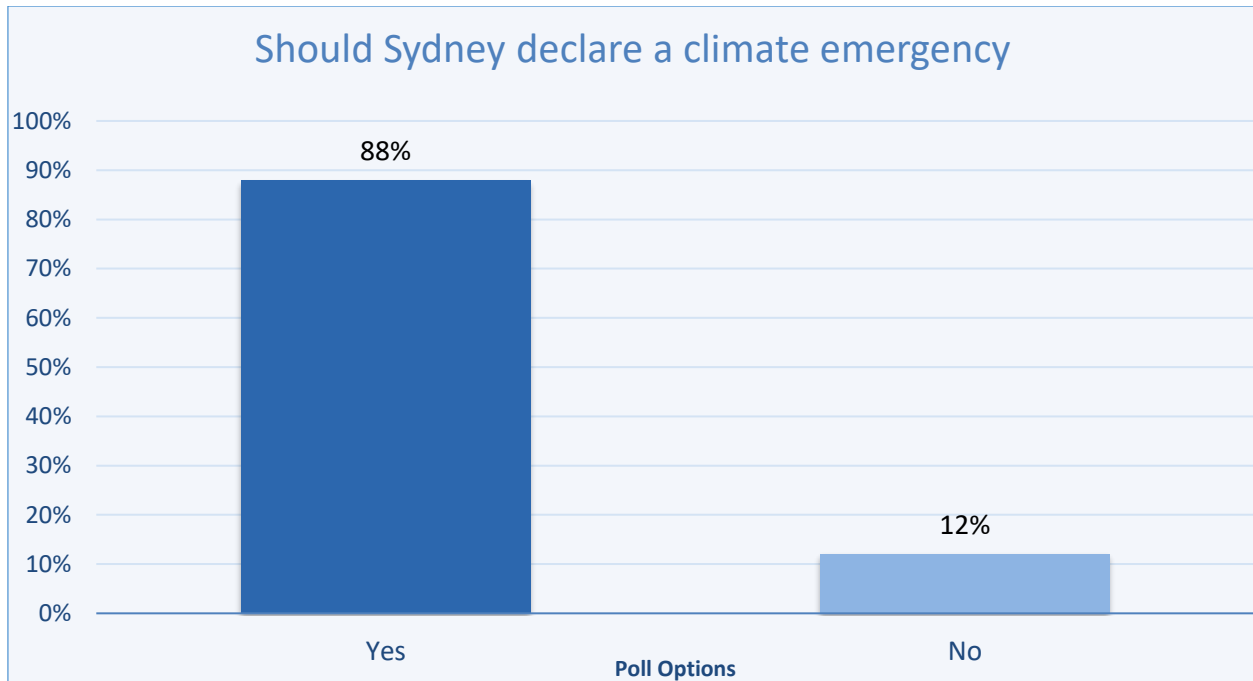


# Topic Poll: Should Sydney declare a climate change emergency

Participants responded to: Many cities and countries are redefining climate change as a climate emergency. Should Sydney do the same?

## What was said

- The vast majority of participants supported declaring a climate emergency – 88%



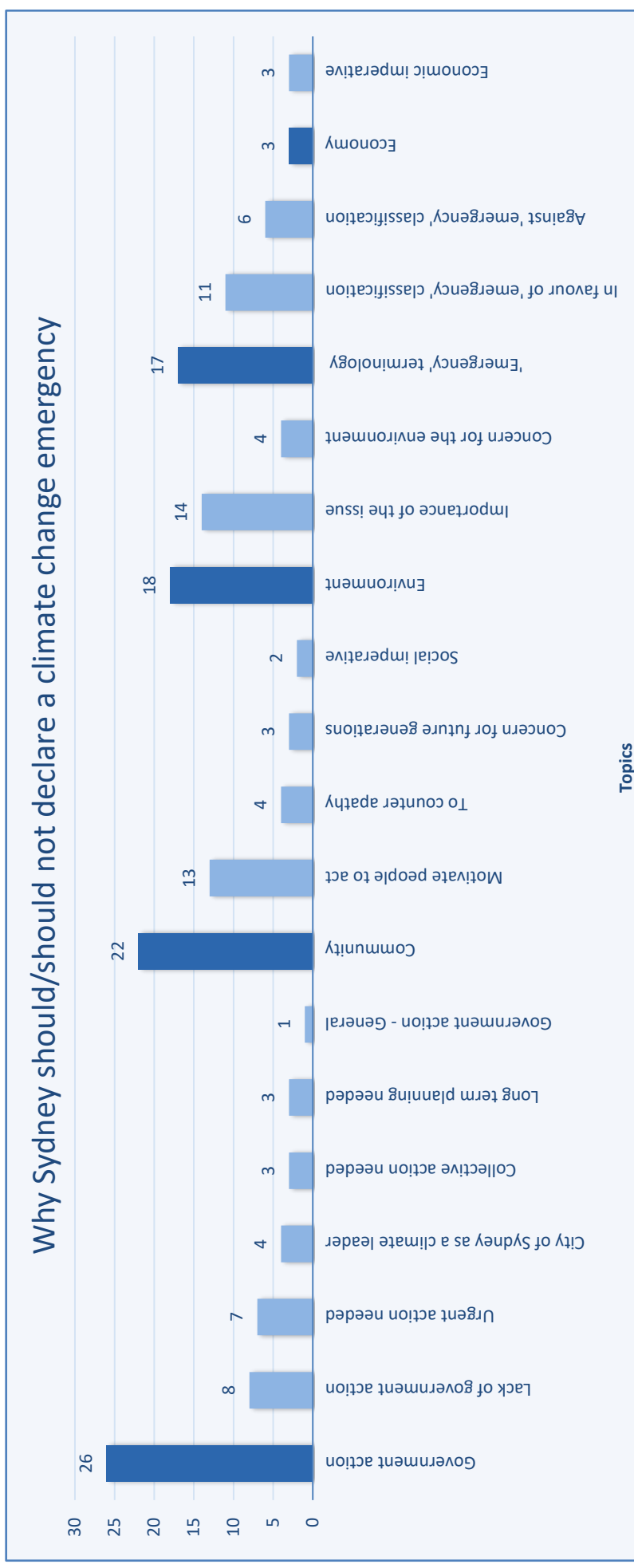
# Topic Poll: Why declare a climate change emergency

Participants responded to: Tell us why you do or don't think Sydney should define climate change as an emergency.

## What was said

- **Government action** was the most popular topic discussed; participants spoke about **lack of Government action** and the need for **urgent action**.
- **Community** was the second most popular topic discussed, particularly: **motivating people to act** and **countering apathy**.
- **Environment** was the third most popular topic discussed; participants were **concerned for the environment** and noted the need for **emergency action**.

## Number of ideas on topics



## Comment discussion

### Government action (26)

Government action was a key consideration for a considerable number of participants as to whether Sydney should declare a climate emergency. Of these responses, a third were concerned about lack of Government action on climate change, while other comments desired increased action in this area. A small number wanted the city of Sydney to be a leader in addressing climate change. A few supported collective and long-term planning from authorities on climate change.

### Community (22)

A moderate number of participants felt that an emergency declaration would spur community action and motivate individuals to act on the issue. A small number stated that declaring a climate change emergency was a social imperative and needs to be done in order to support future generations.

### Environment (18)

The environmental importance of the issue was highlighted in a moderate number of comments. These participants noted their concern for the natural environment and their subsequent support for an emergency declaration.

### Emergency terminology (17)

A moderate number of participants argued over the use of the term 'emergency' in relation to climate change. Several were in favour of the term, as they believed it would incite urgent action, while a small number of participants felt the term invoked unnecessary panic and negativity.

### Economy (3)

A few participants commented on the economic imperative to act on climate change and declare an emergency.





# Table Discussion

## Description of table exercise

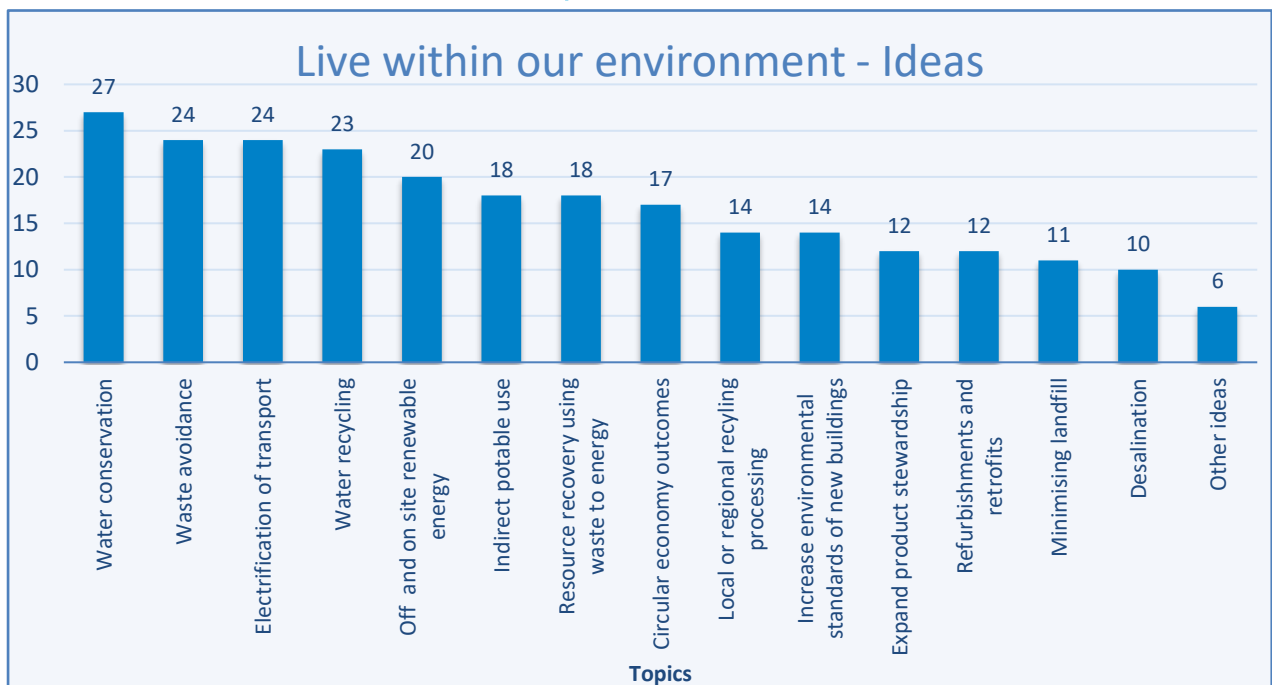
Participants were asked the following question:

**'How we should respond to these sustainability challenges in the future?'**

Each table was provided with cards pre-populated with ideas. The ideas related to water, waste and energy. Participants were asked to identify the actions to be taken and the barriers to each idea. Actions and barriers were discussed, recorded and plotted on an impact and ease of implementation matrix.

The matrix categories were defined as: High Impact – easy to implement, Low impact – easy to implement, High impact, Low impact, High impact – hard to implement, Low impact – hard to implement.

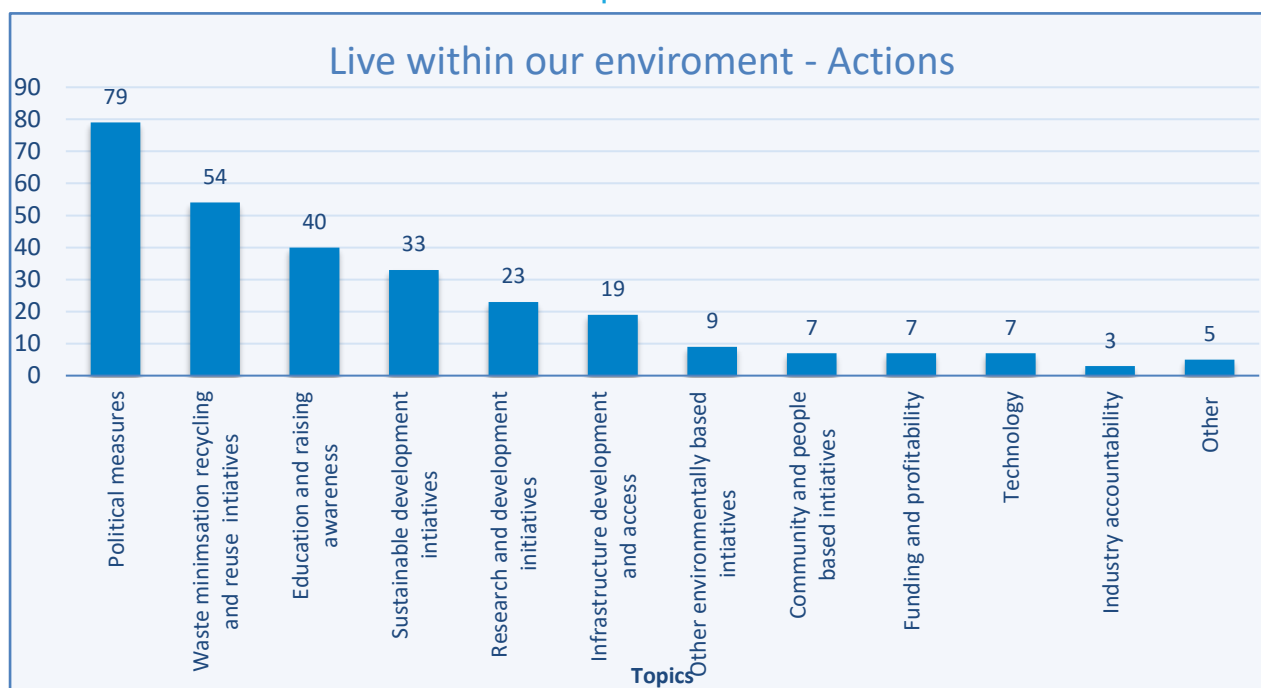
## Ideas: number of comments on topics



## Results

- Water conservation was the most commonly suggested idea.
- Other commonly suggested ideas were: waste avoidance; electrification of transport; and, water recycling.

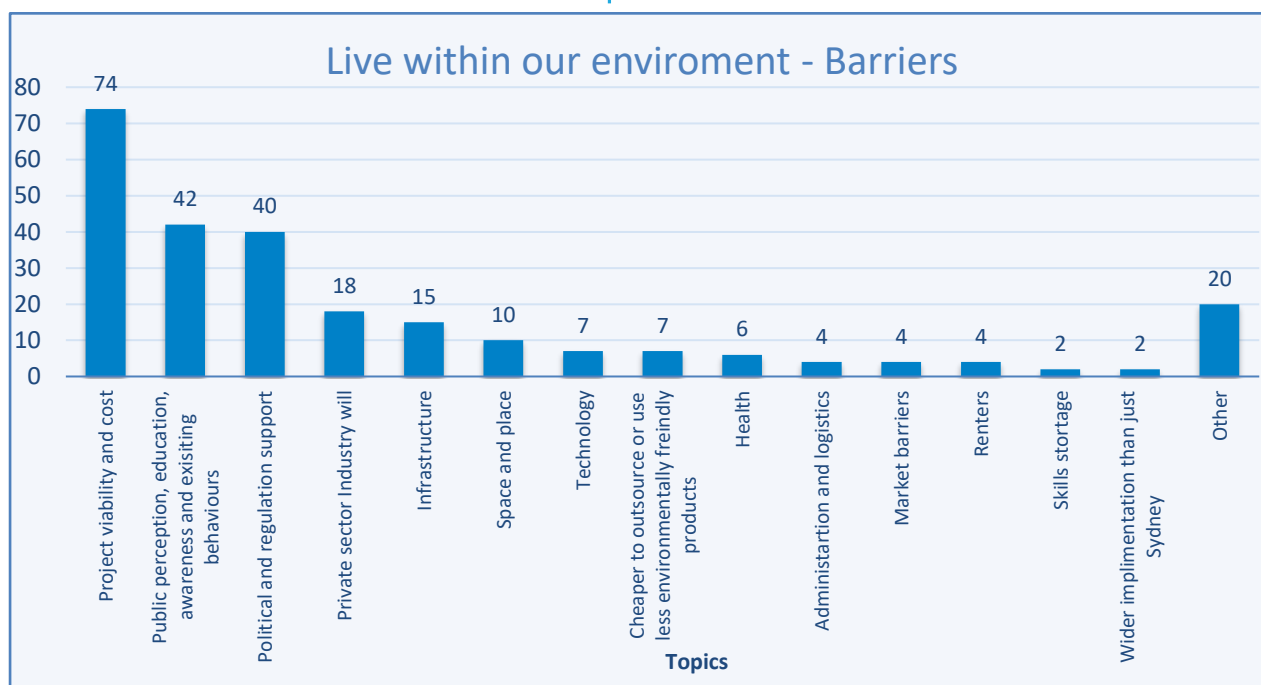
## Actions: number of comments on topics



## Results

- Political measures were the most commonly suggested actions.
- Other commonly suggested activities were: Waste minimization recycling and reuse initiatives; education and raising awareness; and, sustainable development initiatives.

## Barriers: number of comments on topics



## Results

- Project viability and cost barriers were the most commonly suggested.

Other commonly suggested barriers were: public perception, education, awareness and existing behaviours; and, political regulation and support.

This report has been prepared by:

Global Research  
150 Office Rd  
Merivale  
Christchurch 8014  
New Zealand  
+64 3 355 4562  
[www.globalresearch.nz](http://www.globalresearch.nz)



**Global Research**  
Turning **Information** Into **Insight**

# **Attachment C**

## **The Outcomes of the Children and Youth Engagement Program**





# Attachment C

The outcomes of the children and youth engagement program.

1. Our Future Sydney.
2. Our Future Sydney: Children's Summit.
3. Our Future Sydney: Youth Summit.



- How do you feel about these scenarios that could happen in Sydney in the future?  
 (Choose anything you like)
- Public "Urban Cool Rooms"
  - Open streets
  - Bike lanes in the sky
  - Barbecue Libraries
  - Car-free neighbourhoods
  - Drive delimiters
  - Charging for waste
  - Urban farms
  - Late night performance venues
  - More Tourists
  - Shared backyards

Yes absolutely!

Yes absolutely!



# Our Future Sydney

Consulting children and young people about 2050

# Contents

Introduction	3
Purpose	3
Objectives	4
Participation	5
Primary schools engaged	5
High Schools engaged	5
Methodology	6
Consultation activities	8
Discussions	8
Surveys	8
Postcards	9
Outcomes	10
High School Survey Results	10
Primary School (Year 4-6) Survey Results	13
Primary School (Years K-3) Survey Results	14
Postcards	16
High School Future Scenario Cards	18
Conclusion	22
Appendix 1	23
Links to the National Curriculum	23
Geography	23
Mathematics	23
English	23
Economics	24

# Introduction

---

From April to June 2019, the City of Sydney ran 20 workshops with 19 schools in or on the border of the City's local area seeking the views of children and young people about the future of Sydney to the year 2050.

---

## Purpose

This consultation with children and young people forms part of the wider 2050 consultation for the development of the City of Sydney long term Community Strategic Plan.

The underlying premise of this consultation is that it is the children and young people of today who will be central to the implementation and impacts of the 2050 plan and that therefore, they have the right to have their opinions taken into account regarding the plan's development.

The following report summarises the views of 366 children and young people consulted on their vision for Sydney in the year 2050 and how they believe we should get there.

As the following quotation illustrates we were consistently struck by children and young people who were able to put forward considered and passionate opinions about the future of Sydney; a future, as they say themselves, that is not 'illusory or vague, but pressing and important'.

**We may not have as much life experience as you, however we are more nationally and internationally connected than ever and have access to multitudes of information that we didn't have access to before. We are future-orientated and care about our world in a way that is not illusionary or vague, but pressing and important.**

**Student Age 15**



## Objectives

- Find out what matters to children and young people regarding the future to the year 2050.
- Explore children and young people’s current and future vision for Sydney.
- Show children and young people that their views count and that the City of Sydney is listening.
- Build civic engagement in children and young people.
- Build ongoing, educative relationships with local schools.
- Supply children, young people and teachers with current real-world data about Sydney to support ongoing classroom activities about their local area.



## Participation

During this consultation the City ran 20 workshops with 19 schools, ultimately reaching 366 students.

City staff sent an invitation to schools within the City of Sydney's local area or immediate vicinity to opt into the consultation at their discretion.

The following schools responded and participated in the engagement.

### Primary schools engaged

- Plunket Street Public School (year 4-6)
- Darlington Public School (SRC)
- Bourke Street Public School (SRC)
- St Andrews Cathedral School (years 5-6)
- Glebe Public School (Year 6)
- Fort Street Public School (Year 6)
- Erskineville Public School (SRC)
- St James Catholic Primary school (SRC)
- Forest Lodge Public School (Year 5-6)

Primary aged children engaged: 164

### High Schools engaged

- Emanuel School (Year 9)
- Newtown High School of the Performing Arts (SRC)
- Marrickville High School (SRC)
- Alexandria Park Community School (SRC)
- St Andrews Cathedral School (Year 12)
- Sydney Secondary College, Leichhardt (SRC)
- Sydney Secondary College, Balmain (SRC)
- Sydney Secondary College, Black Wattle Bay (SCR)
- Sydney Secondary College, Glebe Pathways Project (Current students)
- Sydney Girls High School (SRC)
- JJ Cahill Memorial High School (SRC)

High School aged children engaged: 202

# Methodology

---

This consultation was embedded in a framework that took into account the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, NSW School Curriculum and the role of schools as pivotal nodes of local community connection.

Schools as the site for the consultations ensured a diverse range of local children and young people were able to participate and for this participation to be embedded in a learning context.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child enshrines 54 central rights that all children should have around the world. Of direct importance to the 2050 Consultation process is Article 12:

**Children have the right to say what they think should happen when adults are making decisions that affect them and to have their opinions taken into account.**

Our consultation in schools allowed us to uphold this right by giving a diverse range of children and young people multiple ways of expressing their opinions about Sydney's future direction and having those opinions taken into account alongside those of adults.

To ensure the consultation supported the learning outcomes of schools the activities were planned with reference to the NSW curriculum, with links to Geography, Mathematics, English, and Economics. They aligned with the philosophy of Civics and Citizenship that underpins all of the Australian National Curriculum and allowed young people the opportunity to **actively participate in Australia's diverse and inclusive society.**

This consultation approach also responds to the City's Social Sustainability Policy and Action Plan 2018-2028 that states: **Engaging young people in decision-making and intergenerational equity focuses on the rights of future generations to inherit the same diversity in natural, cultural, health and economic resources enjoyed by previous generations. So, planning for a socially sustainable city should consider those with the greatest stake in its future: young people.**

Consultation activities were in multiple forms to ensure age and literacy appropriate options were available for all participants. Activities were designed to record the views of children and young people from both a quantitative and qualitative perspective.

Schools were given the choice to form a consultation cohort from a single class or their Student Representative Councils (SRC). This afforded a diverse range of children and young people participation in the experience of decision making and local civic participation.

Embedding this consultation about local issues in local schools acknowledged and supported the vital role schools play as social hubs and connectors for their communities

## Our Future Sydney





# Consultation activities

---

## Discussions

Activities were contextualised by a presentation that gave information about the City's local government area, the role of consultations and provided opportunities for participants to ask questions about the role of council and the use of the data being collected during the sessions.

The presentation incorporated real-world data facts from the recently created City of Sydney data maps. These data maps cover the following topics:

- Moving around the city: how people move in and around Sydney.
- A natural city: highlights the natural ecology of Sydney.
- A resource efficient city: details the way different areas of Sydney use resources.
- Shared spaces: changes in the use of space within Sydney over the last four years.

We asked what students wanted their future city to look like and why this was important to them?

Future scenario cards were used in high school workshops where students would read a scenario and then students would indicate whether they agreed (Yes, Absolutely!) or disagreed (No Way!) using paddles. This prompted a discussion about why they felt one way or the other.

A discussion was also facilitated around the question: why is it important to listen to the views of young people?

City of Sydney staff recorded the discussion from both a quantitative and qualitative perspective.

---

## Surveys

Three surveys, all adapted from the Sydney 2050 general online adult survey, were developed to ensure an age-appropriate version was available for children and young people ranging from Kindergarten to Year 12. These were:

- Primary school: junior (years 3 and below).
- Primary school: senior (years 4-6).
- High School survey: all ages

Surveys focused on the following questions:

- What do you hope Sydney will be like in the future?
- What pastimes do you enjoy now and want available to children/young people in the future?
- What excites you about Sydney's future?
- What concerns you about Sydney's future (high school only)?
- Why should adults listen to the views of children/young people?

## Postcards

Write a postcard to Sydney of the future: this activity was designed to encourage students to personalise their vision of Sydney in a message to the city in the year 2050.

The prompt: 'Dear Sydney, In the future I hope you...' operated as an open field where students recorded both hopes and concerns for the future.

Q. 5. Adults should listen to my views about the future of Sydney because... we are the younger generation and would eventually be the older ones. Listening to our views would help adults consider other aspects to make Sydney a better place in the future. For example creating more sustainable buildings or rooftop gardens, bring a creative aspect into Sydney. Look at things from different perspectives.



# Outcomes

The picture that emerges when looking over all the data is that participating children and young people have given thoughtful, well informed opinions about their vision of Sydney's future. Environmental responsibility, sustainability and related importance of parks, trees and green spaces rates highly across all age groups.

Safety, fairness and social cohesion are also high on the list of priorities for children and young people, along with the related ideas of friendliness, diversity and different cultures living together. The overarching idea of the need for tolerance came through strongly across all age groups. For example 70% of primary school age children expressed the hope that Sydney would be a city that celebrates Aboriginal communities and culture.

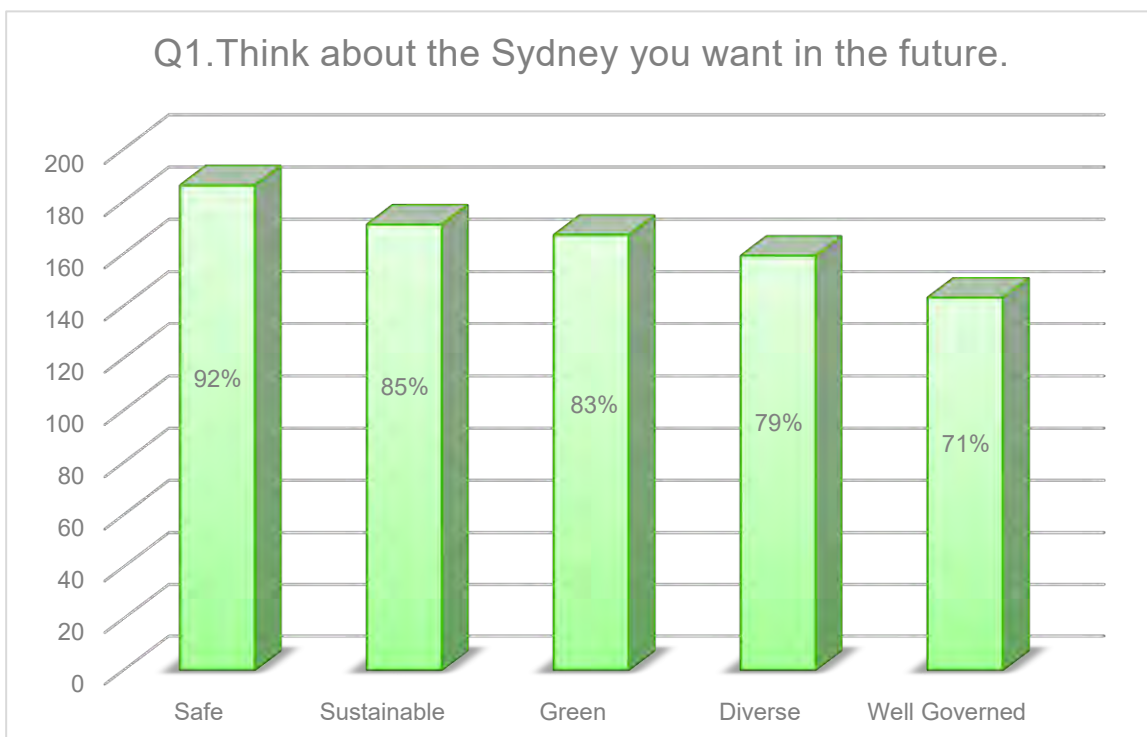
Further to this children and young people want a city where they can walk, cycle or catch public transport around to wherever they need to go. Conversations about these modes of transport always had as a backdrop the need to be environmentally friendly and sustainable into the future.

For high school students only one concern rated higher than climate change and this was housing affordability. Despite their wider concerns about the environment, their need to access affordable dwellings and homes to live safely with their families was of extremely high importance.

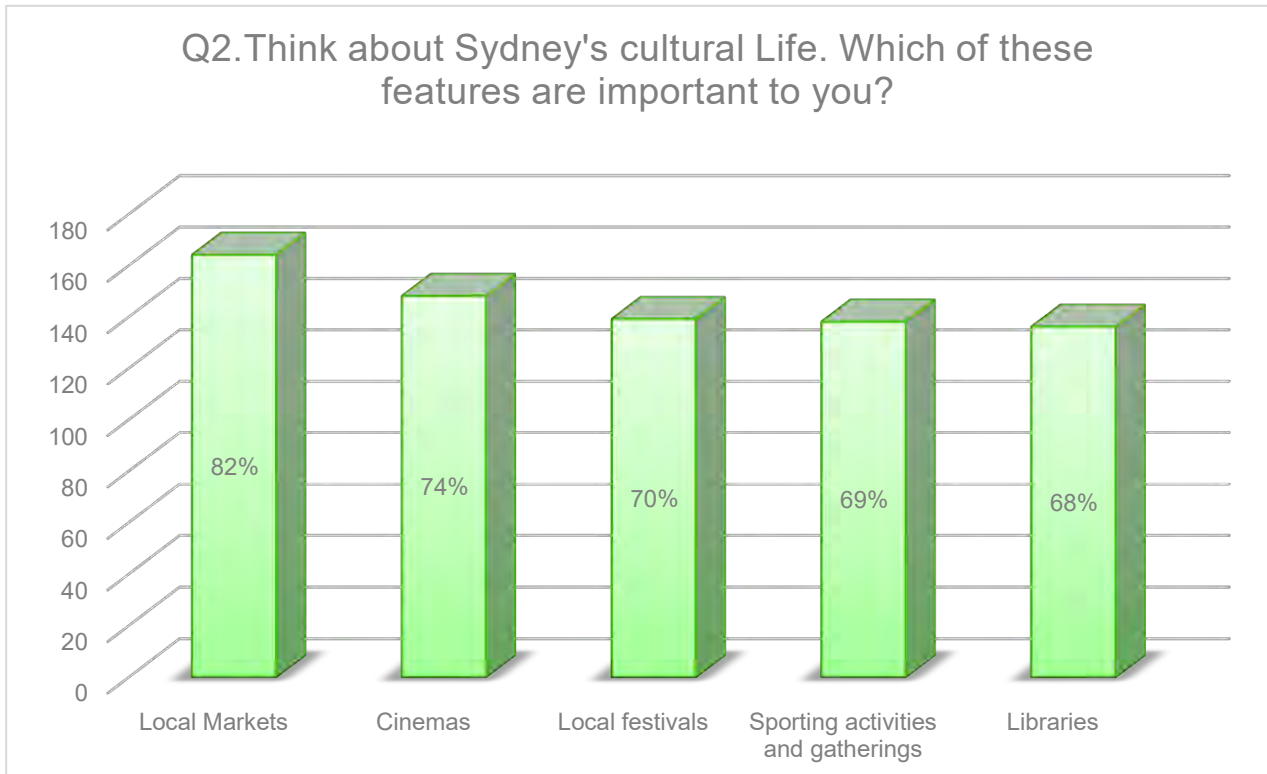
---

## High School Survey Results

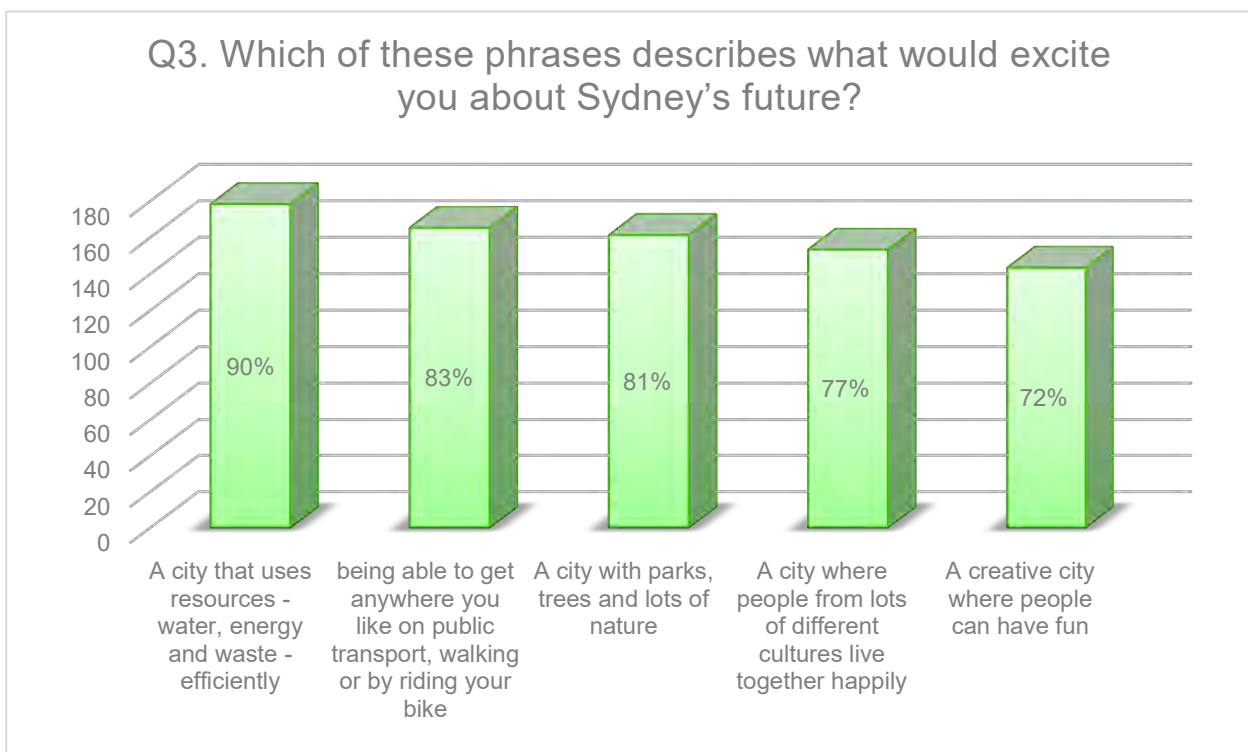
**Question 1:** This graph represents high school students responding to words that describe what they hope Sydney will be like when they are older. 92% prioritise a safe city, closely followed by a sustainable and green place.



**Question 2:** Here we asked the students to choose features of cultural life that are important to them now and into the future. Outdoor activities such as local markets were highly favoured at 82%.

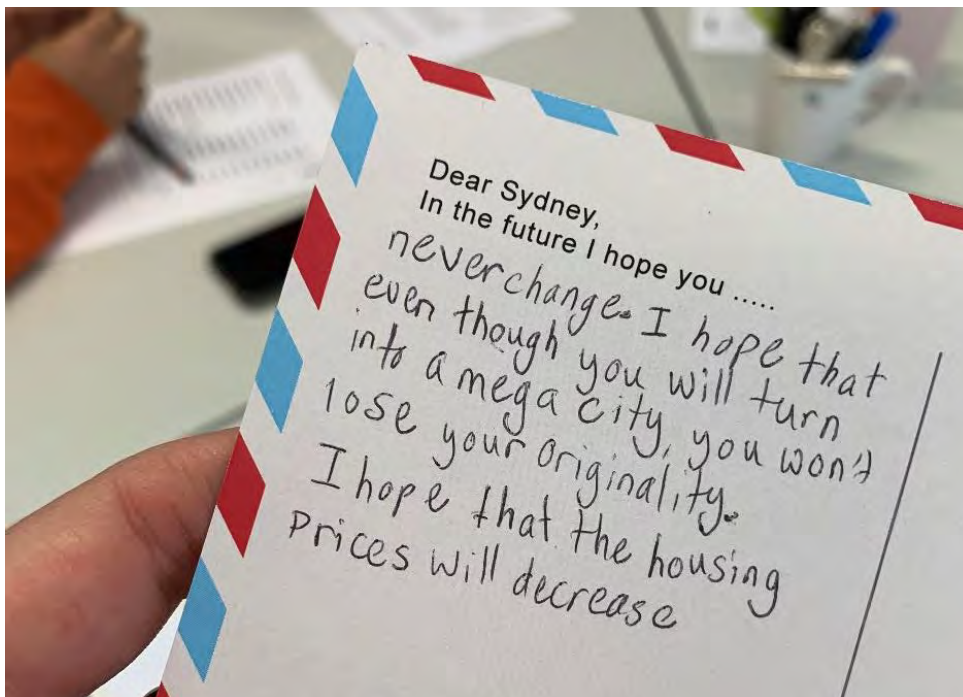
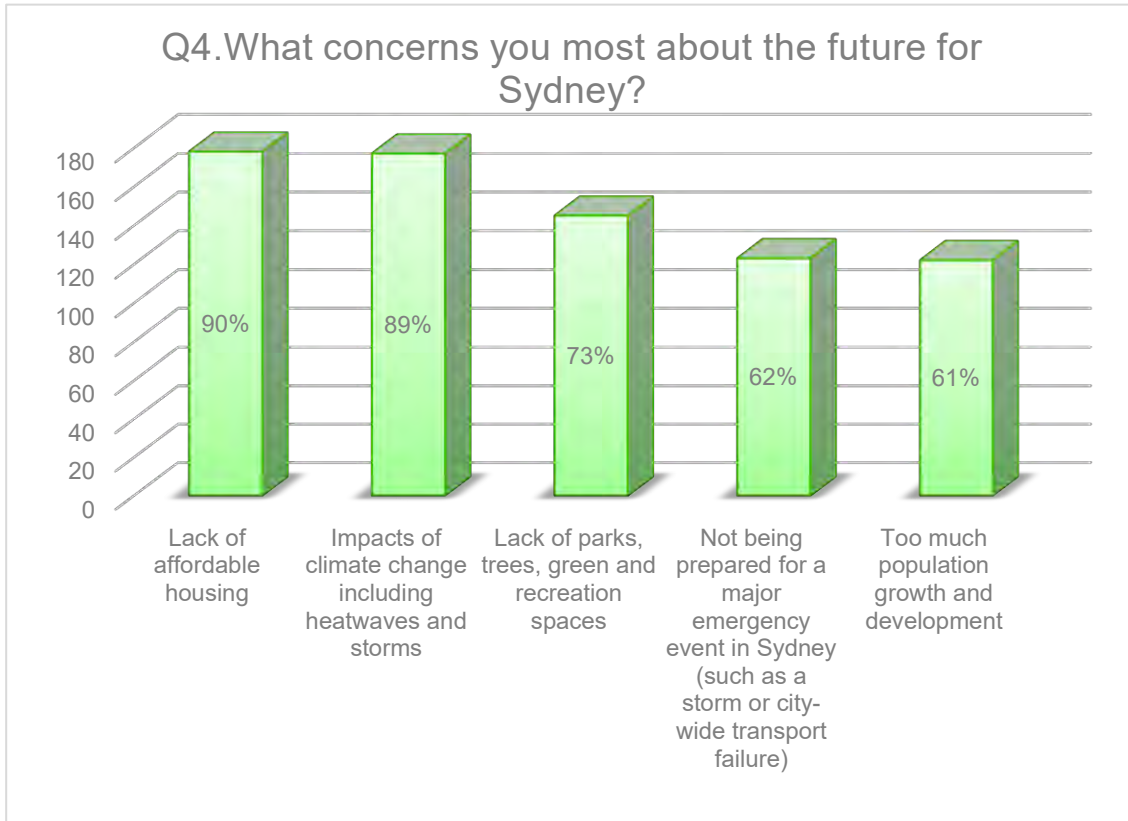


**Question 3:** Responses to this question demonstrate the consistent desire for a sustainable and more environmentally conscious city. 90% wanted a city that uses its resources such as water, energy and waste efficiently.



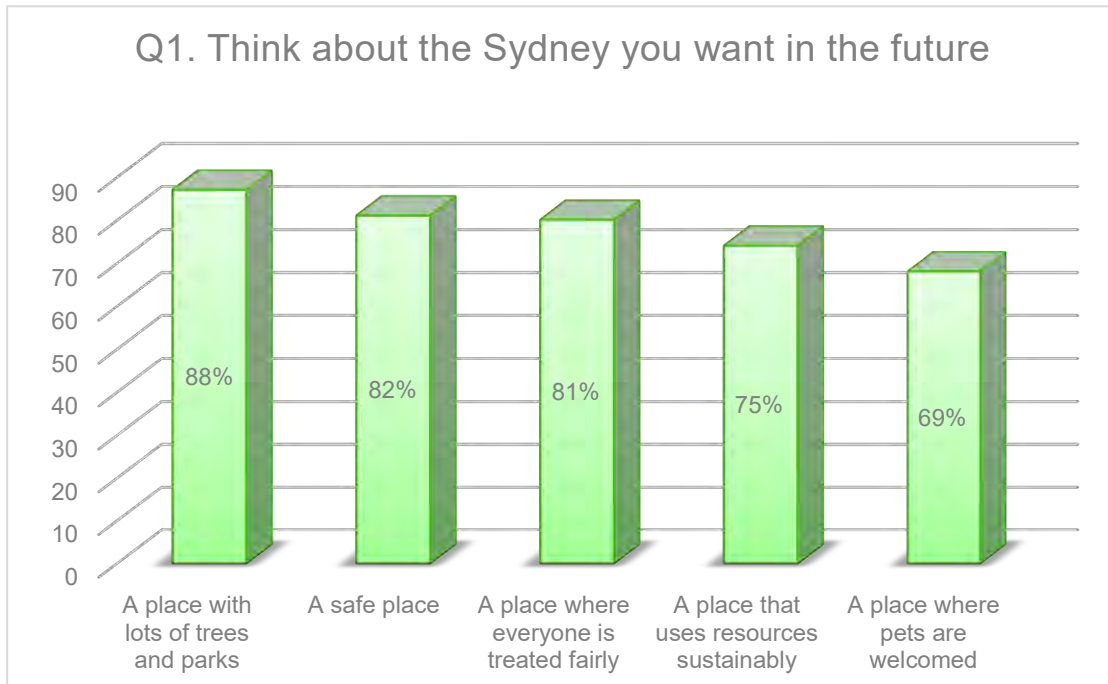


**Question 4:** In this question we asked high school age students what their main concerns were for the future. Despite the ongoing issue of climate change which again rated very highly these students, having more of an insight into economic matters, were most deeply concerned about the accessibility of affordable housing for themselves and their families. Our results tell us that young people are more concerned about building development in Sydney than the adults who participated in the survey.

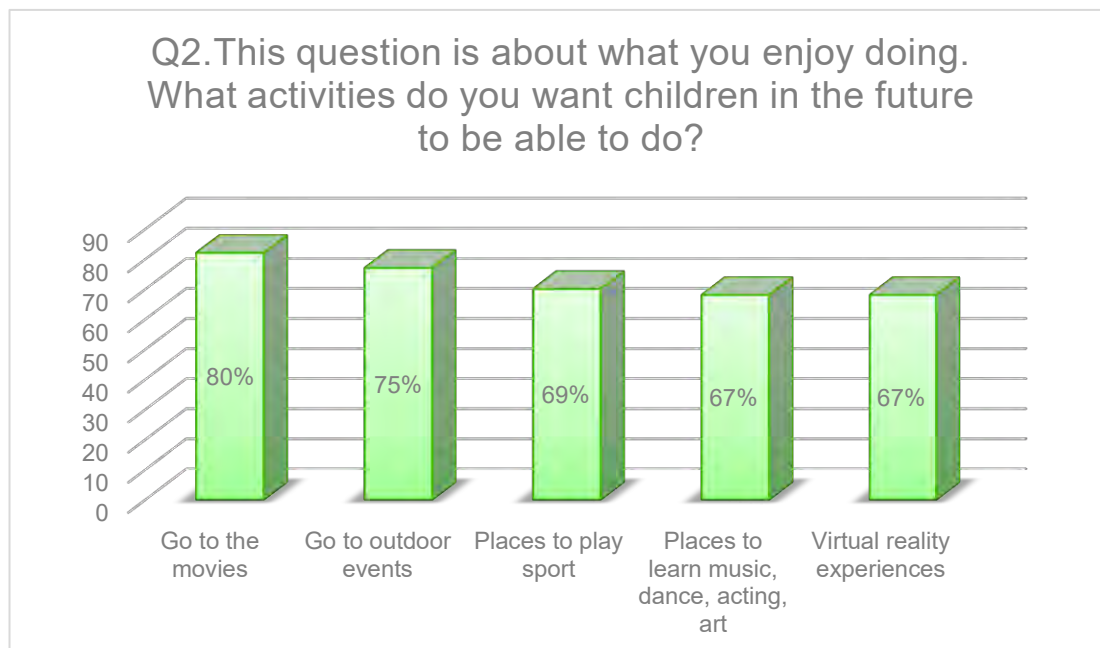


## Primary School (Year 4-6) Survey Results

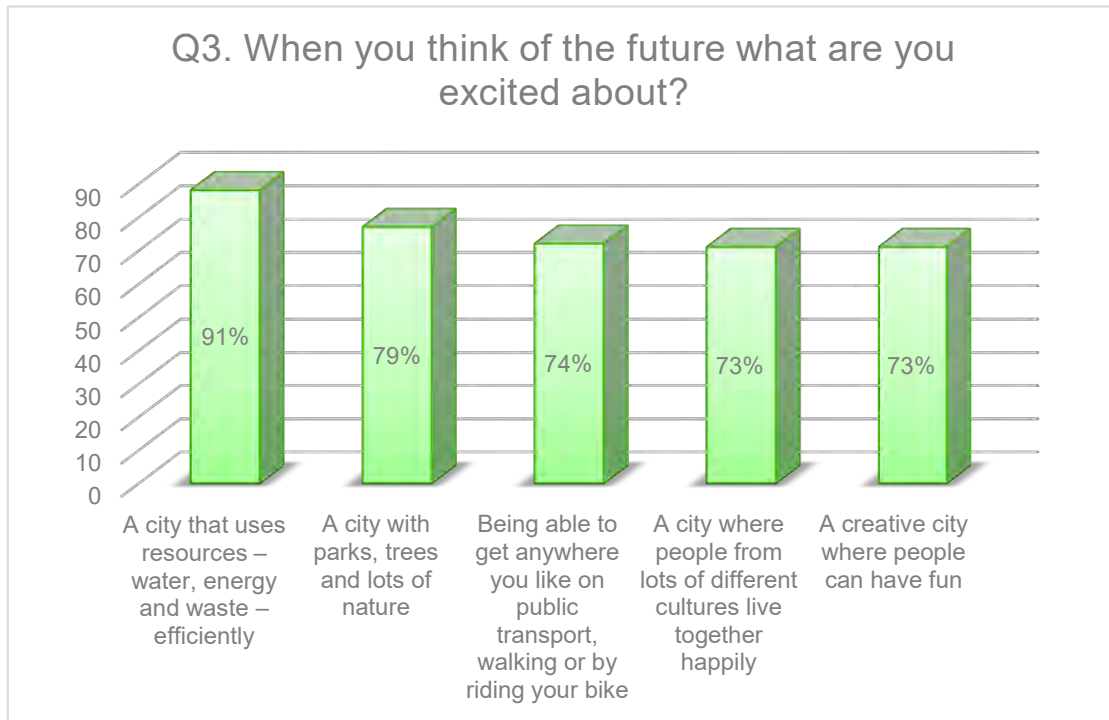
**Question 1:** As with their high school contemporaries younger students also hoped for a future that was safe, green and equitable.



**Question 2:** Access to movies and outdoor events were a high priority for these participants however it is interesting to note that children want to be included as participants in activities rather than just consumers. We also see that their engagement with technology is far greater than the adults who responded to the survey with access to virtual reality experiences at 67% compared to 14% of adults.

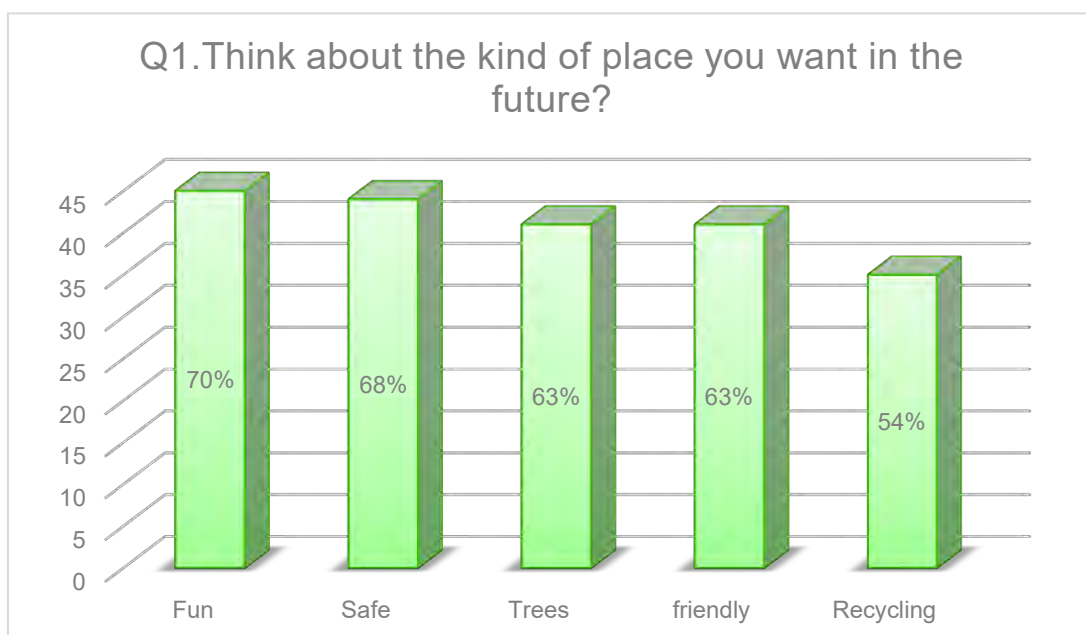


**Question 3:** Mirroring the older student responses, 91% of primary aged participants want a city that is efficient in its use of resources, again the message of environmental responsibility comes through strongly.

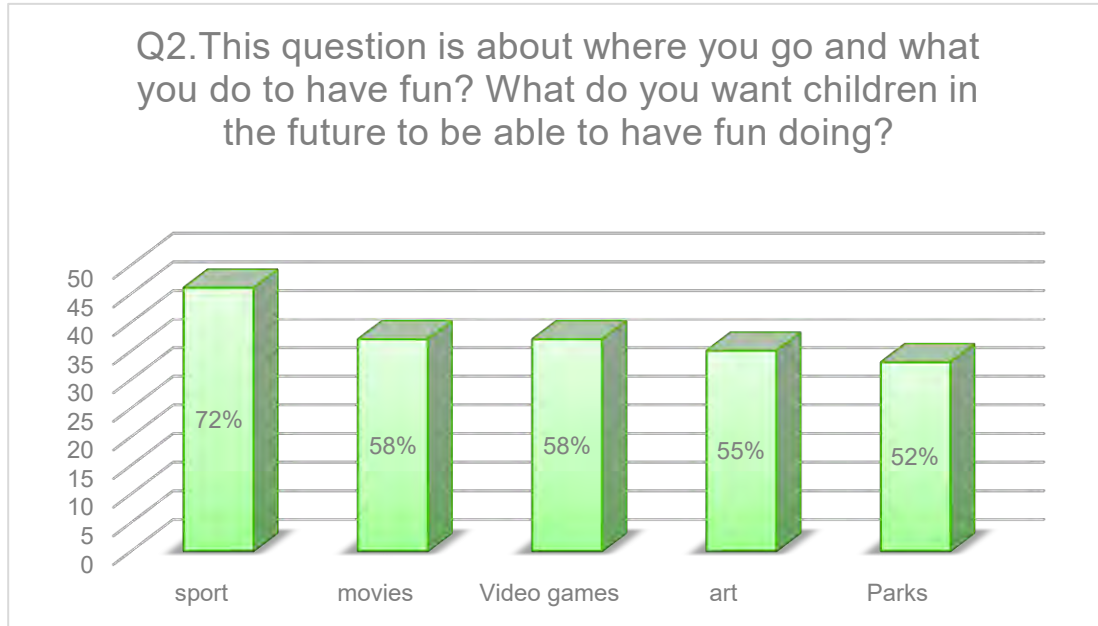


## Primary School (Years K-3) Survey Results

**Question 1:** Our youngest survey participants hoped for a future that was fun and safe, with trees and an awareness of environmental sustainability.



**Question 2:** This question looked at the cultural activities of young students. The results show that despite access to sport presenting the highest percentage at 72% the changing engagement and importance of developing technology is reflected with video games being 58%.



**Q.3. What excites you about the future? You can write or draw your answer...**



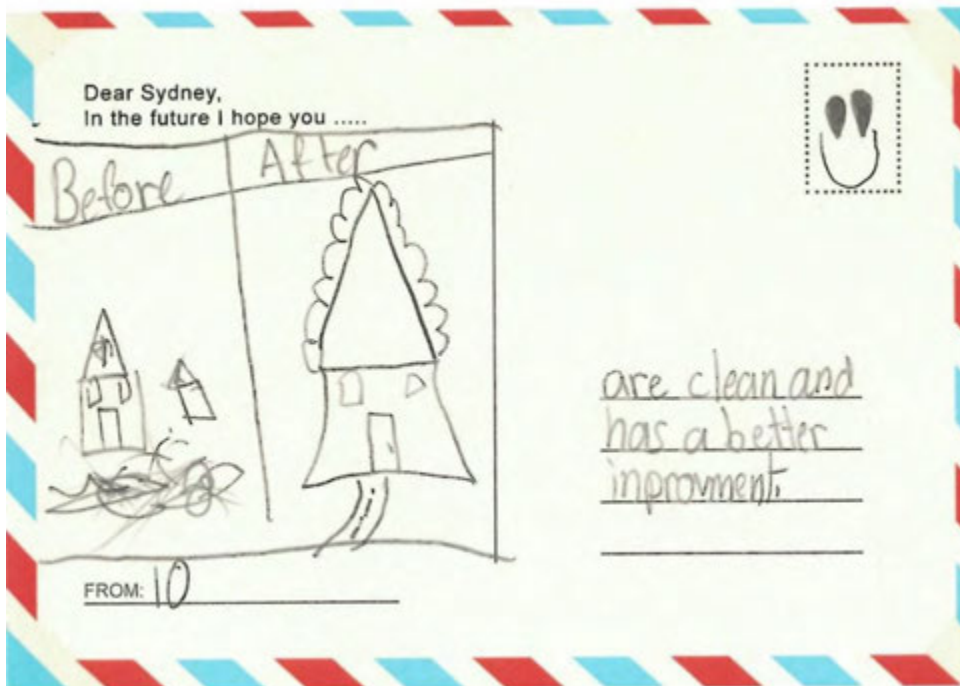
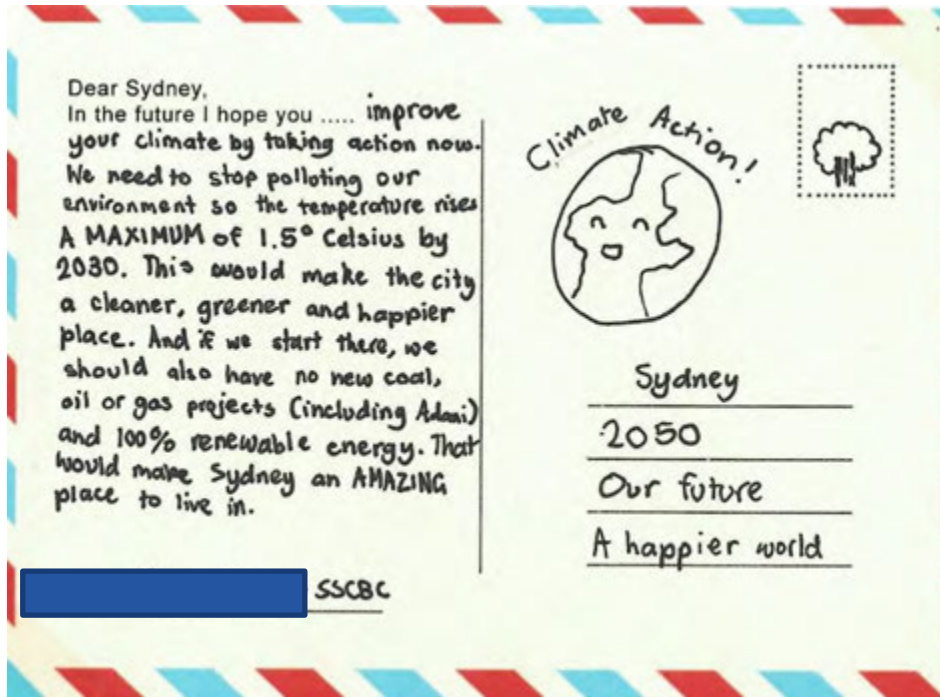
The writing here reads:

***Underground cars and green up top.***

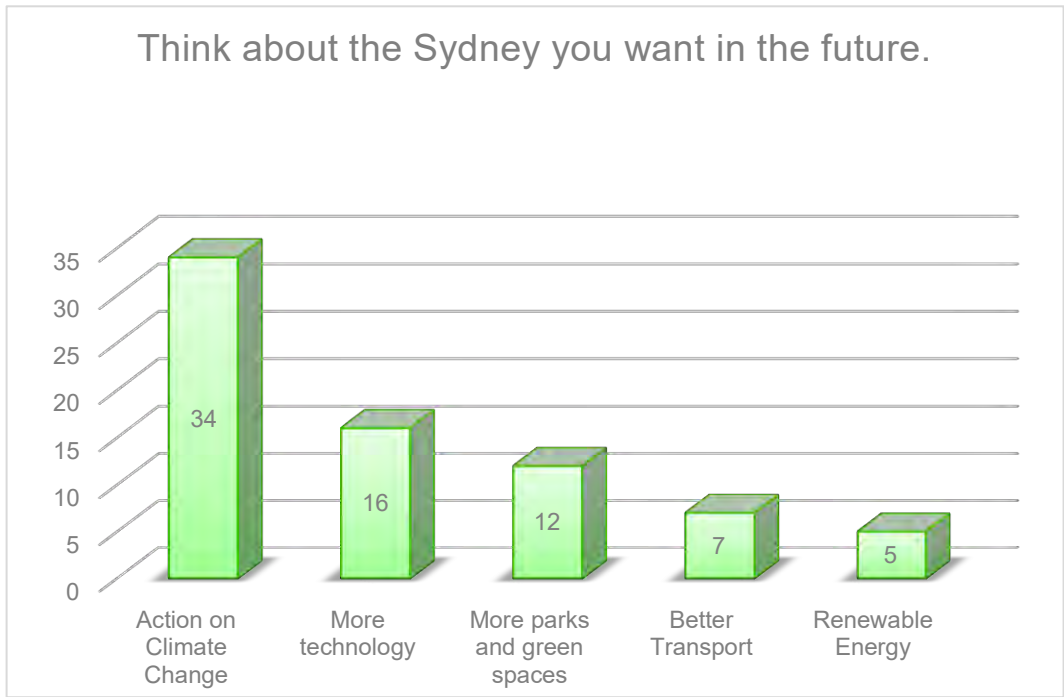


## Postcards

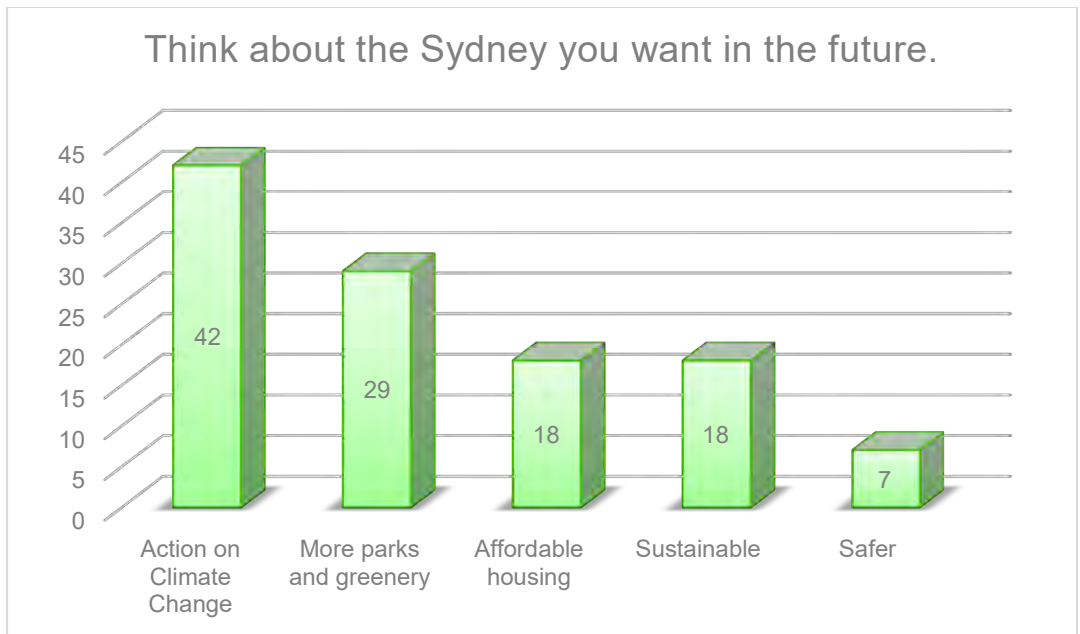
The desire for action on climate change, improved housing affordability, the importance of green spaces and good public transport were again echoed in the open field writing activities such as the postcard activity.



Postcard Summary: Top 5 Primary School Results



Postcard Summary: Top 5 High School Results



## High School Future Scenario Cards

These cards gave students information about possible future scenarios as a provocation for discussion (rooftop farming / deliveries by drones / shared backyards etc.). Students then made a decision with a voting paddle: Yes Absolutely or No Way. They also recorded their answers on a sheet provided.

This activity prompted lively discussion across all schools. The student's responded passionately to all the issues, at times responding unanimously however often presenting valid arguments for both sides. In their arguments they took into consideration factors such as how viable the implementation of the project might be for the City (Shared Backyards) or whether it would be a good investment for the City (AI, Public "Urban Cool Rooms"). The students highlighted concepts they thought were symptomatic solutions rather than solutions addressing underlying problems.

We included the question:

Pick the issue you felt most strongly about and tell us why? Here are a selection of the responses:

*Public "Urban Cool Rooms" may save energy in the short term however they dismiss the underlying problem of climate change.*

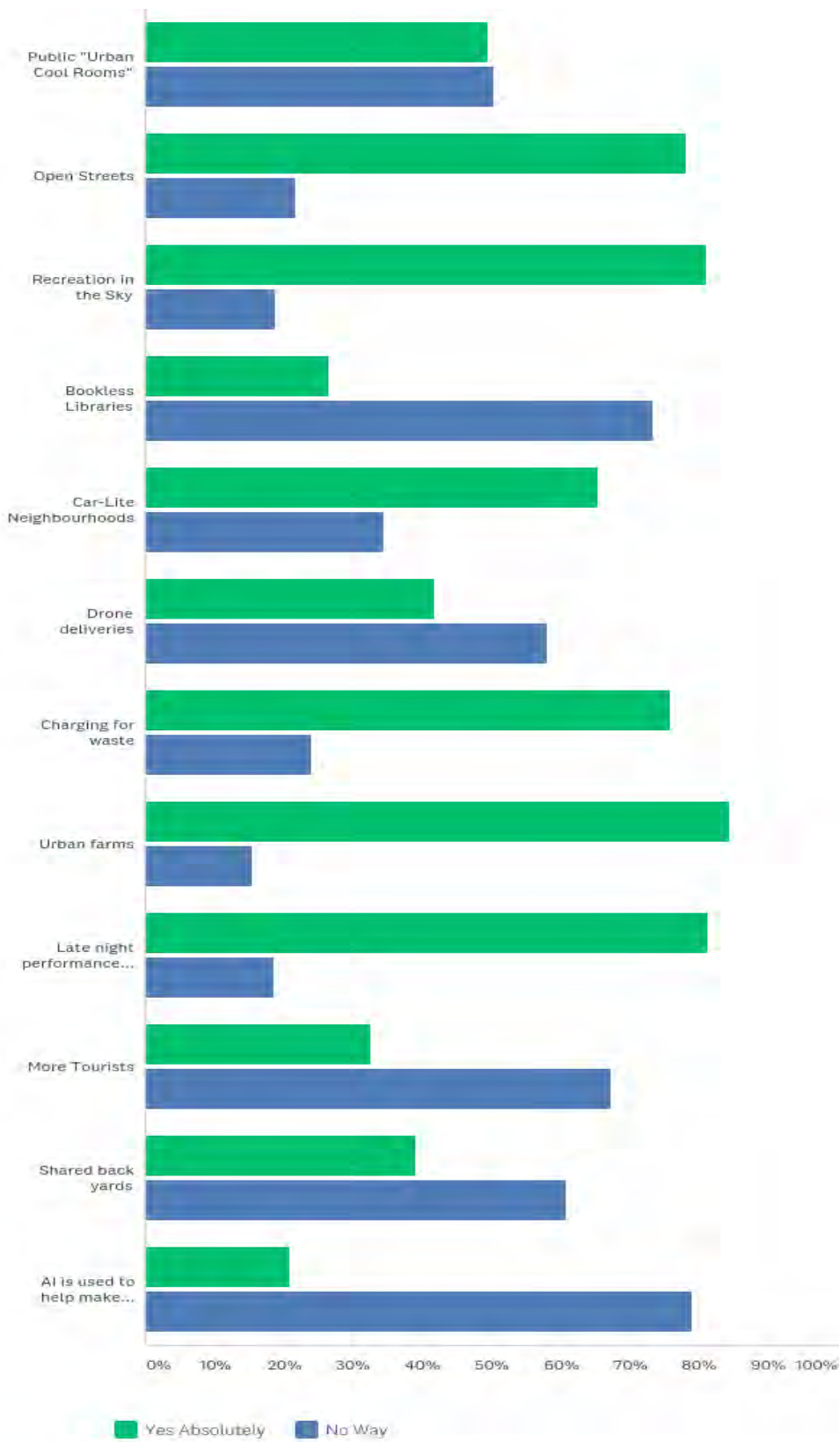
*Open Streets are an exciting idea and sound like something lots of people would enjoy. The roads are congested and hazardous so if anytime the road can be clear of cars, sounds like a city that I'd visit regularly.*

*Car-lite neighbourhoods is something we should work towards as cars produce a lot of carbon emissions and waste.*

*The issue I feel most strongly about is urban farms. This is essential to making the most of limited urban space, for both recreation and resource production.*



Overall responses to the Discussion cards activity





## Why my voice is important

Across all age groups we asked the open-ended question of why adults should listen to children and young people. Their comments again mirror the seriousness with which they undertook the consultation experience as one which gave them a voice –a voice they felt needed to be listened to because adults are not doing enough to address the problems of our time.

***Essentially this is my future, especially with global warming risks and being safe and secure. I don't even know if we're going to make it to 2050. I don't think I'll have the opportunity to have children. I expect the government to listen to climate strikes by children my age to even have a future. (Age 13)***

The classroom conversations and survey results showed from the perspective of young people that the future of Sydney, and the world, is dictated by climate change and requires the urgent action children and young people are imploring adults to take on this issue. As the quote above illustrates climate change is not viewed by children and young people as an abstract future scenario that may impact our way of life but as a critical danger that must be immediately prioritised and addressed if the human race is to survive.

***My cohort and I are the future and we want it to be positive for ourselves and the environment. If adults don't start listening to our advice now I am scared that by the time we are in power (government, voters etc.) we can't enact our desired change because their actions are irreversible.***

***"Surprisingly" teenagers have opinions on things that "matter". A lot of people my age understand the consequences of climate change, human impacts, urban development, if not better than the average adult. We are all informed and educated; we have a voice, but little opportunities to voice them.***

***I am a citizen of Sydney and it will be my future that will be impacted by the choices and decisions made by the current adults. We have a voice that is equally as powerful and as valid as any other adult, and we would appreciate it if you not only try to listen to our opinions but understand why our concerns are what they are.***

***Inclusivity is an essential aspect of any future planning however it is vital to incorporate the perspectives of young lives as they are the ones who will be most impacted by the future developments.***

***Adults should listen to me because the future Sydney will be the home where I raise my children and I want them to grow up in a place that's safe, clean and teaches them about art and culture.***

**Q.4. Adults should listen to me because...? You can write or draw your answer...**



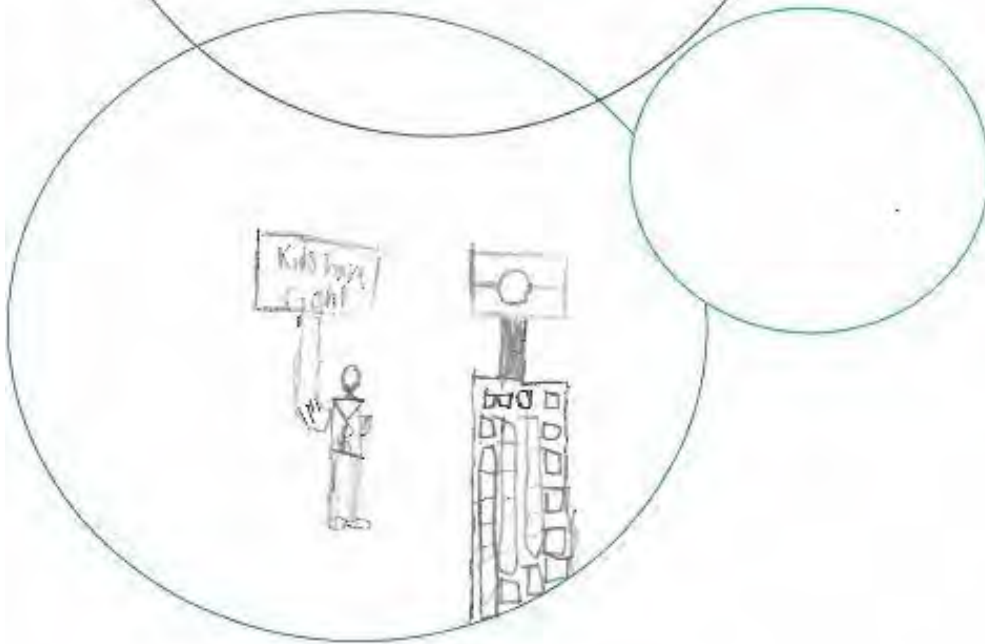
The text reads:

**We have**

**right**

**we will be**

**leaders**



# Conclusion

Through this consultation children and young people were given an opportunity to voice their perspectives on the matters that they find important about the future – they are asking adults not only to listen but also understand their message.

Through the use of age appropriate surveys and by fostering discussions on topics that were meaningful to the future lives of these children and young people we were able to gather clear and important data to help guide our city towards a sustainable, safe and equitable Sydney 2050.

It should be noted that one hundred percent of the feedback from teachers confirmed they believed the activity was a worthwhile and educational experience for their students.

One teacher remarked:

**‘Students felt that their voices were valued and that was a really lovely thing for them to know that they can make a difference.’**

Participating children and young people have given us a message of environmental awareness and the need for urgent action, it is a tolerant message that speaks of the need for inclusivity, safety, fairness and social cohesion in a rapidly changing and uncertain world.

I will be living in Sydney for a long time and if adults don't listen we won't be prepared to cater for a rapidly changing society. It is so important to engage people who will be most affected when making plans for something, and this means young people for the future. Young people all have lots of creative ideas and ignoring this can be detrimental. I also don't get to vote yet which means I can't democratically express my views but I soon will and if adults don't take into account young people, they will face a backlash in the polls as these people turn 18.

(Age 16)

# Appendix 1

## Links to the National Curriculum

The resources utilised by our educators and community engagement specialists when working with students as part of our Planning for Sydney 2050 initiative, directly link to the National Curriculum and Syllabus set by Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA).

*Civics and citizenship education builds students' knowledge and understanding of the ways in which citizens can actively participate in Australia's diverse and inclusive society. Students are encouraged to develop skills such as participating in discussions, working cooperatively with others, negotiating issues and developing the ability to make decisions. These are the skills that will allow students to effectively participate in society and become responsible, informed and active citizens. (NSW Department of Education, Learning across the curriculum).*

Opportunities to apply knowledge from several key learning areas are presented throughout the consultation process, discussion and collection of data. These consultations allow the students to apply skills to real life scenarios. Outlined below are extracts from the syllabus rationale and examples of how they directly apply to the process of consultation.

### Geography

*The study of Geography enables students to become active, responsible and informed citizens able to evaluate the opinions of others and express their own ideas and arguments. This forms a basis for active participation in community life, a commitment to sustainability, the creation of a just society, and the promotion of intercultural understanding and lifelong learning. The skills and capabilities developed through geographical study can be applied to further education, work and everyday life... (Geography K-10 Syllabus, Rationale 2012)*

The consultations enable students to review information about future planning and gives them the opportunity to express their own ideas and opinions as to how their future city should be shaped. By utilising interactive data maps, local maps, surveys and discussions, hands on skills from the geography syllabus are highlighted and applied.

### Mathematics

*The Mathematics curriculum makes clear the links between the various components of mathematics, as well as the relationship between mathematics and other disciplines. Students learn to apply their mathematical knowledge, skills and understanding in a broad range of contexts beyond the mathematics classroom... (Mathematics K-10 Syllabus, Rationale 2012)*

The data maps we examine throughout the consultation present information in varying ways- heat maps, column graphs, ratios and probability. Understanding and reading these directly applies skills taught in mathematics

### English

*Through responding to and composing texts from Kindergarten to Year 10, students learn about the power, value and art of the English language for communication, knowledge and enjoyment. They engage with and explore texts that include widely acknowledged quality literature of past and contemporary societies and engage with the literature and literary heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. By composing and responding with imagination, feeling, logic and conviction, students develop understanding of themselves and of human experience and culture. They develop clear and precise skills in speaking, listening, reading, writing, viewing and representing, and*



*knowledge and understanding of language forms and features and structures of texts... (English K-10 Syllabus, Rationale 2012)*

One of the materials we developed is a blank postcard. We encourage the students to “write a letter” to their future Sydney. Allowing the students to respond to the stimuli, composing responses with imagination, feeling, logic and conviction. By examining their place in the world and expressing it through written compositions, the students gain a greater understanding of the human experience within a city and helps them identify their own and their community’s cultural identity.

### Economics

*Economic decisions have a crucial influence on the quality of life experienced by people throughout the world. The study of economics can help individuals, groups and societies make choices that assist them to improve their quality of life. (Economics Stage 6 Syllabus, Rationale 2009)*

For our more senior students our consultations allowed them to have a deeper understanding of how economic decisions made now will affect their lives in 2050 by presenting and examining our data maps, which outline resource use and future projected population growth in different parts of the Sydney area.





# Our Future Sydney: Children's Summit

August 2019

# Contents

Introduction	4
Purpose	4
Objectives	4
Participation	5
Methodology	6
The five key areas for exploration	7
Idea generation process	7
Outcomes	8
Sustainable city	8
Solar Powered Streets	8
Green city	9
Build native gardens on rooftops	9
Diverse City	11
Storytelling Cultural Festival	11
Creative city	11
Multi-purpose centre – accessible to all	12
A city that is safe and easy to get around	14
Electric vehicles in the City of Sydney	14
Ideas ceremony	15
Ideas presented by the students	16
Response from the Lord Mayor	19
Conclusion	21
Acknowledgements	22





# Introduction

The Children's Summit was the culmination of three months of consultation with students from ten primary schools in the City of Sydney local area on the future of Sydney.

---

## Purpose

The purpose of the Children's Summit was to engage primary school students in a dialogue about the future of Sydney to the year 2050.

The Summit took as its foundation the key areas of interest identified by students in the initial consultations run in April – June 2019.

A central aim for the day was to bring a diverse range of children, from a diverse range of schools together in a stimulating collaborative environment of real-world learning focused on articulating a vision for Sydney in the year 2050.

This day-long engagement session supported children to develop and pitch big ideas that would help the City achieve their 2050 vision.

---

## Objectives

- Find out how young people envisage the future of Sydney to the year 2050
- Give students the opportunity to develop big ideas that could impact the future of Sydney
- Give children the opportunity to collaborate with a diverse range of students outside their own school community
- Give children the opportunity to speak directly with senior members of the City of Sydney Council about their ideas.
- To enable children to present their big ideas directly to the Lord Mayor
- Show their views count and the City of Sydney is listening
- Build civic engagement in children and young people
- Build ongoing, educative relationships with local schools



# Methodology

The Children's Summit was structured to facilitate deeper exploration of the five key themes that emerged from the initial in-school consultations as areas of primary interest for young people when contemplating Sydney in the year 2050.

At the start of the day the whole group of students participated in two starter activities aimed at putting the voices of young people at the centre of the process, inspiring future thinking and collaboration.

- THIS IS YOU-THIS IS US-design a flag. On a double-sided blank flag the students glued three images that reflect their life within their community, on the other side they chose three images that represented what the council does in their community. By making the flag they reflected on how they like to interact with the city and their ideas about what the city does for them.
- Why the voices of young people are important brainstorming session

The summit then reviewed the outcomes of the school consultation, exploring key areas of interest and developing ideas for action.





## The five key areas for exploration

The key areas identified by young the children in the initial consultations as being of central importance when thinking about the City's future were:

- A city that uses resources – water, energy and waste – efficiently
- A place with parks, trees and lots of nature
- A place where you can get anywhere safely on public transport, walking or on your bike
- A place where lots of different cultures live happily together
- A creative city where people can have fun

Participants selected one of the five areas to be their focus for exploration. These groupings of students then divided into smaller groups of 3 or 4 to explore the issues.

## Ideas generation process

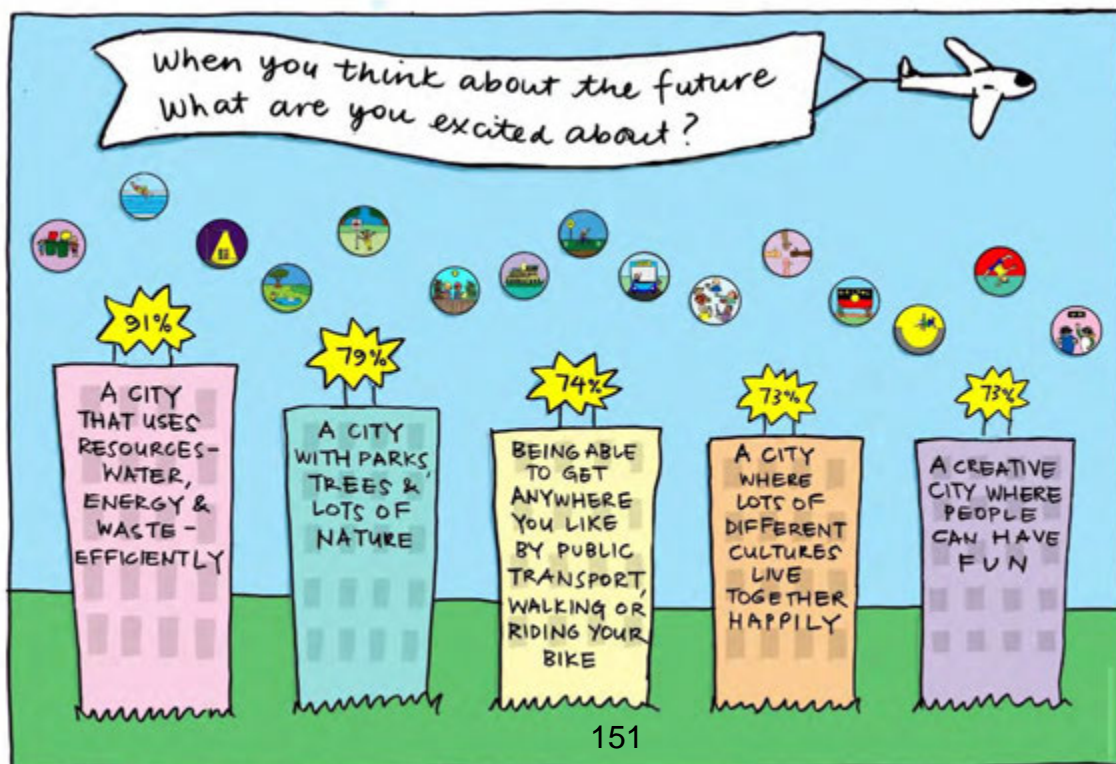
The children worked their way through a five step process that started broadly and progressively narrowed the focus of their ideas. Participants were supported by teachers from different schools and a member of the City of Sydney team.

Students began by brainstorming what their ideal Safe / Sustainable / Green / Creative / Diverse city would be like in 2050. This formed the basis for the creation of a vision statement.

Participants were then asked to generate ideas that would help Sydney become the city they envisioned.

Students interrogated their own ideas through discussion with senior City of Sydney staff including the CEO and directors with expertise in each of the thematic areas under consideration. This helped students to narrow down and clarify their ideas.

Each small group of young people then pitched their final ideas to all the attendees. A vote was then taken to decide which idea from each area should be delivered in front of the Lord Mayor at the Presentation Ceremony a week later. For several themes, the students agreed that combining the ideas was better than choosing one other the other.



# Outcomes

## Sustainable city

### Solar Powered Streets

- Increase awareness of renewable energy
- Add more solar panels throughout the city

Expand solar usage to street lights  
and buildings



Renewable Energy

stop  
polluting



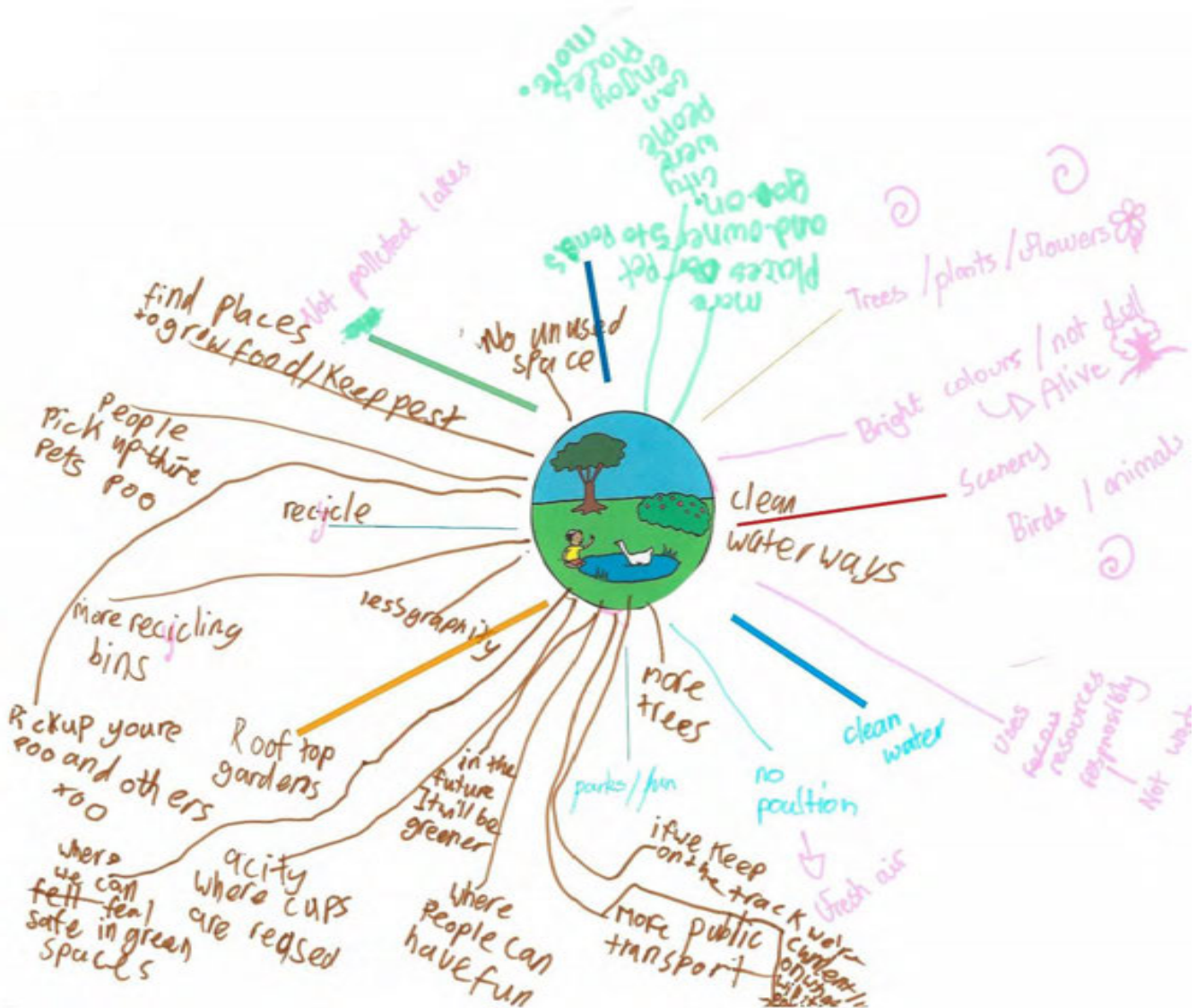
## Green city

Build native gardens on rooftops

- Encourage native flora and fauna
- Get the whole community involved

A city with sustainable housing.

In a way of having Vertical garden there can also serve as a habitat for animals and insects.





Our Future Sydney:  
Children's Summit





## Diverse City

### Storytelling Cultural Festival

- Where all cultures feel welcome and celebrated
- Reduce racism and discrimination, encourage acceptance and share stories

# STORY TELLING FESTIVAL

Cultural Calendar  
Getting rid of misconceptions and stereotypes about different races + cultures

The market's focus is a different culture



## Creative city

Multi-purpose centre – accessible to all

- A low cost space where everyone can express themselves
- Activities and opportunities to share experiences and learn new things



lots of  
inclusive events.



Festivals  
and shows

there can  
be lots of  
play ground  
and people  
interact  
with it

A place where there are consistent activities for the public in the creative arts and athletics.



is to create places where people share their creativity, put aside their differences and express themselves limitless.

where everyone  
can be happy  
and always  
learn  
new things



sports



classes  
for the  
arts



Our Future Sydney:  
Children's Summit

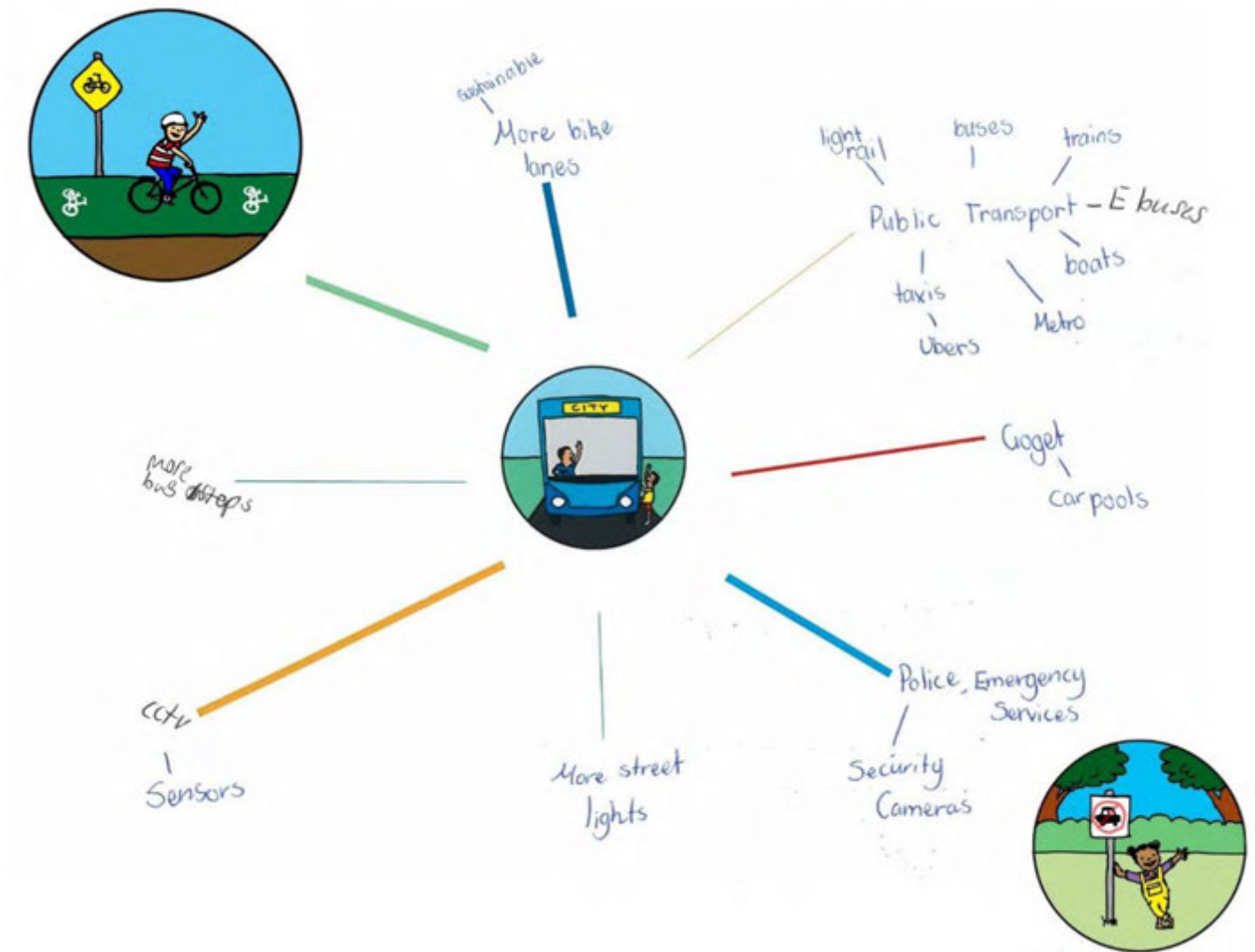


## A Safe and easy to get around

### Electric vehicles in the City of Sydney

- Provide charging stations
- Decrease traffic and increase space for pedestrians

Convert all public  
transport to electric public  
transport





# Ideas ceremony

Student representatives from all schools attended the Eternity Playhouse on the 26<sup>th</sup> August with their families and teachers at which they presented the ideas they had developed in the summit to the Lord Mayor. Here is a transcript of the main parts of the event.

We look to the skies that covers Gadigal land, we touch the ground of Gadigal land and we touch our hearts for the care of Gadigal land. Thank you please be seated.

Good evening, I'm Ben along with Rishka, Morgan and Louie. We will explain a little about what we did at the 2050 children's summit.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of August students from Forest lodge, Erskineville, St Andrews, Fort Street Darlington and St Johns Glebe primary schools met to discuss the future of our city.

We discussed what is important to children. We interviewed experts from the City of Sydney but most importantly we came up with ideas for the future.

We enjoyed meeting the experts from the council and talking to them about our big ideas for Sydney in 2050. We also enjoyed working with people from other schools and sharing our opinions and ideas with them.

We feel that student need to have a pivotal role in shaping the Sydney of 2050. This is important because kids our age will be the future of Sydney.

We would now like to present to you the top idea for each of the topic areas that were most important to primary school students.



## A city that is sustainable

Hi everyone, I'm Robin. This is Zoe, Stella and Praneel and we are the sustainability group.

Two weeks ago some schools went to the Town Hall to brainstorm some ideas on how the City of Sydney would be in 2050. Our idea is to have solar powered street lights so we can save energy and money in the long term.

Solar panels are a renewable energy source that are environmentally friendly. They will replace fossil fuels such as coal which is currently what Australia uses, producing heaps of greenhouse gases into our air and intoxicating our environment.

Renewable energy sources are important because they provide clean energy helping our daily lives as we use a lot of electricity in our jobs. It is vital we produce this energy without negative by-products or else we will be living in unsafe and polluted air.

Renewable sources, which is solar panels in this case, turns sunlight into energy powering street lights throughout the night. Any excess energy could be used to power something else. Our idea is important because streetlights use up a lot of energy.

If we change to sustainable energy, it would not only save money in the long term it would also help the environment. Street lights are everywhere and making them power themselves will definitely makes a big difference to the city. Starting to remove the need for coal.



## A city that is green with lots of nature

Hi my name is Will and this is Lachlan. We would like to share our idea for a green city. Our idea will help not only make the city look greener but make living in the city feel greener.

Our idea is to have more buildings with vertical and roof top gardens. We think the gardens must consist of native flora and fauna.

We got our inspiration for this idea from the vertical gardens at Central Park not only do they look amazing but they clean our air. These vertical and rooftop gardens will encourage more diversity in our eco system and battle against our pollution problems.

They will be equipped with sprinklers if needed or any other needed equipment to keep the plants alive. Building that have these would have to be built to be very waterproof to make sure no leaks get through the building.

When we build this there could be multiple challenges such as making the buildings stronger to support all the soil on top of the roof.

Getting the plants the right amount of sunlight and maintaining them would also be pretty difficult.

Our city needs to have more of theses to increase the amount of native plants and animals in Australia.

Many native Australian plants are threatened and many native animals are endangered because of land clearing. We believe that making roof top gardens would also help house the local endangered animals like the dragon flies and possums.



## A city where different people live happily together

Hi my name is Kyna and this is Luke and this is Dimitri. Our big idea is a multicultural big idea. A multicultural festival where for one night you can sit together and tell a story. Everyone is welcome, everyone is accepted.

You can eat different foods from different cultures and all we ask of you is \$1 for a fun night. We believe that doing this once a twice a year can help diverse and new people to Australia feel at home.

My name is Ramona and this will help the community and the city by honouring, respecting and celebrating each other's differences, stories and heritages.



---

## A creative city where people can have fun

Good evening my name is Charlotte our idea is to create a space that is continually open for people to learn sport and the arts. A space for practising sharing and enjoying what they love. Accessible to all with no booking system, that takes forever to sort out. It would be low cost and the main idea would be for everyone to express themselves and generally just try and support everyone's creativity.

This space is crucial to create opportunities for people and to help them share their ideas.





## Questions for and responses from the Lord Mayor

***From the Green City group whose idea was to create more rooftop gardens and foster native habitats in them:***

***Our question is how would the council help make this possible?***

Lord Mayor: Greening the city is a very high priority for us. In fact in our last council meeting we signed off on the renewal of 12 playgrounds and parks. Sydney Park is the jewel in the crown, another is the Glebe foreshore and the Harold parkland which we opened not so long ago.

We actually have a whole new part of the city - Green Square - and over 40 parks will be going in there and we are greening the streets too.

Ideally we want to have a liveable city which is walkable, where people can cycle safely and the traffic is not going too quickly, and where we are bringing down emissions and it's a good space for people.

So greening the city is a really high priority and I can assure you we are doing it and we will be able to get onto greening more buildings too.



***From Charlotte about creative spaces:***

***I wanted to ask a question about the Fringe Headquarters you mentioned. Say, if the trial is successful, what will be the next step?***

LM: Well that's exactly what we were thinking about this morning. The minister was thinking about it too.

We hope if it goes successfully it will be possible to continue as a performance space. I don't know how, but we want to see how it goes.

It's a fabulous building with an amazing history and ambiance. I think people will want to go there. On the ground floor there will be music at night... and on the other floors they will curate it so there is a variety of different arts and performance there and you can go and decide what you would like to see. The space is an opportunity for artists to get a start or to try out their ideas.



## Thank you from the Lord Mayor

The Lord Mayor presented all student with a certificate and thanked them for their important contributions to the future of the city.

“I want to thank you and your parents and your teachers for supporting you in getting involved in this project and talking to us about what you think is important for our city in the future.

As many of you said, this is your future.

It's going to be your city and it's about the things that concern you now, about the future. It's also giving you good experience in thinking about the future and what we need do.

I find it very encouraging to listen to you and to know what's important to you, because many of the things you are talking about are things that are really important to us too.”



# Conclusion

This report represents the culmination of a five month consultation process involving 202 students from local primary schools. The young people we have spoken to have been diverse: they have come from public and private schools, non-religious and religious schools with a wide range of cultural backgrounds.

While the young people involved in this process have been diverse, the messages we have heard them speak, have been strongly aligned.

They want an environmentally responsible, innovative, diverse and affordable city. They want a city that is green and inclusive of all cultures. They want a city where human development and the natural environment are in harmony.

They want a city which gives its young people opportunities to express themselves and be heard. They are a generation that is strongly aware of the importance and validity of their own ideas. They are invested in being responsible citizens and are deeply attached to ideas of fairness and equality for all. They see their ideas are often at odds with adult mainstream, particularly where climate change is concerned.

“We have rights. We will be the leaders.”

“I think adults should listen to us because we are helpful, creative and respectful.”

“I hope you can stop climate change now or all the animals will die.”

“...make a place where everyone is treated fairly and can share their culture.”

“I think kids should have a bit of a choice about what happens in the world we live in...”

## Acknowledgements

The 2050 Youth Consultations were developed and delivered by the City of Sydney's Strategic Engagement team: Yvette Andrews, Jen Guice, Gareth Jenkins, Sarah Easterman.

We extend our thanks to the City of Sydney staff who attended the Children's Summit and to all the participating students and their teachers.

---

## Congratulations to the following students for their contribution to the future of our city.

### St James Catholic Primary School

- Emma Langley
- Charlotte Challiss
- Victoria Thompson
- Beth Pomfret- Steel
- Essence Abiah
- Claire Cassidy
- Alannah Toauli

### Forest Lodge Public School

- Halle Robertson
- Lachlan Murphy
- Kyna Wild
- Sienna Robertson
- Sylvie King
- Monty Rooney
- Caleb Jeremy

### Erskineville Public School

- Grace McAllister
- Zoe Schacht
- Llew Saunders
- Wil Stanton-Clark

- Ramona Sheikh-Saraf
- Edie Porter
- Robin Ludwig
- Leo Ford

### Darlington Public School

- Joe Wilson
- Amon Bolland
- Lucine Kontain
- Jack Davidson
- Charlotte Bullivant
- Ophelia B Andrews
- Jesse Russell
- Jarvis Spencer
- Stella Lagan

### St Andrews Cathedral School

- Joshua Morgan
- Oliver Duggan
- Danielle Chapman
- Reina Shi
- Georgia Wansey
- Dennis Cosmetatos



Fort Street Public School

- Naolin Yeoh
- Abigail El-Sayed
- Aidan Doble
- Antoine Vuong
- Ashley Han
- Ashley Kim
- Ben Cooney
- Dimitri Suhanovs
- Katherine Dorval
- Keyan Alvarez

Our Future Sydney:  
Children's Summit

- Luke Copeman-Hill
- Manon Yhuel
- Morgan Lubbers
- Praneel Nakkina
- Rami Khaldoon
- Rishikaa Malik
- Seyar Akbary
- Soane Jones
- Steven Jap
- Vicky Del Hoyo Collado





# Our Future Sydney: Youth Summit

August 2019



# Contents

Introduction	4
Purpose	4
Objectives	4
Participation	5
Methodology	6
The five key areas for exploration	7
Idea Generation Process	7
How young people described the process	8
Outcomes	11
Some vision statements	11
Ideas for action	12
A safe and well-governed city	12
Reducing Car Dependence	12
Youth Community Spaces	12
A sustainable city	15
Solar, Hydro and Wind Power	15
Green credit Program	15
A green city	18
Greenifying Buildings	18
Plant Laws	18
A diverse city	20
More Affordable Living Spaces	20
The Global City Festival	20
A creative and innovative city	23
Improving Public Spaces with Technology	23
The Future is Waiting Beneath Our Feet	23



Questions to the Lord Mayor	27
Conclusion	31
Acknowledgements	33

# Introduction

The Youth Summit was the culmination of three months of consultation with students from eleven high schools in and around the City of Sydney local area on the future of Sydney.

---

## Purpose

The purpose of the Youth Summit was to engage high school students in a dialogue about the future of Sydney in the year 2050.

The Summit took as its foundation the key areas of interest identified by students in the initial consultations run in April – June 2019.

A central aim for the day was to bring a diverse range of young people, from a diverse range of schools together in a stimulating collaborative environment of real-world learning focused on articulating a vision for Sydney in the year 2050.

This day-long engagement session then supported young people to develop and pitch big ideas that would help the City achieve their 2050 vision.

---

## Objectives

- Find out how young people envisage the future of Sydney to the year 2050
- Give students the opportunity to develop big ideas that could impact the future of Sydney
- Give young people the opportunity to collaborate with a diverse range of young people outside their own school community
- Give young people the opportunity to speak directly with senior members of the City of Sydney Council about their ideas
- Enable young people to present their big ideas directly to the Lord Mayor
- Show their views count and the City of Sydney is listening
- Build civic engagement in children and young people
- Build ongoing, educative relationships with local schools

## Participation

The following schools took up the opportunity to participate, collectively sending 43 students:

- Alexandria Park Community School
- Sydney Girls High School
- St Scholastica's College
- Marrickville High School
- Sydney Secondary College, Black Wattle Bay
- Sydney Secondary College, Leichhardt



VR goggles showing a flyover of Sydney and its future development.

# Methodology

The Youth Summit was structured to facilitate deeper exploration of the five key themes that emerged from the initial in-school consultations as areas of primary interest for young people when contemplating Sydney in the year 2050.

At the start of the day the whole group of students participated in two starter activities aimed at putting the voices of young people at the centre of the process, and inspiring future thinking and collaboration.

- Future focused gameshow run by students from UTS's Bachelor of Creative Intelligence and Innovation degree.
- Why the voices of young people are important brainstorming session with a visual storyteller creating a pictorial representation of the comments.





## The five key areas for exploration

The key areas identified by young people in the initial consultations as being of central importance when thinking about Sydney's future were:

- A safe and well-governed City
- A Sustainable City
- A Green City
- A Diverse City
- A Creative and Innovative City

Participants selected one of the five areas to be their focus for exploration. These groupings of students then divided into smaller groups of 3 or 4 to explore the issues.

## Idea Generation Process

Young people worked their way through a five step process that started broadly and progressively narrowed the focus of their ideas. Participants were supported by university students from UTS and the City's emerging civic leaders program.

Students began by brainstorming what their ideal Safe and Well Governed / Sustainable / Green / Diverse / Creative and Innovative city would be like in 2050. This formed the basis for the creation of a vision statement.

Participants were then asked to generate ideas that would help Sydney become the city they envisioned.

Students interrogated their own ideas through discussion with City of Sydney staff who had expertise in each of the thematic areas under consideration. This helped participants to narrow down and clarify their ideas.

Each small group of young people then pitched their final ideas to all the attendees. A vote was then taken to decide which idea from each area should be delivered to the Lord Mayor at the Presentation Ceremony a week later.

### **A Safe and Well Governed City**

- 83% of you wanted to be able to get anywhere you like on public transport, walking or by bike riding.
- 66% of you want a city where people help each other.

### **A Sustainable City**

- 90% of you wanted a city the uses resources - water, energy and waste efficiently.
- 89% were worried about the impacts of climate change including heatwaves and storms.

### **A Green City**

- 81% said you wanted a city with parks, trees and lots of nature.

### **A Creative and Innovative City**

- 72% want the City to be a creative place where people have fun.

### **A Diverse City**

- 77% wanted a city where lots of different cultures live happily together.
- 90% worried about a lack of affordable housing.
- 64% of you wanted a City that celebrates Aboriginal Communities and Cultures.

## How young people described the process

Speaking at the Lord Mayor's presentation this is how Lillian from St Scholastica's College and Ben from Marrickville High School described the Summit process on behalf of all students:



Last Wednesday, a group of passionate students, including ourselves, from a number of high schools across the City of Sydney came together to engage in a captivating and much-needed conversation about our vision of Sydney in the year 2050. It was a unique opportunity to trade ideas, expand our outlook, and exercise a real influence over the future of our city.

Each of us had a choice of five features of urban planning to focus on. These included; “A Green city”, “A sustainable city”, “A safe and well-governed city”, “A creative and innovative city” and “A diverse city”. Within these groups, we had the opportunity to exchange our ideas and knowledge, with a view to devising a proposal for the year 2050. Throughout the course of the day, we broke off into specialised teams, in which we collaborated on a project.

The process was guided by a team of facilitators, and we were able to consult community leaders and experts in our fields. The day culminated in the presentation of these projects to our peers. Two teams from each focus group pitched their ideas, and later this evening you'll hear from the groups who were elected by their peers to present to you tonight.

One of the driving concepts of the summit was the role of young people in the development of a future-proof city. And who better to assess this than the youth themselves? Before starting our projects, we were asked to consider the question ‘why are the views of young people important?’, and what followed was a compelling exchange of opinions and experiences. Everyone was able to have their

## Our Future Sydney: Youth Summit

say, and everyone's ideas were recorded by a talented team of illustrators. There were some common themes in our answers. These included the idea that we are the future, and we will inherit the world shaped by decisions being made now, that we make up a large portion of Sydney's demography, and that we can offer a fresh and unique perspective of the world.

The discussion had the effect of unifying the room under the common desire for a future to be proud of, and to look forward to. Finding commonalities among a diverse group of my peers was a truly enriching experience. But perhaps the most valuable experience I had of the day was not only being listened to, but being encouraged to speak my mind. It was incredibly encouraging to see our ideas taken on board by adults with power, and acted on in real time.

Of course, an integral part of our role as youth in society is to take on the wisdom of those with experience, and to make it our own. And unfortunately, opportunities for teenagers and adults to meet as equals and share insights from each of our communities are few and far between. The youth summit gave us that opportunity, and I'm sure I speak for my peers when I say it was a privilege to speak to the group of professionals and leaders.

The overall atmosphere of the day was one of collaboration and optimism. As young people, we are often outspoken, but seldom heard. However, we are the beneficiaries of the future, and of our City of Sydney. The summit is a heartening example of the progress that can be achieved when we collaborate as a community.

Trust me when I tell you, there is no shortage of ambitious, driven young people in the room tonight. Personally, I look forward to the year 2050.

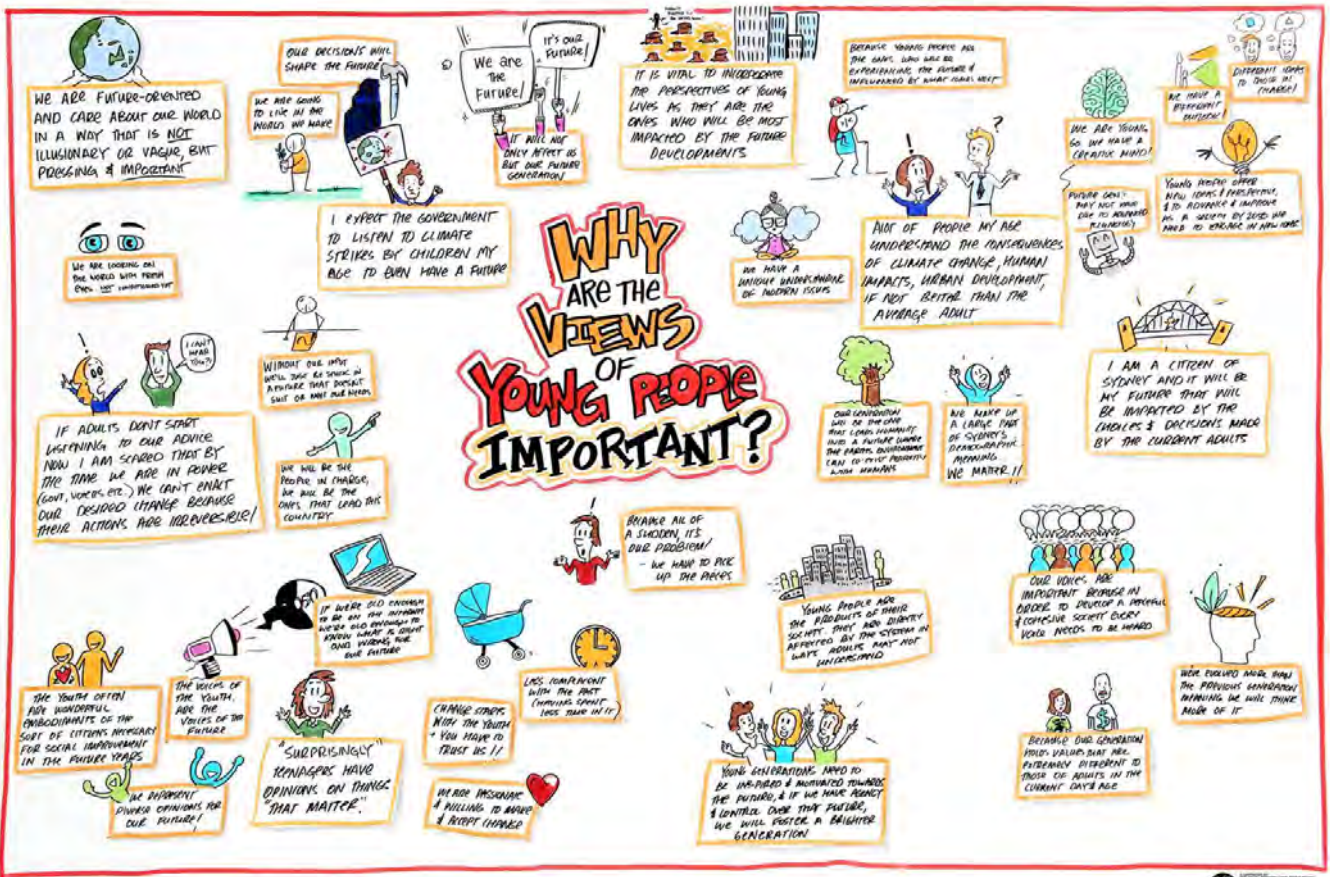




Our Future Sydney:  
Youth Summit



CEO Monica Barone discusses the students' ideas for action.





# Outcomes

---

## Some vision statements

**Sydney in 2050 is a place that accepts and encourages live music, art, fashion and technology; facilitates cultural festivals, broadcasts sporting events (both women and men), creates artistic, creative and innovative days for everyone. Where people dance, sing and perform. Where they become culturally accepting and aware. Where they learn and join in to start something new. A place that doesn't exclude people who are unique or force people to adhere to cultural stereotypes. In the future the city will be inclusive towards all individuals, accepting and culturally aware, flexible and supportive of creativity.**

Sydney in 2050 is a place that is welcoming to all, gives equal opportunities to all and meets everyone's needs. It welcomes differences and celebrates them rather than wanting everyone to be the same. Where people feel supported and feel free to celebrate what is important to them. That doesn't discriminate based on race, gender, religion, sexuality, age, education-level or wealth. In the future people will be aware of their biases. The structures of society will be welcome and support all.

**Sydney in 2050 is a place that contains more water features and architecture that includes plants and facilitates natural processes. Where people follow policies to surround themselves with biodiversity and utilises nature for sustainable outcomes. That doesn't have concrete, zoos, wasted water, cut down trees or pollute the environment. In the future Sydney will be a place of protection for species (native and endangered) full of forest and plants in currently highly polluted areas.**

Sydney in 2050 is a place that has creative art workers, street art, crazy new technology and even crazier fashion styles. Where people can express their creativity and show what they are feeling in art, music and other ways. That doesn't have any kind of backlash and allows others to express how they really feel. In the future it will be full of people who are not afraid to express themselves and are not told they are wrong.

# Ideas for action

## A safe and well-governed city

The two ideas pitched by the students were:

### Reducing Car Dependence

Prioritise people over cars. Promote equitable access to our spaces by putting pedestrians, cyclists and public transport first. Improve convenience and efficiency and reduce pollution and costs. How?

- Congestion pricing
- Cheaper public transport
- Wider footpaths

### Youth Community Spaces

- Stimulating, safe places for young people to come together with diverse programs created by young people. The spaces should be self-governed by young people which will encourage young people to participate.
- Wide range of activities possible in each space.
- Programs to develop social and emotional skills on offer.



## Reducing car dependence presentation to the Lord Mayor



Team: Jessica and Vanessa (Sydney Girls High School), Siena (St Scholastica's College), Isaac (Sydney Secondary College - Blackwattle Bay).

As young adults, we are extremely concerned about what our excessive dependency on private vehicles means for our futures. Perhaps the most prominent concern relating to this is the growing problem of increased greenhouse gas emissions from our transport sector, which makes up almost a fifth of all pollution in Australia. A 2018 article published by *The Guardian* found in a study that almost 87% of all Australian commuters travel to work by car. We want to strive towards achieving a safe, well-governed city of Sydney by focusing on increasing the efficiency and efficacy of alternative modes of transport in the CBD that addresses these key concerns.

Fewer cars lead to fewer accidents. Less time wasted on waiting for the red man to turn green means that pedestrians are prioritised and rewarded for making small sustainable choices that contribute significantly to solving much bigger problems. By reducing the number of cars on our roads, we decrease the amount of greenhouse emissions and work towards preserving our environment and paving the pathway for a more sustainable Sydney for our futures.

One practical measure which can be enforced to reduce car dependency is congestion pricing. Congestion pricing has already been implemented in numerous major cities - namely London, Stockholm, Singapore, and Milan. Congestion pricing works by disincentivising the need for private vehicles by charging cars per kilometre travelled in particularly traffic-dense areas, or through increased tolls. This would make the city centres more attractive to pedestrians and bike riders, and reduce journey time, especially for emergency vehicles. If we look to other parts of the globe, we can see these measures in effect. In London, the London Ambulance Service reported a tripling in survival rates from cardiac arrests, attributing this to better machines and also lower traffic congestion due to

Our Future Sydney:  
Youth Summit

the introduction of the tax. By implementing such initiatives, we would be able to refocus our attention on putting the safety of pedestrians and bike-riders first in our city.

In addition we wish to achieve a safer, well-governed city by promoting equitable access to the city's streets by reassessing our transport priorities. Currently, the government's stance on climate change and road infrastructure; the construction of new highways and express tunnels show that achieving efficiency for private vehicles are clearly our roads' key priority - a short-term fix that only exacerbates a long-term problem. On our streets, traffic lights favour vehicles and pedestrians do not have sufficient time to cross the road, which incentivises private transport. Walking, a sustainable mode of transport that assists additionally in moving towards a healthier and happier population, is made to seem inefficient and unattractive.

We must actively promote more sustainable modes of transport like cycling, buses and trains through practical, real-world applications. To make cycling more appealing, we propose that we connect the city's bike paths to create an interconnected network of bike paths throughout the city. Reducing fares would greatly promote public transport use, especially when combined with congestion pricing for private transport. At the moment, public and private transport cost around the same amount in the long run, so if there were a gap in the prices, public transport would become a much more appealing option.

Phasing out cars by 2050 would be greatly beneficial to both our streets and the environment. Overall, reducing car dependency in Sydney would contribute significantly to a safe and well-governed city.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/sep/13/transport-emissions-continue-to-rise-as-australia-lags-behind-other-nations>



## A sustainable city

The two ideas pitched by the students were:

### Solar, Hydro and Wind Power

Encourage companies to install renewable energy generators on top of buildings.

- Improves company reputation.
- Helps them to adopt renewable energy sources.
- saves space, is cost effective.
- Improves the morale of employees and of course improves the environment as a whole.

### Green Credit Program

An incentive program which encourages schools, universities and businesses to reduce waste expenditure by rewarding them with Green Credit when they meet certain waste reduction quota.

Green Credit is a special currency that gives participants access to sustainable products and services that will benefit their sustainability needs.



## Solar, hydro and wind power presentation to the Lord Mayor



Team: Hayley (Sydney Girls High School), Angus and Ben (Marrickville High School), Enya and Luana (St Scholastica's College)

Converting the City of Sydney's energy to renewable energy would be a ground breaking change to our district, and sadly it's quite overdue. Renewable energy is created from naturally produced energy, such as solar and hydro energy, and hence why that is the focus of our initiative. Energy is fundamental basis of our society and, in light of climate change, it should be sustainable, unlike the finite and damaging nature of fossil fuels. This emphasis on climate emergency mobilisation will also urge wider Australia to declare a climate emergency.

Renewable Energy technology is obviously an important element to enhance sustainability, and reliance on clean energy. Fortunately, the technology for renewable energy is readily available, and advanced, so this is a plausible idea for Sydney. This is important because a large part of issues regarding being sustainable is the dedication required to achieve this standard.

Renewable energy makes sustainability available and easier, so if certain individuals aren't environmentally conscious or can't afford a sustainable lifestyle, this will no longer be able to stop our fight against climate change. Similar to the cost of solar panels, renewable energy will cost considerably less by 2050.

Extending this, it is cost effective in the long run, as renewable energy is understood by the environmental department of Sydney to be the most efficient way to reduce carbon emissions, and the greatest priority in creating positive action for climate change. We also think this would be a great opportunity for Sydney, as a tourist attraction, promoting our sustainability, or hopefully even carbon neutrality. Many headquarters of businesses are located in the CBD, and so the conversion to complete renewable energy in Sydney would cause a ripple effect in these companies Australia-wide. Hopefully it would further set a

Our Future Sydney:  
Youth Summit

standard for other councils to also move towards renewable energy. To encourage large businesses and buildings in the district we would highlight the fact that renewable energy is cheaper than coal-fire energy. According to the climate council fossil fuel energy costs four times more than solar and wind energy.

We further want to encourage a policy for buildings and corporations to be transparent about how much they are contributing to environmental damage, and how sustainable they are. This creates a reputation of environmentally conscious corporations that encourages renewable energy. Demand from the public is also driving this change. Increasing public pressure would help to implement these changes. Ideally we would reintroduce the coal tax and establish a tax rebate for those who use renewable energy, and develop a policy for all buildings to use a minimum amount of renewable energy. However, it would be difficult and take a long time to pass through to federal government, and the sooner we can increase Australia's renewable energy usage the better!



## A green city

The two ideas pitched by the students were:

### Greenifying Buildings

Take green spaces to the next level. Integrate plants into architecture not see them as two different things. Have water features and green spaces on and inside buildings. All building can collect and re-use water to keep plants flourishing. Get the community involved.

### Plant Laws

Laws to help the environment and help people reconnect with nature:

- Get tax reduction for the amount of healthy plants you own.
- Minimum amount of trees per square km.
- Replace 80% of factories with green spaces.
- Community gardens throughout the CBD.





## Greenifying buildings presentation to the Lord Mayor



Team: Alex and Lewis (Marrickville High School), Lilian and Ruby (St Scholastica's College)

Our vision for the future essentially revolves around a greener city. We began our ideation by visualizing our ideal green utopia, and found it to be a biodiverse, sustainable and balanced environment which could sustain good quality of life for our growing population.

We want to live in a city where architecture and the natural world are integrated rather than seen as two separate entities, and where the built environment serves to complement nature, rather than exterminate it. We see the future as not only belonging to us, but to the entire Sydney ecosystem, which means that we as humans have an obligation to deliver this utopia. We plan to revolutionise the way we build, using more plant-based building materials, utilizing up-and-coming manufacturing technologies like 3D printing, and recycling existing materials. Our strategy includes becoming smarter about where and how we work, encouraging businesses and individuals to integrate the outdoor environment into their day-to-day schedule, and fostering new attitudes towards our role in the natural world.

As well as these initiatives, we will also give Sydney residents free plants in order to accelerate the greenification of the city. This is a call to action for individuals, and helps them take the first step. We hope it will create a new norm of bringing the natural world into our everyday lives. With that idea in mind, we needed to find a way to motivate the community. Our solution was creating incentives for companies and individuals and allowing the community to own their future, rather than enforcing rules. We realized that in order for the wider community to get involved in initiatives like ours, they need to feel like they are being listened to, and can take pride in the direction the city is going in. In essence, we want to break down the barriers between our built habitat and the wider ecosystem, of which we are all a part.

## A diverse city

The two ideas were:

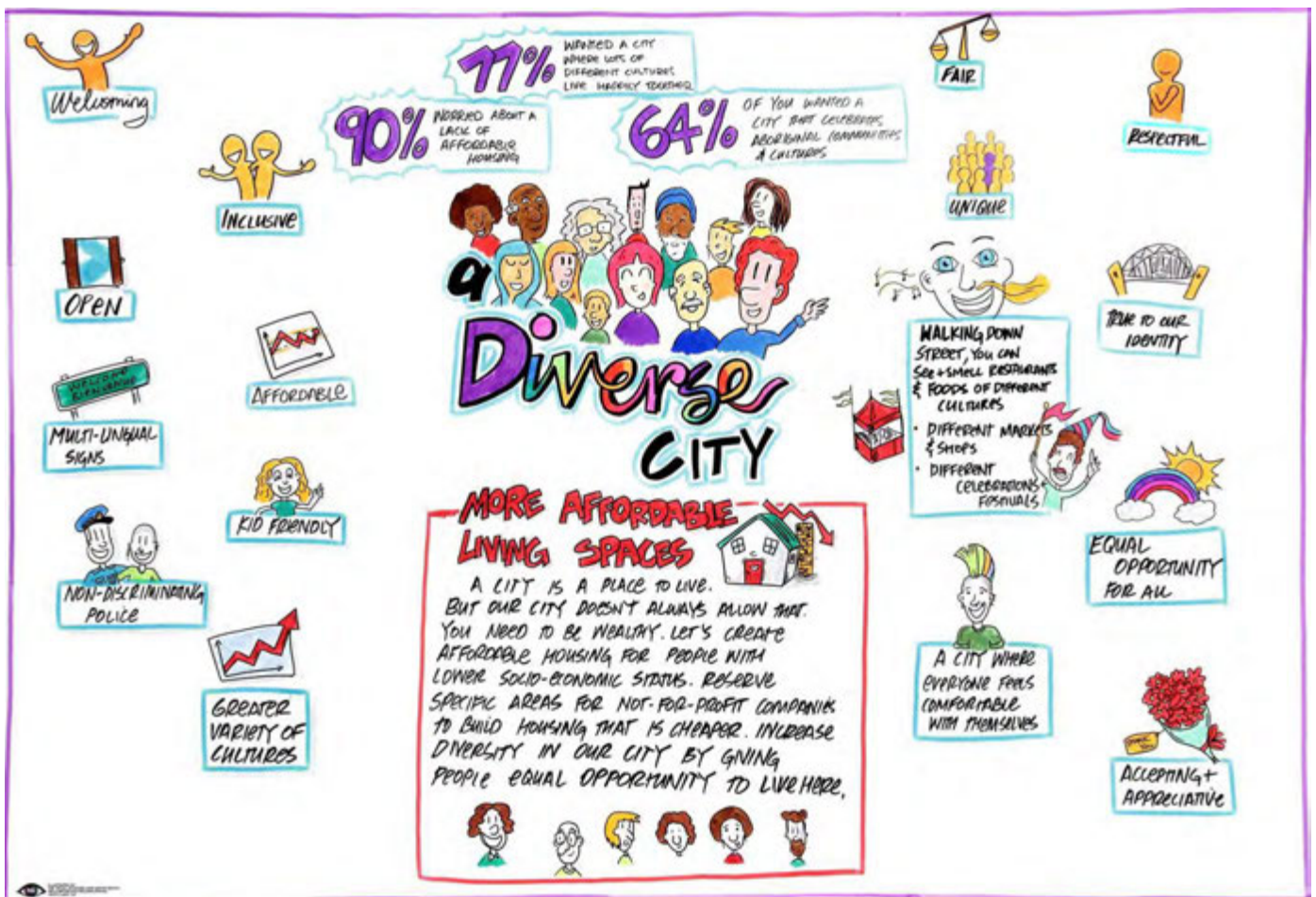
### More Affordable Living Spaces

A city is a place to live. But our city doesn't always allow that. You need to be wealthy. Let's create affordable housing for people with lower socio-economic status. Reserve specific areas for not-for-profit companies to build housing that is cheaper. Increase diversity in our city by giving people equal opportunity to live here.

### The Global City Festival

A celebration of all diverse cultural groups in the Sydney area. An opportunity for small diverse businesses, schools, families and community members of different backgrounds to come together and interact.

- Free entry, food music, performances and games.
- Opportunities for inter-cultural interaction: cooking classes, dance and language classes.
- Programs so schools engage with the festival.



## More Affordable Living Spaces presentation to the Lord Mayor



Team: Clare, Hugo, Jaida and Nicholas (Alexandria Park High School)

Many would describe Sydney as a place filled with diversity. A place with individuals of different viewpoints, ethnicities, genders, abilities and more. However, within the inner city this is not the case. How can we ever get the most out of diversity, or a diverse city, if all citizens do not have equal and easy access to an adequate standard of living?

Housing is a vital aspect to achieving an adequate standard of living. Housing that meets every individuals' needs and requirements, as well as a suitable lifestyle, is a reality that not everyone is able to create. Instead it has just become a dream.

There are a number of factors that contribute to a person being able to afford living in the inner city. Someone's education level, socio-economic status, cultural background, place of birth, and abilities, can all have an impact on their capacity to live in the City of Sydney region.

With the city offering quite possibly the best resources, opportunities and lifestyle in our state, the need for affordable housing is growing. Allowing all people from all walks of life to live together, and create a truly diverse community, is a great achievement. One that we should all aim for.

And we believe that we have come up with the suitable solution.

If we reserve certain areas or plots of land for community housing companies, they can then create and rent this housing to individuals that may not otherwise be able to afford living in such an expensive area. They choose candidates through their application process, which includes information such as their income and their need for living in the area. This will actively diversify the community, by offering opportunities to those that may not be able to receive it. However, as of right now the waiting list is lengthy and only allows those who have no other option but to live in the area, which isolates those who could be in need.

Transforming redundant areas into liveable spaces such as abandoned housing and apartments is another step to creating affordable housing for all. These spaces are

Our Future Sydney:  
Youth Summit

otherwise unused, and despite being capable of meeting living requirements, are wasting away. In a space of two decades Australia has added 2.1 million homes to its property portfolio. However, across Australia 11.2 percent of housing has been left vacant. All of these properties could very easily be transformed into affordable living spaces for low income earners, possibly through community housing companies.

Overall, the need for affordable housing in the inner city of Sydney region is extensive. And with Sydney's population growing by the second, there is little time to waste. Implementing these strategies and adapting them to each region's needs is a solution to the growing lack of diversity.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/census-snapshot-one-million-homes-left-empty-across-australia-20170717-gxcpiw.html>

<http://theconversation.com/taxing-empty-homes-a-step-towards-affordable-housing-but-much-more-can-be-done-80742>



## A creative and innovative city

The two ideas were:

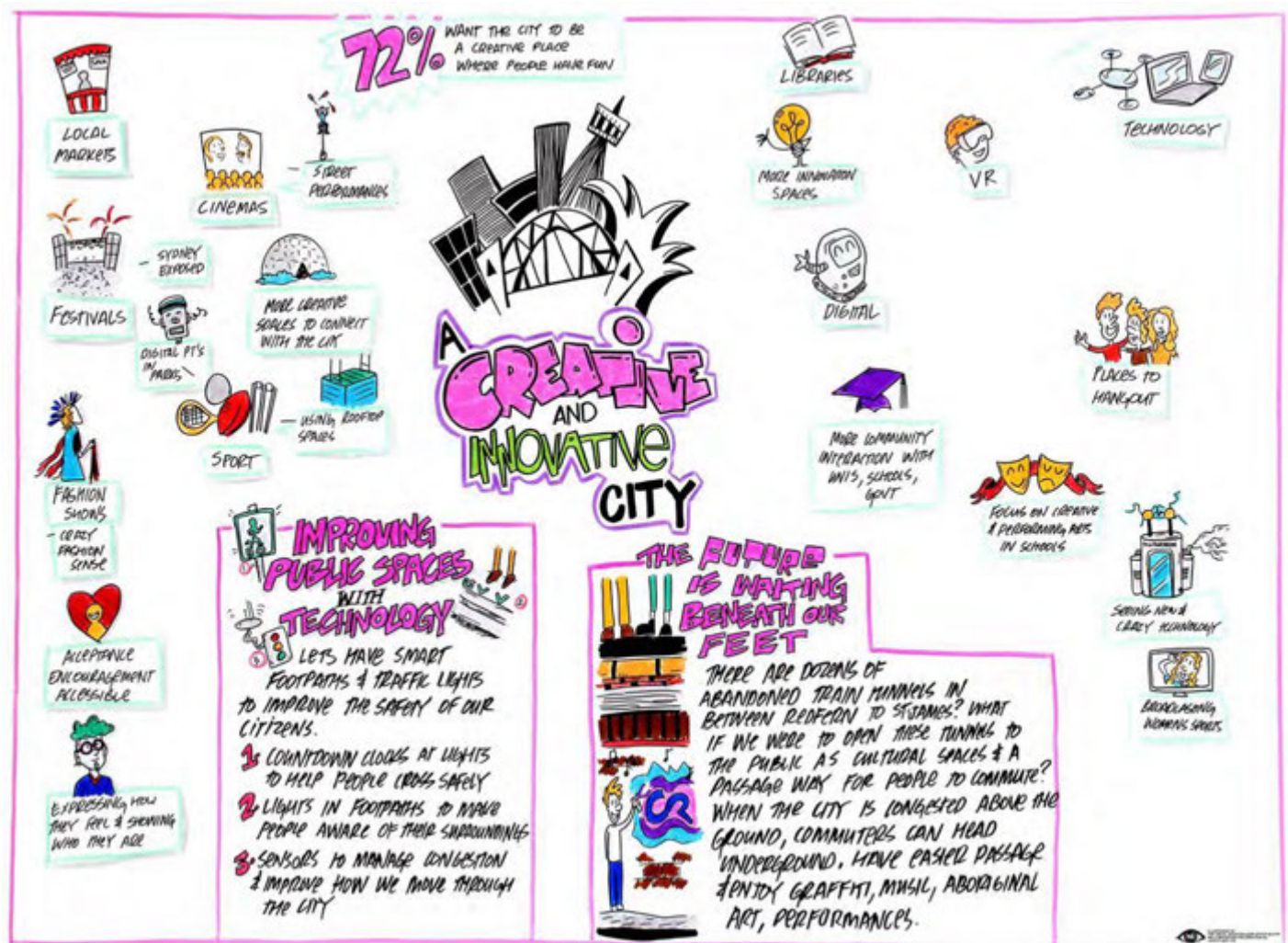
### Improving Public Spaces with Technology

Let's have smart footpaths and traffic lights to improve the safety of our citizens. Countdown clocks at lights to help people cross safely. Lights in footpaths to make people aware of their surroundings. Sensors to manage congestion and improved how we move through the city.

### The Future is Waiting Beneath Our Feet

There are dozens of abandoned train tunnels in between Redfern to St James. What if we were to open these tunnels to the public as cultural spaces and a passage way for people to commute? When the city is congested above the ground, commuters can head underground, have easier passage and enjoy graffiti, music, Aboriginal art and performances.

It was agreed that both ideas should be presented to the Lord Mayor.



## Improving Public Spaces with Technology presentation to the Lord Mayor



Team: Chelsia and Hannah (Sydney Girls High School), Peter and Oscar (Sydney Secondary College-Blackwattle Bay)

Good evening. My name is Chelsia Kwon and I am joined here today by Hannah Chow. We are students from Sydney Girls High School, located in Surry Hills, and we have a great interest in the city and its workings. We'd like to present an idea that will make for a more creative and innovate City of Sydney. Before I begin, I would like to acknowledge my fellow partners Oscar and Peter from Sydney Secondary College, who unfortunately could not make it today, for their hard work and support throughout this project. I'd also like to thank the Lord Mayor of the City Of Sydney for allowing us to present at this distinguished event.

Improving Public Spaces within the City of Sydney through the implementation of advanced technology. This statement summarises our idea and we believe that our proposal would be beneficial for the City of Sydney. It is greatly targeted at improving the safety of the people who use the city, as well as helping to reduce congestion at traffic lights, in an attempt to optimise efficiency within our city. The focus of our idea has been placed greatly on the innovative aspect of technology, with our main focus on the technology within the city that controls traffic and pedestrian lights.

We've all experienced it: waiting at a pedestrian crossing for the lights to turn green only to cross without actually knowing how long we have to make it to the other side. This is a common sight within the city as many people tend to run and try to cross when the red lights are flashing, in order to make it to the other side. This act is not only extremely dangerous for pedestrians but also causes delays for the traffic. We'd like to combat this problem by implementing traffic signal countdown timers at all lights and pedestrian crossings within the City of Sydney. These types of lights have proved to be very useful in other areas of Sydney, such as Chatswood as well as the several which are scattered throughout the city. The City of Sydney is one of the most densely populated cities in Australia and these new generation lights have been shown to lead to improved driver



## Our Future Sydney: Youth Summit

response and greater awareness of one's surroundings and are recommended in areas with low vehicle speed and heavy pedestrian traffic.

The implementation of these lights would not be too costly or require a lot of time as there are already systems that have been created and can be used. When speaking to our expert from the City of Sydney we were informed that it was possible for these lights to be put in place as the advanced technology needed for these lights were available but still required some time for development and implementation. Traffic signal countdown timers would greatly reduce the risks of pedestrian and vehicle accidents and would greatly contribute to combating the growing congestion of traffic with the city.

We hope that our idea to make a more creative and innovate City of Sydney will be heard and acted upon. We hope to see countdown timers combined with traffic signals in the near future. Thank you.

---

## The Future is Waiting Beneath Our Feet presentation to the Lord Mayor



Oisín, Ushante, Shane and Tom (Alexandria Park High School)

When we envisaged the future, the year 2050. We reviewed the possible issues that may arise. Overpopulation would be apparent, hence congestion in the CBD would have a drastic impact on tourism and also for the local's work efficiency, this would ultimately taint the overall image of the Sydney we all know and love.

To combat these concerns we looked for a creative and innovative solution. We propose a scheme to refurbish and renovate the decommissioned railway tunnels beneath the CBD - converting them into a web of passageways for commuting, creativity and the arts. Space from unused platforms can be repurposed as small venues for hire which could definitely be used for art installations or market stalls. Further supporting small businesses and

## Our Future Sydney: Youth Summit

upcoming artists. Music, performances and graffiti walls can also be incorporated into the tunnels to add to the atmosphere.

Sydney is predicted to have 7.5 million residents by 2050, that's a 60% increase from today. It's expected that 2 million people will walk the streets of the CBD.

Sydney makes approximately \$110 billion dollars through tourism with 91 million tourists every year exploring Sydney. These numbers are bound to keep growing with a greater percentage than ever.

Sydney is not known for its street art, Melbourne, on the other hand, has successfully incorporated murals and street exhibitions into their city's fabric which has become one of the main attractions for tourists in Melbourne. Sydney is a beautiful city but it's quite one-dimensional when it comes to its tourist attractions, these, of course, revolving around the Sydney harbour; the introduction of these tunnels would be extremely practical, both in the sense that they ease congestion whilst providing shelter from the elements eg. rain or heat. But they would also encourage and even provide people with a reason to come to Sydney's CBD.

The tunnels would also provide a blank canvas for people of all cultures to showcase their artworks and performances, till eventually, these tunnels become part of our city's identity.

The tunnels will provide job opportunities, opportunity to showcase your art to the public and a safe and fast way to commute through the city. What else could you ask for?

What will we do when the tunnel spaces have been exhausted by the rapid growth of humans in further future? The simple plan would be expanding the tunnels, which is a manageable process.

Drawing aesthetic and practical inspiration from places such as The Grounds, The Rocks, and New York's Highline, the tunnels will attract tourists and boost the city's personality. These tunnels will not only ease congestion but overall provide an immersive, practical and aesthetically appealing space.

SOURCES:

<http://www.visitsydneyaustralia.com.au/lost-tunnels.html>

<https://www.news.com.au/national/nsw-act/subterranean-sydney-eerie-underground-world-right-beneath-the-cbd/news-story/de0147c78c833003c918aba0413cfa8>



# Questions to the Lord Mayor

After the presentation young people were then able to ask Lord Mayor Clover Moore a direct question.



**Question 1:** Hi my name is Kevin and I'm from Marrickville High School. As we all know Sydney is a diverse community that seeks to showcase the array of cultures that exist within it. We believe a mural, an art installation that recognises the cultures and styles of all Australians would be of great value to the City of Sydney. As Lord Mayor how would you be able to support young Australians in this endeavour?

**Lord Mayor:** Well, what you'd have to do is come and talk to us. There are a range of views about public art and so we have a public art panel. So, when I'm asked to put a statue somewhere I can refer it to the public art panel and there are a range of people with arts backgrounds and they can give me advice about whether or not it is a good idea. So we have that sort of resource. We also have a terrific resource of people in our creative area. So we'd talk to you about who wanted to be involved, where it would be and develop it up with you. And before a decision was made about it, it would come to Council and you'd come and address the committee about it. We're always interested in new ideas and I think that that would be very welcome.

## Our Future Sydney: Youth Summit

**Question 2:** We know more and more people are migrating to Sydney and it is predicted to become a global city. What is the council and Sydney in general doing to adapt their housing and sense of belonging for the increasing diverse community and growing population? How are we sustaining it to be an affordable city to live in?

**Lord Mayor:** The issue of affordability in Sydney and in all our capital cities is a really important one. It's one of the most important after climate change. We have a policy at the City of being inclusive and welcoming everyone and our social policy is based on that. But if you can't afford to live here it is much harder for you to be part of all the wonderful things that are happening here because again transport is difficult. So transport is also up there as an important one.

The City is not responsible for housing, we wish we were, it's a state issue and a Federal issue and we lobby very hard to get the Federal and State Governments to develop policies on affordable housing. In fact I'm working with the other capital city Lord Mayors from around Australia on this very issue and I was in meetings in the NSW parliament today on this very question.

We know anyone on a Newstart allowance can't live in a capital city in Australia and that's a real indictment on us as a society and we would really like our State and Federal Governments who are responsible for housing to have affordable and social housing policies. In fact in recent years the amount of housing that is available for very low income people who need social housing has gone down. So an increase in the provision of affordable housing as the population grows, simply hasn't happened.

One of the very important projects for us is in Waterloo where there is a development that is proposed. It is not a very good development, to be quite kind about it, and we are putting forward to the State Government a proposal that would provide a much better environment – a mix of social housing and affordable housing with a smaller amount of market housing. So, that's one particular project that we are hoping to get Federal and State funding for.

What we do is that we pull all the levers we have. So, we make our sites available, we have a grants system for projects like youth at risk housing or housing for homeless older women. Those sorts of projects we can support, one-off special projects.

I was just at Parliament today with Alex Greenwich about the homelessness count we did recently, which showed that whilst numbers of people sleeping on the street has gone down very slightly the numbers of people in emergency and temporary accommodation has gone up. So what it means is that what is lacking is the supply of social and affordable housing. You can get accommodation for a night in emergency housing but what you need is long term housing.

So for all of you interested in 2050 this one should determine how you vote. What the policies are on housing, because unless people have safe and secure housing and then opportunities for education and adequate health and transport, it's hard to have a good lifestyle. So this is really important. We try and get as much social and affordable housing into our city but it is, at the end of the day, something the State Government has to do.



## Our Future Sydney: Youth Summit

**Question 3:** Based on our current plans we are trying to minimise our use of privately owned cars mainly because of their pollution and also because of safety. What are your ideas on what we should do about electric and hydrogen fuelled cars which have built in artificial intelligence to help our safety while they are good for our environment?

**Lord Mayor:** Well I think they're a good idea. In fact we have probably the most progressive fleet in any council in terms of our hybrids and our electric vehicles. The challenge has been again that we need the State Government to put in the charging points. When you go to other cities you see those charging points but it hasn't been a priority here. It is for us. We use hybrids and electric cars as part of our work but we need more charging points – but I think it's just a matter of time – it's going to happen. Going back to the first thing that you talked about which was a pedestrian-friendly city and a city that was walkable and that people could cycle and use public transport – that's the sort of city that we're working towards Sydney becoming.

**Question 4:** Judging by the ideas you have seen here today how possible is it to implement them in the future in Sydney?

**Lord Mayor:** We have been doing a number of things that you've talked about for a number of years and it is very encouraging for us to know that the things you think are important are the things that we're doing.

We're dramatically reducing our emissions. Why that's important is that 70-80% of emissions are in our cities, so even though our Federal or State Government might be letting us down on this, we know if we are working hard in our cities, we are making a serious contribution to addressing climate change.

The City of Sydney works with other global cities in an organisation that is called C40 and C40 is about cities working together to address climate change. So when Trump became president of the United States all those American cities came together and said 'We will keep doing our work.' I say the same in terms of our Federal leadership.





Our Future Sydney:  
Youth Summit

**Question 5:** Good Evening Lord Mayor, my question is about how Sydney will maintain its communal rapport between all citizens. In the future it has been extrapolated that the future generation will become more dependent on technology and therefore will spend less time outdoors and more time indoors. Therefore decreasing that sense of community between people. What is the City of Sydney planning on doing to maintain that strong sense of communal bond between its citizens?

**Lord Mayor:** One of the important things we've done is created parks that are dog friendly. It's amazing how people go to the park with their dog, they get to know the name of the other dogs and that builds up a whole rapport. I even know of people who got married because they met in the park over their dogs.

The public facilities we build and the parks we create are available to everyone whether they are living in public housing or they are living in an expensive house. So by providing public libraries, public community facilities, beautiful public parks, walkable streets, there are ways for people to come together – that is if they look up from their device.

It is becoming very techno but we still need people, and we still need communication and we still need opportunities. So also we have a grants system here and when people apply for grants because they have a creative idea or an idea for an environmental project or for starting up some innovative or useful business they can apply to us through our grants system and that's another way of bringing people together.

We run festivals and we run events; we run Art and About, we run Luna New Year, we run New Years Eve, we run a whole range of things through the year – a whole calendar you can look at on our website. These are all about bringing people together.

We do have a really terrific and diverse community and I walk from home into the Town Hall as many days of the week as I can. I walk through Redfern, I walk through Surry Hills, I walk through Darlinghurst and then I walk through the city. And I see on that trip the wonderful diversity of our city and have many interesting conversations – I can tell you!



# Conclusion

This report represents the culmination of a five month consultation process involving 202 students from 11 local high schools. The young people we have spoken to have been diverse: they have come from public and private schools, non-religious and religious schools with a wide range of culture backgrounds.

All the ideas these young people generated at the Youth Summit were included with other ideas submitted by the public and presented to the Citizens' Jury to assess, prioritise and make recommendations to the City to include in the plan.

While the young people involved in this process have been diverse, the messages we have heard them speak have been strongly aligned. They want an environmentally responsible, creatively innovative, equitable, diverse and affordable city. They want a city you can get around without the use of cars. They want a city where human development and the natural environment are in harmony.

They want a city which gives its young people opportunities to express themselves and be heard. They are a generation that is strongly aware of the importance and validity of their own ideas. Ideas they feel are often at odds with adult mainstream, particularly where climate change is concerned. Here, they emphasis the gravity of the environmental problems facing Sydney and the world and the need for urgent action:

A lot of people my age understand the consequences of climate change, human impacts, urban development, if not better than the average adult.

Our generation will be the one that leads humanity into a future where the earth's environment can co-exist properly with humans.

We've evolved more on climate change than the previous generation: meaning we will think more about it.

## Our Future Sydney: Youth Summit

The City is committed to listening and acting on the insights of young people to help Sydney be the city they imagine it could be in 2050. This was summed up by the Lord Mayor in her official address to young people, teachers and parents at the Youth Presentation:

“It’s wonderful to have young people in our town hall. I would like to thank you, all of our students, and your teachers and I’m sure you have discussed all this with your parents too.

Have you said at the dinner table what you think it will be like in 2050? I’m sure you have.

When we started this work 2030 seemed a long way off but it’s not a long way off now, it’s only 12 years. So now we are looking further forward and it is fantastic hearing from you because it’s going to be your city, it’s going to be your world and we want to leave a responsible legacy for you.”



## Acknowledgements

The 2050 Youth Consultations were developed and delivered by the City of Sydney' Strategic Engagement team: Yvette Andrews, Jen Guice, Gareth Jenkins and Sarah Easterman.

We extend our thanks to the City of Sydney staff who attended the Youth Summit, to the youth facilitators and to all the participating students and their teachers.

### **Youth Facilitators**

Ashley Nicol  
Alex Winiarski  
Lachlan Hunt  
Angus Armstrong  
Nina Stammbach  
Indra Mckie  
Ruvi Ratnayake  
Ranuka Tandan  
Amber Hunt

### **UTS BCII quiz hosts**

Ashley Nicol  
Lachlan Hunt  
Alexander Winiarski  
Angus Armstrong

### **Alexandria Park Community School**

Nic Doring  
Hugo Borbilas  
Ushanté Lancaster  
Jaida Conway  
Piya Das  
Clare Lin  
Nuria Hernandez Fernandez  
Tom Jiang  
Shane Yong  
Ayesha Sriworasarn  
Trisha Williams  
Oisin McGlone

### **St Scholastica's College**

Mariam Kirakosyan  
Luana Marosszeky  
Enya O'Neill  
Lillian Geddes-Korb  
Siena Marczen  
Ruby De Gouw

### **Sydney Girls High School**

Vanessa He  
Mai-Linh Nguyen  
Hannah Chow  
Jessica Trumble  
Chelsia Kwon  
Hayley Vuong

### **Marrickville High School**

Olive McKinnon  
Imogen Aanensen  
Ben Tomkins  
Alexandro Gould-Arocha  
Maliyan Blair  
Emily Gardner  
Edward Noble  
Kevin Huynh  
Angus McAlister  
Lewis Craig

Our Future Sydney:  
Youth Summit

**Sydney Secondary College – Blackwattle Bay Campus**

Illiana Jones

Mia Rea

Oscar Iredale

Peter Jefferies

**Sydney Secondary College – Leichhardt Campus**

Noah Winkler

Chelsea Faraizi

Fergus Ryan

Molly Rice

Isaac Yung





Our Future Sydney:  
Youth Summit





*We are future-orientated and care about our world in a way that is not illusionary or vague, but pressing and important.*



# **Attachment D**

<b>Small Business Workshop Report</b>
---------------------------------------

# CITY OF SYDNEY PLANNING

## City of Sydney in 2050

The City of Sydney (the City) has been engaging with residents, businesses, visitors and stakeholders as it shapes its long-term future plans for Sydney.

Engaging with business is an essential input to this process, given the strategic and essential nature of the economic role Sydney plays, both for the State but also the nation.

In keeping with the City's commitment to engagement and innovation, a dynamic workshop for businesses was held in early May to explore key themes and aspirations the many businesses of the City have for the future.

The City invited over 100 small and medium businesses to attend a half-day workshop, where three challenging presenters explored key issues and opportunities for the future and participants worked in small groups to answer a number of questions.

RPS, a leading engagement and communications consultancy, facilitated the event and with the City's team, designed the activities. These consisted of:

- Big picture visioning of what Sydney would look
- Aspirational imagining of what Sydney will be known for
- Descriptions of the customers that will be in Sydney in 2050.

These activities were undertaken at tables, with a mix of participants across all business types.

Following a short break, participants then sat in groups of the type of business that best represented them, and worked through a series of questions relating to realising the visions they had imagined and identifying the key challenges that would need to be overcome for each of the main themes (Main Streets, Sydney and the world stage and Customers)

The business sectors were:

- Retail
- Property
- Finance and Services
- Tech start-ups
- Tourism and Hospitality
- Creative
- Social enterprise
- Education
- Government
- Other

This succinct report captures the major themes and issues identified on the day, for the City to use as another input to future planning and for participants and stakeholders to have as a record of their participation.



## What will Sydney look like?

When asked what Sydney will look like in 2050, there were a range of key themes surrounding transport, density, retail and the environment.

There are thoughts that the population of Sydney will expand, calling for more shared working, retail and communal areas. At the same time, it was discussed that advances and accessibility in technology will allow for more flexible work arrangements – dispersing the business traffic out of the city centre.

Further advances in technology will impact the transport industry with less, cleaner or autonomous cars on the road – suggesting that Sydney’s roads will be changing, and the city will become more pedestrian friendly.

Online retail will call for experiential retail in the real world, and more temporary stores and pop-ups will be necessary. It was noted by participants that there will be a “major shift in consumer behaviour related to sustainability”, with trends in “local, second-hand and recycled goods”.

Sydney’s nightlife will be either affected or supported by regulation. It was discussed that Sydney would have more 24/7 availability to align more closely with other global cities. Our nightlife would be “more immersive, inclusive and culturally relevant”.

Shared working spaces was a consistent and recurring theme, influenced by the need for connection and flexibility. Participants voiced that Sydney in 2050 should be focussed on the environment and green spaces.

The following word cloud captures the key words participants used on the day:







neighbourhoods, closing the CBD on Sundays, utilising under-utilised spaces and places for culture and creativity, evolving and elevating the customer experience but also harnessing the goodwill of people for social good

**Public open space** – human centric design, lighting, safety and security were all identified multiple times across sectors as an essential element of our future vision for the city. Places to meet, share ideas, hubs, creativity places and events, freeing up public space so it can be used more by people. The Tourism and Hospitality sector proposed viewing the harbour as a Main Street in 2050 – an idea that opens up suite of possibilities and opportunities

**Regulation** – almost universally every sector identified that regulation was needed as an enabler but was also one of the most significant challenges. Over-regulation, restrictive regulation and regulation that favoured the few over the many. While the late-night economy dominated most comments (where Sydney is not seen as a 24/7 city because of restrictions on night entertainment) regulation was identified as an issue for Finance and Services, Creative, Tourism and Hospitality, Property, Education and Government

**Transport** – clean, prompt, accessible transport and the embrace of new advances – hover vehicles, on demand – is seen as a major aspiration and challenge. There was a strong emphasis on a walkable city and a suggestion for a ‘Parking Day’ – where you surrendered your car parking spot.

**Sustainability** – a city with a strong beating green heart, sustainable in all senses of the word, emerged as an aspiration for nearly every sector. Green open spaces but sustainability in energy, transport, design, materials were all seen as an essential part of a vision for the future. Establishing Sydney as a leader in sustainability was suggested more than once

**Social outcomes** – while the Social Enterprise sector suggested direct social outcomes and engagement as a vision for the future, it was clear that other sectors also aspired to human connections that occurred as a social good for the community as a whole and not just for individuals. Collaboration, co-working, partnerships, engagement were all proposed as necessary elements of a future that will live up to aspirations

**Diversity** – in all its forms. One suggestion was for Sydney’s brand to be the Welcome City where strangers and visitors are warmly welcomed, supported, connected with others in a tangible, practical way. There was strong support for maintaining a city of diversity in language, culture, but also economic diversity where everyone felt supported and part of something – ‘sense of community, village, belonging, sharing, caring, central, social’

**Access** – to technology, events, activities, business, jobs, transport, open space, opportunities, support – access was essential. There was almost an underlying theme of creating a ‘can-do’ framework so that the city becomes a place that whatever it is you want to do, you can easily, simply and affordably realise that in some form or other.

When separated into their relevant sectors, the participants envision the future being supported by providing opportunity and support, embracing diversity, celebrating culture, creating virtual and physical meeting spaces and “integrating AI in authentic and personalised experiences”. It was further identified that it would be beneficial to “foster communication between key industry leaders and the government to [improve] policy making”.

The key challenges identified by participants for their sectors included the online market, including the global competition and mobility it brings, as well as overhead costs of physical businesses and overall rising costs, and increasing customer expectations. Challenges are also seen for obtaining and retaining talent. The desire for building a 24/7 city raised challenges about the change in the way business, transport and hospitality will be managed. Further challenges were recognised about both physical and data security for customers and businesses.

Each sector’s feedback is summarised below, with the full data available in the Appendices. Please note that each group set its own pace for conversations and some clearly spent more time on discussing some questions than others:



## Each sector's feedback

**Table 1: Feedback by theme for each sector**

Main streets	Sydney and the world stage	Customers
<b>Retail: realising the vision</b>		
Rent and space optimisation essential	Diversity Better and faster connected/access/delivery	Evolving and elevating the customer at each touch point
Relevancy – culturally, brand values and in place design		Redesigning how customers interact across online channels
Tangibility around humanising brands, value, experience		Virtual spaces, engaging across platforms
		Integrating AI in authentic and personalised experiences
<b>Retail - challenges</b>		
Online, global competition Accessibility and communication – cutting through a cluttered environment Expectations Flexibility and responsiveness Physical challenges for changing, fewer products,	Languages and communication Connectivity – internet Competition in terms of delivery, shipping, import/export We are slow and expensive!	Seamless online and offline journey, which is personalised and has authenticity – a big ask Evolving needs and expectations Timing – I want it/need it now Transparency, privacy, data, security and all this implies
<b>Sector: Property realising the vision</b>		
Autonomous vehicles and diverse mobility – need to set up new systems well		Industry primed to develop much more flexible, sophisticated solutions
Seamless digital interactions with humans		Property as a service
Free up public space		Emergence of a more open real estate market
Diversity in facades		Places, less data asymmetry including blockchain
<b>Property - challenges</b>		
Synchronised transportation		Lack of available property data
Activating 24/7 precincts		Breaking down information symmetry
Opening up the vertical plane		Revamping of property law, teasing – to allow greater flexibility of property solutions to tenants
Quality of densification; surveillance and privacy		
<b>Finance and services – realising the vision</b>		
	Foster communication between key industry leaders and govt for better policy (investment regulations)	Tax incentives
	Create more connections between universities and the business world (commercialise research, support incubators/business accelerators)	Facilitate intercultural events (bilateral chamber of commerce)

<b>Main streets</b>	<b>Sydney and the world stage</b>	<b>Customers</b>
	Expand role of City Mayor	Govt programs/events to connect immigrants with local businesses
<b>Finance and services - challenges</b>		
	Quality of life (security, leisure, education, environment)	Investment environment
	Immigration and global mobility	Key regulations
	Investment attractiveness	Tailor your offering to global market
		Language/cultural barriers
<b>Tech start-ups – realising the vision</b>		
WIFI available on streets/parks	Environmental/clean tech!	Focus on emerging industries – innovation support
Collect public data to improve public service – transport, security	Grants, investment, taxation, stock options	Personalisation – product and technology
Open data for business	Good governance/business case cost and benefit	Open space/community to encourage human interaction
Heatmap how people commute to design city and transport	Smart city	Vertical space for retail and transport
	Pontoons to land spacecraft – aerospace, connecting	
	Access to capital, talent	
<b>Tech start-ups - challenges</b>		
Lighting	Talent – obtaining and finding	Global customers
Bandwidth	Internet speed/infrastructure	Selling online (global)
Wayfinding (physical and digital)	Better bridges between government education and research and tech and commercialisation	Ideas that might happen cost – risks need to be taken
Mainly WIFI public and private, internet of things	Costs – living, lifestyle, tech, connectivity	Cyber, quantum tech may be the future (Moor's Law seems to have run its course)
Community buildings/spaces	Transport	Customers want less complex, safer products, creative realistic ideas, true data
	Social network	Bandwidth, quality, speed
<b>Tourism and Hospitality – realising the vision</b>		
Lively – cultural entities, diversity, walkability, keeping the buzz of vibrancy and keeping residents happy	24 hour city	Technology enabling experiences – AI and AR
Harbour (water) as a main street!	Supportive regulation (aligned level of govt; DAs; trial periods; licensing conditions; education)	Tourist experience – story telling
Tourism attraction – public/private access for boats/wharves, transport	Culture and creative – global, inclusive	City residents – authenticity
Transport – late night options, cars/kerbside access	Under-utilised spaces used for culture and creativity with hospitality to support	24 hour city – safe, transport, regulation to support integrated into planning
	Transport	

Main streets	Sydney and the world stage	Customers
Governance		
Tourism and Hospitality - challenges		
Services not matching the businesses, 24 hr city -need a mindset change	Acoustics – planning, residential attenuated to external noise	The lounge room – UberEats, Netflix
Onerous regulatory environment – costs time, money	Government leadership narrative is negative – needs to change	Affordability – transport, food and beverage, staffing, AI and AR
Tension between communities and commercial	Collaboration between state, local govt and industry	Regulation
Affordability of main streets - rents Conflict of interests between landlords and tenants	Advocacy for business	Automation – human interaction in a digitised environment
AI/AR experiences seamlessly integrating		
Creative – realising the vision		
Design thinking	Close the CBD to traffic on a Sunday, have a massive block party	Enjoy the experience – unique and bespoke
Automation will remove much of the mundane, freeing up individuals to be more creative	Activate the city parks with creativity	Associate value to creative experience
All strategy is creative!	Data collection opportunities	Creativity connects – it is not alone; enabled by technology
Activity city parks with creativity, drop in and free		
Car free streets		
Parking Day – take back your car spot		
Creative - challenges		
Value of creative content – how to positively impact your business	Red tape	Value creativity and fund it
Stigma to creativity	Think bigger	Not just major festivals and events – have more regular activations
Need for education about creative content		Red tape
Speed of change – skills changing month to month		Congestion
No network/connected resource for creative activities to encourage participation		
Social enterprise – realising the vision		
Community interaction, connection/cultural connection, support	World leaders in renewables, energy, resources	Attract people who want to make a difference
Alternative business models	Sustainability – housing, events, infrastructure, lowest carbon footprint events, infrastructure, transport	Customers part of the solution/want to act
Affordability/accessibility	Connecting people to address social issues	Creating presence, visibility, trust
Partnerships and collaboration – space sharing, complimentary collaboration	Ongoing social and cultural experiences impact across Sydney all year round	Education and action

Main streets	Sydney and the world stage	Customers
Enabler for commercial/CSR – opportunities for market	Increase opportunities for partnerships and shared spaces between social enterprises, corporate and govt	Reuse, recycle, restore promotional materials
Platform to collaborate, connect, harness the goodwill of community with social enterprise		Active programs, more channels of engagement
		Support of digital innovation
Social enterprise – challenges		
Creating neighbourhoods	How to attract globally to Sydney to minimise footprint	Connecting people to issues and being active in solutions
Affordability/access		Fake industries in social enterprise – indigenous
Developing partnerships, business models		Building trust in market/products
Visibility		Engagement – govt, customers, business
Creating opportunities to access markets – ie tourism		Education
Education – realising the vision		
Leaders in innovation and technology startups, world class facilities	Welcoming diversity	Virtual education in real time/real people
Attract overseas students, entrepreneurs, STEM	Celebrating heritage	Financing technology
Culture of welcome to new businesses, students, new comers	Distinguish ourselves – focus on Aboriginal heritage to distinguish us in global world	Maintain sustainability
Places to meet, share ideas	Lifestyle -laid back, happy -maintain in face of rapid change	Flexibility in delivery/connection to learning
Cultural hubs	Beautiful city – maintain sandstone, greener city	Lifelong learning, skills, relearning
Transport		Visual technology
Develop and maintain relevant skills		AI – retrain people in new fields
Sense of community, village, belonging, sharing, caring, central, social		
Education – challenges		
Transient populations	Competitive markets – Melbourne vs Sydney	Retrain teachers in technology/STEM
Language and cultural barriers	Rate of change and resistance to it	Cost of education
Lack of sense of belonging	Regulations inhibiting change	Cost of living/accommodation
Way to welcome to Sydney	Adaptation, financing, transport	Ambiguity re future employment
		Need world class technology
		Slow internet
		Language – overseas students
Government – realising the vision		



<b>Main streets</b>	<b>Sydney and the world stage</b>	<b>Customers</b>
Public domain – strong heartbeat, lighting (smart), colour, pedestrians, CCTV, amenity	City of culture and lifestyle	Citizen juries – democratisation of citizens
Smart cities – 5g, on demand travel, hover lights, hovercraft transport	City that is safe, secure, well-designed	Sydney brand – global city
Less visual clutter	Strong environmental credentials	Eliminate/reduce inequality
Human scale – open space, green spaces, natural environment	Strong visitor economy that supports various sectors	Encourage and support diverse business group
Experience	24/7 city that is people-friendly, inspiring, encourages creativity	Responsive, agile, transparent and connecting
Green	Continue to deliver safe city – enviro urban night life	Brand Sydney – attracting talent, global businesses
Safety	Celebrating of culture	Access to equal opportunity
<b>Government - challenges</b>		
Relevance of main street in 2050	Inequality arising from globalisation	Government layers
Urban heat	Reputation of Sydney as a 'closed' city for night life and culture (ie not global)	Managing growth and inequality
	Hyper competition from other global cities	Population growth
	Refugees from climate change, economics and war	Housing affordability
	Needing to process/manage waste	Protecting character
	Distrust in government	Brain drains
	Technology and currency disruption	
	Privacy and security	
<b>Other – realising the vision</b>		
Community facilities	Clear identity beyond tourism	Diversity, inclusiveness and tolerance
	STEM	Climate- natural beauty, environment, bridge, Opera House, beaches, lifestyle
	Development nexus for new population/transport/tech	Talent access – work life balance, innovate
	Carbon neutral	Natural beauty – sustain and lock it in as an enabler, bring people together to work, socialise, collaborate, meet, leverage, attract talent, investments
	Fast	Access to Asian markets
	Source of city pride and identify – unification, connection	
	Sustainable practice	
<b>Other – challenges</b>		
Online shopping	Distance – we are still a long way away	Safety – terror
Large shopping complexes with free parking	Sustainable, fast, long distance travel that doesn't use carbon fuel	Building tangible tolerance
Poor business acumen/marketing by business owners	Time zones	Harmony in diverse community

Main streets	Sydney and the world stage	Customers
Regulation – footpath dining	Differentiating ‘Australia’ and ‘Sydney’ from the whole regional economy	Integration
Security – terrorism	Population growth – 40 million	Attractive conditions for business entrepreneurs
Greed (landlords)	Maintaining things we value in the face of massive growth	Transport
		Viewing cultural migration as more than ‘just good’

# **Attachment E**

## **Late Night and Creative Sector Workshop Report**



**NIGHTLIFE AND CREATIVE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT SESSION**  
**ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES REPORT PLANNING FOR SYDNEY TO 2050**

prepared by JOC Consulting  
for City of Sydney  
2 May 2019 | Final Report



## BACKGROUND

JOC Consulting (JOC) was commissioned by the City of Sydney (Council) to design and facilitate 'Your vision for our City's nightlife and creative future', a targeted engagement session to help inform the Planning for Sydney to 2050. The workshop was supported by the City of Sydney's Nightlife and Creative Sector Advisory Panel with design and logistic assistance. The Panel also invited participants to attend the two-hour workshop.

## DETAILS

**Date:** Thursday 28 March

**Time:** 6.00 PM - 8.00 PM

**Location:** The Loft, the Strand Arcade

**Number of attendees:** 44 participants

**Welcome to Country:** Matthew Doyle

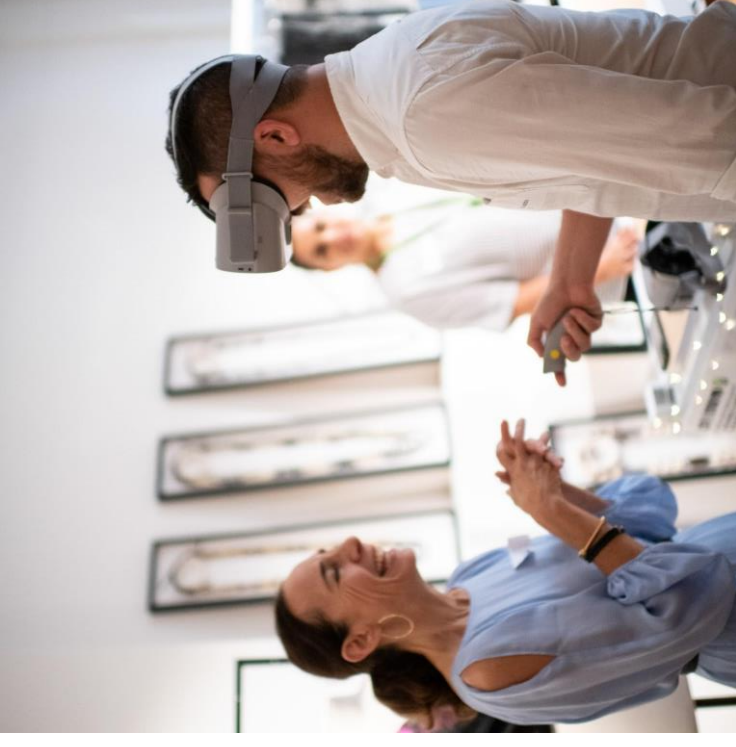
**Performances:** Brendan Maclean and Felicia Foxx

## Objectives

The workshop aimed to;

- provide the opportunity for the nightlife and creative sectors to contribute to the Planning for Sydney to 2050 engagement process
- establish a shared vision that imagines the future nightlife and creative sectors - where we want to be
- capture ideas and suggestions from the creative and cultural sector
- inform participants about the Planning for Sydney to 2050 project and Council's role as an enabler and advocate

This Engagement Outcomes Report details the insights and findings from the workshop conducted on 28 March 2019.



## WHAT WE HEARD

The following summary of key themes collates data from all activities to present a snapshot of needs, wants and desires of participants for Planning for Sydney to 2050.

### **WE WANT A CITY THAT MAKES US PROUD**

Participants imagined living in a city that they feel connected to and proud to call home. Participants were passionate about supporting creativity, preserving the green 'urbanscape' and leveraging the local persona to drive the direction of future planning. Moving forward, Sydney is a sustainable and vibrant city that retains and celebrates its unique character. It should embrace, celebrate and express itself to be the 'best City in the world'.

### **WE WANT A CITY THAT WELCOMES ALL**

Participants want to live in an inclusive and empathetic city where differences are celebrated and encouraged. Participants imagined a city where it's diverse residents feel safe and at home. Moving forward, Sydney should strengthen its creative relationships and encourage collaboration. Residents should feel compelled to actively participate in shaping their own futures.

### **WE WANT A CITY THAT DARES TO LEAD**

Participants envisioned Sydney's future as a bold and daring city, where new ideas flourish. They acknowledged that the City is constantly changing but that it should strive to be resilient and supportive. Innovation in design was seen as a key enabler for the city's success and a way of supporting communities to thrive. Moving forward, Sydney should embrace arts and culture to guarantee its success as a true global City. The more agile and experimental the City, the more diverse the talent, industries and community.



## WHAT WE WANT

Participants were asked to develop vision statements for the future of Sydney in 2050, with consideration for the nightlife and creative sector. They responded with the following:

### **In 2050, the City's nightlife and creative sector will be...**

"...the jewel of Sydney's/Australia's crown. It is open all hours, allows for spontaneity and discovery, celebrates diversity and history and enables communities to participate and claim identity"

"...something we can be proud of: dynamic, ever-evolving, pushing boundaries, diverse, inclusive and rewarding"

"...the best in the world"

"...inclusive and easy to broadcast opportunities to engage and reach the people. It will also be a city that promotes and facilitates curiosity and exploration"

"...supported, thriving, diverse, inclusive, representative and accessible. Internationally reputable and locally valued and celebrated"

"...equitable and accessible to all differences, encouraging innovation and creatively unique"



## OBSERVATIONS

The following comments were made by individuals during group discussions and are important for further consideration and investigation:

- Preservation and acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage. The 'truth telling' of First Nations history can thrive through the arts and cultural practice.
- Improved safety in public spaces at night to encourage and attract more people. The diversification of activities at night along with physical interventions can help improve safety (and perception of safety).
- Celebration of diversity and recognition through nightlife and creative sector that considers and empowers people with disability.
- Platforms for emerging and young artists to showcase their work.

*"There are a lot of people in Sydney, but they're not leaving their houses. We have the space, but we need to ignite curiosity and support local business. We as artists, need to let people know what is out there."*

~ Workshop Participant

## WHAT WE DON'T WANT

The workshop presented future city scenarios and asked participants to reflect on what they like and don't like about each scenario. In summary, participants want to avoid the following in planning for Sydney to 2050:

### LET'S AVOID SOCIAL AND SPATIAL FRAGMENTATION

Participants expressed their concerns regarding disconnected neighbourhoods and precincts that turn into 'ghettos'. Lack of accessibility and the overuse of private transportation were mentioned as important issues to address. Participants worried this disconnection would result in isolation of individuals and exclusivity of communities.

### LET'S AVOID A BUSINESS ORIENTED CITY WITH NO SOUL

Participants worried about growing privatisation in cities and support for 'only economically viable' artworks. They raised their concerns about culture being linked to consumption and used as a trophy yet still undervalued and underappreciated. The participants also expressed a concern creativity could be priced out of the city. Participants mentioned favouring corporate interests would encourage investment in the arts, widen social inequality and reduce empathy across the City.

### LET'S AVOID AN OVERLY PLANNED CITY

Participants mentioned over-regulation as a main concern. They worried that if the city becomes too strict and prescriptive it would create a homogenous and stagnant culture.

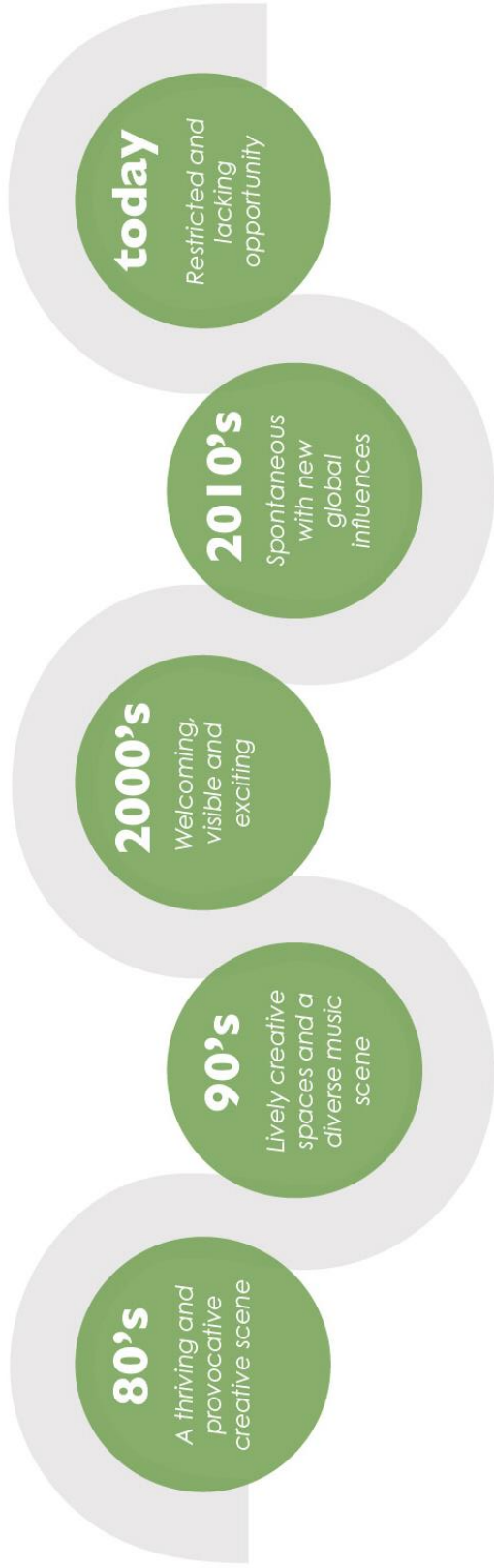




## APPENDIX DATA

### ACTIVITY ONE - MAPPING CHANGE

As participants arrived, they were asked to reflect on Sydney's nightlife and creativity. While not all participants engaged with this activity, the comments provided on butchers paper have been summarised in the below graphic and are important reflections to consider when planning for the future. Councillor Jess Scully also provided participants with a briefing prior to activity two providing an overview of 'where have we been' and 'where are we now'.



## ACTIVITY TWO - SCENARIOS AND PROVOCATIONS

Activity two asked participants to explore what creativity and nightlife would look like for a future city. The activity was based on six possible future scenarios developed by Professor Andy Pratt (2015) in the Future Cities Foresight Report and quoted in Greg Clark's 'Culture, Value and Place' Report (2018). Participants were asked to brainstorm what the city's nightlife and creative sector looked like in these future scenarios and identify the key things to avoid as consideration for planning for Sydney to 2050.

### SCENARIO 1: CAMPUS CITY

The city will consist of distinct locations and quarters devoted to high value economy: science and technology hubs, smart city districts, advanced office and business districts and others serving the creative class. Culture and education will be used instrumentally to serve the needs of different enclaves

‘What does nightlife and creativity look like for this scenario?’	‘Based on the scenarios, what have we learnt and what do we need to avoid?’
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible funding from wealthy sector</li> <li>• Drenched in product placement propaganda</li> <li>• Barangaroo 2.0</li> <li>• Lacking cross pollination</li> <li>• Sterile, white, uninspiring</li> <li>• Financially inaccessible</li> <li>• Bland, structured, ‘clean’ lack of character</li> <li>• Enclosed and not sustainable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Like attracts like’</li> <li>• Allows you to target</li> <li>• Caters for youth</li> <li>• Deals with sprawling geography</li> <li>• Prescriptive, not spontaneous</li> <li>• No community</li> <li>• Not organic</li> <li>• Gated</li> <li>• Sterile high rises with laneways</li> <li>• importance of leveraging multi-cultural</li> </ul>
<p><b>Participant Quote</b>  <i>“We had two thoughts on what it would look like, some people thought it would be a very closed, gated and sterile community, like a lot of Barangaroo and nothing else. Others thought it created a capacity for precincts like the “growing arts on play” near Barangaroo that create the path for cross-pollination and growth within and across precincts.”</i></p>	
<p>----  <b>SCENARIO 2: HOMELAND CITY</b>            Traditional values will prevail in the homeland city. It will be a pre-retirement oasis for people over 50 who seek to be protected from change.</p>	
<p><b>‘What does nightlife and creativity look like for this scenario?’</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daytime family events</li> <li>• Exclusive</li> <li>• Underground</li> <li>• Resistance</li> <li>• Opera and ballet (conservative)</li> </ul>	<p><b>‘Based on the scenarios, what have we learnt and what do we need to avoid?’</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spatial fragmentation</li> <li>• Not allowing organic growth</li> <li>• Technology without humanity</li> <li>• Lack of empathy</li> </ul>

- Opens early and closes early
- Food and wine culture
- Homogenised
- Cashed up leisure money
- Sad
- 24/7, 365 days, John Farnham Farewell tour
- Sports, personal services
- Hidden red light
- Traditional forms preferred
- Stifled
- Stagnate culture
- More restaurant gigs?
- More matinees
- Traditional- Theatre, restaurants, galleries (all close @ 11)

- Uninspiring
- Uncultured
- Disconnected
- Quiet and outdoor
- Cruise ships
- Memory and history
- Sanitised
- Medical hubs
- Family focused
- All ages
- Unoffensive
- Traffic
- God's waiting room
- Relaxed
- Square peg, circular hole

**Participant Quote**

*"50+ not yet retired that do not like change. Traditional, safe, homogeneous and quiet. There may be a strong food culture, but they would start early and finish early. Culture would be retained, but stagnant, they would be fighting hard to ensure nothing changed. There would be a counterculture to this city, there would be a strong and thriving underground culture that would be non-compliant"*

**SCENARIO 3: BUSINESS LOUNGE CITY**

Inequalities and disparities grow within and between cities, and culture increasingly is customised for transnational elites. Those with the ability to pay will be fully catered for. Culture will be about display.

**'What does nightlife and creativity look like for this scenario?'**

- Mono culture
- Money
- Full of Botox
- No disco
- Depressing and fake
- Babies
- Just the Opera House
- Closed
- Hunter Valley concerts + Opera on the harbor

- Boring, isolated, grumpy state
- Everyone is in pain
- Ground
- Everyone's in pain
- Someone Dj-ing, but no one is there
- All highrise
- Maserati cars everywhere
- Private rooftops
- No public space

**'Based on the scenarios, what have we learnt and what do we need to avoid?'**

- Monopolised businesses
- 'Soulless'
- Privatisation
- Tax havens
- Using culture as a trophy
- Accessibility
- Elitist, over-pricing of culture that excludes audiences based on class
- Casinos

**Participant Quote**

*“Ours was about the most alienating, botox filled, elitist possible version that you can imagine. It is all just about money, imagine everyone working to earn the most possible money they can earn. We had powerful elites, full of botox, monoculture, completely isolated. Thinking of cities around the world, this reminds me the most of Miami, which is beautiful in some ways, but very isolating. It’s glitzy, but you travel 1km and there is an African American population that is marginalised, some haven’t even been to the beach in Miami, it is a city of extreme wealth and extreme poverty and no one speaks to each other and we don’t want that in Sydney. Culture is skin deep”.*

----

**SCENARIO 4: TOURIST EXPERIENCE CITY**

An augmented reality of the city will shape the organisation of the immersive experience city, in which physical and virtual worlds are blended and tailored to the needs of the individual.

“What does nightlife and creativity look like for this scenario?”	“Based on the scenarios, what have we learnt and what do we need to avoid?”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transactional money</li> <li>• Fun and carefree</li> <li>• International and local live music</li> <li>• Augmented visuals on everything</li> <li>• Being alone</li> <li>• Instant party transportation</li> <li>• Pockets/hubs of fun (destinational)</li> <li>• Tinder for experiences</li> <li>• Five senses</li> <li>• Endless, anything you want to see, hear or experience, you can no matter where you are</li> <li>• Ability to find your ‘people’ no matter where they are</li> <li>• Immersed in nature</li> <li>• Multilingual</li> <li>• Mix of nature and green space with development equals happy people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mass consumerism</li> <li>• Disconnection</li> <li>• Monoculture</li> <li>• Stagnation</li> <li>• Singularity</li> <li>• Powerful elites</li> <li>• Corporate interests</li> <li>• Over-regulation</li> <li>• Inequity and inaccessibility</li> <li>• No community</li> </ul>

**Participant Quote**

*“We have the element where the virtual reality world merges into the physical world. At first we thought this would be no good, it will lead to isolation as everyone will be in their own experiences. We then thought, there is endless possibility as your reality can become anything you want it to be and whilst you are walking around in a “technology bubble” you are also able to find your people, no matter where they are in the city. We summed it up as being super connected to an endless spinning of opportunities because we thought it may be a bit full on, but we were also very excited about it.”*



-----  
**SCENARIO 5: EDGE CITY**

Highly populated, but least cultured cities; spatial fragmentation and lack of critical mass means culture struggles to attract investment. Local governments stuck in low investment; low return equilibrium means public investment in culture declines. Culture becomes more linked to retail, TV and online.

<p><b>‘What does nightlife and creativity look like for this scenario?’</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No money</li> <li>• Toxic symbol</li> <li>• Bonfires</li> <li>• TV</li> <li>• Wasteland or tumbleweed</li> <li>• Street signs no stopping, no left or right turn.</li> </ul>	<p><b>‘Based on the scenarios, what have we learnt and what do we need to avoid?’</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homogeneity</li> <li>• Spatial fragmentation</li> <li>• Divestment in the Arts</li> <li>• Culture being linked to consumption</li> <li>• Instrumental education</li> </ul>
---	---

**Participant Quote**

“We were suspicious when we first looked at it, unfortunately it didn’t move from there so we just came up with a few dot points. Starts with nightlife is dead, this leads to social isolation, mass exodus, a lack of hope and depression”.

-----  
**SCENARIO 6: OMNIVORE CITY**

An open city tailored to accommodate a fast-moving cosmopolitan culture. Higher densities than today, high interaction environments (co-working etc), home to a large educated middle class with appetites for cultural performance and innovation.

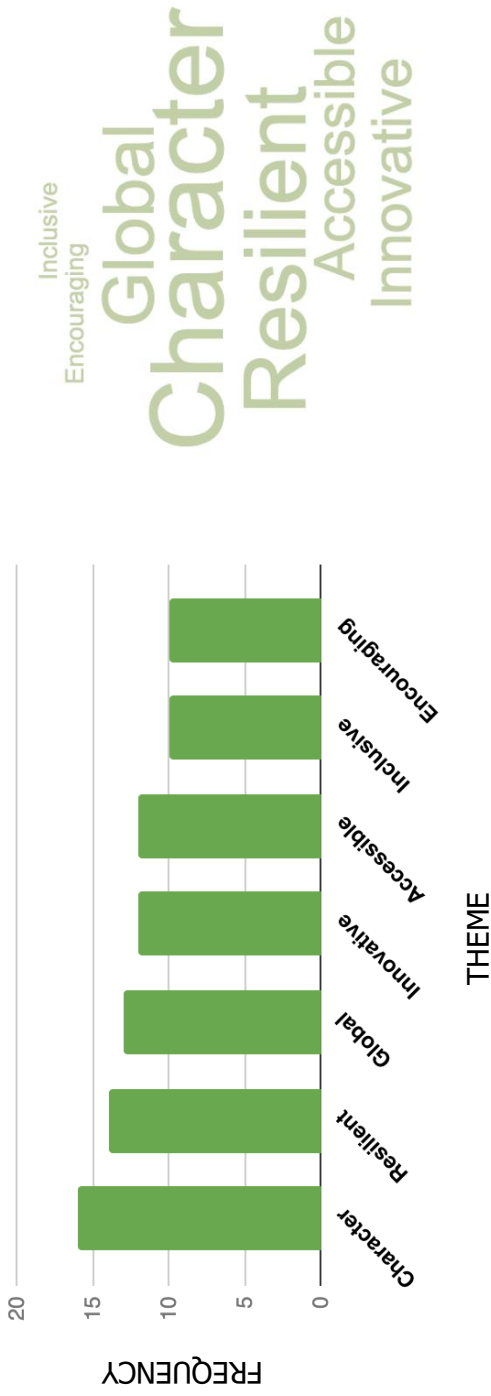
<p><b>‘What does nightlife and creativity look like for this scenario?’</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interconnected highrise buildings</li> <li>• Green rooftops that are publicly accessible and connected</li> <li>• Every building has an element of residential, private and commercial</li> </ul>	<p><b>‘Based on the scenarios, what have we learnt and what do we need to avoid?’</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ghettos</li> <li>• Monoculture</li> <li>• Lack of affordability</li> <li>• Isolation</li> </ul>
--	--

**Participant Quote**

“An open city tailored to accommodate a fast-moving cosmopolitan culture. Higher densities than today, high interaction environments (co-working etc), home to a large educated middle class with appetites for cultural performance and innovation”.

### ACTIVITY THREE - 'WHAT DO WE WANT?'

Activity three was focused on brainstorming an imagined future through the eyes of the participants. Participants were asked to brainstorm what creativity could look like in Sydney in 2050. The below table and word cloud present the most common themes generated from this brainstorm activity.



Within their groups, participants were also asked to prepare a vision for the future of the City's nightlife and creative sector in 2050. These vision statements have been included on 3 but are also included in full on the following pages.

**The following pages include the data collected from all groups for activity three.**

## GROUP ONE

### Brainstorm

- Active
- Focused
- Open
- Fluid
- Globally inclusive and actively encouraging
- Proud entrepreneurial
- Engaging
- Inclusive and welcoming
- Safe, Spontaneous and inspiring
- Night time will be working hours
- More time for leisure and fun
- Focused on stories and experience, not funding
- Creativity shown in persona of city (urban design)
- Diverse subculture, revolution and political
- Sustainable
- Upskilling and diversifying, skills and professions/industries
- Cross-disciplinary co-working spaces
- A destination/state, Australia and world wide
- Broadcast global intimate personal
- Great participation
- Pockets of authentic culture
- Micro (small scale) activated spaces + cultures
- Strong enough to be independent of politics

### Vision

**In 2050, the city's nightlife and creativity will be the jewel of Sydney's/Australia's crown.** It is open all hours, allows for spontaneity and discovery, celebrates diversity and history and enables communities to participate and claim identity

**Because it will have** structure, mirror balls and funding

**We will achieve this by** being inclusive

**Our children will be better for it because** it will allow them to develop interpersonal skills and have an open mind

**We will have protected** our identity, our cultural assets

**We will have attracted or created** the best and empathetic people on the planet

## GROUP TWO

### Brainstorm

- Inclusive
- Fast trains
- Wi-Fi
- Lead by our first people
- Spontaneous
- Fast trains with Wi-Fi
- Innovation
- Vibrant
- Fun/exciting
- Experimental, designing new spaces
- It feels bustling and hopeful, but never congested or manic
- I can get to the beach by public transport in 30mins from anywhere in the city limits
- The city is full of innovative green spaces
- Urban beehives
- Green walls corridors
- Accessible
- Networked
- Dynamic
- Diverse

### Vision

**In 2050, the city's nightlife and creativity will be** inclusive and easy to broadcast opportunities to engage and reach the people. It will also be a city that promotes and facilitates curiosity and exploration.

**Because it will have** character, curated precincts and good transport/network facilities movement (active transport) to engage with environment

**We will achieve this by** responsive and adaptable town planning (not just property and money orientated) and having a 'street culture'

**Our children will be better for it because** it will be safe and encouraging them to be exposed to culture and spaces where they can express themselves.

**We will have protected** connection, strong social ties to our mental health

**We will have attracted or created** all the creatives (and people) we have lost and will become a city of substance that is inclusive and authentic

### GROUP THREE

#### Brainstorm

- Development opportunities ladder (artist and audience)
  - Destination, diverse precincts
  - Accessible (transport and access).
  - Multicultural
  - Supportive
  - Discovery/journey
- Fun
  - Inclusive
  - Daring, different and challenging.
  - 'Local pride' artists, nightlife, people and explore
  - Safe
  - Dynamic, evolving, diverse and ever changing
  - Pushing the boundaries of reality
- Accessible and multi-sensorial
  - Robust/authentic
  - Stewardship and ownership
  - Granular, dispersed and year round
  - Layered 24hr city (business and experience)
  - Unique and vibrant

#### Vision

**In 2050, the city's nightlife and creativity will be something we can be proud of: dynamic, ever-evolving, pushing boundaries, diverse, inclusive and rewarding.**

**Because it will have** a discovery of journey, of fun, daring, different and challenging experiences

**We will achieve this by** having a layered 24-hour city of granular, dispersed and year-round experiences that are vibrant, unique, robust, authentic, accessible and multi-sensory

**Our children will be better for it because** they will live in a city that is for all ages and cultures and is safe

**We will have protected** a supportive and inclusive nightlife that gives us 'local pride'

**We will have attracted or created** destination, diverse precincts that offer development opportunity ladders for artists and audiences that are not always accessible

### GROUP FOUR

#### Brainstorm

- Outdoor 'sound' not outdoor 'noise'
- A city that embraces everyone
- Affordable
- Part of a permit process by property developers is to donate a certain number of spaces/floors to artists to live, create or work
- Free space or rent incentives for artists contributing to the cultural fabric of the city
- Publicly owned and accessible spaces
- A population who celebrates night-time it's economy

• Live music without restrictions

• Well-funded arts and creative sector

• Please have green spaces

• Diverse and inclusive

• Proactive in the talent development

• Free access to a variety of culture for audiences

• High mutual community trust and respect

• Holistic and vibrant

• Diversity: not just in people, in cultures and in beliefs, but also in terms of buildings and structures. It's not a big stark soulless clinical looking and feeling city

• Invested in growth of young creatives

moving into commercial practice

• A city that allows adults to make decisions and be accountable for the consequences

• Party after dark

• Leave space for culture to grow

• Class blind

• A city that embraces the sounds of a city

• Keep the lid

• Trusting

• Surprise and delight

• Supported venues: artist driven

• For every advertisement focused billboard there should be space for public art

• A 24-hour city



## Vision

**In 2050, the city's nightlife and creativity will be supported, thriving, diverse, inclusive, representative and accessible. Internationally reputable and locally valued and celebrated.**

**Because it will have** taken risks, been adventurous and resourced

**We will achieve this by** responsive, agile, funded, co-operative, championed and trusted

**Our children will be better for it because** they can have fun through increased opportunity, wellbeing, encouragement to pursue creative pursuits resulting in the community being stronger

**We will have protected** the ability to earn an income in the arts and cultural venues, institutions, cultural/artistic heritage, diversity of cultural experiences and First Nations first recognition space

**We will have attracted or created** new cultural groups/institutions, audience and public valuing and belief in the arts, cultural tourism/talent healing through culture

## GROUP FIVE

### Brainstorm

- Soulful city
- More options for unwinding
- Interactive creative workshops
- Accessible arts programs
- Focus on art and music
- Celebrate our outdoors
- 24hour everything
- Financial support for arts programs and

### artists

- Guerrilla exhibitions
- Respect, support and inclusiveness of arts programs and artists
- Flexible spaces
- Live and work
- Busking (no permits)
- Public transport that operates 24-hours
- Spaces to connect, express mature community

- Affordable housing
- Quiet reflective space
- Trees and green
- Cultural policy is ground up shaped by community
- Flexible planning
- Dedicated cultural spaces
- Safe guarded public space
- Responsive and flexible regulation

## Vision

**In 2050, the city's nightlife and creativity will be the best in the world.**

**Because it will have** soul, empathy, vision, ground up regulation. Natural beauty and gritty, flexible spaces. Diversity, affordable living spaces, education and a treaty

**We will achieve this by** acting boldly now. 24hr activity & transport. Protecting public spaces, cultural spaces & night-time precincts. Being environmentally conscious. Creating a space to tell stories

**Our children will be better for it because...** They will be inspired, active, supported, free, creative safe & empowered.

**We will have protected...** culture, the future, space, reputation, human rights, environment, work/life balance.

**We will have attracted or created...** Diversity, safe welcoming space, world's best economy, best thinkers, the most socially enriching community in the world

**GROUP SIX**

**Brainstorm**

- Accessible
- Vibrant
- Stimulating
- Artistically driven
- Social nodes (for everything and everyone)
- Promoter of innovation and encourage new expression and collaboration.

- Sustainable
- Safe to explore
- Safe to explore
- Creativity thriving, 24/7, villages with green squares and diversity driven
- Diverse
- Seamless work to play and to live.
- Safe loving
- Creatively inclusive

- Cohesion- music, arts and residents
- A driver of social cohesion, mutual respect and understanding
- Nurturing, forward focused
- Actively (inclusive) not using diversity or inclusion as a tokenistic buzzword
- The entire city works together in cohesion

**Vision**

**In 2050, the city's nightlife and creativity will be equitable and accessible to all differences, encouraging innovation and creatively unique.**

**Because it will have diversity, less regulation, more opportunities, supported and funded industry designated creative zones. We will achieve this by removing impediments and universal income.**

**Our children will be better for it because there will be a more vibrant and inclusive community, freer to create and engage.**

**We will have protected... Venues, spaces, community and creative spirit. We will have attracted or created... Our own cultural character!**

## ACTIVITY FOUR - Q&A WRAP UP

The final activity of the evening was a group discussion on the priorities or missing gaps across the activities. Participants were encouraged to share further ideas and relevant themes that had not been discussed throughout the workshop. The following comments were noted during this discussion:

### Comment 1

*"Diversity and inclusion seem to be a major overall key theme, but to ensure this. Currently there are many first nations people or people with disabilities that can't go out, or don't feel safe when they go out because they don't have the same experience as middle-class white people. Talking about diversity and inclusion it would be nice to see in 2050, a first nations or person of colour as the Mayor of Sydney or a person with a disability. People in leadership positions reflect the community we live in. Thinking about equity and different barriers. It would be nice to see that within this Sydney 2050 document."*

### Comment 2

*"I feel there is a big gap in regards to platforms for emerging young talent, there are a lot of big events, but often it is established artists and creatives that get that stage, it would be amazing to have smaller interactive communal spaces where people can create and more platforms to showcase potential."*

### Comment 3

*"To speak further around platforms, 25s and under on Instagram, to stop having to find talent through digital platforms like Instagram, because it relies too much on algorithms and aesthetics, it creates huge barriers to anyone that doesn't fit this description."*

### Comment 3

*"More about the spaces, there are spaces in Sydney, but I think a lot of people are lazy. I was a promoter for 25 years and there are a couple of places left, I feel like we were talking about igniting curiosity. There is a lot of people in Sydney, but they're not leaving their houses, we have the space, but we need to ignite curiosity and support local business. We as artists need to let people know what is out there."*



# **Attachment F**

**First Peoples Dialogue Forum Report**



---

**FIRST PEOPLES DIALOGUE FORUM**

**MONDAY 6 MAY 2019**

---

**Towards Sustainable Sydney 2050**



**City of Sydney  
Town Hall House  
Level 2, 456 Kent Street  
Sydney NSW 2000**

# Report on First Peoples Dialogue Forum

30 May 2019

© City of Sydney, NSW, 2000.

## **Author:**

Darryl Cronin  
Edmund Rice Centre  
15 Henley Road  
Homebush West, NSW

## **Inquiries:**

Inquiries regarding this report can be directed to:

David Beaumont  
Community Engagement Coordinator  
Tel: 612 9246 7873  
Email: [dbeaumont@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dbeaumont@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

## **Front cover image:**

This photograph taken by Mark Metcalfe, who photographed the activities of the First Peoples Dialogue Forum, shows the inside of the Nguura (traditional house) built by Jeremy 'Mudjai' Devitt. In the background stands Customs House where the dialogue forum took place. The photograph reflects the context of the dialogue forum, that of seeking connection with the ancestors and understanding the past to inform the future.

## Contents

<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	3
<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	4
<b>Background</b> .....	5
<b>What is Dialogue?</b> .....	5
<b>Purpose and Context</b> .....	6
<b>Sustainable Sydney 2050</b> .....	7
<b>Acknowledging First peoples of Australia</b> .....	7
<b>Understanding the past to inform the future</b> .....	8
<b>Justice and asking the big questions</b> .....	10
<b>Design and Methodology</b> .....	11
<b>The Dialogue Forum</b> .....	12
<b>Welcome &amp; Smoking Ceremony</b> .....	13
<b>Opening Addresses</b> .....	14
<b>Discover</b> .....	17
<b>History, Culture and Memory</b> .....	18
<b>Eroding Self-Determination</b> .....	19
<b>Visibility and Cultural Authority</b> .....	20
<b>Going Backwards</b> .....	21
<b>Dream</b> .....	23
<b>Design</b> .....	27
<b>Deliver</b> .....	31
<b>Closing Statement</b> .....	33
<b>Workshop with the Panel</b> .....	35

## Acknowledgements



The City of Sydney acknowledges and pays respect to the Traditional Owners of the land upon which the City of Sydney local government area encompasses. The City of Sydney also acknowledges and pays respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who live, work, study, visit or lead communities in its local government area.

The substantial contribution from the City of Sydney community engagement staff is acknowledged, particularly the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff who organised and staged the First Peoples Dialogue Forum. Further the City acknowledges the essential contribution of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service providers and/or consultants who helped make this a successful dialogue forum.

Finally the City of Sydney thanks the participants for their valuable contribution to the dialogue forum, and that which is reflected in this report.



## Executive Summary

The City of Sydney is planning beyond its existing community plan, Sustainable Sydney 2030. It has commenced consultations to develop a new community strategic plan – Sustainable Sydney 2050. The First Peoples Dialogue Forum undertaken on 6 May 2019 was an integral part of the community consultation process to ensure that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voice is influential in the strategic planning process.

The background context to the dialogue forum was (1) acknowledging the First Peoples of Australia (2) understanding the past to inform the future, and (3) justice and asking the big questions. In keeping with this emphasis the pre-forum ceremony revolved around two Nguura (traditional houses) which symbolised the spiritual and cultural knowledge and practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the importance of understanding the past when talking about the future.

The dialogue forum was structured around four key themes:

- Discover – what is the best of what already exists?
- Dream – imagine the aspirations and possibilities for the future
- Design – translate the aspirations and possibilities into action
- Deliver – what is necessary in the relationship to operationalise the aspirations?

In discovering the best of what already exists, participants in the dialogue forum highlighted the empowering nature of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and memory; the erosion of self-determination as a result of the shift in the political environment; and the need for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to be visible in the city and for cultural authority to be recognised.

In imagining the aspirations and possibilities for the future participants identified a range of priority aspirations. First priority aspirations included: recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authority in governance and decision making; representation of youth through and advisory panel; truth telling; and financial security for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Participants discussed how they could translate their first priority aspirations into action, setting out some key actions that should be taken.

In discussing what is necessary in the relationship between the City of Sydney and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, participants felt the relationship had to be equal and based on truthful open dialogue. Further the City also had to better represent the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and in doing so recognise the cultural needs of the community.

## Background

---

“[...] so we are asking you how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and systems; your many generations of custodianship can help shape the future of Sydney. You know you looked after this land for 60,000 years and you did a pretty good job of it [...]. We want to understand your unique insights into place and community if we are to plan a long harmonious and sustainable future for Sydney”  
**Lord Mayor, Clover Moore.**

---

Since 2008, Sustainable Sydney 2030 has provided the framework for a range of actions and initiatives in accordance with the community’s vision of a Green, Global and Connected City. Sustainable Sydney 2030 is a plan for sustainable development of the City of Sydney (the City), not just the physical environment, but the economy, society and culture. However the City of Sydney has had to extend its planning horizon to 2050 to meet planning and reporting guidelines that require Community Strategic Plans to have a minimum ten year planning horizon. This entails a major review of Sustainable Sydney 2030 and the development of a new community strategic plan – Sustainable Sydney 2050.

The City of Sydney has embarked on extensive community consultations and engagement as part of its strategic planning process. In accordance with its community engagement guidelines, the purpose of the community consultations is to:

1. Share plans and progress from Sustainable Sydney 2030 and confirm future directions;
2. Discuss future trends, develop new ways of thinking about 2050 and identify long term community priorities;
3. Identify community priorities for the future of Sydney.

The First Peoples Dialogue Forum is part of the community consultation and community engagement process to hear the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voice and for that voice to be influential in the new community strategic plan. Building on Sustainable Sydney 2030, the City of Sydney will continue acknowledging the First Peoples of Australia by incorporating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge, culture, wisdom and values into Sustainable Sydney 2050.<sup>1</sup>

## What is Dialogue?

Dialogue is a process of inquiry and collective learning. It is the ability of people to talk with each other, to listen, to think, to explore and reflect and to understand in order to co-create meaning. To do so however, it is necessary to create an environment

---

<sup>1</sup> The term ‘Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’ is primarily used in this report, however the words ‘Indigenous’ and ‘Aboriginal’ were used in the dialogue forum so they also appear throughout this report.

where people actively listen, respect each other, suspend their assumptions and judgments, and speak their own genuine voice. In dialogic conversation, participants set aside their assumptions, not attack the ideas or integrity of others and not make judgement about others. Participants also step back to self-reflect, becoming aware of their own thoughts and feelings, in order to understand their own thinking and become more open to the views and opinions of others.

Dialogue is not the same as discussion or debate. Debate is about winning an argument and discussion is about deliberation, discussing options to make a decision, whereas dialogue is about opening up new possibilities and discovering new insights. Dialogue also differs from mediation, negotiation and consensus which focus on reaching agreement. Dialogue is different because it encourages diversity of thinking and opinion, focuses on mutual understanding and builds new relationships. It is an important tool for community engagement because it encourages people to participate in building shared meaning.

A genuine dialogue process is characterised by certain principles such as inclusiveness, joint ownership, learning, humanity, and a long-term perspective. Dialogue is **inclusive** when it gives voice to those historically excluded because of gender, age, economic status, race, ethnicity or religion. But inclusion does not mean people are on an equal footing. Steps must be taken to mitigate imbalances. Dialogue provides an opportunity for **joint ownership** when it enables people to shape their own future. **Learning** in dialogue happens through self-reflection as people open themselves to new insights and perspectives. Dialogue requires that people display **humanity**, by being open to other points of views and behaving respectfully and responsibly towards each other. Finally, dialogue requires a **long-term perspective** because it takes time to change individual patterns of thinking and behaviour and to transfer the impact of dialogue to the socio-political level.<sup>2</sup>

## Purpose and Context

The First Peoples Dialogue Forum (the dialogue forum) was set up to hear and incorporate the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voice into the Sustainable Sydney 2050 strategic planning process. In that regard Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives who live, work, study, visit or lead communities were invited to talk freely and openly about questions and issues that are important to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

---

<sup>2</sup> Bettye Pruitt & Philip Thomas, *Democratic Dialogue: A handbook for practitioners*, The International Institute of Democracy and Electoral Assistance, the General Secretariat of the Organisation of American States, the Canadian International Development Agency, and the United Nations Development Program, (New York, 2007), 26-32.

In dialogue processes it is important to understand the context and to lay the foundations for conversation. While the main context of the First Peoples Dialogue Forum was to the review and build onto Sustainable Sydney 2030 there is a larger context, that of past history and justice. Understanding the past, its impact on the present and the future and its connexion with issues of justice are necessary for uncovering the big questions for strategic inquiry.

### **Sustainable Sydney 2050**

The main context to the dialogue forum is the review of the Sustainable Sydney 2030 Strategic Plan and to extend the planning horizon of the City of Sydney to 2050. Since 2008 there have been many changes and challenges for the city. Population has increased and there are major stresses such as affordability of housing and transport as well as challenges with regard to inequitable growth, pressure of health, environment and the economy as well as declining social cohesion. To date community consultations by the City of Sydney community engagement team have uncovered a range of concerns, issues and scenarios for Sydney 2050. Common themes that have emerged in the consultation process prior to the dialogue forum include:

- Retaining and celebration of the unique character of Sydney; a city that is bold and daring and where residents participate in shaping their own future;
- Accommodating a growing population but protecting amenity, character, cohesion, services, and green space;
- Taking action on climate change and living more sustainably, for example renewable energy and recycling;
- More green spaces for liveability, cooling, social cohesion, and biodiversity as well as productive use of available spaces;
- Less cars on the road and more integrated active transport network including cycle ways and walkways;
- More and diverse housing types but not at the expense of character, cultural diversity and affordability;
- Socially connected community that embraces sharing of spaces, resources and knowledge;
- An equitable and inclusive community that celebrates diversity and difference.

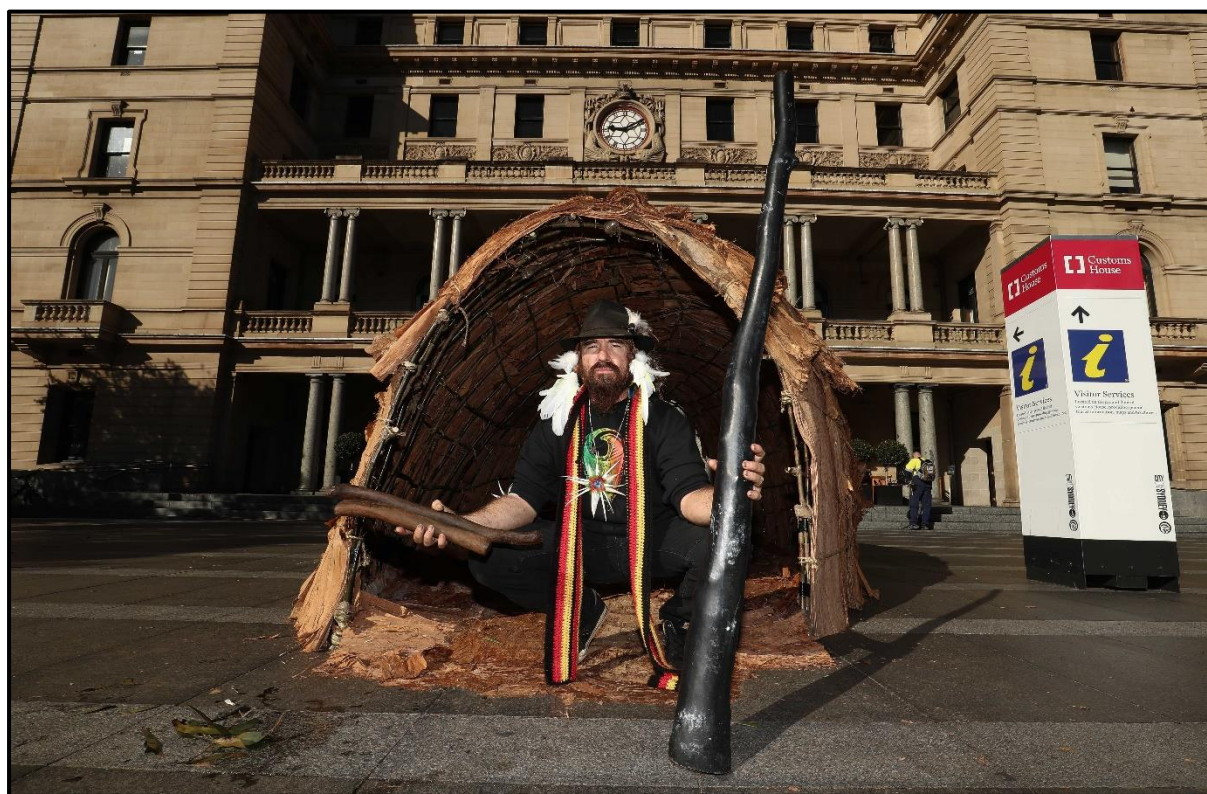
### **Acknowledging First peoples of Australia**

Sustainable Sydney 2030 also acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and recognises their heritage and contemporary cultures. As the site of British colonisation, the Council of the City of Sydney recognises the devastating impact of the 1788 invasion and occupation. The City of Sydney also recognises that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have shown enormous resilience and generosity of spirit to others whom they now share the land with. In that regard the City of Sydney



recognises that acknowledging the shared past is the basis for a future based on mutual respect and shared responsibility for our land.

Over the past 10 years the City of Sydney has instituted a range of initiatives regarding the cultural, social and economic sustainability of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. It began with the establishment and formation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Panel in 2008. A significant program is the Eora Journey which recognises the historic and living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples throughout the city. This includes support for and creation of public art projects, support for and promotion of cultural events and cultural attraction, increasing procurement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business services, purchase of the former Redfern Post Office for a local Aboriginal and knowledge cultural centre and the Eora Journey Economic Development Plan 2016. The Reconciliation Action Plan 2015 continues to guide the work of the City of Sydney.



### **Understanding the past to inform the future**

The spirit, culture, knowledge, wisdom and values of Aboriginal people underlie the City of Sydney and has done so for at least 60,000 years or more. This spiritual and cultural knowledge and wisdom of Aboriginal people was symbolised by two Nguura (traditional houses, also often called Gunyahs) built by Jeremy 'Mudjai' Devitt in the fore court of Customs House at Circular Quay.<sup>3</sup> The Nguura also express the

<sup>3</sup> Nguura is a Gumbaynggirr word for hut/house.

importance of Aboriginal knowledge and stories to the Sustainable Sydney 2050 planning process. These stories and knowledge must be uncovered, valued and imbedded into Sydney's vision for the future. While Sydney Aboriginal stories throughout recent history are about colonisation as told through stories of non-recognition and exclusion, resistance and struggle, resilience and survival plus generosity, sharing and friendship with the coloniser, there are also important stories about unbroken connection to land and waters, the cultural practices and sustainable way of life as well as extensive and intimate knowledge of cosmology, the seasons, the climate, the plants and animals. The stories are also about the interconnectedness of families and communities and their connections and relationships with the natural landscape, as well as their cultural and social responsibilities and obligations. These stories give true meaning to the beliefs, practices, values and systems as well as a sense of belonging and pride of place to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Sydney.

The history of Sydney and surrounding areas and the ongoing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander presence in the city provide the frame for understanding the past and for thinking about the future. Sydney is the site of first contact with the British, Captain Cook in 1770 and Captain Phillip and the First Fleet in 1788. The struggle and resistance that played out in Sydney and the surrounding Sydney basin is documented in Stephan Gapp's book *'The Sydney Wars'*.<sup>4</sup> Paul Irish's book *'Hidden in Plain View'* details how Aboriginal people were widespread and prominent in early Sydney despite perceptions they had died out or disappeared from colonial Sydney.<sup>5</sup> Further Bruce Pascoe's book *'Dark Emu'* presents a different perspective of Aboriginal people in pre-colonial Australia.<sup>6</sup> Pascoe shows that Aboriginal people were not opportunistic hunter-gatherers but people who farmed the land, managed the ecosystems and constructed systems of government.

Sydney is also the site of significant events in the political struggle for Aboriginal rights in Australia. For example, in 1924 in Sydney, Fred Maynard formed the Australian Aboriginal Progressive Association agitating for land ownership as an economic base, the cessation of removal of Aboriginal children from families, protection for Aboriginal girls, citizenship rights, protecting Aboriginal cultural identity and dissolution of the New South Wales Aborigines Protection Board. On the 26 January 1938, Jack Patten and William Ferguson of the Aborigines Progressive Association plus other activists staged a Day of Mourning conference at the Australian Hall in Elizabeth Street in

---

<sup>4</sup> Stephen Gapps, *The Sydney Wars: Conflict in the early colony 1788-1817* (Sydney, NSW: NewSouth Publishing, 2018).

<sup>5</sup> Paul Irish, *Hidden in Plain View: The Aboriginal People of Coastal Sydney* (Sydney, NSW: NewSouth Publishing, 2017).

<sup>6</sup> Bruce Pascoe, *Dark Emu, Black Seeds: Agriculture of accident?* (Broome, WA: Magabala Books, 2014).

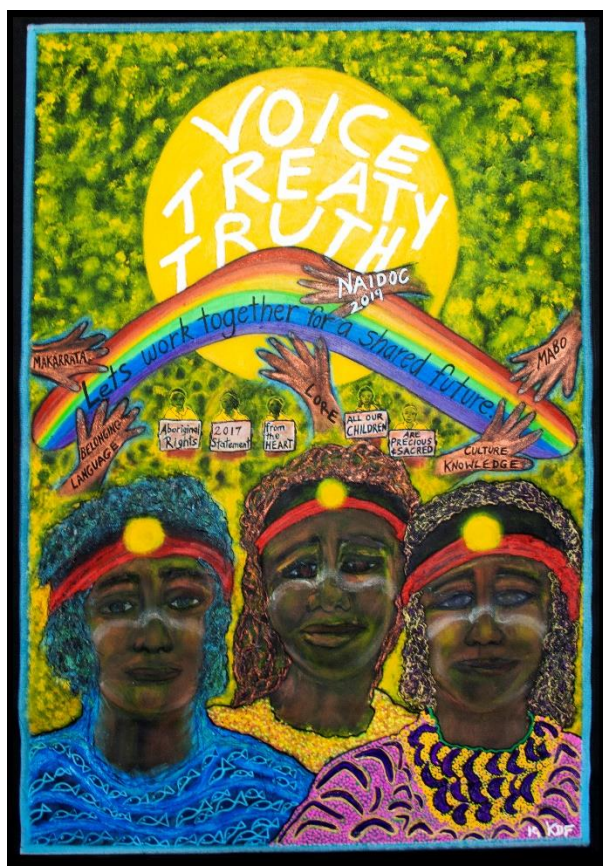
Sydney to carry on the struggle for land ownership, economic self-sufficiency, citizenship rights and the elimination of the Aborigines Protection Board. In January 1972, in protest against Prime Minister William McMahon's Aboriginal policy, Aboriginal activists from Redfern in Sydney established a tent embassy on the lawns of what is now old Parliament House in Canberra. They challenged the government's assimilation policy demanding land rights, calling for recognition of Aboriginal sovereignty, compensation for land taken, mineral rights, and preservation of sacred sites. The tent embassy protest was influential in the Whitlam Federal Government's initiatives in recognising land rights in the Northern Territory and moving to a policy of self-determination.

### **Justice and asking the big questions**

Questions of justice are relevant to planning processes because in planning the future, the community shares a hope for a just and inclusive society. Justice is part of the larger context to planning with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Excluding these issues ignores relationships of power and privilege that already exist in the community and in society thereby diminishing the voice of those without power or privilege. In a famous speech at Redfern Park on the 10 December 1992 for the Year of the World's Indigenous People, Prime Minister Paul Keating said that Australia had failed to make the most basic human response in regards to the injustices perpetrated against Aboriginal people. They failed to ask "how would I feel if this were done to me". While the City of Sydney has formally acknowledged the colonial impact on Aboriginal people there is still much to be done. The *Redfern Statement* 2016, for example called for genuine Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in government decision making, better engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, better resourcing of organisations, the establishment of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Department, a recommitment to 'closing the gap', and a commitment to addressing the unfinished business of reconciliation.

A recent appeal for justice is outlined in the 2017 *Uluru Statement from the Heart* which called for a *Voice*, a *Treaty* and *Truth Telling*. The Uluru Statement is a demand by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to be heard, to be listened to as well as an invitation to the Australian people to join with them to forge a new co-existence. This is about tackling big questions concerning the future relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the Australian nation and envisioning a different future. These big questions are more often hard and confronting questions. The call by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the *Uluru Statement* to be heard, to be listened to and to be joined in a process to forge a new coexistence is applicable to what people in Sydney envision for their future. Listening to and hearing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Sydney as well as joining with them to

forge a different future is relevant to the City of Sydney strategic planning process. The people of Sydney must ask and explore the big questions as they relate to recognising and valuing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their aspirations. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Sydney also need to ask and explore the big questions because it is they who determine how they are recognised and valued. Through a process of dialogue, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can inquire into and explore these questions, imagine the future and create strategies to respond to those compelling questions.



“The three strong women who are in the front of the picture are voice, treaty and truth. The first woman is voice, she is the voice of our mother earth, of the waters, the wind and the animals and also our voice, life, waters, trees and nature. The second woman is treaty she is looking to the future and saying its time now for the law to recognize this country and its people. She is the caretaker for treaty. The third woman is truth, the truth for all our children to know their belonging. She is asking the truth to be told for all our generations. The colours on the dress are the colours of the native hibiscus flower which represent the stolen generations. The five school girls in the centre [...] holding the signs [...] say more than what you can hear; the need is for us to listen. The boomerang represents the right of every child to return and belong to their law, their language, their culture, their knowledge. The colours of the rainbow represent hope. The hands on the

boomerang are the hands of my grandson when he was 9 months old, a child with a rare conditions who is now 14 years old. His hands represent our kids working together for the shared future, imagining a good life with pride in their Aboriginality and knowing that they can be real deadly”.

**Kathryn Farrawell (explaining her painting at the dialogue forum)**

## Design and Methodology

In planning and initiating the First Peoples Dialogue Forum the City of Sydney engaged an Aboriginal consultant, Darryl Cronin to assist with designing and planning the forum.<sup>7</sup> The consultant worked closely with David Beaumont, Community Engagement Coordinator and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community engagement staff of the City of Sydney to design, prepare and deliver the dialogue forum. The

<sup>7</sup> Darryl Cronin works for the Edmund Rice Centre in Sydney, NSW.



consultant's role was to: (1) collaborate with the City of Sydney community engagement team to design the dialogue forum and undertake preparatory tasks (2) conduct the dialogue forum with the support of David Beaumont and other City of Sydney community engagement team members; and (3) report on the outcomes of the dialogue forum to the City of Sydney.

An Appreciative Inquiry approach was used to structure the dialogue forum. In such approach conversation and dialogue are focussed on questions about what works well and what will continue to work in the future. Appreciative Inquiry provides a framework to view the world through an appreciative lens rather than a deficit lens. It is a strength based approach to open people up to possibility thinking rather than problem thinking. In applying Appreciative Inquiry to this project five stages were identified:

1. Definition – defining the focus and the scope of the dialogue forum
2. Discover – what is the best of what already exists?
3. Dream – imagine the aspirations and possibilities for the future
4. Design – translate the aspirations and possibilities into action
5. Deliver - what is necessary in the relationship to operationalise the aspirations?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants in the dialogue forum were asked to **discover** what from the past could inform the future of Sydney, and to **dream** about the aspirations and possibilities for the future. However the dialogue forum was also designed to engage with some of the City of Sydney Councillors and Executive staff who attended the forum. In that regard the last two sessions of the forum (**design & deliver**) involved input from Councillors and Executive staff on how the dreams of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can be translated into Sustainable Sydney 2050 and how aspirations can be operationalised.

The practice of dialogue also formed the approach of the consultant in designing the structure and format of the dialogue forum. This involved collaborating with the community engagement team at the City of Sydney, especially facilitating conversations with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander team members to co-create the dialogue forum.

## The Dialogue Forum

The First Peoples Dialogue Forum took place at Customs House in Circular Quay, Sydney on Monday 6 May 2019. Commencing at 8:30am with a ceremony in the forecourt of Customs House. Participants then moved to the Barnett Long Room in Customs House where the dialogue forum commenced just after 9:00am. The dialogue forum was completed by 1:30pm.

This section outlines what happened in the dialogue forum and documents outcomes from the forum sessions.

### **Welcome & Smoking Ceremony**

On the weekend before the dialogue forum, Jeremy “Mudjai” Devitt, a descendant of the Gumbaynggirr Nation of the mid-north coast of New South Wales constructed two Nguura (traditional houses) with rainforest cane and paperbark. The two Nguura were part of the welcome and smoking ceremony.<sup>8</sup> David Beaumont of the City of Sydney played a significant role in organising the welcome ceremony and the dialogue forum. He and Susan Moylan-Coombs facilitated the welcome ceremony and also facilitated the dialogue forum discussions.



The smoking ceremony was conducted by Matt Doyle of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council. Mudjai also assisted in the smoking ceremony. In the smoking ceremony participants passed through the larger Nguura. Smoking has a cleansing element but seeking connection to the ancestors and asking for safe passage and well-being were also important elements for the dialogue forum.

The welcome included a performance by the Buuja Buuja Butterfly Dance Group.

---

<sup>8</sup> Nguura is a Gumbaynggirr word.



## Opening Addresses

---

"[...] just remember as you go about your duties today my people will be walking besides you; may the spirit of my ancestors walk besides you and protect you whilst you are on Cadigal land, Eora country as I know they walk beside and protect me [...]"

**Ray Davison, Traditional Owner**

---



**Ray Davison** of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council opened the forum in the Barnett Long Room with a welcome to country. Ray explained that he was born in La Perouse, Sydney and his traditional country is the country of the Cadigal people which encompasses the area upon which the forum was taking place.

---

"I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous work of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Panel and thank all the members, past and present for your contributions; it has been really important to have your input".

**Lord Mayor, Clover Moore.**

---



**Lord Mayor, Clover Moore** thanked past and present members of the City of Sydney Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Panel for their work, whose input and guidance has been significant in formulating and implementing Sustainable Sydney 2030. She said the City of Sydney wants their strategic plan to be a live document and in that

regard the 2030 plan included a series of goals as a way of measuring progress. She said the City was well on its way to achieving its 2030 targets, however the city's sustainability, cultural identity and built form all required long term planning. The City is also facing new and demanding challenges in areas of urbanisation and globalisation, technology and climate change and all of these issues require long term committed action and imaginative solutions. In that regard she explained the City of Sydney will build on its existing work to create a new plan to take the city to 2050. This involves talking with communities, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, specialists, stakeholders, cultural institutions and other levels of government.




---

*"If we don't deal with that racism we're not going to move forward and this country is not going to move forward until Aboriginal people have their justice and their rightful place in this country [...]"*

**Millie Ingram, Senior Aboriginal Community Leader**

---

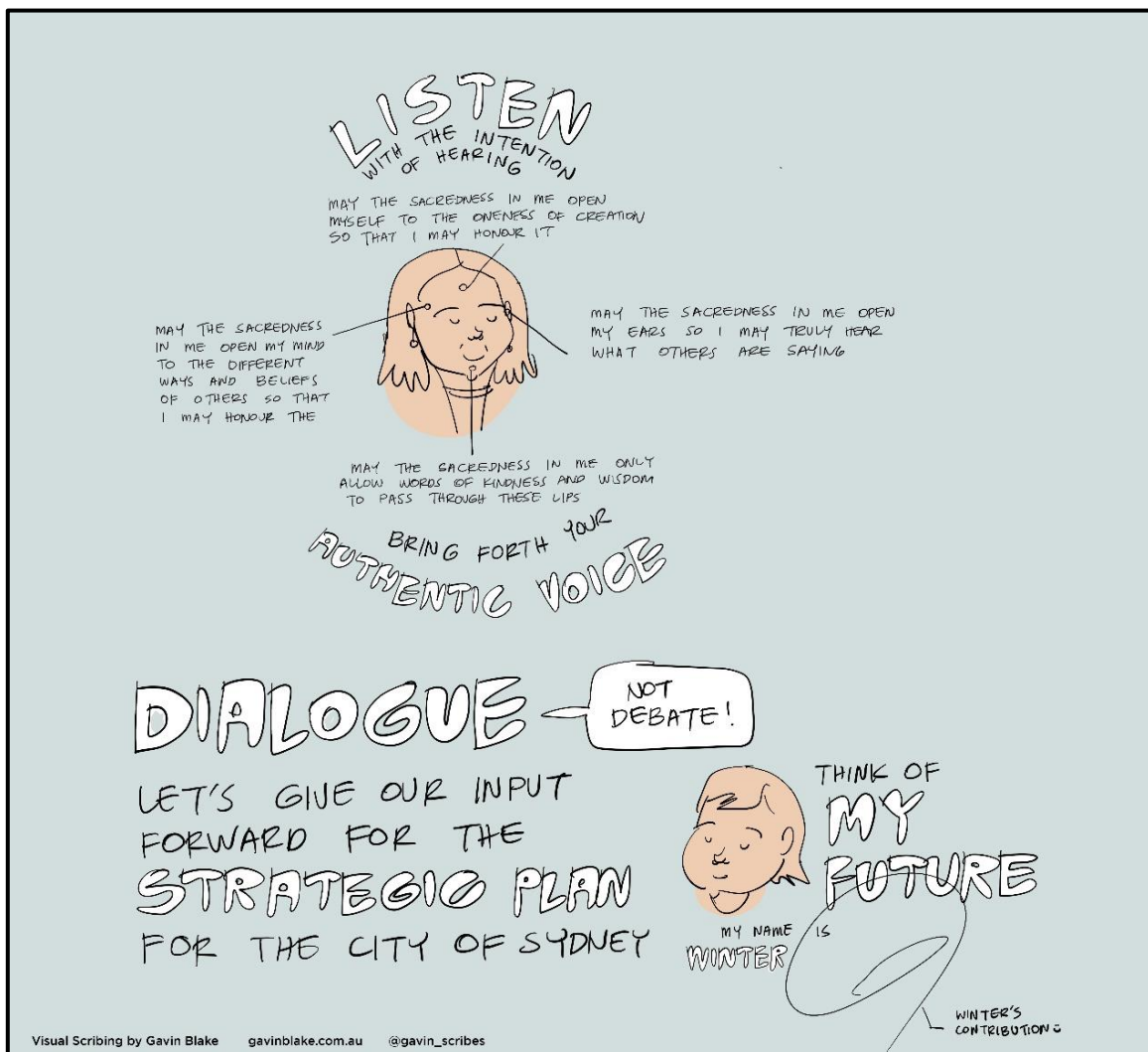
**Millie Ingram** spoke at length on a number of issues including how development, particularly investment in building apartment units is pushing Aboriginal people out of the inner city as rents have become expensive and Aboriginal owned land is being commercialised. She talked about tackling racism in the work place and in schools because racism damages Aboriginal people, particularly children. She spoke about how Aboriginal affairs is an industry with bureaucrats employed to take children away from families, incarcerate young people in juvenile detention and incarcerate women and mothers in jail, sometimes for minor offences. She wants to see a reduction in incarceration rates and in the number of children taken away. She spoke of the need for affordable social housing in the city because Aboriginal people can't afford to pay market rents. She explained there is need for affordable child care and early education facilities for working families and there is a need to take care of the elders with aged care homes, affordable funerals and this includes the City Council setting aside land for Aboriginal burials. She would like to see the Council put forward a program of employment for Aboriginal people because Aboriginal people want to work. Finally she would like the City of Sydney to provide a building and resources in the city for cultural education and performances and this could link in with a Redfern hub.





“So if you touch your forehead and say “may the sacredness in me open my higher self to the wonders of creation so I may honour it; may the sacredness in me open my mind to the different ways and beliefs of others so I may honour them. May the sacred in me open my ears so I may truly hear what others are saying so I may honour them; may the sacredness in me only allow words of kindness and wisdom to pass through these lips”.

**Susan Moylan-Coombs (Dialogue Forum Facilitator)**





## Discover

This session focussed on discovering the best of what already exists in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. The intended outcome was for the participants to produce statements and stories which explain how certain elements in their lives and communities are important to the future and can inform the future. Participants were asked to discuss the following question:

***What can we learn from our past to inform the future of Sydney? What is it that has brought us to this moment?***



The following is a summary of key themes that came out of the discussions.



## History, Culture and Memory

Although the past has been traumatic for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; the past empowers with stories, icons, connections, and identity and these are sources of resilience. Also the activism by the ancestors for self-determination happened in Sydney. Their work has been empowering and it needs to be recognised.

Language, history and cultural practices confirm Indigenous identity and connections and they inform cultural conversations. It is important to reach back into culture to a time before colonisation to inform thinking and decision making. Hence the power of the Indigenous community comes through history and stories, ceremony and spirituality, families, places and cultural heritage.

The block in Redfern provides many memories for people, especially those who grew up there. The block reflected their indigeneity. It was a community created by Indigenous people and it was a place where stolen generations reconnected with families. But those feelings of Redfern are no longer there so there is a need to create new spaces in Sydney where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can gather and connect.

---

*“A lot of us came from Redfern and grew up like Aunty Wendy on the block and so a lot of our memories are from the block. It was the history of what the block represented, the mission of Sydney and how we made a place that was ours [...] how do we make another Redfern because we don’t really have that any more, that feeling of Redfern, of the block”.*

**Larissa Minniecon**

---



## Eroding Self-Determination

While colonisation has brought a great deal of trauma to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Sydney, it has also created a strong sense of forgetting, where important issues, concerns and questions are suppressed. This makes it difficult to raise matters that need to be dealt with. Learning the truth of Australian history is crucial and this will involve unlearning what has been taught and learning historical truths.

There has been a shift in the political environment away from supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination initiatives and so supportive individuals are no longer making the decisions. This has resulted in an intergenerational repetition of under servicing and under supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, thereby eroding self-determination.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people need to find self-determination in the long term. This will involve thinking beyond twenty or thirty year time frames to fifty and one hundred year frames. Thinking in longer time frames will enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to create a deeper socio-economic base for example through a self-managed sovereign fund to ensure economic prosperity and cultural continuity.

---

“[...] this city has dealt with a great deal of trauma over its history from colonisation but also some of those deep things, therefore it has a very strong sense of forgetting; it likes to suppress and forget at times, and so how do we bring up those things that need to be dealt with and that often the decision making isn't ours [...]”

**Wesley Enoch**

---





## Visibility and Cultural Authority

A sovereign space is opened up when Indigenous people are asked to welcome people to country. In this space ceremony, art and culture are shared. However although Indigenous people have the first voice in welcome to country their voice is not really heard. Central to this issue is colonisation by the British and how they came into the country the wrong way. A key question in the forum asked - how do Indigenous people come into the land the right way; how does everybody else come into this land the right way; how do we live in this land with joy and in peace and how do we build that into planning?

In that regard Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural authority should be part of all planning and development decisions; it has to be more than just welcome to country. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people need to drive the conversations, to be able to speak and be listened to, and to be serviced; they should inform the rules and regulations that affect them. This also includes keeping language and Aboriginal place names at the forefront.

It is necessary for Aboriginal people to have visibility and space in the city of Sydney; not just for daily cultural engagements but to reinforce a sense of Aboriginal community in Sydney, learning from elders, establishing an identity for young people, creating a broader story as First Nations people and be connected to place, history, heritage and culture. This also includes establishing an 'Eorean' identity for all Australians who live in Sydney.

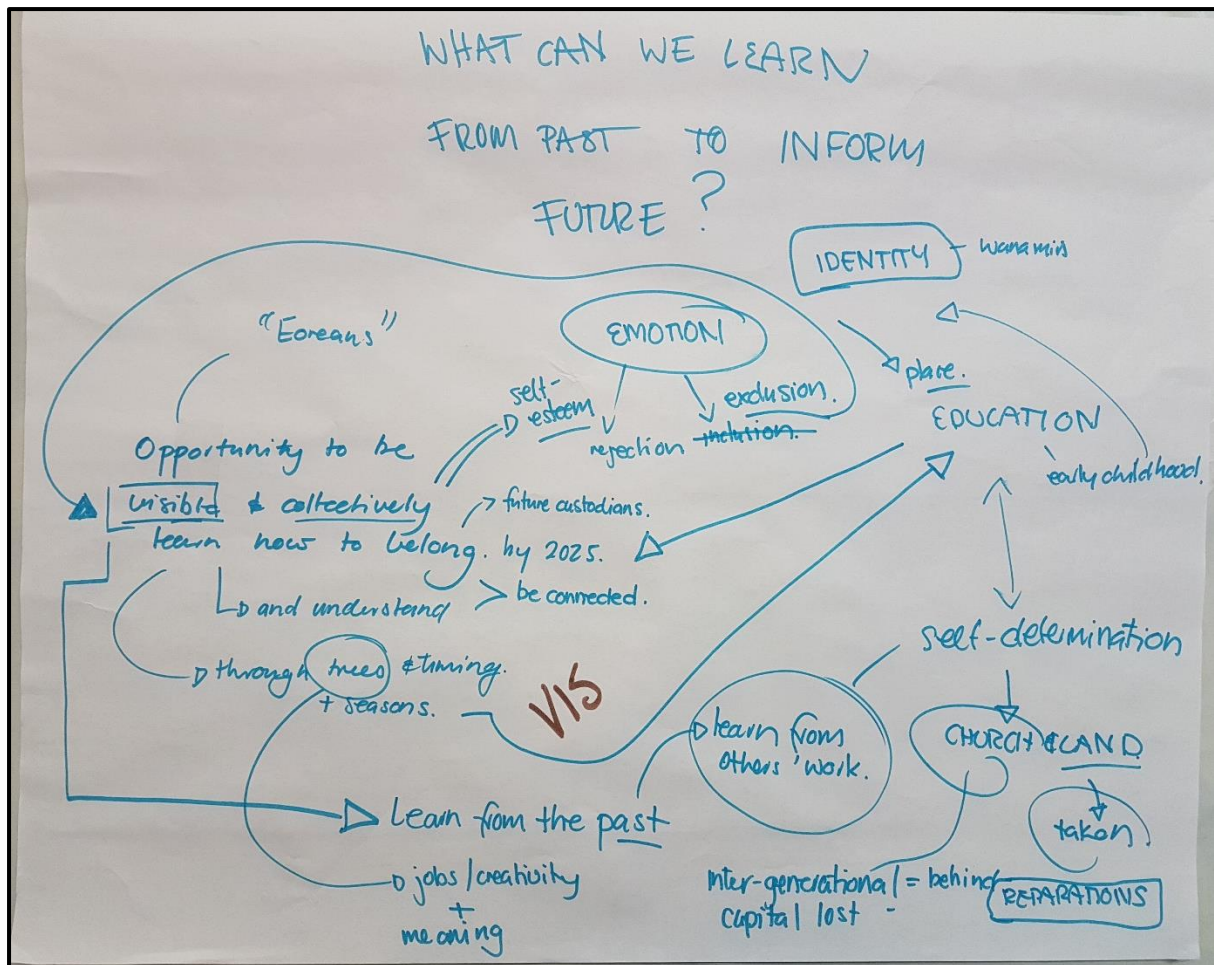
---

"[...] we need to have visibility right smack bang in the middle, but also let people know about the sense of community for Aboriginal people who all choose to live in Sydney and have a much broader story as First nations people of this country, so learning from others who walked before us, but also establishing identity for our young ones, not so young people but that identity of all Australians who choose Sydney as a place to live; be connected to place, be connected to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, heritage and culture".

**Clarence Slockee**

---





### Going Backwards

Many participants felt that these forums are just talk where the same issues are discussed. There was a sense that Indigenous people today are asking the same questions their elders asked in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. Participants want to move forward and they want these forums to evolve into places, program and policies that are beneficial to Indigenous people.

“[...] we have to redesign the systems to make them fit for our mob because our answers are in our families. So any government whether it’s Local, State or Commonwealth, if they want to get in a room to talk about this we can actually redesign this to make it fit for our people, the policies, the legislation, the program, the practice”.

**Delilah MacGillivray**

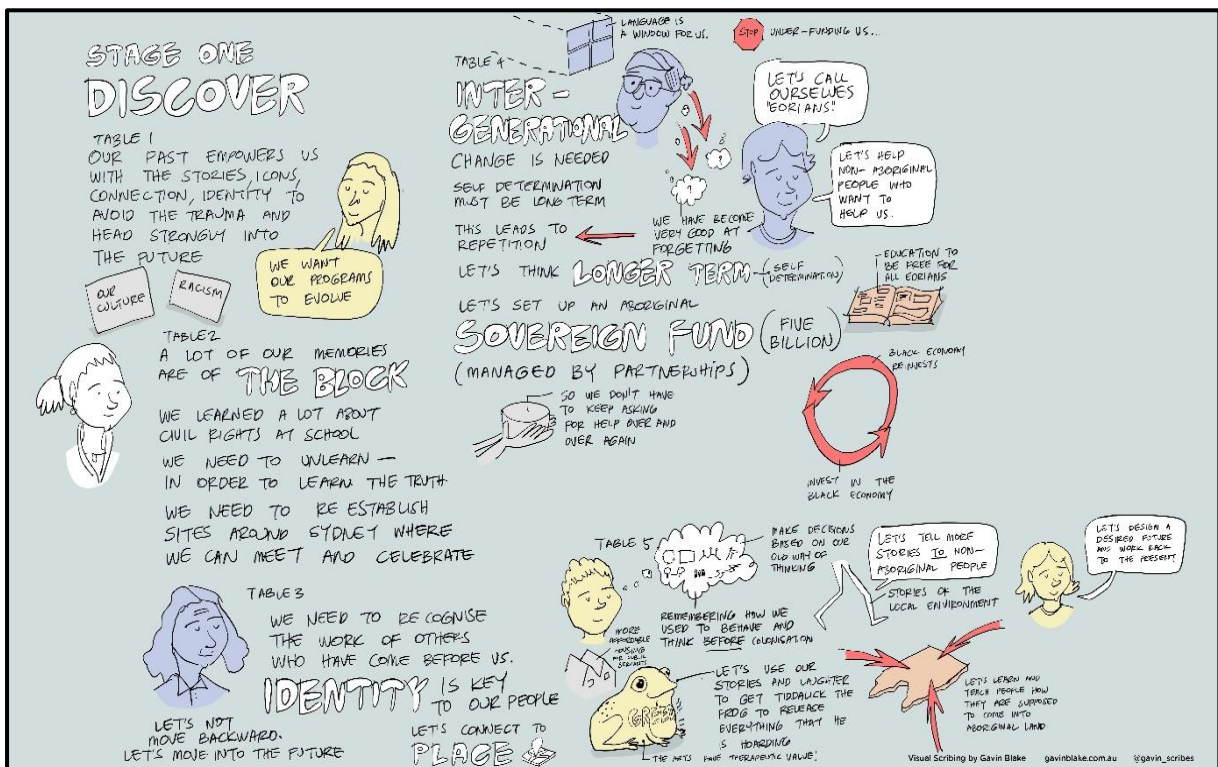


... Right way, story, Aboriginal world view ...





... The past gives us the stories that inform our cultural conversations ...



## Dream

---

“I think the potential for new relationships to be formed are enormous because there are so many Australians who really want to fall in love with their country, who feel the pull of country and want to enter its embrace, but the recent history of the country prevents that being done with any sense of security [...] but in loving Australia you have to accept its history; that’s the hard bit, accepting the full history and saying I am an Australian, I know the history of my land, I accept the history, I accept the rights in it, I accept the wrongs in it, I accept the joy and I accept the pain, and that will make us grow up as a nation”.

**Professor Bruce Pascoe.**

---

This session focussed on imagining or dreaming about possibilities for the future of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Sydney. The intended outcome was for the participants to produce statements that define aspirations and possibilities for the future. Participants were asked to discuss the following question and to prioritise their aspirations and/or possibilities:

***What are the aspirations and possibilities for the future generations and for the City of Sydney?***

Prior to the discussion **Brett Leavy** a Kooma/Muruwari man from Western Queensland explained the digital work that he does in recreating topographically correct renditions of country. His work is about remembering the past. A short video of his work, a virtual representation of Warrane (Sydney Cove) in 1787, was shown as he explained the features of the video.

Also a video of **Professor Bruce Pascoe**, a Bunurong/Tasmanian man was presented to the participants. Professor Pascoe spoke about the need to have the same story of Australia and its history; only then can we start talking about nation building and working together as one nation. He said the City of Sydney was full of stories, not just the politics in Redfern but the significant knowledge of the past and dreams for the future. He said rejuvenating these stories and the significant sites, such as the tank stream would be a wonderful symbolic recognition because it is about rejuvenating the soul of the city. He also said there was potential for new relationships to be formed because many Australians want to fall in love with their country, but Australians had to accept the full history of the country. This would make us grow up as a nation. He explained that we can all love the country and the majority of people who want to love the country will have to remember that the law comes from the three per cent of the people. It is this law that has protected the country for thousands of years. Taking the land did not mean taking control of the law because Aboriginal people are still holders of that law. This means there is a responsibility to the land and to the people who created the law of the land. He said there was potential to provide an Aboriginal

---

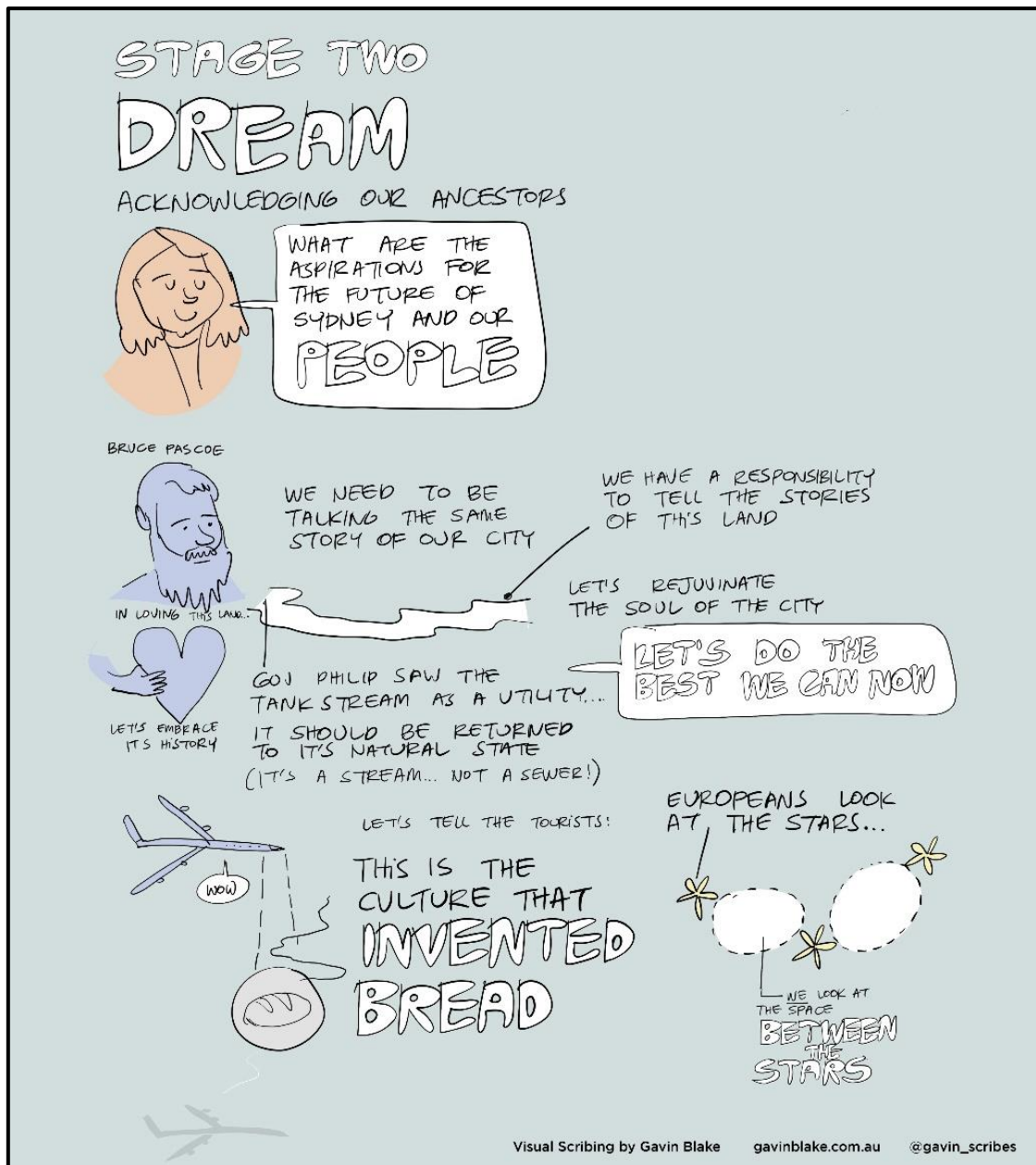


experience to overseas tourists who visit Australia and Sydney because the evidence of Aboriginal humanity and historical human development still exists. A significant part of human development began in Australia. However Aboriginal people must be involved in the tourist industry and every effort must be made to make the industry attractive to Aboriginal people.



*... Waterways, law of the land, holders of the law, Aboriginal people our responsibility ...*





The following is a summary of the session with priority list of aspirations.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Priority Aspirations

- ✦ Be the first city to recognise and embed Aboriginal cultural authority in the constitution, governance and decision making
- ✦ New narratives to be built into policies; bring Aboriginal concepts into planning and development; bring physical and cultural assets back to our control – water is spiritual, find out where the water ran on the land and bring it back, make it visible
- ✦ Youth formerly represented through youth advisory panel
- ✦ Sustainability, carbon neutrality, water positive, global warming action
- ✦ Truth telling initiatives; share and include language
- ✦ Financial security for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Priority Aspirations

- ↳ Community cultural and artistic spaces
- ↳ Local and affordable home ownership
- ↳ An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Council
- ↳ Explain the continuing link/connection to country and having an 'Eorean' identity in Sydney
- ↳ The community to measure what success is
- ↳ Cultural spaces and places; we need to be able to reach back into our culture and history and bring it into the present

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Priority Aspirations

- ↳ Education inclusive of cultural practices to strengthen young voices, identity and language
- ↳ Indigenous knowledge and expertise on culture to be respected and utilised; local government to respect Indigenous workers
- ↳ Use culture and art to empower people and link to financial security and connection to country
- ↳ Truth telling and ensuring a future place/presence for the Aboriginal community in the City of Sydney; activating culture and keeping it alive in the city - not just put up monuments
- ↳ Help families to reconnect, create a hub so that we can connect and share stories

## Other Priority Aspirations

- ↳ Local government to create a culturally safe workplace; deal with issues of systemic racism
- ↳ Cultural identity and cultural sustainability
- ↳ Investing in young people
- ↳ Have an Aboriginal position on Council to attend Council meetings
- ↳ Local Government Aboriginal child care centres

---

"A lot has happened to us and we have been disrupted, [...] we need to be able to reach back into our past into our culture and history and to be able to touch that and bring it back into our present. I think we really need to do it in a way that is very visible in our communities and in the places that we're living in terms of our development and our planning and central to that is water, the fact that water is very spiritual it has a spiritual relationship to the land [...]"

**Phil Bligh**

---

TABLE 1 PRIORITIES

- 1a YOUTH FORMALLY REPRESENTED (ADVISORY PANEL)
- 1b SUSTAINABILITY
- 2a COMMUNITY & CULTURE SPACES
- 2b HOME OWNERSHIP (AFFORDABLE/LOCAL)
- 3 EDUCATION - INCLUSIVENESS OF CULTURAL PRACTICES

TABLE 2 PRIORITIES

- 1 TRUTH TELLING INITIATIVE
- 2 ABORIGINAL & TORRES ST ISLANDER MAYOR
- 3 INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE VS NON INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE ON CULTURE

TABLE 3 PRIORITIES

- 1 LINK TO FINANCIAL SECURITY
- 2 LINK TO COUNTRY
- 3 USE CULTURE & THE ARTS TO EMPOWER OUR PEOPLE

TABLE 4 PRIORITIES

- 1 BE THE FIRST CITY IN AUSTRALIA TO LEAD WITH CULTURAL AUTHORITY
- 2 COMMUNITY TO SET METRICS ON SUCCESS
- 3 TRUTH TELLING: A PLACE FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN THE CITY OF SYDNEY
  - ACTIVATING CULTURAL ASSETS
  - REAL PLACES TO FEEL OUR HISTORY - TO MOVE FORWARD.
- 4 INVEST IN OUR YOUTH

TABLE 5: PRIORITIES

- 1 NEW NARRATIVE BUILT INTO POLICIES
- WATER: BRING OUR PHYSICAL LAND ASSETS BACK INTO OUR CONTROL
- 2 CULTURAL SPACES
- 3 FOCUS ON FAMILIES
- 4 DEAL WITH THE "FORGETTING"

Visual Scribing by Gavin Blake gavinblake.com.au @gavin\_scribes

- ① YOUTH INITIATIVES
- ② TRUTH TELLING
- ③ FINANCIAL SECURITY
- ④ BRAVE COUNCIL
- ⑤ NEW NARRATIVES

## Design

In this session each group of participants discussed how they can translate their first priority aspiration (from the previous dream session) into action. The structure of the session was for the table of participants to discuss and list actions which they thought are required to achieve their aspiration. They then passed their work sheets to the next table of participants who added any further actions they thought necessary and which were not listed. The sheet was then passed back to the original table of participants. The intended outcome was a series of actions for each key aspiration.

The following summarises and lists the priority actions.

### **Be brave and be the first city that recognises cultural authority and embed it in governance structures and decision making**

#### **Actions:**

1. Aboriginal governance/representative structure within the Sydney City Council. Identify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community representatives to be endorsed or elected by the community; perhaps elevate the advisory panel



2. Create the space for recognition of Indigenous cultural authority, but Indigenous people design the model and process for representation; local government ensures a process for Indigenous people to get there
3. Value Aboriginal authority and cultural knowledge and this includes valuing it in dollar terms; embed values not erode the cultural and historical; establish awards to recognise cultural authority and knowledge; culturally safe processes and structures; underpinned by self-determination and human rights; decolonising frameworks

“So the big focus is that brave is courage, because actually what you are saying is if you are going to acknowledge Aboriginal cultural authority, part of that is the awareness that you might have to actually give up power and that there is a power and authority in a place, that is the community that you have just been dealing with in an advisory role or seeking their advice but then going away and making the decisions, so part of that is to develop new governance structures.”

**Peter White**

**New narrative built into policies; sense of belonging/healing; bring physical land assets back to our control – find out where the water ran and make visible.**

**Actions:**

1. Influence future discussions on national narrative, Constitutional change, Uluru Statement from the Heart, truth, treaty and justice
2. Map the water flow through Sydney to understand the connections and opportunities; understand the therapeutic value of water and our spiritual relationship with water; water capture and recycling for more affordable and sustainable water
3. When the water has been mapped create master plan / infrastructure plan including housing design that allows the aspiration to be realised if and when development occurs; give water a voice – it will tell us how high/far we can go and how far the setback should be; the water front is for art and culture, not development that is antithetical to Indigenous thinking

“When we look into our culture, our law, our authority comes from within the environment, so our power, our authority comes from within the environment and the Western way, the coloniser’s way or their power, I think is somewhat of an illusion that they have power over the environment [...]”

**Phil Bligh**

**Youth formerly represented through youth advisory panel**

**Actions:**

1. Establish Youth Advisory Panel for City of Sydney (mix of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal)

2. Encourage youth to participate in policy discussions, to protest, advocate for change for issues that will impact on their futures, for example climate change, education, arts, home ownership
3. Elders as mentors to the youth; how to be an emerging elder
4. Educating young people on how local government works

### Truth telling initiative

#### Actions:

1. Decolonising the city; decolonising place names in the city and debunking the myths; council to rename places, suburbs, streets, new suburbs
2. Healing places, stories, memorials as part of truth telling in the community
3. Educating schools and councils about Australian history as part of truth telling

### Financial security for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

#### Actions:

1. The City of Sydney as enabler for Aboriginal businesses; to set up an enabling space to promote Aboriginal culture through tourism, art, music, history, heritage
2. Capacity building for financial sustainability through partnerships through local LGA, State, Federal, Corporates, Community
3. Industry specific employment strategy to develop skills of young people so they can move into viable employment or financial security; tied to industry cultural awareness
4. Have a permanent visual presence in the city, for example a big gunyah, a statue of a powerful Aboriginal woman



**STAGE 3 DESIGN**

**TABLE 1: YOUTH REPRESENTATION**

- YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL
- ELDER AS MENTORS
- TO EDUCATE ON EXISTING GOVT STRUCTURES & PROCESSES
- JUST MORE REPRESENTATION BY OUR YOUTH

**TABLE 2 TRUTH TELLING**

DECOLONISING THE CITY  
HEARING PLACES  
UNLEARNING / RELEARNING

THIS LAND WASN'T EVER LOST.

**TABLE 3 FINANCIAL SECURITY**

ENABLING ABORIGINAL ENTERPRISES/CAPACITY BUILDING

- INDUSTRY SPECIFIC
- CULTURAL AWARENESS
- PERMANENT VISUAL PRESENCE OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE
- WOMEN SPECIFICALLY

**TABLE 4 EMBEDDING CULTURAL AUTHORITY**

- NEW GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES
- INFORM CONSENSUS THROUGH DIALOGUE
- ABORIGINAL AUTHORITY & CULTURE TO BE VALUED (INCL FINANCIAL)
- AWARDS TO BE IMPLEMENTED

**BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS**

DEFINED BY ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

**TABLE 5: NEW NARRATIVES**

- DE-COLONISATION OF THOUGHT
- (EXISTING LAWS (BRITISH) ARE PRESCRIBED ... OUR GOVERNING STRUCTURES COME FROM WITHIN)
- 1. INFLUENCE FUTURE DISCUSSIONS ON NATIONAL NARRATIVE, CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE, JURED STATEMENT OF THE HEART - TRUTH TREATY JUSTICE
- 2. WHEN WATER HAS BEEN MAPPED, CREATE A MASTERPLAN / INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN (INCLUDING HOUSING DESIGN) THAT RESPONDS TO THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT ALLOWS THE OPPORTUNITIES TO BE REALISED IF/ WHEN DEVELOPMENT OCCURS

**GIVE WATER A VOICE**

Visual Scribing by Gavin Blake | gavinblake.com.au | @gavin\_scribes

... Council: renaming of places, suburbs, streets, new suburbs ...



... Youth can be leaders for a more inclusive community and we can all learn from them ...

## Deliver

In this session participants were asked to identify key elements and principles that describe and guide the relationship between the City of Sydney and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Participants discussed the following question and produced a list of principles and elements:

***What key elements and principles are necessary to improve and strengthen the relationship between the City of Sydney and the Indigenous community in order to operationalise the aspirations of Indigenous people?***

These principles and elements will be incorporated into an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statement for Sustainable Sydney 2050.

Below is a summary of the list of elements and principles produced in the discussion.

- ✦ The relationship must be equal and based on truthful open dialogue
- ✦ Decolonise the city by debunking the myths of Australia and telling the truth and this includes decolonising laws and behaviour
- ✦ Promote and memorialise Indigenous people/stories and ensure an Indigenous presence/visibility in the city
- ✦ Recognise Indigenous cultural authority, spirituality, cultural/family connections and the relationship to the natural environment
- ✦ There must be acceptance, tolerance, and acknowledgement of both narratives
- ✦ The Council must better represent the interests of the Indigenous community
- ✦ Promote Indigenous self-determination and empowerment
- ✦ Provide opportunities and space to the Indigenous community, especially investing in Indigenous culture and identity
- ✦ Value and protect the Indigenous voice in Sydney and really understand and value the community
- ✦ Hear the diverse voices of the Indigenous community
- ✦ Indigenous cultures/environs and lores/laws must be protected not destroyed
- ✦ Engage the Indigenous community in a culturally responsible and culturally safe way
- ✦ Recognise the cultural needs of the Indigenous community in providing services
- ✦ Develop an Indigenous frame for examining issues and making decisions
- ✦ Be accountable to the Indigenous community and measure success according to Indigenous perspectives
- ✦ There must be collaboration and partnerships in delivering Indigenous aspirations
- ✦ Recognise and promote the professional and cultural expertise of Indigenous people



- ✦ The Council is to lead by example and if necessary be prepared to make hard honest decisions and not compromise the Indigenous community
- ✦ Consultation with the Indigenous community must be genuine and ongoing



The dialogue forum participants want the relationship between the City of Sydney and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to be equal and based on truthful open dialogue. Decolonising the city of colonial narratives and myths plus telling the truth is critical to the relationship. This also includes decolonising laws and behaviours. In doing so the City of Sydney must promote and memorialise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and stories and it must ensure an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander presence and visibility in the city. The relationship must recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural authority, spirituality, cultural/family connections and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander relationship to the natural environment. The ongoing relationship must be based on acceptance, tolerance and acknowledgement of not only Indigenous narratives but also non-Indigenous narratives.

The City of Sydney must better represent the interests of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and through this representation it must value, understand and invest in the community. This involves: promoting self-determination and empowerment; investing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and identity; valuing and protecting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voice in Sydney; hearing the diverse voices of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community;

engaging the community in a culturally responsible and culturally safe way; and being accountable to the community.

The City of Sydney must recognise the cultural needs of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in providing services. In particular this involves developing an Indigenous frame for examining issues, making decisions and measuring success. The City of Sydney must collaborate and partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as well as provide opportunities and space for the community. It must also recognise and promote the professional and cultural expertise of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Importantly though, the City of Sydney must lead by example and if necessary Council must be prepared to make hard honest decisions by not compromising the Indigenous community.

*... Aboriginal community is valued by Council; make Council think deeply about it ...*

## **Closing Statement**

The First Peoples Dialogue Forum brought together 35 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community leaders, City of Sydney Council members and executive staff plus Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service providers/consultants who contributed to the dialogue forum in different ways.

Attendance by City of Sydney Councillors and executive staff demonstrated goodwill on behalf of the City of Sydney and this reflects a commitment by Council to not only acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people but ensure that their aspirations and concerns are taken seriously by Council.

Strategic planning is not just an exercise for consulting with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people but is a process intimately tied to bigger questions of justice and reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Discussions on the day uncovered a number of aspirations and issues that are fundamental to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. These aspirations and issues should not only be incorporated into the strategic plan but also put into action through collaborative partnerships.

Finally the participants in the dialogue forum want the relationship between the City of Sydney and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to be equal and based on truthful open dialogue. They want the City of Sydney to better represent the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people and they want the City of Sydney to value and recognise the cultural needs of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

“What I learned today and what I am hearing today, which has to be mapped out and then presented back to you and the Council, is that what we ought to be working on is a 2050 vision that’s narrative is deeply infused with the cultural knowledge that comes from this community and our First Nations people. That we need to find a way to write a story about this city’s future that is deeply informed by the knowledge that people like you have and bring and that if we could do that we would truly be creating something that perhaps has never really been created before and that includes acknowledging cultural authority in that process”.

**Monica Barone, CEO City of Sydney.**



... *Visibility is a constant reminder ...*

... *Cultural tourism, art, music, history, heritage ...*

... *Indigenous people in higher positions within Council and elected to Council ...*

... *Statues of significant Aboriginal man and woman at Town Hall and Barangaroo ...*

## **Workshop with the Panel**

Following the First Peoples Dialogue Forum a workshop was convened with the City of Sydney Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel (the panel) on 30 May 2019 to discuss outcomes of the forum. The following is a summary of key issues raised in the workshop.

### **Safety for Women**

There needs to be a serious conversation about the safety of women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in the city. Women need to feel safe in the city but this issue is not being addressed. There must be long term strategies for women's safety by the City of Sydney not one-off projects. The City of Sydney should also look at what other Councils are doing about women's safety.

### **Relationship with Council**

Some panel members felt as though the panel is a 'rubber stamp' for the City of Sydney Council, whereby they approve matters for Council's benefit and convenience. Consequently Council is not empowering the panel or the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. There is a need to go beyond the advisory panel model to having an Indigenous voice to Council. While the role of the panel is to provide advice to Council, panel members need to be proactive in developing their voice and role, redesigning systems and finding solutions to issues and problems including finding solutions outside of the advisory panel space. The panel needs to focus on its relationship with Council, develop their own terms of reference, as well as design an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement strategy. Most panel members are also new to their role therefore they are still becoming acquainted with their role and responsibilities. Previous experience suggests there can be frustrations while becoming acquainted with the role.

### **Report back on Issues**

There was concern that issues raised and discussed by the panel in previous meetings don't come back on the panel agenda – the issues seem to disappear. There is no report back on the status of issues. These issues should be identified, collated and presented to the panel. Further the annual report needs to show what the panel has done. The last Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander panel had standing items to report back on. It was also pointed out that there are some service issues which Council does not have responsibility. They are State or Federal Government responsibilities.

### **Captain Cook Commemoration**

A question was raised as to whether the panel had discussed the matter of the Captain Cook statue as proposed by the Federal Government and the proposed voyage of a



replica Endeavour ship around Australia. The Australian Museum is apparently forming a response to the Captain Cook commemoration, and the panel should talk with the museum in that regard. The panel needs to have a voice on this matter and the City of Sydney should make a strong statement. It was mentioned that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff at the museum were struggling with the idea of the Cook commemoration and were being silenced on the matter.

### **Acknowledging Traditional Owners**

The City of Sydney needs to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Sydney basin. An example was given of the City of Sydney opening an art program about the Cadigal people but the Cadigal were not involved. This needs to stop. Council has protocols with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council however there must be clarity in Council's application of the protocols and in engaging with Traditional Owners. Advice to the panel on what the Council has agreed to with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and who are the Traditional Owners would be useful.

# **Attachment G**

<p><b>Mandarin Speaking Community Sessions Report</b></p>
---

**City of Sydney  
Planning for our future community  
sessions – Hearing from you**

**Mandarin**

**21<sup>st</sup> March 2019, 1:00 to 2:00 pm  
Ultimo Community Centre, Ultimo**

**4<sup>th</sup> April 2019, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm  
Green Square Library, Zetland**

**Summary report submitted by  
Multicultural Marketing and Management**



Sydney | Melbourne | Brisbane | Perth

Phone: 1300 863 896

Fax: 1300 863 897

A.B.N. 59 062 774 663

Email: [info@multiculture.com.au](mailto:info@multiculture.com.au)

Website: [www.multiculture.com.au](http://www.multiculture.com.au)

***Australia's Multicultural Expert***

## **Background**

The two Chinese community sessions followed the format developed by Cred Consulting. The sessions were conducted in Mandarin. The first session was held on 21st March 2019 at the Ultimo Community Centre and comprised 35 participants in the 50-to-65 years age range. The second session was held on 4th April 2019 at Green Square Library and comprised 22 participants in the 20-to-65 years age range. Chinese community members who use Cantonese or other dialects also attended the sessions, if they could speak Mandarin.

## **Activity 1 – Excitement and Concern for Sydney 2050**

This activity involved participants' writing down what made them excited or concerned about Sydney's future. In total, 25 people participated in this activity – 17 people who attended the first session (21<sup>st</sup> March), and 8 people who attended the second session (4<sup>th</sup> April). Quotes from the second session (are highlighted in blue in this report).

### **EXCITED**

The most commonly discussed topics during this activity were environment, transportation, diversity and inclusiveness, as well as community activities of the city.

*"I hope there is a way to extend people's lives. I want to see beautiful Sydney in 30 years."*

*"I feel excited about Sydney's infrastructure after 30 years."*

*"I hope the city will become more and more beautiful."*

**Environment:** this topic was included 11 times.

- *"I hope Sydney will become more and more beautiful. The sky remains blue."*
- *"In 2050, Sydney becomes a garden city."*
- *"Sydney will be a sunny city with clean and wide streets."*
- *"The sunny days, beaches and fresh air in Sydney are attractive."*
- *"Excellent street lighting and environment."*
- *"Sydney has blue skies and white clouds. This city is great!"*
- *"The oceanwater is so clean."*

**Transportation:** this topic was included 7 times.

- *"The better the transportation system, the happier we will be."*
- *"The new airport for Sydney will be completed. Noise issues can be resolved. The Eastern light rail will be finished, helping reduce traffic congestion."*
- *"The new airport has been constructed. Travelling will be more convenient."*



- *“Sydney will be a city with fantastic public transport. I am excited about the completion of the light rail.”*
- *“New technology can be applied, such as trackless light rail.”*
- *“There will be more caring for the residents. For example, we will have free shuttle buses to the fish market.”*

**Diversity and inclusiveness:** this topic was included 5 times.

- *“I hope Sydney will be a place where people from different language backgrounds can communicate without difficulties.”*
- *“In 2050, Sydney is doing very well in promoting culture diversity. Most people have good manners. Being polite and kind is now the mainstream of society.”*
- *“Cultural diversity. There will be signage in different languages.”*
- *“Sydney will be more inclusive and culture-diverse.”*

**Community activities:** this topic was included 4 times.

- *“We can catch up with Chinese friends and attend events together.”*
- *“There is a variety of community events. I hope they will keep up with the good work and even do better in the future.”*
- *“There will be lots of events held in the parks.”*
- *“It is great to be able to do some outdoor activities with children.”*

**Other topics:** topics regarding equality, government performance, security and health.

- *“People are working together to build a harmonious society.”*
- *“People are more equal.”*
- *“People can live a secure and relaxing life.”*
- *“There will be significant advances in medicine, which benefit human beings.”*
- *“There will be advanced technologies and high-quality products from Australia.”*
- *“I hope Sydney will become the largest city in the world one day.”*
- *“The Australian government is great.”*
- *“The government manages the environment very well.”*
- *“The government is doing a good job in helping vulnerable people.”*
- *“Food in Sydney is safe.”*
- *“There will be great outdoor amenities.”*

## CONCERNED

The most discussed topics during this activity were public services and facilities, security and safety, transportation, environment, and aged care in the city.

*"In 2050, security is significant."*

*"It still takes too long to complete the construction of light rail in the city."*

*"I hope immigration will be easier, and the tuition fee for international students will be lower."*

**Public services and facilities:** this topic was included 16 times in the Post-its.

- *"Water supply can be an issue due to increasing population."*
- *"The lift at the Ultimo swimming pool is frequently out of service."*
- *"Some stations/areas do not have a lift. It is quite inconvenient."*
- *"I hope Sydney would have some family marts like in Japan."*
- *"Insufficient staff managing parks."*
- *"I am concerned about stormwater management; how to make sure there is no water on the streets after rain."*
- *"More streetlights along lanes."*
- *"Public green space is getting squeezed."*
- *"Lack of facilities for pets."*
- *"More spaces specially designed for the old."*

**Security and safety:** this topic was included 13 times in the Post-its.

- *"I am concerned about racism, because of the recent terrible shooting in New Zealand."*
- *"Many people stay illegally in Australia."*
- *"The bricks on some footpaths have hollows. People can easily fall because of such design."*
- *"More preventive measures should be taken in order to ensure safety. Try to stop crimes before they happen."*
- *"We need to be careful with the trees along streets."*
- *"Refugees should be limited, especially those providing potential threats to Sydney's security."*
- *"I hope there will be fewer immigrants with potential terrorism threats."*
- *"I am concerned about casual or random attacks by strangers. It is absurd."*

**Transportation:** this topic was included 9 times in the Post-its.

- *"Reduce traffic congestion."*
- *"Often, the buses are not on time or do not show up at all."*
- *"There should be more trains during peak hours. It is too crowded."*

- *“Public transport. There should be more trains and buses, and they should be on time.”*
- *“Some buses were cancelled without any notice.”*
- *“Pets should be allowed on public transport.”*
- *“The change of some bus routes caused inconvenience for residents. Some stops were skipped after the change. This is not reasonable.”*
- *“Information on public transport is not updated in time.”*
- *“Bus 370 is the only bus for us to go to the University of Sydney. But there are not enough buses on this route. If we miss one bus, we have to wait for a long time. We often miss our classes.”*
- *“The trains are too slow. Faster trains should be used.”*
- *“The trains and buses come more frequently in Hong Kong and Tokyo. I hope this will also be the case for Sydney, though I don’t know how we can achieve this goal.”*

**Environment:** this topic was included 7 times in the Post-its.

- *“Since more and more people come to Sydney, I am concerned whether the environment can be well maintained.”*
- *“The weather in the past was quite good. But now it is getting hotter. I m concerned about the future climate.”*
- *“The sun's ultraviolet rays are strong in Australia, causing skin cancer.”*
- *“Climate change concerns me – extreme weather.”*
- *“Noisy cars, especially those with improved engines, make people unable to sleep wellat night.”*

**Aged care:** this topic was included 4 times in the Post-its.

- *“I hope the government pays more attention to the language issues that elderly Chinese are facing, and help them live independently in an English-speaking city.”*
- *“Sydney is becoming an aging society. More aged-care homes will be needed.”*
- *“Zetland used to be a factory district, but now there are many residential buildings. The infrastructure and facilities are insufficient, such as kindergartens, schools, nursing homes and hospitals.”*
- *“Aged care homes are too expensive. I hope there will be more and cheaper nursing homes so that everyone can afford them. Perhaps we can do volunteering work there when we are young, and get rewarded for some points. These points may be used to offset our own expenses at nursing homes when we are old.”*

**Other topics:** light rail construction, education, and living costs.

- *“The incomplete light rail construction caused us to be late for classes.”*
- *“The building density is too high.”*
- *“The prices are increasing, but age pensions are not. It is hard to make a living.”*

- *“Housing costs a lot. It is very hard for young adults to afford housing.”*
- *“I am concerned about Sydney’s economy in the future. The prices are high, and the economy seems not good.”*
- *“There should be appropriate planning of schools. For example, Zetland does not have good primary schools. Parents have to move to other suburbs with better schools.”*
- *“We need more budget for education, and more schools and higher salaries for teachers.”*
- *“There are not many attractive sights in Sydney – just the Opera House and Harbour Bridge.”*
- *“Buildings in Sydney are kind of boring. We really need some good architects to build Sydney into a global city.”*



## Activity 2 – Service Cards

This activity involved participants reading 15 different service cards. Each participant received three sticky dots and voted for the services they considered most important. In total, 25 people participated in this activity; 17 people attended the first session (21<sup>st</sup> March); 8 people attended the second (4<sup>th</sup> April). Quotes from the second session are highlighted in blue in this report.

### Most-Voted Services

The two groups have different opinions about the importance of each service. Overall, the three most important services are: road maintenance (1<sup>st</sup>), residential waste collection and recycling (2<sup>nd</sup>), and public safety and local emergency planning (3<sup>rd</sup>).

道路维修



道路维修

- 本市设计、建造和维护大部分的民用基础设施，包括本地道路，每年翻新约5万平米的道路。
- 提供的服务包括设计、建造和维护本地道路，其中包括路面重铺、修补、重新密封、设计及安全工程、维修和标线。

#### 1. Road maintenance

- Participants have high aspirations for an expanding and improved train network.
- *“Road maintenance causes inconveniences for pedestrians. Sometimes I have to go across the roads without traffic lights. It is very dangerous.”*
- *“The progress is too slow. It is really inconvenient.”*

## **2. Residential waste collection and recycling**

- *"I am concerned about the large amount of rubbish."*
- *"I want to learn waste classification in further detail."*
- *"It is important for the City of Sydney to provide free and high-quality waste-management service."*
- *"The waste will be reduced if waste collection service is not free."*
- *"It is acceptable to pay for recycling fees."*
- *"More detailed classification of waste can be employed, such as bins particularly for batteries."*
- *"Underground waste collection may be a good idea for apartments."*

## **3. Public safety and local emergency planning**

- *"Safety comes first!"*
- *"We are concerned about terrorism, in particular, after the hostage crisis at Martin Place in 2014."*
- *"We are worried about the recent terrible shooting in New Zealand."*
- *"The government needs to have better preparation against terrorism attacks."*
- *"It would be better to have more CCTV cameras on streets. This would make pedestrians feel safe."*
- *"There should be more cameras in public areas. This would help prevent crime."*
- *"More policemen are needed. If policemen frequently walk around, people will feel safe and fewer crimes will happen."*
- *"The cameras are really insufficient. Once something has happened, it is very hard to track the criminals."*
- *"I do not feel secure living here. I am still a student and need to walk home at night. My classmates had eggs thrown at them by teenagers."*
- *"There are drunken people on the streets, which is really unsafe."*
- *"Prevention of crime is more important than an investigation after crime happens."*

## **4. Graffiti removal and illegal dumping**

- This service received 8 dots in the first session, but 0 dots in the second. The possible reason is most participants are concerned about waste-management, and there are several service cards in this activity, though different in details, that fall within the broader topic of waste management. So some participants may just have put a dot on any waste-related service card that they saw first.
- *"I saw commercial flyers quite often. The government should control this."*
- *"Waste management is important to everyone's daily life."*
- *"This is the most important service!"*

- *“I like the idea of inspecting ‘hotspots’ every day and inspecting local areas every 5 days, aiming to remove any new graffiti within 24 hours.”*
- In the second session, nobody voted for this service. But there were four dots for “street cleaning and street bins”, and four dots for “residential waste collection and recycling”.

#### **5. Street cleaning and street bins**

- *“It is necessary to maintain clean streets and punish illegal dumping.”*
- *“I feel there was far less rubbish ten years ago. But now, there is more rubbish that may be due to the increasing number of immigrants. The streets are dirtier now.”*
- *“We can put more rubbish bins on the streets.”*

#### **6. Stormwater maintenance**

- *“I would like to learn how the government recycles rain water.”*
- *“There are many buildings in the city. Most places are covered by constructed objects. The stormwater cannot be absorbed by the soil. So it is important to effectively collect and recycle stormwater.”*
- *“I did not vote for this because I have only three dots. This service is just not that important from my view.”*
- *“Sydney should be like a sponge, which is able to absorb stormwater and keep the water.”*

### **Least-Voted Services**

Three services received zero dots in both sessions. They are: park and green space maintenance, venue management, and playground and sports field maintenance. In terms of least voted services, participants from two sessions focused on different services. In the first session, they mainly discussed venue management and cycleway maintenance. In the second session, they focused on aquatic centres, trees management, and rangers.

#### **1. Aquatic centres**

- *“There are already enough aquatic centres.”*
- *“The present aquatic facilities are quite good.”*
- *“I don’t have many thoughts about it.”*
- *“The main concern is hygiene.”*
- *“Maybe add indoor surfing.”*
- *“Sharing private swimming pools may be inappropriate as the pools are normally too small for swimming.”*

#### **2. Tree management**

- *“I would love to have more trees to provide shade.”*

- *“There are falling branches. Trees should be well maintained to prevent this.”*
- *“More trees should be planted.”*
- *“If we remove trees due to development, the same amount of trees should be planted somewhere else.”*

### **3. Venue management**

- *“It would be easier if the venues were managed by different groups. It is unnecessary for the City of Sydney to manage them directly.”*
- *“Other services should be prioritised.”*

### **4. Footpath and cycleway maintenance**

- *“Does Sydney have cycleways?”*
- *“Are the cycleways connected to each other?”*
- *“Sydney should build separate cycleways.”*
- *“I am worried about sharing a path with cyclists.”*

### **5. Rangers**

- *“It is very hard to find rangers. There are many kids in the parks now. In case of any emergency, the rangers cannot provide immediate help. I don’t know where to find them.”*
- *“Maybe leave the rangers’ contact numbers on park signs.”*
- *“It is not practical to simply rely on the emergency button.”*
- *“I was there when a kid locked him/herself in the toilet of the park. We had to call the police for help.”*
- *“A smartphone app may be developed to help people with any issues while in the park.”*
- Participants mainly discussed about how to improve the service provided by rangers



## Voting Results

Service Card	Votes 21 Mar (17 people)	Votes 4 April (8 people)	Total (25 people)
Road maintenance	6	5	11
Residential waste collection and recycling	6	4	10
Public safety and local emergency planning	4	5	9
Graffiti removal and illegal dumping	8	0	8
Stormwater maintenance	5	2	7
Street cleansing and street bins	3	4	7
Street lighting and street furniture	5	1	6
Rangers	3	2	5
Tree management – park and street trees	3	1	4
Footpath and cycleway maintenance	0	4	4
Aquatic centres	2	0	2
Park and green space maintenance	0	0	0
Venue management	0	0	0
Playground and sports field maintenance	0	0	0
<b>Wild Card - Our Idea #1</b>	The services can be provided through mobile phone applications. Everyone can contribute and help.		
<b>Wild Card - Our Idea #2</b>	More convenient care for the aged. More nursing homes in the city instead of rural areas.		

### **Activity 3 – Scenario Cards**

This activity involved participants responding to 21 different scenario cards. Each scenario proposed a possible idea for City of Sydney's future. Participants had the option to vote for each scenario by raising a paddle with an "Absolutely Yes" response if they agreed that the scenario should be part of Sydney's future, or a "No way" response if they did not. Generally, every participant was required to vote either Yes or No. If they felt it was too difficult to pick a side, they could refrain from voting.

During each session, some people arrived late or left early. The total votes varied slightly during the activity. Overall, between 19 and 24 people joined in this activity: Between 9 and 12 people attended the first session (21<sup>st</sup> March); between 10 and 12 people attended the second session (4<sup>th</sup> April). Quotes from the second session are highlighted in blue in this report.

#### **1. Late night music and performance venues:**

- *"The population is growing. People want to increase their income. Tourism is a good way to achieve this. To attract more tourists, late night entertainment venues are necessary. This is eventually good for the economy."*
- *"Such venues may disturb people living in the area."*
- *"Having fun late at night is unhealthy."*
- *"It can be too noisy. The police do not care."*
- *"Young people may get drunk and cause trouble."*

#### **2. Expected population growth:**

- Overall, the votes for the two sides were even.
- *"No. It is already too crowded in Sydney."*
- *"More population growth is bad for the environment."*
- *"The new buildings should be constructed in rural suburbs."*
- *"Increasing population is the trend."*
- *"I agree that this is the trend. We should prepare for the future."*
- *"It will be too crowded, even though more trains or rails are provided or constructed."*
- *"More population growth should be consistent with government planning. Immigrants will contribute to Australia's economy, which is beneficial to everyone."*

#### **3. Recreation in the sky:**

- Participants generally agreed that more recreation spaces should be provided. But if they are on the rooftops, some conditions should apply
- *"The wind on roofs can be quite strong. It is inappropriate."*
- *"I agree with more recreation in the sky. But safety comes first."*

- *"I agree with more recreation in the sky. Sydney now has more apartments. It is good for people living here to have some public space to have fun with friends, such as BBQ."*
- *"Recreation in the sky should be limited to commercial buildings. It is not appropriate to do this in residential buildings due to privacy and safety concerns."*
- *"It is not suitable for Sydney."*
- *"Instead of in the sky, the recreation should be on the ground where it is more convenient."*

#### **4. Unexpected climate migration:**

- Though all participants voted No, they generally agreed to accept climate refugees if necessary. But it should not be Sydney because of its already large population.
- *"We should receive them if we can. But there are too many people in Sydney now. So I would say No."*
- *"If the people really suffer, we should allow them to immigrate. But the number of immigrants should be limited."*
- *"We should if we can, but Sydney is already too crowded. We should not receive more refugees."*
- *"People have many reasons for immigration. We cannot meet all the needs."*

#### **5. Urban farms on residential and commercial rooftops:**

- *"There will be water on roofs."*
- *"The main concern is who will manage the farms."*
- *"Though it is more convenient and green, it may not be a good idea for people living on the top floor."*
- *"The key issues are pollution, water leakage and cleanness."*
- *"It may attract flies and other insects."*

#### **6. Tiny houses:**

- *"Tiny houses are suitable for old people. They can be neighbours and make friends. This sounds like a good idea."*
- *"Tiny houses are suitable for young adults and couples, as they have just started working and do not have much money."*
- *"This can address different needs. Some people prefer small houses, which are cheaper to buy and easier to clean."*
- *"The size should be flexible, in order to meet different needs."*
- *"It is unnecessary. Tiny houses cannot provide enough living spaces."*
- *"Tiny houses provide more living spaces for temporary residents. They are good for security and the society."*

#### **7. Apartments designed for families and children with mandatory play spaces:**

- All participants voted for Yes, showing a strong care for raising children
- *"It is necessary and good for children to have play spaces, as going to parks may not be convenient."*
- *"Agree. Such spaces can bond residents. Parents and children can have a space to play together."*
- *"I think such design is good. Current apartments are small. The addition of such spaces is good for children."*

#### **8. Electric vehicle charging facilities:**

- *"Agree. Such facilities are convenient."*
- *"Will safety be an issue?"*
- *"We saw many charging ports on the streets in Paris. The ports are small. It does not necessarily need to be charging stations as they are more expensive."*
- *"It can be dangerous for kids. We would need to protect them from potential harm."*
- *"Electric vehicles are more environmentally friendly. It is necessary to build more charging facilities. But it should also be determined if these facilities harm the environment."*
- *"There are many children and old people around them. Electric charging facilities are unsafe and also increase pollution."*

#### **9. Co-living housing:**

- *"There should be a rule for the maximum people allowed in each unit. If there are too many people, living conditions will be bad and some problems will come up."*
- *"I don't support it. It is very hard to manage. Ensuring security and fire safety can be an issue. I used to work in this area. The Shanghai government also rejected such a proposal."*
- *"We can build tiny houses so that young adults, singles and people with low income can live in them. Why do we allow a variety of people living together in shared houses? It is not a good idea."*
- *"This is the situation for many students now. But this is not safe. I would suggest that universities build dormitories like China does. They are easier to manage as well."*

#### **10. High street decline:**

- Generally, the participants prefer to keep the high streets
- *"Those high streets are usually historical and meaningful to us."*
- *"If there are not enough shops on high streets, the empty spaces can be used for public facilities, such as gyms."*
- *"High streets are a place for Chinese people to get together. If they decline, we will have fewer chances to meet each other."*



- *“High streets are significant for the Chinese lifestyle. It is our place for social interaction.”*

#### **11. Open Streets:**

- All participants voted for Yes, but conditions apply.
- *“I agree with open streets, but conditions should apply. Public transport should not be affected.”*
- *“Opening streets provides more leisure space. This is necessary and beneficial for the residents.”*
- *“The open time should be reasonable, so as to balance the needs for commuting and leisure.”*
- *“I agree. But timing is important; it would be better during weekends and holidays.”*

#### **12. Bookless libraries with access to technology:**

- *“Some people, like the elderly, have difficulties dealing with new technology.”*
- *“We should keep the books and protect our traditions.”*
- *“Agree. It is the trend. We now frequently use our phones for reading. Libraries should have a larger area for bookless reading, but still keep some area for hardcopy books.”*
- *“I still want to read real books. Electronic books are harmful for the eyes. It is necessary to keep the books.”*

#### **13. Drone deliveries:**

- *“Agree. Drone deliveries reduce pollution and accidents, and save gasoline.”*
- *“I don’t support it as it may not be safe for the drone to deliver my parcels. What if we are not at home?”*
- *“I think at present we can have a try, but it is still too early to widely employ this technology.”*
- *“It is unsafe to have many drones flying above. And it is costly.”*
- *“We should catch up with the trend, as Australia is a little behind.”*
- *“I am not sure if this idea is practical.”*

#### **14. Shared backyard:**

- Overall, the participants support this idea if the shared backyard is located in a public area. If they are asked to share their own yard, they are not willing to.
- *“Nobody wants to share their private backyard.”*
- *“Security is an issue.”*
- *“If it is public backyards for everyone, it would be great. But if we need to share our private backyards, it is not possible.”*
- *“I don’t want to share my own backyard.”*

### 15. Public “Urban Cool Rooms”:

- “Can the government afford them?”
- “Is it a waste of money? There are air-conditioned places everywhere.”



- “If there are supermarkets or shopping malls around, it is unnecessary. But if not, I support the idea. Otherwise it will be too hot to walk in the sun.”
- “It can release people’s stress. But will it be a waste of money? This needs experts’ judgements.”
- “It is seasonal, so it is a waste of money during cold seasons.”

### 16. Waste:

- “How do you limit the waste? It is very hard. What the government needs to think about is how to deal with the waste instead of limiting them.”
  - “It is impossible to limit the waste. The government should figure out ways to recycle the waste if possible.”
  - “It is conflicting with our need for cleanliness.”
- “Some waste, such as newspapers and flyers, should be mainly reduced by the companies that distribute the items, not by the residents.”
  - “Some waste such as kitchen waste is impossible to reduce.”
  - “There should be more recycling stations collecting second-hand clothes.”

### 17. University expansion:

- “It is all right, but the expansion should not affect residents around the area.”
- “The population is increasing. There should be more university facilities.”
- “It depends on your purpose. If the expansion is due to the commercialisation of education, I don’t support it. But if it is purely for the (Australian) students, who may be our children, it is acceptable to build more non-commercial facilities or buildings.”
- “Is it necessary in the long-term? There are many students now, but what about in the future?”
- “I think it is necessary. Education is important. We need more well-educated people. There are more and more students and their living and studying spaces are crowded.”
- “I also support education!”

**18. More tourists:**

- *"I do not agree with more tourists. In some suburbs, there are many tourists. They are from different backgrounds and only stay for a short period. This is not safe for the neighbourhood."*
- *"Agree. More tourists are good for the economy. Sydney is a beautiful city. We should welcome other people to visit it."*
- *"If the security cannot be guaranteed, I disagree!"*
- *"I think tourists can contribute to the economy in Sydney. I hope they can spend their money here. But I personally do not want to share my home with tourists."*

**19. Vertical communities for seniors:**

- All participants voted Yes without hesitation
- *"Agree! We elders need a social life. We should get actively involved in community events and be happy. This prevents us from Alzheimer's disease, which is good for everyone."*
- *"We have to agree, because the aging society is coming. Young adults have moved to other suburbs for better education."*
- *"Parents spent lots of effort and money to raise their kids. When the parents are getting old, they should be treated well – not being left and lonely."*

**20. Transport orientated development:**

- All participants supported this idea.
- *"It is more convenient for travelling, work and study."*
- *"I agree. But it would be better to build underground transport, which causes less congestion on the ground."*
- *"People in some suburbs, such as Waterloo, still need to walk around 20 minutes to get to shopping malls and parks. It is better to have some shuttle buses in these areas, making people's daily lives more convenient."*
- *"It should be well planned with proper justifications. It is not a matter of 'the more, the better'."*

**21. Vertical schools with shared facilities:**

- *"There are more children now. It is good to share these facilities."*
- *"More sport spaces can be shared with the community, especially during school breaks or holidays. This also saves land."*
- *"If schools open their sports facilities on weekends, it will be great."*

## Voting Results

Scenario	Votes		Votes		Total	
	21 Mar group (9-12 people)		4 April group (10-12 people)		both groups (19-24 people)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Public “Urban Cool Rooms”</b>	12	0	12	0	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Vertical schools with shared facilities</b>	12	0	12	0	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Apartments designed for families and children with mandatory play spaces</b>	11	0	12	0	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Transport orientated development</b>	12	0	10	0	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Electric vehicle charging facilities</b>	11	0	9	1	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>More tourists</b>	11	0	8	4	<b>19</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Drone deliveries</b>	7	4	11	2	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Open Streets</b>	8	0	10	0	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Park-n-play, Copenhagen Recreation in the sky</b>	10	1	8	2	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Co-living housing</b>	10	0	7	3	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Urban farms on residential and commercial rooftops</b>	11	1	6	6	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Tiny houses</b>	8	0	9	1	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Vertical communities for seniors</b>	6	0	10	0	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Expected population growth</b>	10	2	2	8	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>University expansion</b>	9	1	3	7	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Bookless libraries with access to technology</b>	9	2	3	9	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Shared backyard</b>	6	5	1	11	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Waste</b>	0	11	5	5	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Late night music and performance venues</b>	2	10	2	10	<b>4</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>High Street decline</b>	1	11	1	10	<b>2</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Unexpected climate migration</b>	0	8	0	12	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>



# **Attachment H**

<p><b>Spanish Speaking Community Sessions Report</b></p>
--

**City of Sydney  
Planning for our future community  
sessions – Hearing from you**

**Spanish**

**22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019, 11 am to 12 pm  
Ultimo Community Centre, Ultimo**

**Summary report submitted by  
Multicultural Marketing and Management**



Sydney | Melbourne | Brisbane | Perth

Phone: 1300 863 896

Fax: 1300 863 897

A.B.N. 59 062 774 663

Email: [info@multiculture.com.au](mailto:info@multiculture.com.au)

Website: [www.multiculture.com.au](http://www.multiculture.com.au)

***Australia's Multicultural Expert***

## **Background**

The Spanish community session followed the format developed by Cred Consulting. It comprised 52 Spanish-speaking participants, most of whom were between 60 years old to 90 years old. The session was conducted in Spanish at the Ultimo Community Centre on 22 March 2019. All materials used in the activities were translated into Spanish.

## **Activity 1 – Excited and Concerned for Sydney 2050**

This activity involved participants writing down what made them excited or concerned about Sydney's future. Some participants also expressed hope for Sydney in 2050 in the "excited" list. One small group of around 8 people initially worked on this activity; afterwards, the group in activity 2 (approximately 25 participants) took over this activity for approximately 15 minutes.

### **EXCITED**

The most discussed topics during this activity were the state of parks and open spaces throughout the city, transportation, security and cleanliness of the city.

*"I love Sydney and my wish is that it remains as beautiful."*

*"We have good education for young people."*

*"We have clean and safe beaches for everyone."*

*"There is good transportation to all areas of the city."*

*"All the best for a welcoming and beautiful city."*

**Parks and open spaces:** this topic was included 10 times

- *"Public parks. The parks in Sydney are beautiful, Sydney is wonderful and the residents are very polite with the elderly population and help them out a lot."*
- *"Clean parks."*
- *"More parks and green areas."*
- *"I am hopeful for respect from our grandchildren for the environment. Respect for our green spaces."*

**Transportation:** this topic was included 8 times

- *"The improved transportation system."*
- *"Better transportation."*
- *"Public transport is good and we have a lift at the Ashfield station."*
- *"Good transportation for senior people."*
- *"High-speed train to travel faster to Canberra."*

**Security:** this topic was included 6 times

- *“There should be no more people sleeping on the streets; this is a big problem that Australia has. Politicians and the people can help fix this situation.”*
- *“We need safe streets.”*
- *“I hope that there may be no terrorism.”*
- *“Keep us free from terrorism.”*

**Cleanness:** this topic was included 6 times

- *“Cleanliness of the streets and safety.”*
- *“Elimination of pollution.”*

**Other topics:** music, culture and the new technological advances.

- *“Visits to museums and cultural areas. We have to teach the younger generation.”*
- *“More street parking. Fewer fines. There has to be compassion.”*
- *“Lower taxes.”*
- *“Freedom to be how you are.”*
- *“No fines for people with disabilities.”*
- *“Social life to be with people.”*
- *“More musical events.”*
- *“Development of new technologies. Development of social programs and services to assist the needy. Development of new equipment to assist the sick.”*

## **CONCERNED**

The most discussed topics during this activity were transportation and parking, security and cleanliness of the city.

**Transportation and parking:** topic was included 10 times

- *“The Metro, the Sydney Light Rail – I fear they will remove them as they have removed them before. The roads are not wide enough to have another rail in the middle. The pedestrians will have a hard time crossing the street.”*
- *“When will the Light Rail project start running? That money could have been better used for public health.”*
- *“Transportation with the Light Rail is the biggest mistake from my point of view.”*
- *“Parking of cars and fines without necessity. Parking places were not thought of.”*
- *“The Light Rail is an unnecessary cost. It would be better to improve health and pay more attention to the pensioners.”*
- *“There is a lack of parking lots, and many cars are parked in small sidewalks.”*
- *“I do not like traffic and public transportation, the bus drivers are rude.”*



**Security:** topic was included 8 times

- *“Security in Sydney.”*
- *“Road safety.”*
- *“Security in states of emergency.”*
- *“Street lighting.”*

**Cleanliness:** topic was included 5 times

- *“Picking trash from the streets.”*
- *“Cleanliness of the streets and stormwater.”*
- *“Pollution.”*
- *“Cleanliness. Council trucks need to pass by every day picking up trash and leaves and cleaning the streets.”*

**Other topics:** homeless people, better services for the elderly, more social activity and public health.

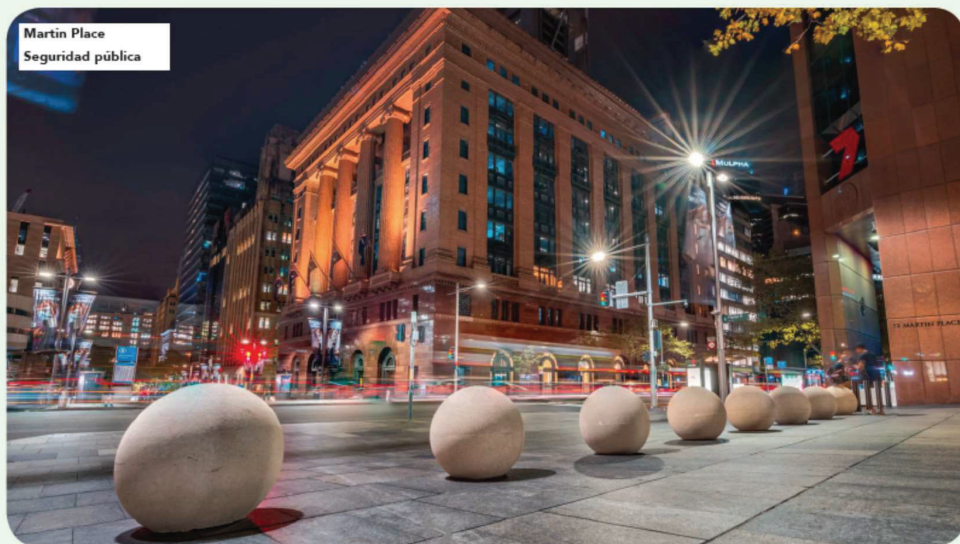
- *“Provide better services for the elderly. The elderly population keeps increasing in size and there is a gap between generations because babies were not born.”*
- *“There is not a lot of talk about hospitals and what people who have cancer have to pay.”*
- *“The homeless. There should be no homelessness. What image do we show to tourists? We should be ashamed.”*
- *“Lower taxes.”*
- *“More places to get together for the elderly, more activities.”*
- *“The Spanish community misses their Latin quarter, so thanks to the City of Sydney, for allowing and providing space for us to come together.”*
- *“Maintenance of the community centres.”*
- *“Global warming and wars, the scarcity of food.”*
- *“More trees in parks and streets.”*
- *“The lack of green areas.”*

## **Activity 2 – Service Cards**

This activity involved participants reading 15 different service cards. Each participant received three sticky dots to use for voting for those services they considered most important. The group consisted of approximately 25 people. Some participants declined to vote and others mentioned that they had voted before seeing all the cards, which is why they had different thoughts in the end after they saw all the cards.

### **Most Voted Services**

Participants agreed that *Public safety and local emergency planning* was the most important service, *Stormwater maintenance* was the second most important, and that *Park and green space maintenance* was the third most important. Some participants commented that some services were considered as included in other services, i.e. the Public safety card would cover Road maintenance.



### **Seguridad pública y planificación de las medidas de emergencia**

- Desarrollar planes en caso de emergencia, abordar problemas de seguridad pública, brindar capacitación y realizar simulacros de emergencia
- Trabajar con otras organizaciones para coordinar los planes en casos de crisis y emergencias y planificación de continuidad de servicios esenciales y de apoyo
- Mantener una red de seguridad vial de cámaras de videovigilancia que ayuda a prevenir situaciones peligrosas y asiste a la policía de Nueva Gales del Sur a detectar y prevenir delitos.

**1. Stormwater maintenance:**

- *"We do not want to be affected by the flooding."*
- *"There are a lot of diseases in the sewers."*
- *"It's very important that the streets and sewers get cleaned, otherwise they fill up and the stormwater can't go through."*
- *"When the flooding happens, our feet have to go in the water."*

**2. Public safety and local emergency planning:**

- *"With all that is happening, public safety is very important to us and for any other citizens. There should be security cameras so that a car cannot get in to leisure spaces and explode. It is us, the elderly, who are sitting in those leisure spaces."*
- *"There should be more security cameras like in many other countries, because after 5 p.m. we are scared to go out in the streets."*
- *"We voted for public safety and assumed that the card covered road safety so we have focused mostly on safety overall."*

**3. Park and green space maintenance:**

- *"They are very important for the quality of life. Sydney is a big city and so it needs to compensate for reduced air quality with more trees and parks, which are necessary for living a healthier and better life."*
- *"They are for the good of everyone."*

**4. Street cleansing and street bins:**

- *"This is important to avoid the rats."*
- *"This is important for the hygiene of everyone."*
- *"It is very important that we all collaborate in maintaining the city clean but the council should be providing the necessary services to keep the city clean because there are many diseases. When streets have cars parked, the cleaners have a hard time cleaning and the waste accumulates."*
- *"Cleaning is important for everyone, no matter if it's for parks or streets."*

**5. Venue management:**

- *"Venues should be available to make things known to everyone and so that things can be discussed."*
- *"Venues are very important because we have fun, we can talk to each other and have activities."*

## Least Voted Services

Most participants commented that these services were still important to them, but with only three votes to cast, they could not vote for them. Some participants commented that some services were considered as included in other services, i.e. the Public safety service card would include the Footpath and cycleway maintenance, and Park maintenance would include Tree management.

### 1. Footpath and cycleway maintenance:

- *"We trust that the Council is already taking care of this. They are up to date with the ramps for the disabled. What is not fair is that neither I nor anybody else can do anything about this. It's the Council who needs to take care of it."*
- *"The footpaths should be very clean. Otherwise, anything slippery can make anybody slip. With just three dots to vote with, this one is the one that looks like it has the least chances of being taken on."*

### 2. Rangers:

- *"Since we don't drive, we don't really bother with this service."*

### 3. Graffiti removal and illegal dumping:

- *"They should clean everything."*
- *"Because we each only had three votes and Sydney has always been kept pretty clean, we trust that it will continue this way which is why we didn't consider this one as the most important."*
- *"Graffiti activity should be surveilled by cameras and the people creating graffiti should be the ones paying for the damage."*

### 4. Tree management – park and street trees:

- *"We didn't have enough votes."*
- Participants were mainly focused on the maintenance of parks and believed that tree management would be part of park maintenance.

### 5. Road maintenance:

- *"This received fewer votes because I don't think the other participants understand what this service covers."*
- *"This did not receive enough votes. We consider it very important that the streets are kept clean and safe for everybody."*
- *"The fact that we did not vote for it doesn't mean we don't consider it important."*
- Participants understood this service was similar to the *Footpath and cycleway maintenance* card.



## Voting Results

Service Card	Votes
Stormwater maintenance	11
Park and green space maintenance	9
Public safety and local emergency planning	9
Venue management	6
Street cleansing and street bins	6
Playground and sports field maintenance	5
Aquatic centres	5
Street lighting and street furniture	5
Residential waste collection and recycling	4
Road maintenance	2
Tree management – park and street trees	0
Footpath and cycleway maintenance	0
Graffiti removal and illegal dumping	0
Rangers	0
<b>Wild Card - Our Idea #1</b>	Reinstate meals in the senior community centres by sourcing funding. For some of our members it is their only hot meal of the day.
<b>Wild Card - Our Idea #2</b>	I believe that by 2050 cars will run on water and electric cars will be obsolete. But for now yes, more stations are needed for more community housing for the elderly and more public toilets.

### **Activity 3 – Scenario Cards**

This activity involved participants reading 21 different scenario cards. Each scenario posed a possible different idea of the City of Sydney’s future. Two groups participated in this activity. The first group consisted of 25 participants and the second group of approximately 8 to 11 participants. Participants had the option to vote for each scenario by raising a paddle with an “Absolutely” response if they agreed that the scenario should be part of Sydney’s future or a “No way” response if they did not. Participants could refrain from voting if they wanted.

#### **1. Late night music and performance venues:**

- *“Sydney is expanding and it is necessary to have the appropriate venues. For example, New York City is alive 24 hours a day, it never closes; so, Sydney should keep expanding.”*
- *“If there is no safety, people can’t go out on the streets.”*
- *“At our stage of life, we are not the type to go out of our houses after 8 or 9 at night and then take a train home at 1 a.m.”*
- *“Yes, we need late night music and performance venues so that the city is more alive.”*
- *“These will provide more jobs and entertainment for young people.”*



#### **2. Expected population growth:**

- The majority agreed that the city should host more people. Reasons were that Australia is growing as a country and needs to be prepared for a greater population.
- *“If there are more people then there should be more houses.”*

#### **3. Recreation in the sky:**

- *“The people who live at the top floor should be consulted.”*
- Participants became worried that the roofs would sink like in clubs. If this would happen it could be dangerous.
- *“No way.”*
- *“In Europe this is very common.”*
- *“I would like this, so I have a place to exercise.”*

#### **4. Unexpected climate migration:**

- *“No way. We have too many people in Sydney.”*
- *“There are neither jobs nor homes that can host more people”*
- *“I’m not going to host people in my house.”*

- *“Why doesn’t the government do what they did in the 1970s with immigration? When I came to Australia, the government brought me to a hostel in Villawood and they gave us accommodations, interpreters and assistance with our small children. Why don’t they do this? They should create more hostels for immigrants, so that we are not being pressured for our opinion.”*
- *“When we arrived the government gave us everything.”*
- *“Something should be done so that they can have more water and won’t want to come to Australia.”*
- *“We would accept it to a certain point.”*
- *“We have to analyse the problem. If the farmers don’t have jobs, how would the immigrants have jobs? There should be more governmental measures in place.”*

#### **5. Urban farms on residential and commercial rooftops:**

- There was enormous opposition to this scenario.
- *“There is a great amount of land for what?”*
- *“Why doesn’t the government support the agricultural fields?”*
- *“Each one consumes what they harvest? No way!”*
- *“The government should provide the utilities/facilities so that the farmers can harvest in the fields.”*
- *“Agriculture needs land.”*
- *“It is a waste of time since we have the land to cultivate.”*
- *“These farms will not be useful, people need much more land. How much can you harvest in those urban farms?”*
- *“You need to consider the waste produced and the fertiliser used.”*

#### **6. Tiny houses:**

- *“I worked my whole life to have a place to live and I worked hard for 48 years in Australia, so I have the right to have a spacious home where I can welcome my family. Why does the government want to put the elderly and couples in small places where you can barely breathe?”*
- *“They should not put stairs in the houses for the elderly.”*
- *“In other countries tiny houses are already being used.”*

#### **7. Apartments designed for families and children with mandatory play spaces:**

- Majority of the participants were in agreement although they said this did not apply to them, as they do not have small children.

#### **8. Electric vehicle charging facilities:**

- Participants agreed that this is for the future generations.
- *“Yes, for the future generations.”*

- *"I'm already doing my part (for the environment) with my two little legs."*

#### **9. Co-living housing:**

- Many participants viewed this as having different families living under the same roof rather than individuals living together.
- *"No way."*
- *"You only have one family and so you cannot share housing with others."*
- *"Today the young generation shares a lot."*
- *"My opinion: we have three daughters with whom we can share housing, but in our house, we always have the Spanish TV and radio on. As expected, being here in Australia we had to speak English, but our traditions are still inside my house. So if I have to share housing every day with my daughters and grandchildren I cannot keep my traditions because they prefer English and so they take away that part of my life."*
- *"Freedom."*
- *"No. Having privacy is very important for the people."*
- *"In Spain this is already happening because it is more economical."*
- *"Everybody has their own way of thinking and that can be a problem."*
- *"For elderly people this is not an option."*

#### **10. High Street decline:**

- The votes for this scenario might have been skewed toward those who were not aware of the online shopping market and how jobs are changing over time.
- One participant specifically mentioned a possibility: their concern about jobs disappearing and people ending up unemployed.
- *"No way."*
- *"The merchants/retail have to continue, where will they go?"*
- *"Having the big shopping centres, this scenario is already happening."*
- *"If you remove the small shops, where will these people live?"*
- *"The city is full of big shopping centres and people go there because you can find everything."*
- *"If I have a store meters from my home, I won't go to the shopping centres."*

#### **11. Open Streets:**

- *"Yes, there is too much traffic."*
- Majority of participants agreed with this scenario but they were concerned how this would affect traffic.

#### **12. Bookless libraries with access to technology:**

- One participant commented that libraries did not need to become 100% bookless, that there could be both books and technology resources available in libraries.



- Some arguments were made about whether bookless libraries are the right path. They questioned why the library could not become more technology-driven without completely removing books.
- *“Yes, we have to evolve, physical books will stop existing.”*
- *“This takes away jobs from people, book publishing will stop and jobs will be lost.”*
- *“This takes away jobs from the people who assist you in the library.”*

### **13. Drone deliveries:**

- *“We don’t want to be served via drones.”*
- One participant stated that they did not like the idea of having drones flying in the sky. They didn’t want the sky view/area to be affected by drones.
- One participant was concerned about what could happen if the drone dropped a package.
- *“No, this would end jobs for many people.”*
- *“It seems dangerous to me.”*

### **14. Shared backyard:**

- *“Why not? We are talking about shared backyards and not shared neighbours, and so we can help each other to leave everything tidy and pretty.”*
- One participant thought that the shared backyard would distribute the work of having a backyard between neighbours and that it did not necessarily involve dealing with the neighbours.
- *“I already help my neighbour with his garden.”*
- Some participants were against sharing this space and spoke of having your own home and the importance of privacy.

### **15. Public “Urban Cool Rooms”:**

- One participant commented that their house during the summer is usually 10 degrees higher than the outside temperature, which is why they would go to a shopping centre. Another participant agreed and stated that people would not use these public “urban cool rooms” because shopping centres would be available instead.
- *“Yes, of course it makes sense.”*
- *“You try to cool down in your house, not go out to cool down.”*
- *“Yes, it will keep getting hotter.”*

### **16. Waste:**

- *“How can we actually achieve zero waste?”*
- *“Why doesn’t the government industrialise waste processing?”*
- Participants were in agreement of the goal of zero waste.

**17. University expansion:**

- *“Yes, for the younger generation.”*
- *“Why expand close to the CBD? They should create more spaces outside the city centre.”*
- *“Yes, we need more classrooms. Lots of young people in Australia cannot go to university because there are no spaces for them.”*
- *“Fair go for everyone. Young people can’t pay for university.”*
- *“The government should limit the number of international students in order to leave more places for Australians. Lots of Australian students cannot pay what international students can. We are educating people who will leave the country.”*
- *“No, because they use this to make business.”*
- *“People don’t have money to pay for a university study now. The universities have become a business of the government because they are bringing money from overseas to give to the university. The university should be destined for Australians, not overseas students; Australians are the ones who should have access to this education. The government is using the international students as business. They build accommodations that can only be afforded by the same international students who come and study.”*

**18. More tourists:**

- Participants agreed that tourism was good but they were not sure about having to host tourists themselves.
- *“I had a homestay student. At one point it seemed like a good idea because the student can come, study and go. But that’s because they are all wealthy. There are no working class people coming.”*

**19. Vertical communities for seniors:**

- *“The necessity mandates it, no matter what way. As we get old, we start evaluating where we can be. A small home is better but we have to make space.”*

**20. Transport orientated development:**

- *“Yes, of course, because this will have an impact. It can help with the traffic.”*

**21. Vertical schools with shared facilities:**

- There was strong disagreement on this scenario.
- *“Australia has a lot of space. No vertical schools.”*
- *“Poor children will be locked in a floor.”*
- *“Children need space and should have contact with nature. They are not mice that can be locked in cages; they already have that small cage in their small houses. At school, they should at least enjoy the space.”*

## Voting Results

Scenario	Total Votes	
	Yes	No
Electric vehicle charging facilities	34	0
Park-n-play, Copenhagen Recreation in the sky	34	0
Apartments designed for families and children with mandatory play spaces	33	0
Waste	33	0
Vertical communities for seniors	30	0
Open Streets	27	6
Expected population growth	25	6
Transport orientated development	25	0
Public “Urban Cool Rooms”	22	1
University expansion	21	4
More tourists	20	13
Unexpected climate migration	14	20
Tiny houses	13	23
Late night music and performance venues	12	10
Bookless libraries with access to technology	11	24
Urban farms on residential and commercial rooftops	9	24
High Street decline	7	26
Co-living housing	6	27
Vertical schools with shared facilities	4	20
Shared backyards	3	16
Drone deliveries	0	25

# **Attachment I**

<p><b>Hearing From You Community Sessions Report</b></p>
--



**Report Title: City of Sydney 2050: Planning for our  
Future Community Sessions - Hearing from you**

**Client: City of Sydney**

**Version: Draft 1**

**Date: 18 April 2019**



This material is made available by Cred Consulting on the understanding that users exercise their own skill and care with respect to its use. Any representation, statement, opinion or advice expressed or implied in this publication is made in good faith. Cred Consulting is not liable to any person or entity taking or not taking action in respect of any representation, statement, opinion or advice referred to in this document.

# Table of contents

---

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Common themes	7
3.	Postcards	10
4.	Activity 1: Excited /Concerned	13
5.	Activity 2: Future City Services	21
6.	Activity 2 - future planning scenarios	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
7.	MCA Young Ambassadors Workshop	34
8.	Neighbourhood Character Wall	37

# 1. Introduction

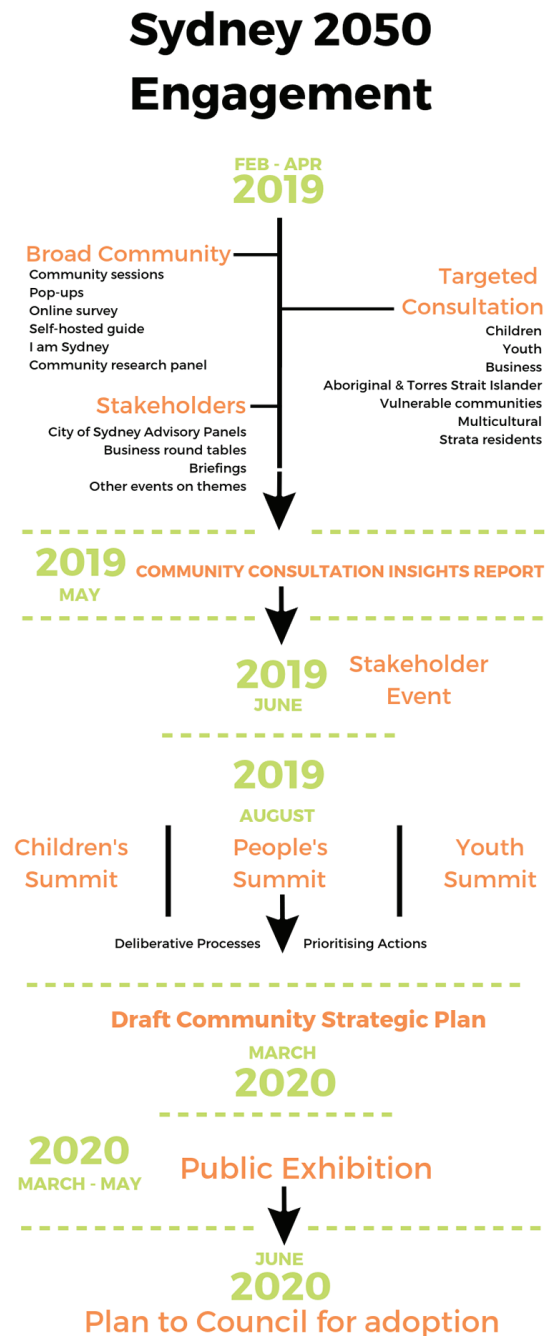
For more than a decade, The City of Sydney (the City) has worked with their communities to deliver a Green, Global and Connected city through Sydney 2030. This plan has been the cornerstone of the City’s actions on climate change, support for local businesses, delivery of parks, playgrounds and cycleways, and support for the city’s creative and cultural life.

The Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines for local government in NSW requires Community Strategic Plans (CSP) to have a minimum 10-year planning horizon and the City is commencing its review of its current CSP (Sustainable Sydney 2030).

At the heart of every CSP is the vision and aspirations of the community – the residents, workers and business owners. Sydney has experienced significant change over the past decade and to help develop its new community strategic plan – **Sustainable Sydney 2050** - the City is embarking on an extensive community consultation program in 2019 with everyone who lives, works and studies in or visits the city.

To inform this program, eight community sessions “*Planning our future: community sessions – hearing from you*” across Sydney’s neighbourhoods were held between November 2018 and March 2019. A further two focus groups were held with strata residents and youth representatives. The sessions aimed to provide an opportunity to share thoughts about local areas, concerns and aspirations with the Lord Mayor and Councillors to inform future engagement for Sustainable Sydney 2050. The diagram opposite provides an overview of the City’s 15-month engagement program.

This report provides a summary of outcomes from the ‘community sessions’ and targeted consultation with MCA Young Ambassadors Committee and strata residents only.



## 1.1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the key themes that emerged from the eight community sessions and two targeted focus groups delivered by City of Sydney's Engagement Team, Cred Consulting and People Place and Partnership (the Project Team).

The purpose of the community sessions was to:

- Hear from the Lord Mayor about the work of the City in their local area over the past 10 years;
- Provide an opportunity for local residents, workers, visitors and students to share their thoughts about their local area with the Lord Mayor and Councillors;
- Co-design the 2050 engagement program - understanding what questions the community think is important to explore further in 2019;
- Understand what is on the community's mind - what are they excited or concerned about when thinking about life in their local area in 2050;
- Understand what the priority services provided by the City of Sydney might be in the future;
- Help inform local strategic planning statements (LSPS), which the City is required to prepare by the NSW Government;
- Understand the local services the community values; and
- Understand what the community values about their neighbourhoods and what makes them unique now, as well as help us to identify the things that we might need to protect into the future, or how we want our future neighbourhoods to look and feel.



## 1.2. Community sessions' format

### Times and locations

The Project Team delivered eight community sessions and two targeted focus groups between November 2019 and March 2019. The community sessions were open to anyone who lives, works, visits or studies in the City of Sydney Local Government Area (LGA). The Young People focus group was held with the MCA Young Ambassadors Committee. The Strata focus group was made up of members and attendees of the Strata 101 Program. **In total, over 370 people participated in one of the 10 sessions.**

Location	Date	No. of Attendees
<b>Redfern Town Hall, 73 Pitt Street, Redfern</b>	13 November 2018 6pm-7.30pm	40
<b>Glebe Town Hall, 160 St Johns Road, Glebe</b>	20 November 2018 6pm-7.30pm	74
<b>Green Square Library, 355 Botany Road, Zetland</b>	22 November 2018 6pm-7.30pm	26
<b>East Sydney Community and Arts Centre, 34-40 Burton Street, Darlinghurst</b>	29 November 2018 6.30pm-8pm	42
<b>Ultimo Community Centre, 40 William Henry Street, Ultimo</b>	12 February 2019 6pm-7.30pm	23
<b>Erskineville Town Hall, 104 Erskineville Road, Erskineville</b>	13 February 2019 6pm-7.30pm	46
<b>Juanita Nielsen Centre, 31 Nicholson Street Woolloomooloo</b>	19 March 2019 6pm-7.30pm	30
<b>Sydney Town Hall, 483 George Street, Sydney CBD</b>	26 March 2019 6pm-7.30pm	54
<b>Museum of Contemporary Art, 140 George Street, The Rocks</b>	27 March 2019 5pm - 6pm	15
<b>Strata residents, 150 Pitt Street Sydney</b>	5 March 2019 5pm - 6pm	20

## Session activities

The following five engagement activities were delivered at each community session<sup>1</sup>:

- **Postcards** - providing the opportunity to help co-designing the 2050 engagement program, participants were given a postcard to individually think about the one question they would ask the community to develop 2050 and how would we measure success. (individual activity)
- **Activity 1: Excited/Concerned** – thinking about the big picture and the big issues for the future of Sydney - the city and its communities - participants were asked: What are you most excited about and what are you most concerned about when thinking about Sydney 2050? (group activity)
- **Activity 2: Future services** - thinking about the range of Council services provided, participants were asked: What will be the priority services in Sydney 2050 and why they will be important to our future city? (group activity)
- **Activity 3: Future planning scenarios** - provided with a series of scenarios and how strategic planning might respond to some emerging and future city trends, participants were asked to rate whether the scenario fit or didn't fit into their ideal future Sydney. (group activity)
- **Neighbourhood character**- thinking about their local area and community, participants were asked: What qualities and aspects are unique and special about their local neighbourhood? (individual activity).

The common themes to emerge across all sessions and activities, as well as a detailed summary of the individual activities are provided in the following sections.

---

<sup>1</sup> Due to time constraints, the targeted focus groups completed some activities but not all of them.

## 2. Common themes

---

A number of common themes emerged across all sessions and activities.

### **Capacity to support a growing population**

Future population growth and the impacts of this was a major topic of discussions across the sessions. Discussions focussed on how our future city will accommodate a growing population and for a lot of people, this was concern and others an accepted truth – but overall the way in which we respond to this growth, both in terms of the physical environment and as a community is a key priority. The community identified that we need to find ways to accommodate growth but not at the cost of our amenity, neighbourhood character, community cohesion, access to services or green space, while at the same time needing to reduce our environmental footprint and use technological advances to help us become more efficient.

Participants acknowledged that the City is already taking a big role in accommodating the population growth that is occurring and that this needs to be coordinated with neighbouring areas and other levels of government. While people felt the City is leading the way on how to plan for growth well, addressing the intervention of State government on local government planning as well as the provision of public transport to meet the increasing demands and action on climate change was concerning.

### **Addressing climate change and living more sustainably**

Being more sustainable in how we live and taking action on climate change was another major topic of discussion across all sessions. The impacts of climate change remain a key concern for the city in 2050, with most people citing heat, increased rain and storm events and flooding as the aspects that will need to be proactively managed. There was strong support for the use of innovative and renewable energy systems, such as solar panels on rooftops and the harvesting and reuse of water.

How we manage waste in the future was a specific discussion about how we live more sustainably. Some felt that changing attitudes and behaviours towards waste and consumption will result in less need for resources, while others were concerned that the increased population will inevitably result in the creation of more waste. Many participants are keen to see more education programs and initiatives that encourage people to reduce their waste as well as the City initiating new technologies to manage waste and recycling more efficiently.

The importance of trees and green spaces as a way of reducing the impacts of heat remains constant with people. Participants also supported the concept of having 'public urban cool rooms' to provide relief in public spaces as temperatures increase.

### **A greener more liveable city**

Green spaces, parks and trees were major topics of discussion across all of the sessions and activities to increase liveability, cool our streets, build social connections, and supporting biodiversity.

There was strong agreement that our future city must have even more green space than what we have now to meet the needs of our growing population. There was also agreement that the green spaces will have to work smarter and harder (ie. multipurpose and multifunctional) to respond to the needs of our diverse community (including children living in apartments). The productive use of our available spaces such as rooftop spaces for recreation and gardens, and urban farms for food production (but not at the expense of existing green spaces) was supported as well as additional green spaces on rooftops. A lush green city with parks, open spaces and trees was a future city that excited people and maintenance of these spaces was a top priority for the community.

### **Less cars and more active transport**

Overall, session participants were supportive of a less cars focused city in the future. They were excited about technology advances such as driverless cars that may reduce the number of vehicles on the roads, about electric vehicles (and reduced reliance on petrol), and the opportunities that having car-lite and even car-free streets may create for community gathering, events and our streets becoming true extensions of our parks and public spaces.

The idea of the city having an efficient, integrated active transport network excited people about 2050, with the majority supporting a future scenario that involved transit oriented development. Participants recognised the importance of a functional transport system in the city and that the current problems are related to the failure to plan effectively for the growing demand. Participants noted the link between finding the right places for density in the city and having an effective and coordinated transport network.

Participants discussed the need for more attractive, safe and connected cycleways and walkways as our population densifies and our car dependence decreases (and ability to drive in a congested city) - ultimately supporting a paradigm shift to where active (and public) transport being the preferred method of travel around our city.

### **A diversity of housing types**

Overall, there is support for a more and a diverse range of housing but not at the expense of quality, neighbourhood character, cultural diversity or affordability. At the same time, there was also discussion around some participants point of view that that maybe the city has its limits, especially in regard to university expansion and student housing. While participants acknowledged the reality that more people will be living in apartments, they also suggested that apartments needs to cater for a diversity of household types and sizes - not just students and single person households. The provision of community facilities, such as childcare and open space nearby was also a suggestion to ensure that quality apartment living is provided.

Retaining young people and maintaining the city's social diversity through housing choice and low cost, affordable housing had strong agreement from participants. While the majority of participants supported other ways of living (ie. co-living, vertical living and family apartment living), those that didn't support this were primarily concerned with the resulting quality and size and that this should be how affordability should be achieved. There was uncertainty and a mixed response to tiny houses being part of the mix of housing types. The support was in principle, but this was conditional; that it would come with guaranteed affordability and must be well-designed.

### **A socially connected, sharing city**

A future community that is socially connected and embraces a way of living that is about sharing of spaces, resources and knowledge was an ideal that many were excited about and was important for the future city. People saw the high streets in the future as being more than just places of retail, but places for social interaction and building communities and wanted more places to connect in 2050.

People strongly supported shared communal spaces in apartment buildings and the need for 'noisy' activity spaces (ie. music lessons, children's play spaces, community gatherings). This need would not only help manage this common challenge of city living but provided new opportunities for social connection. People were also optimistic about the ability to balance the needs of residents with the need for the city and community to enjoy an active night life. While the use of technology and innovation was seen to enhance our future lives and be more efficient, there was also concern that this may impact on our ability as a community to connect face to face.

### **An equitable city**

Overall, there is a strong desire for the future community to be equitable and inclusive. A place where diversity and difference are celebrated and that we don't lose the various types of people - young, old, families, creatives, migrants, traveller. The ways in which participants talked about creating a more equitable city was in terms of fairness and tolerance but also in the ability of people to access services, having varied housing options that are affordable, being able to access employment opportunities, and adequate, affordable creative and productive spaces contributing to a vibrant city.



## 3. Postcards

---

Upon arrival at the community sessions, all participants were given a post card and asked to respond, in writing, to the following two questions posed on either side:

- “If you could ask the community one question to help develop the new Sydney 2050 plan, what would it be?” and
- “How will we know if we have done a good job engaging our community in planning for Sydney 2050?”

The aim of these questions was to involve participants in designing the engagement program for Sydney 2050.

### **Question 1: If you could ask the community one question to help develop the new 2050 plan, what would it be?**

Over 100 questions were collected across the community listening sessions. The questions ranged from big picture philosophical questions to small scale individual accountability.

The largest topic area related broadly to ‘community’ and included questions related to ways that we can retain neighbourhood character, sense of community, inclusiveness and ability to live a connected and healthy life. Other questions asked for solutions to emerging challenges such as the amount of population growth (and development), social isolation, community cohesion and housing affordability.

The second largest topic area was ‘imagine your future city’ with questions asking the reader to imagine what their idea city looks like in the future, or what type of city they would want their children and grandchildren to be able to live in.

The topic areas of environment and movement were also well represented. Environmental related questions referenced resilience, sustainability, climate change and recycling. A significant proportion of questions in the movement category challenged our current car ownership and use levels and indicated people’s desire to test the appetite for more pedestrian and cycle priority and bigger investment in public transport infrastructure.

Some example questions were:

- “What can the city do to improve or develop an active community on your street?”
- “How can we retain close knit & friendly communities even as our population increases?”
- “What kind of city would you like to leave behind for your grand-children and their children?”
- “What strategy would/could be most successful to enforcing recycling?”
- “Should the City have a greater say on infrastructure projects?”
- “Where will the children and young adults play?”
- “What should Sydney offer to multi cultural multi age communities?”

- “What will future generations value in a city? How will their values be different from today's generation? And what will be the same?”
- “What can you contribute to improving our community”? Those with skills to share with others who don't have them?”
- “How can we continue to support the city “villages” while the city continues to grow and while we welcome new residents to communities?”
- “This is Redfern. How can there be some appropriate engagement with the aboriginal community? For example, if I want to learn an aboriginal language or about Aboriginal issues or culture, how can I do that?”
- “Should more streets be pedestrian only?”
- “How can Sydney be a world leader in biophilic design, diversity and resilience?”
- “How could the city address social isolation?”
- “How can the City improve infrastructure facilities to make it easier and safer to walk and cycles around the City and beyond?”
- “How will we stop Australian talent moving overseas for innovative work, and how will we attract the best talent from around the world?”

### **Question 2: How will we know if we have done a good job engaging our community in planning for Sydney 2050?**

Questions identified a number of qualitative performance indicators that could be used to measure the success of community planning for Sydney 2050, including:

- Proactive, inclusive and detailed community engagement - with follow through on how input was used and implemented
- Ensuring that people engaged in the 2050 planning process are representative of the demographics of the residents
- High levels of participation, engagement and positive feedback
- Transparent decision making, including good communication and honest project updates, and
- A clean, well running city with happy citizens.

Some example responses were:

- “Diversity of community engagement matches diversity of community; age, cultural background, disability etc.”
- “Our whole community will be able to afford to live in Sydney, including essential workers (medical, teachers, services etc).”
- “When the streets are clean, public transport runs smoothly, people felt safe and we are carbon neutral {or even carbon negative}.”

- “When community members are asked, they will feed back that they have been consulted and heard (and that their voices have not been ignored for the sake of development.)”
- “Staying one step ahead of the community’s needs, aiming to be proactive, rather than reactive.”
- “A happy thriving community of citizens who want to and feel like they are able to give ideas and be listened to.”
- “By being transparent with the ideas you gathered from the community and by demonstrating how you will respond to them and by being accountable to your policies.”
- “Measure feedback and input. Keep up the discussion”
- “Summarise all findings in publicly available report/website & include them in next election key topics”.

## 4. Activity 1: Excited /Concerned

---

In this group activity, each participant was handed one pink and one blue speech bubble and was asked to write down one thing they are excited about in thinking about Sydney in 2050 (**pink** bubble) and one thing they are concerned about (**blue** bubble).

### 4.1. What were people excited about for Sydney in 2050?

Across all sessions, over **450 comments** were received about what people were excited about for Sydney in 2050. After analysing these comments, the nine themes that emerged were:

- Having a quality integrated and active transport network (22%)
- Being a connected, generous and diverse community (14%)
- Being a vibrant, liveable and creative city (14%)
- Being more sustainable in how we live (11%)
- Provision of more and improved facilities, services and infrastructure (11%)
- Being a green city with open space, parks and trees (9%)
- Being a city with great architecture and local character (7%)
- Using innovation and technology to improve our lives (6%)
- Both community and government having the potential to change the future through new and improved approaches and advocacy (4%)
- Other (3%).

While the above nine themes were the most common collated across all sessions, there were some key differences between the individual session locations, which are outlined below.

## Comparison of 'excited' themes at each workshop

The top 3 topics that people were most excited about in each workshop location have been highlighted in green in the table below (read horizontally). In all locations, with the exception of Ultimo, the number one thing that participants were most excited about was having a quality integrated and active transport network, followed by being a connected, generous and diverse community.

**Table 1: Comparison of 'excited' themes**

THEME	Having a quality integrated and active transport network		Being a connected, generous and diverse community		Being more sustainable in how we live		Being a vibrant, liveable and creative city		Being a green city with open space, parks and trees		Using innovation and technology to improve our lives		Being a city with great architecture and local character		More and improved facilities, services and infrastructure		New and improved approaches and advocacy		Other	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
REDFERN	12	21%	12	21%	6	11%	3	5%	6	11%	6	11%	4	7%	5	9%	1	2%	1	2%
GLEBE	17	19%	13	14%	12	13%	12	13%	7	8%	6	7%	7	8%	7	8%	6	7%	4	4%
GREEN SQUARE	22	19%	19	17%	21	18%	15	13%	9	8%	8	7%	8	7%	9	8%	4	3%	0	0%
EAST SYD	19	23%	13	16%	10	12%	13	16%	9	11%	5	6%	5	6%	3	4%	3	4%	1	1%
ERSKINEVILLE	15	21%	11	15%	6	8%	12	17%	10	14%	1	1%	4	6%	7	10%	3	4%	3	4%
ULTIMO	2	9%	3	13%	4	17%	5	22%	1	4%	1	4%	0	0%	2	9%	2	9%	3	13%
WOOLLOOMOOLOO	24	29%	7	9%	5	6%	10	12%	5	6%	5	6%	2	2%	17	21%	3	4%	4	5%
CBD	28	24%	11	9%	7	6%	17	15%	10	9%	6	5%	15	13%	15	13%	5	4%	2	2%
STRATA	14	22%	7	11%	4	6%	9	14%	3	5%	5	8%	4	6%	13	20%	0	0%	5	8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	153		96		75		96		60		43		49		49		78		27	

**In Redfern**, a future community that is **connected, generous and inclusive** (21%) and having a **quality integrated and active transport network** (21%) were the things that people, by far, were most excited about. Under the theme of connected, generous and inclusive, people spoke about "A cohesive, integrated community" and "the diversity of characters in the social neighbourhood". People felt positive and excited about 2050 being "a fairer world" and "children will have a better fair opportunity" but also building a "a more generous city where people look out for each other". More parks, trees and green spaces (11%) and the use of technology and innovation (11%) were the other top things that people in Redfern were excited about when thinking about 2050.

Similar to Redfern, **in Glebe**, a future community that has a **quality integrated and active transport network** (19%) was the thing that people were most excited about in thinking about 2050. This included



comments like *“there is the opportunity for new ways of living in a closely connected world. **Being connected, generous and inclusive** (14%), **living more sustainably** (13%) and **being a vibrant, liveable city** (13%) were also things people were most excited about. Having a diversity of creative, cultural and night-time activities were also things that people at the Redfern community session were excited about. In the context of a more vibrant and connected community, other people commented about a *“return to local community - engagement, sociability, support, commerce”* and another about the idea of *“co-locating services, makerspaces and libraries engaging with residents on a 24hr basis”* and *“The revival of a vibrant nightlife with a range of diverse activities and precincts, and a great live music culture, Sydney at the heart of a nightlife, international city”*. When people spoke about a future transport system in Glebe, there was a notable move away from cars to active transport with comments like *“less cars more public transport”* and *“roads to cycleways”*. In the context of living more sustainably, a number of comments related generally to a *“cleaner greener city, less waste”* including improvements in green technologies such as solar power, other renewable energy sources, better stormwater, grey and rainwater re-use, reduced waste and improved recycling practices. Other things people were excited about when thinking about 2050 was the new fish markets, a growing diverse community, new open spaces and how technology can better connect us to our local communities and each other.*

In **Green Square**, a future **that has a high quality and integrated, active transport network** (19%) and **is more sustainable in how we live** (18%) was again the thing that most people were excited about. When people spoke about sustainability, it included everything from being excited about *“achieving 100% sustainable energy”, the “end of cars” to ‘massive use of rain and grey water to “greener, low energy use” to “food waste scheme” and “liveable/high density communities”*. **Being a connected, generous and diverse community** (17%) had a strong focus on diversity with comments like *“growing cultural diversity and creativity”, “people being different and still being valued”, “elimination of poverty and homelessness” and “more connected communities including more connection for people who are lonely”*. Specifically, a number of participants identified specific projects such as the new aquatic centre and the Alexandria Cultural Precinct as things that they were excited about when thinking about 2050.

In **East Sydney**, a **high quality and integrated, active transport network** (23%) was once again the thing that people were most excited about. A number of comments were about a car free city, a better public transport system, more active transport and walkable streets. Being a **connected, generous and diverse community** (16%) and **being a vibrant, liveable and creative city** (16%) were other things that a significant proportion of people were excited about. There was a strong focus diversity and culture with comments like *“growing acceptance, celebration and integration of diverse ethnicity, sexuality and other backgrounds” and “diversity brings opportunity, adoption of new ideas”, “diversity and inclusion, communal spaces in parks and beaches” and “potential to become a global cultural hub”*. **Living more sustainably** (12%) and **being a city with more parks, trees and green spaces** (11%) also ranked quite highly in the thing that people in East Sydney were most people were excited about. One person said it was the ideal of *“a lush green city that’s walkable, rideable and safe”, that was exciting, while another person was excited about “seeing the families playing in the public spaces in safety at all hours”*.

In **Erskineville**, a future with a **high quality and integrated, active transport network** (21%) was the thing that people were most excited about. Specifically, people were excited about walkability, safer cycling and improved public transport. **Being a more vibrant, liveable and creative city** (17%) was the second thing people were excited about with comments like *"a better night time economy"*, *"better entertainment and nightlife mix"* and *"safe, secure nightlife in the city area"*. Other things that people in Erskineville were excited about included *"Council's desire to improve the built environment, its emphasis on better transport, better public spaces, better services"*, *"stronger communities"*, *"better waste management"*, *"a healthy city"* and *"more environmental awareness"*.

In **Ultimo**, unlike the other locations, being a **vibrant, liveable and creative city** (22%) was the thing that most people were excited about, referencing existing community places in the neighbourhood already like arts facilities, shopping, Chinatown and the Pyrmont-Ultimo community centre. **Living more sustainability** (17%) was also something that this community was excited about with some people commenting that they would like to see *"(a city with) zero emission, renewable energy and clean air"* and *improved "environmental cleanliness"*.

In **Woolloomooloo**, a **high quality and integrated, active transport network** (29%) was the thing people were most excited about in thinking about 2050. There was a range of comments ranging from local transport issues such as *"I can walk everywhere"* and *"transport convenience and choice"* to Sydney wide transport improvements such as looking forward to the second airport, no cars in the city and even Uber Air. Linked to this, the second thing that people in Woolloomooloo are most looking forward to is when the community is **provided with more and improved facilities, services and infrastructure** (21%). Within this topic, people spoke about local solutions for homelessness, more public housing, loneliness, as well as more *"third places"* and cleaner air/less pollution in the city. One person at this session was optimistic about 2050, commenting about the possibility that we can have *"a real sense of community in a city that's clean, beautiful and 100% sustainable"*.

In the **CBD**, the thing that most participants were excited about by far was a **high quality, integrated and active transport network** (24%). A high proportion of comments within this category related to a *"car free city"*, *"less cars"* and driverless cars. A vibrant, liveable and creative city (15%) included comments around *"bustling vibrancy & diversity"*, *"access to culture"* and *"a far greater and vibrant night life"*. **Being a city with great architecture and local character** (13%) also excited some people. They referenced, our heritage, promotion of design excellence and guidelines for architecture. Some people noted they were excited about future projects such as the new Town Hall Square, Art Gallery of NSW extension, the light rail and improvements to train stations.

Discussions with the **MCA Young Ambassador Committee** revealed the thing they were most excited about was the use of **innovation and technology to improve our lives** (22%). A high proportion of comments within this category related to the positive impact that it could have on efficiency and how we live. Having access to technology, such as 3D printers and virtual reality was seen as being important. **Achieving their potential and personal growth** (22%), such as owning a house, having a family, building

a meaningful career, travelling and having stability in life were aspects of the future that also excited these young ambassadors as well as a **being connected, generous and inclusive community** (15%).

Targeted consultation with **Strata Residents** generated slightly different themes to the community sessions. Things that people were excited about included more green buildings, the NBS, stronger strata communities, electric vehicles and the light rail.

## 4.2. What were people concerned about in 2050?

A total of **350 comments** were received across the 8 community sessions, a focus group with the MCA Young Ambassadors committee and one strata resident focus group about what people were concerned about and the top nine themes to emerge were:

- Impacts of climate change (16%)
- Lack of effective transport options and congestion (14%)
- Population growth, overcrowding and density (14%)
- Access to and quality of facilities, services and infrastructure (14%)
- Social disconnection and the loss of community (11%)
- Transparent governance and decision making (9%)
- Loss of the local built character and heritage (7%)
- Lack of parks, trees, green and recreation spaces (4%)
- Anti-social behaviour and nuisance (3%)

## Comparison of 'concerned' themes at each workshop

The top 3 topics that people were most excited about in each workshop location have been highlighted in green in the table below (read horizontally). While many of the sessions had similar top concerns, Glebe was an outlier because its top concern was about transparent governance and decision making. This topic didn't make it to the top 3 for any other location.

**Table 2: Comparison of 'concerned' themes**

	Impacts of climate change		Lack of effective transport options and congestion		Population growth, overcrowding and density		Social disconnection and the loss of community		Access to and quality facilities, services and infrastructure		Transparent governance and decision making		Loss of the local built character		Loss/lack of Green spaces and recreation spaces		Anti-Social behaviour (ranging from crime and drugs to noise and light pollution)		other	
REDFERN	13	20%	7	11%	12	19%	11	17%	7	11%	4	6%	3	5%	1	2%	5	8%	1	2%
GLEBE	13	14%	14	15%	9	10%	9	10%	13	14%	18	20%	10	11%	2	2%	3	3%	1	1%
GREEN SQUARE	18	19%	18	19%	14	15%	12	13%	9	10%	5	5%	7	8%	8	9%	0	0%	2	2%
EAST SYD	18	20%	16	18%	12	13%	8	9%	9	10%	5	6%	7	8%	6	7%	4	4%	4	4%
ERSKINEVILLE	15	14%	22	20%	18	17%	9	8%	19	18%	9	8%	5	5%	4	4%	3	3%	4	4%
ULTIMO	13	22%	9	15%	6	10%	3	5%	13	22%	8	13%	0	0%	2	3%	2	3%	4	7%
WOOLLOOMOOLOO	8	11%	10	14%	10	14%	9	13%	12	17%	8	11%	6	8%	1	1%	4	6%	3	4%
CBD	19	14%	10	7%	20	15%	13	10%	12	9%	13	10%	16	12%	5	4%	4	3%	22	16%
STRATA	3	8%	3	8%	2	5%	3	8%	12	30%	0	0%	1	3%	1	3%	0	0%	3	8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	120		109		103		77		106		70		55		30		25		44	

In **Redfern**, the issue of **impacts of climate change** (20%) was the most common concern of people when thinking about 2050 and whether there will be *“real and effective action ... and a clean environment”*.

**Population growth, overcrowding and density** (19%) was a close second when thinking about 2050. The **loss of community and social connection** (17%) was also something that many people at the session were concerned about, with one participant expressing a concern about *“Redfern losing its soul and identity as a result of gentrification – historically for Indigenous Australians in urban areas – how do we address this?”*.

In **Glebe**, one-fifth of responses identified **transparent governance and decision making** (20%) as a concern when thinking about 2050. There was a strong commentary about state government intervention in local planning and decisions with specific reference to the Bay Precinct and fish market redevelopment as well as loss of social housing and development of tall buildings. These comments were also linked to the loss of local built character. This was followed by **the lack of effective transport options** (15%) and the **impacts of climate change** (14%).

In **Green Square**, like people in Redfern, the issue of **climate change** (20%), **lack of public transport and congestion** (19%) were the top issues that concerned people. The third issue that most concerned people when thinking about 2050 was **population growth, overcrowding and density** (15%) with participants identifying their concern about overcrowding was specifically about *“feeling like you can never be alone or have calm”* and *“overcrowding [is] not a new issue, [it is] felt most acutely on transport wedging yourself. Green Square is still being built, the proportion of people coming does not reflect that it is still more to come”*.

In **East Sydney**, the impact of **climate change** (18%) was once again the top issue that concerned people with one participant stating that *“we won’t get to the Sydney we want in 2050 if we don’t act now”*. Lack of public transport and congestion (18%) and population growth, overcrowding and density (13%) were the other issues of concern to most people in East Sydney. Examples of specific concerns include comments like the *“loss of [a] diverse demographic – young, old, families, migrants and travellers – turning the city into a different place”* and *“infrastructure won’t be able to sustain the amount of people living in the inner city (ie. Schools, housing, roads)”*

In **Erskineville**, the **lack of public transport and congestion** (20%), **access to and quality facilities, services and infrastructure** (18%), and **population growth, overcrowding and density** (17%) were the top things concerning participants when thinking about Sydney 2050. In the context of transport and population growth, people are concerned about pollution and noise from cars and the ability for critical infrastructure to be able to keep up with growth. People also had concerns around high rise buildings, housing affordability and overdevelopment. There were also a number of comments with concern for homeless and vulnerable people in the community. One participant said *“I’m concerned about the very high, generally unaffordable house prices which create homogeneity in the community (of rich people)”*.

In **Ultimo**, there was a high level of concern around the **impacts of climate change** (22%) and **access to and quality facilities, services and infrastructure** (22%) with particular reference to housing affordability, lack of support services, corruption and development.

In **Woolloomooloo**, **access to and quality facilities, services and infrastructure** (17%), was the biggest concern to participants when thinking about Sydney 2050. This included things like public schools, child care centres, transport, homelessness and mental health services, and having enough social/adorable



housing to support the population. **Population growth, overcrowding and density** (14%) was also a concern for many people, particularly in relation to *“overpopulation”, “overdevelopment” and “damage that could come from governments focused on disconnected development and greed”*. Other concerns for this community related to the loss of community, lessening vibrancy, loss of sense of place and heritage buildings included: *“Conservative laws hindering the nightlife and therefore tourism in Sydney”, “Loss of the cross culture as a harm to people who don't fit the norm”, “Too many people are priced out of inner Sydney and you lose that character” and “Dwindling night life and over governing”*.

In the **CBD**, participants had a wide range of concerns (‘other’ - 16%), from income inequality, to innovation, to corporations with too much power. Housing affordability, population growth pressures on infrastructure and mental health/wellbeing of people were some key concerns connected to **population growth, overcrowding and density** (15%) and the **impacts of climate change** (14%). Other concerns were around the **loss of heritage and identity**, corruption, and social isolation. Other specific concerns included “not enough decision makers that don't have a vested interest”, “police brutality”, “mental health in dense places” and “noise pollution”.

The **MCA Young Ambassador Committee** were particularly concerned with the **impacts of climate change** (44%) and damage to the natural environment by pollution and other activities. Other concerns were around the **increasing cost of housing and living** (30%), **lack of parks, trees, green and recreation spaces** (15%). Other specific concerns included a range of transport issues such as pollution, congestion and the lack of affordable transport, the overpolicing and regulations imposed by government, state of the economy and future job prospects, liveability and increasing urban density and corporatisation of the urban environment (ie. Barangaroo).

Like many of the community sessions, the **Strata resident** focus groups' biggest concern was around **access to facilities, services and infrastructure** (30%). This included concerns around **lack of affordable housing, short term rentals/Air Bnb** and an increase in **homelessness**. The group was also concerned about the quality of buildings being constructed, scale of development and Strata policies.

## 5. Activity 2: Future City Services

Participants were presented with fact sheets of 14 Council services that the City currently provides. Participants were asked to briefly read the fact sheets and consider what will be the priority services in Sydney 2050. Each participant was given three sticky notes to vote for the services that they think will be the most important for a future city, and the group discussed why.

A total of **855 votes were recorded**. The table below provides a ranked list of services from most to least number of votes.

**Table 3: City Services – Priority Ranking Summary**

MOST IMPORTANT CITY SERVICE IN THE FUTURE	NUMBER OF VOTES*
Park and green space maintenance	150
Residential waste collection and recycling	141
Tree management - park and street trees	89
Footpath and cycleway maintenance	82
Street cleansing and street bins	72
Public safety and local emergency planning	58
Stormwater maintenance	56
Playground and sports field maintenance	45
Aquatic centres	38
Road maintenance	30
Street lighting and street furniture	26
Graffiti removal and illegal dumping	26
Rangers	22
Venue management	20

\*Each participant was given 3 'dots' to vote with, however some people chose not to vote.

## 5.1. Summary of discussion by service type

### **#1 - Importance of quality open space and green space as the city population grows and intensifies.**

Green and open space maintenance was the top priority service for participants across all sessions. Residents identified the importance of open green spaces for living a healthy city life, and the need to protect what we already have as well as increase the amount parks and tree canopy cover. It was also important for people that the green and open spaces are multi-functional and fit for purpose, as well as working smarter and harder to respond to increased population, the continued need for clean air, the increasing need for our green spaces to combat the urban heat island effect, increasing apartment living and reliance on parks as our backyards, communal and meeting spaces

A number groups talked about the qualities and types of spaces that our future city will need. This included a plan for children growing up in high density urban environments; creation of 'wild' and natural areas - as places to connect with nature and where children can use their imagination; more urban farms and rooftop gardens; opportunities to share our backyards and transforming them into social places; changing how we use streets to become extensions of our parks and green spaces; green spaces to become places for social connection and where the community can come together. People also spoke about the importance of maintaining biodiversity in the city and the importance of green spaces to our mental health, quiet spaces and wellbeing. Parks and open spaces were also seen as important spaces for social connection and celebration.

Some residents also talked about the need to derive better outcomes from new development - ensuring that masterplans create useful communal space that is functional, welcoming and useable - not just left-over space from building separation regulation (Central Park was cited as a good example of a successful green space in a high density environment). Some suggestions for future improvement included; management of dogs off leashes, dog owners not picking up after their pets, smoking and cigarette butts, improved maintenance of parks (in Glebe this was a particular issue) and increased water sensitive urban design projects.

### **# 2 - Evolution of residential waste services**

Residential waste was a popular discussion topic at all sessions. Some groups argued that we will have a reduced need for residential waste services because consumption and recycling behaviours will have changed for the better by 2050, while others argued that an increased population will create more waste and will require more resources. E-waste was also flagged as a growing issue in the future city and the need for better e-waste recycling programs.

Some residents congratulated the City on the new food waste initiatives but are keen to see more education programs, incentives and even penalties around waste reduction and correctly recycling to reinforce individual responsibility and accountability and bring around wide spread behavioural change. They would also like to see the City thinking about the use of technology like real time/sensor/automated waste collection services, or automated bins to improve efficiencies in waste management.

### **#3 – Importance of trees**

Participants across all sessions identified tree management - street trees, park trees, playground trees, all trees - as an important priority for our future city. Participants widely agreed that trees have always been important, and they will become increasingly important as we start to experience more of the effects of climate with more possible extreme heat events and increased instances of the urban heat island effect due to our continual development. Participants also spoke about the importance of trees for canopy cover, reduction of the urban heat island effect and the ability to support biodiversity. Despite their resilience and huge canopies, a few participants highlighted that they struggle with the Plane Tree species for allergies or mess. Others highlighted the need for 'right tree, right place' and improved tree management.

### **#4 – Importance of walking and cycling to our future city**

Across all sessions, footpath and cycleways were seen as important parts of our future city, especially as our population grows and more people choose to cycle and walk as their preferred ways to get around the city, rather than cars. Participants also noted the need to consider ways to better prepare our city for electric bikes and bike share. They noted the importance of having quality, connected, protected, even, pleasant, safe pathways and separated cycle ways. The health benefits of walking and cycling were also important to many of the participants, however many noted that while they would like to cycle, they currently do not due to safety concerns.

Some people expressed frustration at cyclists using pedestrian paths (e.g. along the foreshore), but generally supported the idea of more dedicated cycle lanes as a way to mitigate this conflict. Glebe residents in particular, highlighted the importance of having safe and connected cycleways but noted that they don't have a direct connection into the city or into a wider network of cycle paths at present.

### **#5 – Street cleansing and street bins**

While most participants valued a clean city, some residents had opposing views whether street bins would be needed in our future city. Some argued that we should have less bins due to a change in packaging and behaviours (e.g. keep cups), while others think we will need to have more due to an increased population (e.g. on King Street). Some also called for a reward/punishment system for littering to actively encourage a change in behaviour. A number of participants commented that improvement to the standard to cleanliness in heavily used spots in our city such as Kings Cross and the CBD on weekends for health, hygiene and tourism reasons was needed. Other participants noted that if we want more people walking places, then we need to make our streets clean, welcoming and attractive for them.

### **#6 – Public safety and local emergency planning**

Some participants want to see public safety and emergency planning prioritised and strengthened to ensure that everyone feels safe and comfortable living, working and visiting here. Some wanted improved street lighting for safety, while others would like to see more CCTV around the city.

Some of the residents perceived that there would be an increased risk associated with an increased population, bigger events, and more places of public congregation. Others mentioned the need for the

city to increase its resilience to extreme climate events. Some participants in Redfern mentioned a few places where they currently feel unsafe, despite some recent improvements: Bourke Street, some areas of Redfern, and some areas of Waterloo.

Residents in the strata workshops suggested that as the city becomes more multicultural, more information signage in different languages, touch screens in other languages may be needed.

### **#7 – Stormwater maintenance**

The key message relating to the future maintenance and management of storm water was the need to manage, harvest, reuse, and treat our storm water will be critical. This was linked to global warming, and the threat of increased rain or extreme rain events and increased hard surfaces. Many participants would like to see how the city can better use storm water for watering our public parks and gardens.

### **#8 – Playground and sports field maintenance**

Similar to green space and parks, participants noted the importance of our playgrounds and sports fields for all ages as our population living in apartments increases alongside an urbanising environment. It was noted that the playgrounds are good but the sports fields in the city are a problem with some people commenting that we need more as currently they are being overused and are full. Some participants also wanted to see a variety of uses that responds to who the community is and what they need, but specifically sport fields and playgrounds being important to young people.

### **#9 – Aquatic centres**

Residents noted the importance of pools to urban life, especially as demand and use of existing pools and beaches increases in nexus with our population. The ability to swim recognised as “one of the best health-giving sports”. Some Glebe residents pitched the idea for ocean baths on Blackwattle Bay, while some Green Square residents said they want pools because they don’t want to go to the beach.

### **#10 – Road maintenance**

The maintenance of roads was seen as important to our future city in order to ensure the safety of cyclists and pedestrians who may still use roadways, as well as for drivers, and particularly for driverless cars.

### **#11 – Street lighting and street furniture**

Street lighting and furniture was seen by residents as an important part of a future city for the same reasons that it is important in our city today: safety at night (and some emphasised especially for old people in terms of the need for street lighting and the need to take breaks between walking blocks).

### **#12 – Graffiti and Illegal dumping**

Graffiti and Illegal dumping, along with street lighting and street furniture was the lowest overall priority for our future city. Of the participants who commented on this future service - they said they would like to see more anti-graffiti materials used in the future and that the city’s illegal dumping situation is improved. Some residents note that while artistic graffiti can be engaging, illegal tagging is not.



### **#13- Rangers**

Redfern and Glebe session participants identified rangers as still being an important part of our future city services. However, there was a mixed opinion on whether the ranger function should be automated or remain as a job completed by humans. Arguments for robot rangers were based on technology's ability to increase efficiency and response times, while arguments for human rangers were on the basis that we will still need human interaction, a sense of safety, to ensure laws are enforced and empathy from our city rangers into the future (i.e. you can't reason or negotiate with a robot). One participant saw the role of rangers as becoming more about being social connectors / community liaison.

### **#14 – Venue management**

Venue management was seen as important (as well as all the services) but was the lowest overall priority for our future city based on the number of votes. Participants who identified venue management as a key priority for our future city spoke about the importance of the city retaining its current venues, improve the ease of hiring them, ensure they are responsive to changing community needs, and managed well. Some residents spoke about the importance of venues in high density areas – where people rely on places outside of the home to come together as a community and socialise.

## 5.2. Comparison of votes at each workshop

The top 2 or 3 most voted for topics in each workshop location have been highlighted in green in the table below. Park and green space maintenance received the most votes at Redfern, Green Square and East Sydney. Residential waste collection and recycling received the most votes at Glebe, the CBD and Ultimo

**Table 4: City Services Session Comparison Table**

	Glebe	Redfern	Green Square	East Sydney	CBD	Erskineville	Ultimo	Woolloomooloo	Total	%
Park and green space maintenance	32	18	21	30	13	8	7	21	150	18%
Residential waste collection and recycling	43	17	9	19	14	9	10	20	141	16%
Tree management – park and street trees	18	17	16	14	8	4	5	7	89	10%
Footpath and cycleway maintenance	19	16	10	10	5	11	3	8	82	10%
Street cleansing and street bins	14	4	7	6	7	2	7	25	72	8%
Public safety and local emergency planning	12	9	5	6	8	5	3	10	58	7%
Stormwater maintenance	9	9	11	6	7	4	5	5	56	7%
Playground and sports field maintenance	14	3	7	11	4	1	5	0	45	5%
Aquatic centres	17	2	5	4	5	1	3	1	38	4%
Road maintenance	16	3	3	3	1	0	3	1	30	4%
Street lighting and street furniture	5	2	3	1	3	2	3	7	26	3%
Graffiti removal and illegal dumping	5	3	2	1	2	2	1	10	26	3%
Rangers	14	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	22	3%
Venue management	5	2	0	5	4	2	1	1	20	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>100 %</b>

## 6. Activity 2 - future planning scenarios

---

The purpose of this activity was to create a discussion, and to seek support or otherwise, around possible future planning scenarios to inform the City's local strategic planning. Each participant could choose one card from a deck, read it to the group, and pose a question. The group was asked to vote whether **"yes absolutely"** they support the scenario happening in the City in the future, **"no way"** they don't support it, or **"not sure"** that's not happening here.

### 6.1. Emerging themes

Table 1 shows the votes for each of the future planning scenarios across all community sessions.

#### Scenarios that were supported:

- **A reduction in cars in our neighbourhoods** with 88% supporting future "car-lite" neighbourhoods (where there are no cars) and less cars on the streets in general. Participants also supported electric vehicle charging facilities in public space (80%). Following from this was a desire for more open streets where roads and lanes are closed to traffic and opened to pedestrians, events, and community activities. This was supported by 94% of participants.

Although there all neighbourhoods expressed desires for 'open streets', there was unanimous agreement in Redfern, Green square, while Ultimo and Woolloomooloo unanimously agreed with the future scenario of 'car-lite' suburbs.

- **Sharing spaces in buildings and on rooftops.** There was strong support for parks and recreation facilities on rooftops (86%), more rooftop urban farming (75%), shared communal spaces in apartment buildings (88%), and vertical schools with shared facilities (92%).
  - The neighbourhoods that shared the most excitement for rooftop urban farms were Glebe, East Sydney and Erskville, and while broadly supported, the CBD was the only neighbourhood that unanimously supported 'recreation in the sky'. The group that shared the most concerns around rooftop recreation and farming was the strata committee with comments from the included that they would 'rather have clothes lines' or solar panels, and a broad concern that these innovations would increase strata costs.
  - While utilising these otherwise empty spaces were supported, there was discussion that rooftop and shared facilities should not be in place of sufficient and quality public parks and facilities at ground level. Some participants were also concerned about how public facilities on rooftops

could be accessed, funded or managed and ensuring that future schools deliver increased community benefit and how strata fees would be impacted.

- Shared communal spaces in apartment buildings was supported by workshop participants across all of the sessions. People could see the need and opportunity for these spaces to cater to noisy activities such as music lessons, children’s activities, as well as bigger spaces for shared entertaining, socialising and social connection opportunities. Some people highlighted the need for these spaces to effectively manage noise (e.g. through soundproofing) and balance sound and use to be effective.
- There was less support for shared backyards (73%) with some participants concerned that this wouldn’t be safe, that it would be hard to manage and that while open to the idea of sharing still valued some degree of privacy. But others commenting that this already happens in Europe. Despite the concerns, this scenario was most popular in the CBD, followed by Green Square, potentially indicating that the highest density areas within the City are open to sharing new and innovate ways to access open space.
- Participants also frequently stated that they would also like to see solar panels on all new building rooftops, with some neighbourhoods offering this as an alternative option to urban farming.
- The MCA Young Ambassadors like the efficient use of shared communal space as it brings communities together, allows people to share their resources and it is better for the environment. They also liked urban farms on rooftops because the greenery helps to absorb pollution, cool buildings and beautify the city. It also provides opportunities for local food production within the city and gives people access to green space in an otherwise wasted spaced.
- **More diverse housing options for a range of households.** Participants agreed that the City has a definite role in managing a diverse housing supply. They were keen for the City to have a variety of different housing choices for the future, that housing is affordable for people and we need to look at a range of options on housing. 77% of participants supported co-living housing, 81% supported vertical living for seniors, and 86% supported apartments that were designed for children and families, including mandatory play spaces. However, only 67% supported tiny houses.
  - Participants expressed a desire to ensure that there is a range of housing types, designs, and affordability to enable a diverse mix of people to continue to live here. Those that didn’t support scenarios such as co-living and tiny houses, generally were concerned that housing quality and size shouldn’t need to be reduced to make it affordable for people to remain living here. Participants were also concerned that while housing is being built under the “affordable housing” schemes, it often is still unaffordable.
  - Co-living was broadly supported across the City, however the neighbourhoods that strongly supported the idea were Erskineville, Glebe and Ultimo. In these neighbourhoods there was discussion that co-living was a great intergenerational opportunity, breaking down social isolation and improving access to services, places of study and of work. Other neighbourhoods

discussed how the market will deliver this form of housing if people show demand for it. Other concerns included the need for strong regulation around number of beds allowed per room to avoid issues of overcrowding and compounding disadvantage.

- Tiny houses attracted a mixed response from participants. Of the people who supported tiny houses in principle – their support was conditional: that there would still be an appropriate mix of housing types and sizes, that they could only work in certain areas (this was predominately discussed at Woolloomooloo), that they would need to guarantee affordability, and they must be designed well. Reasons why people weren't supportive of this idea includes; believing that units are a more realistic dwelling type for City of Sydney (a dense and land scarce LGA), that tiny houses are the equivalent of modern trailer parks.
- Discussion around this planning scenario also focussed on the reality of more people (and families) living in apartments in the future, similar to many global European and Asian cities. In anticipation of apartment living becoming the norm – participants suggested establishing a minimum apartment size for families, and a diversity of housing that caters to a mixture of people and ages – not just students or single person households. There were also suggestions for child care to be provided within the building over a certain size and for these apartments to be near open space and parks.
- There was some concern about the idea of vertical living for seniors, not only for safety reasons and limited mobility in case of fire etc. but also because it's important that older people get to connect and be a part of the broader community rather than living in age-based silos.
- The MCA Young Ambassadors like co-living housing because it can bring people together, combat social isolation. and increase happiness. It can alleviate pressure on busy people and families by distributing responsibilities for cooking, childcare etc. Committee members think this could also work well for retirement villages.
- **A reduction in waste and addressing increasing heat.** Participants were aware of global warming and a need to change behaviours to mitigate and adapt to environmental changes, however there were diverse responses in the best ways to go about change.
  - 61% of participants supported the City employing strategies to reduce household waste creation (18% didn't support and 21% of people were unsure), including charging for waste in the future. However, participants felt that residents and businesses would need help to make this happen, and there would also need to be change at the supplier level (e.g. reduced packaging). Green square unanimously supported the idea of charging for waste, followed by strong responses in the CBD, Woolloomooloo and Strata Committee. People felt that just as they pay for water and electricity based on usage, those with smaller waste should not have to subsidise households with large amounts of waste. Ultimo unanimously disagreed with the idea of having to pay for waste. They felt that although waste is a problem for cities and that we are already paying for the environmental costs of landfill, there should be a different approach such as turning waste into energy, with a shared concern that charging for waste was an equality issue between those who could afford to pay and those who could not.



- Participants also supported concepts such as “public urban cool rooms” (84%) to provide public relief from the heat as our temperatures increase. Some people felt that the energy costs of running these would be counter intuitive and that there should also be stronger responses to climate change at the macro level so cool rooms are not needed. There was unanimous support in Ultimo for these cool respites followed by Glebe and Erskineville, with suggestions such as increased parks with water play.
- **Improved transport and transport-oriented development.** 65% of all participants supported transport-oriented development with 22% disagreeing and 13% were unsure. No neighbourhoods either unanimously agreed or disagreed with the scenario indicating that residents of the city are already highly engaged on issues relating to housing, and understanding the complexities and implications of high density living.
  - There was discussion around transit-oriented development, and if a new metro came through part of the city, the density that that would bring. There was strong recognition that transport is a very important part of our city and that the problem has been the failure to plan for it effectively. It was clear that we need to find the right places for density in the city.
  - Other comments from Erskineville included that transport-oriented development was an old-fashioned approach to planning and housing, and that instead of more housing being contingent on having more public transport options, more public transport should just be provided.
  - In the CBD neighbourhood specific concerns around the redevelopment of Waterloo was raised and that although investing in transport near housing is a good approach, there need to be the right motivations behind significant increases in density.
  - The MCA Young Ambassadors don’t see cars playing a dominant role in urban environments into the future, they think cars will continue to be a necessary and convenient option for some including families. However, the majority of committee members would like to see more use of public transport in the future.
- **Public place to connect: high street activation and libraries:** This was demonstrated through very strong support to retain our high streets to stay as place for social connection in our future city (96% supported), and less support for new types of public facilities such as bookless libraries (31% supported). Discussion included:
  - Do we need local business centres and high streets? Will high streets still place an important role in community life in the future? 96% of participants who responded to this scenario (85 people) said they agreed that our high streets should remain an important part of life in the future. They reflected on some reasons why high streets are currently suffering; parking demand, high rents, planning framework (e.g. the DA process), competition from big box shopping centres and buses/traffic and clearways impact the atmosphere (and ability) of the street and pleasantness of outdoor dining. Some of the key ingredients for a successful high street are viewed to be; character/a distinct personality, diversity, attractive to a range of ages, interests and cultures, a variety of shops and uses.

- It was generally agreed that high streets provide for social interaction, building community and social capital, meeting, shopping, convenience, walking, exercise, and act as the heart of a neighbourhood – one of the key contributors to that community's vibrancy.
  - Only 31% of participants supported the concept of bookless libraries with increased access to technology only, while 31% of participants were unsure. Participants were concerned about a loss of social connectivity and community cohesion if we become too dependent on technology in the future. Discussions in Erskineville also highlighted the 'romantic' quality of physical books and an importance in a physical connection.
  - There were a few discussions around what a future library might look like – including different types of spaces for meeting, learning and storytelling. For many people this idea of the future library still include books as a central component of the mix – Green Square Library was cited as an excellent example of the right mix between technology, space and books.
  - The MCA Young Ambassadors were concerned about the idea of bookless libraries as they don't want technology and books to be mutually exclusive. Committee members think there is inherent value in printed books and libraries as social connectors.
- **The ability of the City to balance the needs of late night music and performance venues and local neighbourhoods.** While the majority of participants (76%) agreed that the City could balance these two needs, there was concern that it would require strong management and improved onus of responsibility on new apartment owners (to sound proof their buildings) and the City to manage the behaviour of venues.
- East Sydney had the highest concerns with late night music venues with 32% of participants voting no (out of 28 participants) suggestions included moving activities to the commercial areas of the City such as the CBD and Barangaroo that the concentration of live music venues and associated drinking as an issue.
  - 30% of participants at Redfern voted no, and 30% of participants unsure (out of 13 participants). Of the people who voted no in Redfern it was discussed that it requires regulation and other cities such as London have pubs that shut at 10pm. Of those who voted yes in Redfern, it was acknowledged that while there can be issues with live music venues instead of shutting them down, we should instead focus on services that facilitate people getting home safely, and that it's important for young people and the character and culture of a place to have late night activity.
  - The MCA Young Ambassadors were supportive of having a vibrant night time economy and wanted to see more things to do at night in the City, including live music, festivals, markets, open air cinemas and multisensory accessibility concerts, there was limited awareness of the complexities of balancing the needs of residents and venues.

**Scenarios that were concerning:**

- **Population growth and capacity for the City to support increased population growth and density.**

There was concern that expected population growth will impact on the amenity of the current people who are living here who will suffer because of having to accommodate a lot of extra population growth. In particular, 44% of participants did not think the City had the capacity to support more tourists through increased Air BnBs, and 44% of participants did not support any further expansion of universities into local neighbourhoods. Discussion included:

  - In response to population growth, there was some scepticism about the broader metropolitan planning for Sydney with the view that finance and banking was on the east with logistics in the west, compounding social disadvantage and a desire to move to the east.
  - That the City already takes a big role in population growth, and location of large institutions, and that this growth could be shared in other LGAs. Some participants felt that there are a of suburbs and cities out there that could take up university expansion while others felt that it was good for the economy. There was some scepticism about the broader metropolitan planning for Sydney with the view that finance and banking was on the east with logistics in the west, compounding social disadvantage.
  - While 44% of participants did not think the City had the capacity to support more tourists through increased Air Bnbs, this scenario also attracted the highest proportion of people who said they were unsure or in-between (37%). Discussion points included the desire to maintain and attract tourism while maintaining rental properties for locals, while other people expressed concern for the lack of responsibility and consideration tourists may have when staying in private residential areas.
  - Broad support for the City taking a role in addressing the needs of people impacted by climate change (such as climate refugees) but some felt the City could provide resources rather than housing. Reasons for supporting climate refugees were that the City has adequate resources and employment opportunities to be supportive of these people. Reasons for being undecided or unsupportive were around concerns about overcrowding and strains on infrastructure. Regional centres were cited as a possible solution, however a participant pointed out that we already have internal climate refugees from regional Australia.
- **How new technologies, such as drones, would impact the community.** Only 26% of participants supported drone deliveries in the future, with concerns that they would cause congestion in the sky but also would have impacts on privacy, particularly in high density neighbourhoods. Support of drones however was highest in Redfern with 62% of participants supporting drone delivery (out of 8 participants) and 31% of 16 Strata residents supporting the idea. However despite the higher than average support in the neighbourhood of Redfern and across Strata residents, discussion still raised the dislike of congestion in the sky, with small ground-based drones preferred. The MCA Young Ambassadors felt that drones would create air pollution and a 'cluttered sky' but there could also be a huge issue and there would be security issues with people intercepting packages.

**Table 5 Votes for future planning scenarios**

SUMMARY	YES		NO		UNSURE		TOTAL
Unexpected climate migration	10	77%	1	8%	2	15%	13
Expected population growth	41	47%	29	33%	18	20%	88
University expansion	40	30%	59	44%	35	26%	134
Co-living housing	117	77%	19	13%	16	11%	152
Collaborative business precincts	54	89%	3	5%	4	7%	61
Car-lite neighbourhoods	86	88%	8	8%	4	4%	98
Electric vehicle charging facilities	93	80%	13	11%	10	9%	116
Public "Urban Cool Rooms"	80	84%	8	8%	7	7%	95
Bookless libraries with access to technology	31	31%	37	37%	31	31%	99
Vertical communities for seniors	84	81%	13	13%	7	7%	104
Urban farms	96	75%	18	14%	14	11%	128
Drone deliveries	31	18%	84	48%	60	34%	175
Shared backyard	68	73%	17	18%	8	9%	93
More tourists	11	19%	25	44%	21	37%	57
"Click and Collect" Grocery pick up points	22	24%	40	43%	31	33%	93
Apartments designed for families and children	54	86%	7	11%	2	3%	63
Open Streets	80	94%	2	2%	3	4%	85
Tiny houses	56	67%	15	18%	13	15%	84
Late night music and performance venues	110	76%	26	18%	8	6%	144
Recreation in the sky	74	86%	8	9%	4	5%	86
Vertical schools with shared facilities	12	92%	1	8%	0	0%	13
Shared communal spaces in apartment buildings	97	88%	7	6%	6	5%	110
Transport oriented development	59	65%	20	22%	12	13%	91
Waste	64	61%	19	18%	22	21%	105
High Street Decline	85	96%	2	2%	2	2%	89

## 7. MCA Young Ambassadors Workshop

---

A workshop was held with the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) Young Ambassador Committee on 27 March 2019 from 4.30pm to 5.30pm. Around 10 committee members were in attendance.

### **What makes the City of Sydney special?**

Youth committee members highlighted a number of special things about the City of Sydney, including:

- The natural environment, including the harbour, trees, parks and beaches (5 comments)
- A vibrant and interesting creative ecosystem, including art and music, and the galleries and institutions that support this (3 comments)
- Our cultural diversity (3 comments)
- Our functional and beautiful built environment, including the bridge and opera house (2 comments)
- Forward thinking
- Food choices, and
- The opportunities it presents.

### **What excites you about the future of the City of Sydney?**

Youth committee members said they are excited about a range of things in the future, including:

- Technological advances (6 comments)
- Personal development, including owning a house, having a family, growing a career, going travelling, more stability in life (6 comments)
- Increasing accepting and inclusive society (4 comments)
- Renewable energy (3 comments)
- More community involvement and connection (2 comments)
- Seeing how the city evolves and develops into the future (e.g. the three-city model) (2 comments)
- Improved social scene and night life, including pill testing (2 comments)
- Improved public transport throughout the city, and
- More safe and green spaces.



### What concerns you about the future of the City of Sydney?

Youth committee members said they are concerned about a range of things in the future, including:

- Climate change and pollution of the natural environment (12 comments)
- Increasing cost of living and housing (8 comments)
- Loss of green space to development (4 comments)
- Transport issues and getting around in the City (e.g. pollution, congestion and price of transport) (3 comments)
- The state of the economy and job availability (2 comments)
- Government and over-policing (2 comments)
- Liveability and increasing urban density (2 comments)
- Accessibility for people with disability, and
- What development in Barangaroo will look like, including corporatisation of the urban environment.

### Future neighbourhood scenarios

Youth committee members supported the following future neighbourhood scenarios:

- **Shared communal space in apartment buildings** because this is an efficient use of urban space, it brings communities together, it allows people to share their resources and it is better for the environment.
- **Communal backyards** because this allows people living in apartments to access green space and produce their own food, which may be particularly beneficial for people from lower socioeconomic backgrounds.
- **Urban farms on residential rooftops** because rooftops are wasted space and greenery helps to absorb pollution, cool buildings and beautify the city. It provides opportunities for local food production within the city and gives people access to green space.
- **Co-living housing** because this can bring people together, combat social isolation and increase happiness. It can alleviate pressure on busy people and families by distributing responsibilities for cooking, childcare etc. Committee members think this could also work well for retirement villages.
- **Electric car charging spaces.** While some were unsure about this scenario due to a lack of knowledge about the issue, the majority were supportive because this would incentivise people to invest in electric cars. However, the majority of committee members would like to see more use of public transport in the future.

Youth committee members were unsure about the following future neighbourhood scenarios:

- **Waste collection** because they don't think this will stop people from illegal dumping or change wasteful behaviours by community members or businesses. Committee members think that people who earn more money should have to pay more for their waste and think illegal dumping could be addressed through stricter regulation.
- **Tiny houses** because they think this may be claustrophobic and impact negatively on health and wellbeing, especially for families and those wishing to live and work in the same space. Committee members highlighted the importance of providing a diversity of housing options for people in the community - if people want to live in tiny houses they should be able to.
- **Bookless libraries with tech** because while they like the idea of having access to tech such as 3D printers and virtual reality, they don't want technology and books to be mutually exclusive. Committee members think there is inherent value in printed books and libraries as social connectors.
- **Neighbourhoods without cars** because while the majority of committee members don't see cars playing a dominant role in urban environments into the future, they think cars will continue to be a necessary and convenient option for some including families.
- **University expansion.** While the majority of committee members think that university expansion provides opportunities for the community as a whole through the provision of shared facilities such as libraries and sporting facilities, some highlighted concerns over the increasingly commercialisation of universities, over infringement on local communities. They also emphasized that there should be more focus on the benefits of TAFE, not just university.
- **Late night.** While committee members were supportive of having a vibrant night time economy and wanted to see more things to do at night in the City, including live music, festivals, markets, open air cinemas and multisensory accessibility concerts, there was limited awareness of the complexities of balancing the needs of residents and venues.
- **Public urban cool rooms** because they were concerned that cool rooms would waste water and do not address the underlying issue of climate change. Committee members highlighted a need for the equitable distribution of cool rooms across the city.
- **Drone delivery** because they think regulating air traffic and air pollution would be a huge issue and there would be security issues with people intercepting packages.

## 8. Strata Residents Workshop

---

### Activity 1: Excited/Concerned

**Strata residents** were most excited about having a **quality integrated and active transport network** (22%) including carbon free transport, electric cars and even potential of using air space for travel (like the old monorail). People felt positive and excited about 2050 leading to “*amazing solutions*”. Under the theme **better facilities, services and infrastructure** people spoke about how they were looking forward to the city being no longer “*under construction*” and “*seeing the streetscape in ultimo finally looking complete*”. Under the theme **vibrant liveable and creative** theme (14%), people spoke about “*more schools open to weekend marks to bring people together*” and “*community activities within strata*” such as gardening, walking book club and social integration. Being a connected, generous and diverse city (11%) and the use of technology and innovation (8%) were the other top things that strata residents were excited about when thinking about 2050.

### Activity 2: Services

- For strata residents ‘residential waste collection and recycling received the highest number of votes (13 votes; 25%). Participant’s cited reasons behind this as increased waste with increase in population, and a decline in other countries accepting Australian waste. They also discussed the high turnover of tenants in strata units and the associated high levels of waste when furniture etc. gets left behind when it instead can be recycled. Hygiene as also considered to be a significant issue, especially as the city gets hotter by 2050.
- The second most voted for service was ‘public safety and local emergency planning’ (8 votes; 15%). Discussion around thinking about new ways to manage emergencies – especially if people are living in taller buildings, and the need to ensure that people feel safe walking home through the city, especially if Sydney wants to function as a 24-hour city. Traffic safety was also cited as a significant concern with solutions including one-way streets and traffic lights. While the strata residents also acknowledging that as the city becomes more multicultural there will be a need for more signage in different languages, touch screens in other languages to find out information.
- ‘Stormwater and maintenance (4; 7.7%) tied with ‘Park and green space maintenance’ (4 votes; 7.7%) in third place.

### Activity 3: Future neighbourhood scenarios

Strata residents supported the following future neighbourhood scenarios:

- **Co-living housing** because it would suit the needs of students, however some people were opposed saying that while good in principle “not for seniors (us)”
- **Shared communal spaces** because there are increasingly more pets in buildings with a need to take them somewhere outside and close to get out of the apartment. Participants also raised that while this is need, it needs to be planned from the design-phase of a residential building, rather than retro-fitted
- **Car-lite neighbourhoods** because owning or driving a car in the city isn’t necessary
- **Vertical communities for seniors** because older people tend to get pushed out of the city, despite needing hospital services in the inner city, however there are safety concerns around what would happen in emergencies if older people cannot walk down fire stairs. The need to create more housing alternatives for seniors to downsize was also raised, however some participants felt that there was also an opportunity to integrate childcare facilities and support intergenerational interaction and activities.
- **Recreation in the sky** because buildings with trees will help combat heat, however some participants also cited concerns regarding waterproofing costs and the subsequent impact on strata fees. They noted that solar panels on roofs was a potentially better solution.
- **Open streets** because there is the opportunity to activate streets through activities such as markets
- **More development around transport** as long as it doesn’t overshadow open space provision, and as long as there is no overdevelopment. Parking was also raised as a concern in this scenario.
- **Charging for waste** because there is a need to incentivise people to re-use or re-cycle rather than throwing it away

Strata residents were unsure about the following future neighbourhood scenarios:

- **More tourist Airbnb stays** because although it is important for tourists to come to the city and have a place to stay, it was not considered appropriate in strata/residential settings. Some participants were strongly opposed stating “no way”, or “not in our building”.
- **University expansion** because they felt that there were enough inner city and there should be more universities in regional areas
- **Urban farms on rooftops** were considered too problematic, especially to be handled within the framework of strata. Some people stated that they would prefer to have basic needs met like washing lines.

## 9. Neighbourhood Character Wall

The aim of this activity was to understand what makes the city's local areas unique and special (and the attributes that should be protected in planning for these future places) and the type of place character that people would like to see in those places in the future.

The City of Sydney team defined 10 areas for the purposes of this activity. Each of these areas were set up on an A1 board and placed at an activity station at all of the listening sessions. Participants were incited to individually write their response to the following 4 questions, at any point during the sessions:

- *What is the personality of your local centre?*
- *What is unique about your neighbourhood that you want to preserve?*
- *What makes this area special?*
- *What do you want your local area to be like in 2050?*

The boards were taken to every listening session, which resulted in a cumulative list of responses for each of the local areas. A summary of the responses is provided in the following tables.

### 9.1. Glebe

What is unique about Glebe that you want to preserve?		Thinking about Glebe in the future... How would you describe its personality?	
Heritage, including built environment and historical significance	14	Quirky and green	6
Quiet streets with little through traffic - a safe place for people to walk and ride	8	Gentle, active, friendly, arty	4
Glebe foreshore	7	Friendly and peaceful	4
Multicultural	6	Heritage and green (forest lodge)	4
Low density - "save the village"	5	Welcoming	3
Live music & restaurants	3	A mixed-use area other than community centre	3
Access to water, good transport, dog off leash areas, parkland	3	Laidback + friendly	3
Eclectic population - not gentrification	3	Family friendly	3
Expression of locals (arts housing policy)	2	Down to earth	1



Love having the YHA		Vegetarian	1
Wood St Park		Uninhibited	1
Youth backpackers		Familiar	
Bidura		No more alcohol late night venues needed so everyone can sleep	
Neighbourhood pubs as local institutions			

What makes this area special?		What do you want this area to be like by 2050	
I like this area becoming a place attracting the people and is safe		Safe	4
In 2050 full of good buildings		Green	4
Bike shop		Trees	4
That most services/facilities/necessary shops are available by walking		Reuse	1
Glebe Youth Centre		Recycle	3
A peaceful promontory		Water	?
Book shops and university students/staff		Community	
Terrace houses		Parks	3
		Services	
		Diversity	3
		Same as it is now	2
		Big library	
		Vibrant Arts	1
		Cleaner	

## 9.2. Pyrmont

What is unique about Pyrmont that you want to preserve?		Thinking about Pyrmont in the future... How would you describe its personality?	
Maritime history	2	Communal - welcoming	2
Fish markets - don't gentrify too much	2	Airy, spacious, freedom	2
Low rise buildings	2	Good open air walks	1
Walks around water	2	Not feel like in the heart of the city of high rise	1
Access to water + sunlight + low rise	2		
Star casino	1		
History wharves and piers	1		
Families			
Sunlight			

What makes this area special?		What do you want this area to be like by 2050	
Residential community		Safe	2
Trees		Less cars/ more green areas	
Heritage, including built environment and historical significance of Sydney	3	Connected bike paths	
Waterfront		Rainbow crossing	
Village atmosphere		Healthy	
Community space internal and external		Community based	
Walkable		Open to all	
Designed from scratch (Jackson's Landing)		No more condensed than now	

### 9.3. Ultimo and Chippendale

What is unique about Ultimo and Chippendale that you want to preserve?		Thinking about Ultimo and Chippendale in the future... How would you describe its personality?	
Village feel with parks, friendly neighbours and cafes etc	3	Diverse - students, artists, families, young people and ... hopefully more seniors too. It's currently a young demographic.	4
The warehouses in Ultimo/broadway are like New York	3	Village feel	3
Mixed use area	3	Friendly	2
The concentration of small art galleries dotted around	2	Creative	1
Proximity to 3 universities & TAFE - great education opportunities	2	Vibrant	1
Street art	2	Streets for walking	1
Maintaining small parks and local amenities including our community centre and pubs	2	Unique feel	
Varied architecture (Victorian terraces and cubic form)	2	Eclectic, mixed, diverse	
Chippendale - diverse neighbourhood			
Heritage precinct - east side Chippendale			

What makes this area special?	What do you want this area to be like by 2050		
Improve the condition of table tennis area. Is it possible to put some tables down stairs, so people can play inside? Outside area the conditions too basic.		Safe	1
Having mass, Ian Thorpe, Aquatic Centre, Wentworth Park and Darling Harbour etc.		Convenience	
Chinese residential next to Chinatown		Clean	1
Beams festival		No pollution	

Good CBD transport network connecting to other parts of the city		Vibrant	4
Not much		Greener	
		Cheaper	
		Less development	
		CCTV	
		Train line	
		Library	
		Less ugly	
		Residential	
		Community	
		Trees	
		Heritage Properties	

## 9.4. Erskineville, St Peters and Alexandria

What is unique about Erskineville, St Peters and Alexandria that you want to preserve?		Thinking about Erskineville, St Peters and Alexandria in the future... How would you describe its personality?	
Village feel with bars, cafes, food nooks choices	6	Small business hubs	2
Sydney Park	5	Urban renewal / reimagining spaces	2
Quiet streets	4	Pedestrian & public transport friendly	2
Leafy	3	Dynamic	1
Australian technology park	3	Entrepreneur	1
Bar, café, food choice	2	Magnetic cars	
Diversity of density, age of buildings, populations, lots of industry	2	More play activation	
Heritage buildings e.g. Alexandria brickworks	2	Inclusive	
Low rise	2	Compact	
Mix of commercial (in light industry) + Residential (medium density) + Recreation (day and night) creates an interesting friction	1		
Connected	1		
Actual houses			
Friendly vendors			



What makes this area special?		What do you want this area to be like by 2050	
Bunnings		Safe	3
Sydney Park	1	Less people	1
Lots of dog parks		More public transport	2
Village vibe	2	Happier	1
No more shops than present!		More equal	
Cycle hub		No adult cycle riders on footpaths!	
Close to everything		Cleaner	
Great café choices		Affordable	1
Inclusive and diverse		Diverse	
Great train access	2	More cycling/cycle ways	2
No "unsafe separated cycle ways" that cause serious injury		Library	
Great buses		Less industrial looking	
Can walk everywhere	2	Greener	3
Plenty of trees	2	Less traffic	2
I know my neighbours		Less cars	
Green + wildlife		Fix Pinkstone Playground	
Well balanced density		Good amenity	
Good amenity		Diverse entertainment/food	
Build a pedestrian link (footbridge/tunnel) across Princes Highway to St Peters station for safety			
It is safe because we can look after each other			
PACT centre for emerging artists			
Congestion in hundreds of apartments is an issue			

## 9.5. Newtown & Darlington

What is unique about Newtown & Darlington that you want to preserve?		Thinking about Newtown & Darlington in the future... How would you describe its personality?	
The delightful mix of weird and wonderful residents	8	In your face	6
Cafes and bars need to spill out into squares and public spaces	6	A thriving high street supported by its community	5
Stop Uni of Syd building - ugly boxes (esp. student residences). Awful! Thomas More is ugly too. How did it get approved?	5	Yes, love the diverse shopping	4
A thriving nightlife	4	Less cars more bikes	4
Cafes on footpath often block pedestrian traffic		Hip, connected, walkable	
		Friendly and totally accepting of everyone.	
		Relaxed, safe, friendly	
		Diversity and acceptance	
		Supports and celebrates the arts	
		Green organic goof	
		Community gardens as public spaces	
		Supportive to homeless people	
		Independent and liberal (not in the political sense)	

What makes this area special?		What do you want this area to be like by 2050	
Gay Sydney Uni students		Safe	3
Swimming pool		Greener	4
Vibrant King St	2	Less traffic	5
No McDonalds		More affordable house prices	3
Trendy and accepting		Sustainable	
Multicultural		Less pollution/noise	1
Student and young people		24/7 public transport	1
Festivals		Not gentrified	
RPA Hospital for cycleway crash victims			
Creativity and diversity/smiling faces	2		
Sadly we have a lot of Koori's begging - how can the council better support them?			
Newtown neighbourhood centre			
Art and music	3		
Independent businesses encourage work			
Dendy			
Can walk to lots of culture			

## 9.6. Green Square, Rosebery, Beaconsfield and Zetland

What is unique about Green Square, Rosebery, Beaconsfield and Zetland that you want to preserve?		Thinking about Green Square, Rosebery, Beaconsfield and Zetland in the future... How would you describe its personality?	
Mixed use - industry, commercial, residential	3	Overcrowded - need more transport	8
Green Square Library	3	To develop a unique personality "some grit"	1
Diverse population	1	Diversity - spaces and people	1
Historical character	1	Friendly and community oriented	1
The ability to have historical based housing mixed with more dense uses	1	Evolving - finding itself	
Chance to walk, public transport everywhere	1	Lively, energised, active	
Trees of Joynton Avenue - don't cut any more down	1		
Walkable scale	1		
Combination of live, work, social, recreational			

What makes this area special?		What do you want this area to be like by 2050	
Community centre e.g. indoor ping pong as table tennis centre as well		A community centre by 2015	1
Green environment - many many trees in Green Square, Rosebery, Beaconsfield and Zetland		Safe	1
Having electrical power stations for electrical car - fill battery		More public transport	5
Free of the scourge of the light rail		More parking	1
The Cannery		More light and better lighting in Joynton Park	2
Young families and diversity		Do something about Botany Rd	1
Green Square library		Open hour library	
Dog ownership (responsible) → fosters community		More shopping centre, groceries and restaurants	
		Clean (no littering)	
		Post office	

## 9.7. Potts Point, Woolloomooloo, Darlinghurst & Kings Cross

What is unique about Potts point, Woolloomooloo & Darlinghurst that you want to preserve?		Thinking about Potts point, Woolloomooloo & Darlinghurst in the future... How would you describe its personality?	
Long Torres Strait Islander Aboriginal history	2	A village with an engaged community	3
Affordable housing	2	United, engaged, contributing, happy, natural gardens, herbs, natural permaculture and flowers, joyful, colourful, naturally awake	3
Social housing	2	Developers should be kept under control	3
Historical well-constructed buildings	2	Family friendly	2
Scale of building historic houses park maintenance	2	Friendly	2



Injecting room - turned out to be a very good idea, no syringes on my doorstep any more	2	Alive	2
Need "better" nightlife	1	Fun	2
Close community + diverse	1	Heritage	1
The vibe man	1	More public housing / low cost housing across Sydney, too many homeless on the streets - what do international visitors think?	1
Bohemian	1	Dense and green	1
It's pretty and casual while super accommodating		Diverse	
Unaffordable		Creative + bohemian + hedonistic heart of Sydney	
Lots of NGO support		Kids can play in the street unsupervised	
High proportion low income			
Trees destroying rate payers properties / Rubbish, rats and ibis birds / no street names / Poorly maintained public housing			

What makes this area special?		What do you want this area to be like by 2050	
Used to be nightlife		Safe	7
Navy base		Greener	10
Hyde Park		Less traffic	5
Music history		Less development	5
LGBTIQ history and future		Cleaner and rubbish free	3
Diverse/ social diversity	2	Re-opened	8
Interesting		Connected bike paths	5
History		Save heritage listed buildings	10
Location Location Location	3	Prosecute loud buskers	1

Young families		Less noise	1
Terraces		Inclusive	5
Eclectic people		Affordable	4
Vibrant		Pleasant	2
Lots of trees and garden beds	4	Ferry to Woolloomooloo	8
Great restaurants, cafes, small bars		Keep residential amenity	
Waterview's		More family friendly	2
Great green, open spaces		Diverse	2
Great architecture		Not a retirement village	
		Vibrant	5
		Bring back the nightlife	6
		Control backpackers	3
		More parking	
		Better transport/ less cars, more trams	3
		Activated and exciting	
		More leisure/activities	
		Ferry from Woolloomooloo to Manly, and Taronga Zoo and towards Parramatta	

## 9.8. CBD North & South

What is unique about CBD North & South that you want to preserve?		Thinking about CBD North & South in the future... How would you describe its personality?	
Beautiful heritage buildings	5	Vibrant night life / night time economy	10
Ability to live without a car	5	Cafes to stay open later than 3pm!!	4
It is still a "settlement" - not a Hong Kong	1	Allow people to live in the city without the bass from 24hr disco keeping you awake with boom and vibrations!!!	3
Low rise buildings near parks	1	Priority to pedestrians . keep to the left on pavements	3
Preservation of a village atmosphere		Families, sunlight, water access	2
Hustle and bustle - busiest locale in Australia		I'd like it to be diverse	1
Don't want to preserve - boring, dull, grey pacing - check out Barcelona!		Bicycle lanes	1
It's beauty, clean, green - the smartest, best city in Australia!		I'd like it to be diverse	1
Tourist friendly - a city to enjoy		A vibrant space for people (without risk of drunken violence)	1
We need to keep our city green and clean		Great events and cultural activities / free activities (concerts, movies etc)	
		Affordable housing	
		More life on weekends	
		Green, breezy	

What makes this area special?		What do you want this area to be like by 2050	
Urban Buzz - 24hr?		Safe	4
Public transport to go anywhere	2	Less cars	5
Work place		No cars except deliveries	2
Light Rail		More cycle ways and bicycle lanes	6
Places to go out e.g. Basement (revived!)		Less busy	1
Multiple options on my doorstep		Disabled (accessibility)	1
Access to the arts quay gardens		More green space	3
Vibrant nightlife to compete with Melbourne CBD		Ferry at Woolloomooloo	2
		More busy	1
		Vibrant nightlife	3
		More pedestrian areas	
		Diverse architecture	
		Cleaner	
		Town Hall Square	

## 9.9. Surry Hills and Paddington

What is unique about Surry Hills and Paddington that you want to preserve?		Thinking about Surry Hills and Paddington in the future... How would you describe its personality?	
Village atmosphere	5	Green	4
Beautiful Victorian Terraces	4	Politically active	3
Trees, raingardens, pocket parks	4	Friendly	2
Proximity to entertainment (pubs, theatre)	4	Mixed use (industry, commercial, residential)	1
Small streets	3	Multicultural	1
Very walkable	2	Vibrant	1
Community gardens & verges	2	The ultimate urban village	1
Human scale	1	Active street landscapes	
Diversity	1	Bold	
Affordable housing	1	Aware	
Diversity of people and business	1	Diverse	
Beautiful library that is also central		Affordable housing	
		Mixed use	
		Frisky	

What makes this area special?		What do you want this area to be like by 2050	
Fashion designers		Safe and safe places	2
Old pubs		More amenities e.g. libraries, extended library hours, more activities at the library	2
Architectural heritage and history/ Indigenous history	2	Less congestion	1
Terrace houses		More public artworks	1
Keep green spaces and large trees		Better Oxford St	



It is where I live and it is dog friendly		Car free pedestrian/ bike streets	
		Keep the old houses/ too many apartments is a problem	
		More trees and benches	
		More presentable Cleveland St	

## 9.10. Redfern and Waterloo

What is unique about Redfern and Waterloo that you want to preserve?		Thinking about Redfern and Waterloo in the future... How would you describe its personality?	
Low rise structures with community feel	5	Community feel needs to be maintained !!!	3
Aboriginal community	5	Community activities	2
Remaining heritage buildings	4	Keep low rise open space	2
Socioeconomic, cultural, ethnic diversity	4	Dog-friendly	1
Still has some small local shops	3	A socially acceptable "social mix"	1
Trees	3	A cross-class blend of social and private	1
The open accessible green space	1	Green (without crime)	1
Opportunities to meet local neighbours	1	Keep space between high rise + set backs for more green space	
Our Lady of Mount Carmel School + Church community	1	Active - healthy	
Car sharing availability	1	A unique and historical village	
Opportunities to meet local neighbours	1	Threatened by Sydney University	
Places where people from diverse backgrounds can meet e.g. 107 projects	1	One of the most walkable suburbs in the world!!!	
Welcoming businesses that offer something different (The Dock)	1	Quirky restaurants, bars, cafes	
Long term residential community strength + support for each other		The centre of Aboriginal Australia	

		Stroller/wheelchair friendly at traffic lights / pedestrian crossings - Not on diagonal as are now.	
--	--	---	--

What makes this area special?		What do you want this area to be like by 2050	
It's a vibrant community		Safe	
Aboriginal central	2	Affordable housing	5
Bike track		Lived in	
Abundance of specialist services for Aboriginal people	2	Gardens and trees, Redfern Park	2
Established supported communities within social housing blocks		Compost bins for all households	1
Nice		Less racism	3
Disability support		Green, diverse and vibrant	3
Services for cycle crash victims		More public transport	3
More gardens and trees		CCTV	
Bike lanes are beautiful		Injection room	
Friendly and welcoming	2	Trendy but still Indigenous	2
People look out for each other		Height restrictions on buildings	
		Consideration for older pedestrians by cyclists on footpaths and cycleways	
		Stop dumping rubbish	
		Stop Airbnb	
		Do not cut trees for widening road on Lachlan St	
		More restaurants, build another 'The Cannery' in Waterloo	
		We need another light rail station	

# **Attachment J**

**I Am Sydney**



CITY OF SYDNEY  

# I am Sydney

A collection of citizens stories

# Coonnects

Cover image: 'I am Sydney' workshop, 9 February 2019.  
Photographer Damian Shaw. Copyright City of Sydney



# Contents

1.	Forward	4
2.	Tracks to the Still Places	5
3.	Sydney Park	8
4.	That night, 2016	9
5.	More than the Opera House!	11
6.	The Future of Sydney	13
7.	Heart	23
8.	Hope	24
9.	Memories	25
10.	Positivity	26
11.	One step back, two steps forward	27
12.	Reflecting on Inner City Life	29
13.	Someone's idea of a beautiful future!	31
14.	My new home	43
15.	Renewal	45
16.	Past - Present - Future	48
17.	Time to stop and listen	53
18.	What Happened?	54
19.	The Buzz of George Street	55
20.	The Plant Tube	65
21.	All's Changed 'Cept the Sky	69
22.	Our Place	71
23.	Sydney through the eyes of a taxi driver	73
24.	Bronx the Redfern Dog	75
25.	There is an Elephant beneath our city	77
26.	Time to let go	78
27.	Friday Night	79

*The stories written by the 'I am Sydney' participants and any supporting images provided by the participants are documented herein. The views expressed in this booklet are those of the individual participants.*

# 1. Forward

## I am Sydney – a collection of stories about you and your city

Over two weekends in February 2019, a small group of people came together to capture the friendship, passion, heartache and humour of Sydney, in writing.

The 'I am Sydney' project was a collaboration between the City of Sydney and the Story Factory and it marked the start of an extensive community consultation program undertaken to support the development of a new plan for Sydney to 2050.

Providing support for a diverse group of citizens with a connection to Sydney to tell their own stories about the City set the scene for an inclusive consultation program where many voices were heard.

Participants ranged in ages from 8 to 80. Some came along with friends and family to work on their creative projects together. Others bravely came as individuals with a passion to share their personal story.

As well as their works in a variety of genres, they also all wrote an 'I am Sydney' poem. These poems capture the day-to-day experiences of Sydney – the smells, sounds, food, frustrations, times, places and passions. For the last line, people were asked for three things they most value about Sydney.

We hope you enjoy these wonderful works written by the people of our city.



## 2. Tracks to the Still Places

### Jennifer Lewis

There is coffee shop work: before work, after work,  
or in spaces in a park with a blanket and thermos.

These are places to let my mind wander.

I have tracks to go there: down laneways, quickly  
across busy roads, slowly down shady paths;

Past people playing quidditch, practising martial  
arts, dancing to cassette music with coloured  
drums, practising yoga.

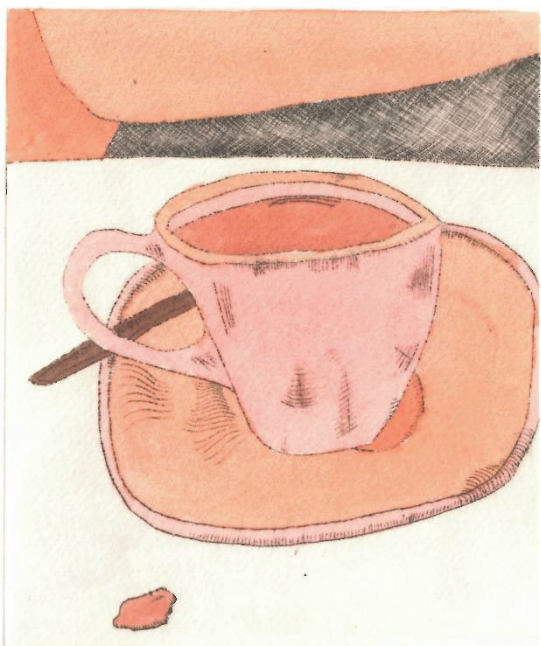
And I arrive.

I settle in.

I settle down.

Waiting at the wharf, I watch light flicker on the  
ripples; and vanish in the splash of ferry surge.  
I think of Slessor: 'Between the double and the  
single bell of a ship's hour...'

But I've lost the words. Can I read 'Five Bells'  
somewhere at Circular Quay?



IV/IV MISHA'S FOR BREAKFAST, I "RAMBO" INSTEAD  
OF DINNER - EVEN MY CUP HAS MUSCLES! JL



IV/IV "ABC at risk, huh!... What if it is?..." JL



II  
IV It is the 40th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima JL

It was late when we brought them back from the west that night. We drove past the place where the cafe used to be, near Central.

We bought tickets.

Waiting for their trains they decided to polish off the rest of the tins in the bus.

Gulping down food, kicking around the empties.

'Hey! Don't let those things go over the edge! There's people down there!'

'No, miss. Sorry, miss. Where's the bin, miss?'

'Over there. Thanks, Jack.'

'Hey, Benny, stop messing around! Come over here and have a look...'

There used to be a cemetery there, and those buildings to the left, they were markets.'

'How d'you know, miss? Can't see nuthin' now.'

Every Anzac Day I go to the parade, and think about my uncles, who fought south of the Philippines;

And my grandfather, who fought earlier, on the western front;

And my mother, marching at night on icy roads in Katoomba, with the Reserve.

At school one day, we learnt 'Boys of the Old Brigade', and I came home, singing it through the house.

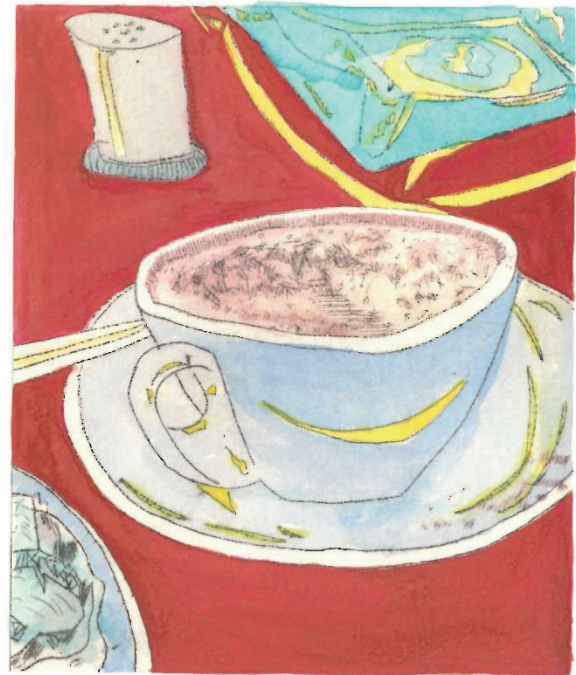
Mum hadn't heard it since her father, shell-shocked, sang it around their house at The Entrance, with his mates.

'Lest We Forget'





III/IV I'M LOOKING FOR WORK BUT THE AGENCIES ARE FUN JL



I/I "hm, hm, ... yes but with the film industry 22. SMALL so it is in Australia, ... hm, hm" JL

In the Botanical Gardens the trees have been given their Latin names.

In Redfern, in public spaces, the trees have not yet been given their Gadigal names.

It was funny, on the trip up north.

We couldn't pull in to shore: the sea grass caught around our motor.

We waved, but there was no movement. Then, after a while, a couple of people came out. They wandered to the end of the wharf and looked at us.

Meanwhile, in our boat, Dilly, looking at them looking at us, and started: 'There was a movement at the station, for the word had got around...'

Then Janine picked it up, then Bill and Elly.

And there we all were, back in third class, with sunlight drifting down on the chalk dust.

# 3. Sydney Park

**We walked to the hill in the park, looked at the city lights and kissed forever.**

**Belinda Norman**

The park on the dump. The park on the kangaroo grounds. So many feet have walked this ground – grass and trees now over the layers of daily lives. Whose stories are told in the collection of discarded objects under our feet? Toys, broken dishes, what vintage dresses made and designed in Australia lay buried? When does the strata of plastic begin?

My ancestors lived in Tempe, Newtown and Enmore – what persists of their lives in these soils?

There are so many windows into my world that can be looked through from this place.

My first ever visit to Sydney Park lay buried deep in memory like the garbage and the Aboriginal narratives of this place, to emerge on our bus trip last week. I was 23 years old and in love for the first time. He came to my door in Stanmore and we walked down King Street to Sydney Park. He wore an army jacket and a number one haircut. We walked to the hill in the park, looked at the city lights and kissed forever.

I love the brick towers and that the clay of Sydney Park lives on in the homes of Sydney. This park has a special ability to reach out and connect us, providing bricks for our homes and swallowing our rubbish, connecting Sydney through generations in ways we don't see.

My friend lives on the edge of Sydney Park and likes to jog there in the mornings. Last year she had

a crisis and one afternoon she messaged me to come to the park quickly with beers. We sat on the side of the hill sipping beers in the shadow of the towers, I cracked dried leaves between my fingers and listened to her broken heart. We've both been here before.

How many tales of broken hearts have been told, or swallowed or exercised clean in this park? What heartbreak did Gadigal women share, and still share on this country? We need these gathering places.

The park offers views into things that trouble me about our city, our nation and our world. The horrors of late modern capitalism are written on this landscape too, WestConnex growling at the edges, devouring trees and precious parkland, embracing the park in traffic snarls and pollution. This is not what our communities want – whose interest does this development serve?

Tent and tarpaulin cities extend out from the doorways and sheltered coves under the brick towers, until their inhabitants are removed and moved on. There are winners and losers in this city. Surely we can work out a way where everyone can get what they need to live well?

# 4. That night, 2016

**Up here, the dark sky above us,  
we're united. We're Sydney.**

**George Lancaster**

Walking down King Street near midnight. Air still warm, humid. Music pumps from the Marly, the Townie. Finally the Botany Hotel. Passersby have changed since the Kings Cross lockdown. Younger, louder, roaming in packs. Not sensing danger, really, but starting to think twice about this idea.

At the St Peters end the footpath seethes with bodies.

"Mate, watch it!"

I've stepped on the heel of someone ahead, inadvertently yanking off a thong. He's pneumatic; a bulked-up steroid receptacle. There's nothing to do but apologise but his attention is already elsewhere. Safe for now.

Had no idea it'd be like this. Concerned now I'll get there in time. Wait. What is the time?

"Scuse me?"

I ask no one and everyone.

"Scuse me!"

Just want to know the time.

"Yes?" An Indian man responds. A Sikh, his blue turban tightly wound.

"Know the time?"

A look of incredulity. But why? That I don't have a watch? Or a phone? At least for photos? He can't know. May have a camera in my pocket.

But he does answer. "Quarter 'til."

No need for exactness. We all know the 'til.

He's surrounded by family. Boisterous. Hugging and smiling. My contrasting aloneness is made stark. I mean, I know I'm alone, but now I feel it, deep down. A differentiator; everyone else is with others.

My wife demurs this night and has long since retired to bed. Can't abide the crowds. The hyping of unrealistic expectations. The forced joy. And friends had other plans. More elaborate and too far away to be of interest. I preferred something simple. A short walk from home to a view. To miss the teeming throng. Avoid the steamy trains, the long waits, and the sticky heat of jostling too close together.

Halfway up Sydney Park's main hill and it's yet time. Normally sparse, it's packed from bottom to top. Spread blankets and eskies, lanterns and torches, kids and dogs, and skin tones ranging the full spectrum. Mostly young families and singles. Only a few oldsters like me.

Reaching the crest a chorus erupts – "10, 9, 8, 7..." After '1', three kilometres away the sky explodes in incandescence. Across the skyline and beyond colourful lights dance in pinpoint choreography.

From behind, vice-like arms wrap tight around my chest and lift me off my feet. It's the hulking scowl I'd inconvenienced earlier, now laughing, hooting, grabbing strangers, squeezing us.

"All's forgiven, eh mate?"

Too breathless for words, I merely smile in return, hopeful to feel the ground again. He let's go and moves to the next unwitting target.

As he leaps away I feel that familiar stab of loneliness. A flash and it's gone. Always on this night. Usually when I'm in front of the TV and my

wife is in the bedroom sound asleep. She doesn't share my love of pyrotechnics.

Halfway down the hill, thinking of home, I spot the Sikh sitting amongst a large group, larger than the one on the footpath. Bright battery-powered lanterns stationed on blanket corners illuminate their faces and those walking nearby. He sees me and motions. Confused, I point a finger at my chest. He nods and motions again with his hand. For the first time I sense the aromas. Exotic spices. Curries. Fresh naan.

"Come, come," he shouts. "Come join us, we have plenty."

Handing me a paper plate warped by the weight of plenty, he introduces himself and his extended family. I immediately forget their names but it doesn't matter. This place, this night, names don't matter. Language doesn't matter.

Up here, the dark sky above us, we're united. We're Sydney. And it's a visceral inclusiveness that won't fade, one day, one year, fifty years from now.

# 5. More than the Opera House!

**Wherever I go in Sydney and whatever I do, the thing I love and admire most about my new home is the fact that every single day here is a beautiful day!**

**Ibrahim A. Elbadawi**

Thirty-five thousand feet over Singapore, I was about halfway through my 14-hour flight from Dubai to Sydney, and the anticipation was building!

I was only a few hours from landing in Sydney and realising a dream and an essential element in my life blueprint: establishing a life and starting a business in two cities in two different parts of the planet! My planned adventure was a tale of two cities, and Sydney was about to be twinned with Dubai on my personal map of the world.

I'd never been to Australia before. Although I'd visited many of Australia's "neighbours", including China, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and a few other nearby places, I hadn't yet been down under. So I was both excited and intrigued!

I took a quick glance at my list of "top things to see and do" when I landed in my new home!

And of course, at the top of my list was ... the Opera House!

As it turned out, about two and a half years later, I made it to the Opera House! I had enjoyed the famous tour a few weeks after I landed, but that's how long it took me to finally attend a play. I was

celebrating my 42<sup>nd</sup> birthday, and I wanted to pick a special play. So I got a ticket to Fireside, a play produced by Midnight Feast, which is a theatre company that grants artists with physical, intellectual and emotional challenges the opportunity to participate in the performing arts and celebrates abilities not limitations.

It was nearly midnight when I started walking from the Opera House towards Circular Quay through a light rain that had begun to fall. As I neared the station, I started wondering, why did it take me so long to check off the first item in my list?

I tapped into the time-stamped imaginary map in my mind to revisit all the places and experiences that kept me busy and away from the Opera House during the past two and a half years in Sydney.

Aside from the time I spent Airbnb'ing around Sydney and beyond, a cloud of places, faces and experiences swirled through my mind!

I realised that my initial list was created by me — a tourist anticipating Sydney as seen on Instagram! But the reality is that this vibrant and colourful city has even more to offer than the Opera House!

Wherever I go in Sydney and whatever I do, the thing I love and admire most about my new home is the fact that every single day here is a beautiful day!

A rainy day is a beautiful day because back in Sudan, where I was born, rain is something that's to be enjoyed, welcomed, and celebrated, as well as a blessing to be grateful for. And to me, an Aussie sunny day is a new kind of beauty!





# 6. The Future of Sydney

**It's got five beds, lots of massage chairs, a desk and also plants everywhere... And it runs on vegetable oil so it's organic for the environment.**

**Imogen Coates and Finn Cowper**

IMOGEN AND FINN, TWO COOL YOUNG PEOPLE ARE PRESENTING AT A CONFERENCE

IMOGEN: Imagine a normal city. You're just about to enter the city, but before you do, you're teleported to something that looks very strange.

You think, "it's a time machine".... And you're right! Now you're teleported to the future...

BOTH: To Sydney 2040

IMOGEN: Most buildings have alien looking plants on the outside. They feed the city.

Some buildings are round.

FINN: Some are wavy.

FINN: And they're tall. What is it with that crazy height restriction thing they had in 2019?

IMOGEN: Yes Finn, and some have defences. But first we're going to talk about the Dome Cars. Sorry I'm just super proud of my invention.

FINN: Actually, we're going to talk about transport. You'll talk about Dome Cars and I'll talk about A.V-Speeders.

AV Speed racers are my invention. Instead of wheels, they roll and glide on the surface of the road. They can float over traffic and are very fast. And they run on air.

IMOGEN: They're *very fast* and *very cool*.

But I just may say something that Finn might disagree with.

I have invented something that I would say is a bit cooler. It's called a Dome Car. It's a dome on wheels that can hover.

And it runs on vegetable oil so it's completely organic for the environment.

It's got five beds, lots of massage chairs, a desk and also plants everywhere...

And it's super comfy!

FINN: I love your idea Immy, but here's another set of transport ideas, and you might not know what it is?

IMOGEN: I think I do. Is it....

BOTH: Cityships!

FINN: Yes, you're very right Immy.

FINN: Yes, you're very right Immy. They can hover above buildings, can drop bombs for the army and some are like homes. As you know, sometimes there's not enough space on the ground and there's too much traffic.

IMOGEN: And all the homes in them talk.

Talking homes are in many different places and as soon as you buy it you give it a name. I named mine Mythica. It can work in schools, buildings and hospitals. How it works; if you've just been home from a really long day you could say: "Mythica, I'm home, pour me a glass of water please."

In schools it can help teachers with disabilities.  
At work, if you're too hot and weak you could say:  
"Mythica, turn on the air con please."

Say you're sad, Mythica would say, "I know you're sad,  
here's a tissue"

Or it would say you're hungry, here's some toast. She  
can also read your thoughts.

FINN: There are cityships in the water too. They are  
powered by plastic and clean up the ocean as they travel

ENTER DAVE

DAVE: Um..... hello? I'm from the past, how do I get  
back?

IMOGEN: Oh, hello! What is your name?

DAVE: uh..... Dave.

IMOGEN: Hello Dave, what happened? Why can't you  
get back to the past?

DAVE: Because when I landed here, that time machine  
broke.

IMOGEN AND FINN: Wait! We can build you a new time  
machine. It will only take a week or so.

DAVE: Hang on. I can see that you guys have created  
so many amazing machines and inventions that are  
really working here in the future! Actually the future is  
much better than the past.

.....THE END.....

Anon

I am in the heart of the Waterloo/Redfern community, early morning at training.

I am leading the younger children out of trouble

I am clothes that are all black with the boys. We get looked at differently but that's not how it is.

I am the smell of chlorine as I swim in the pool and try to do flips

I am cheesy tasty delicious homemade lasagne that my mother makes

I am the amazing sound of music as it hits my ear drums

I am the rage when the police always harass me because of their perspective

I am the light of the stars as it hits my face in the dark night

I am the shadow of the trees on a hot day

I am community, history, culture

**Imogen Coates**

I am the leisure centre with a super cool pool  
I am roller blading in the park  
I am my jazz performance outfit – sparkly and soft  
I am hungry for pizza – anchovies, olives, ham and cheese  
I am Reeses peanut butter flavoured cornetto  
I am crashing waves on the beach when I'm going to sleep  
I am the rage when my friend tells me a lie  
I am disco neon lights  
I am the shadow of a cactus with little spikes  
I am the shadow of my kitten  
I am family, friends and education



Vito Radice

I am sitting at Clipper Café on Glebe Point Road in the arvo when it's raining  
I am going to "Poetry Night" at Sappho Bar Glebe  
I am wearing my Bob Dylan '65 t-shirt  
I am the smell of coffee in the morning  
I am Massaman curry from Thai Expression  
I am the sound of thunder in a storm  
I am the rage when told it's time to go at 10:30pm  
I am an edison light bulb  
I am hiding in building shadows  
I am enjoying cafes, markets and live music venues

Joyce Noble

I am the glasshouse library in Green Square, the oasis in the wasteland

I am the little park in Eveleigh with benches for reading in the sun and the shade

I am comfy in blue jeans and a soft, soft blue tee

I am the smell of freesias, the white ones, the only flowers I'd ever buy

I am creamy laksa from Thai Thai with thick coconut milk and spice and morsels of tofu and  
crunchy broccoli

I am the koel birds conversing in the grevilleas in the parks

I am the rage when the screams from the kids next door shatter the peace

I am lamplight from my poor man's tiffany lamp with resin roses reflected in the window

I am shadows of dappled light from fast and slow moving clouds

I am wide open spaces, the beauty of architecture and artworks

**Pauline Su**

I am colourful and festive Newtown on the weekend and festival time

I am full of food dining at small Asian eateries

I am a slip-on dress with maybe a jacket or cardigan

I am the smell of fried garlic and interesting influences from around the world

I am eating local sustainable food – Singapore chilli crab but at a reasonable price

I am birds tweeting in the trees, they're so alive!

I am the rage when drivers honk constantly, and loud cars or motorbikes screech down the street –  
Hoons! Petrol-heads!

I am soft early morning light, just as dawn has broken

I am shadows of trees, providing shade on sizzling hot pavements

I am kindness and courtesy, public transport where and when you need it, something for everyone  
– affordable food, clothing and housing

**Natasha Sitanala**

I am the ferry from Circular Quay to Barangaroo in the middle of work hours  
I am walking my dog off-leash at Sydney Park  
I am my grandma's batik shirt she bought in the year 1962 – it's very soft and airy  
I am fresh cut grass especially after a misty morning  
I am steamed dumplings from Sydney Noodle House in Chinatown  
I am rain hitting my apartment windows  
I am the rage when people leave food in the dog park!  
I am the morning light on a sunny day  
I am the shadow of a lot of people crossing at Town Hall  
I am home, family and coffee shops

**Esther Bailey**

I am laughing in the morning at the coffee shop with my team  
I am riding bikes under leafy trees  
I am freebie t-shirts, hacked up, customised, faded and battered  
I am the smell of fresh cut grass  
I am steamed greens, almonds, zest of lemon  
I am the sounds of children laughing and the melodic pong and thwack of tennis balls  
I am the rage when the fun police enter the park  
I am candlelight – warm, waving, intimate  
I am shifting shadows under the tree canopy  
I am fun, peace, inclusion



**Janette Frape**

I am the buzz of George Street  
I am lawn bowls, enjoying the challenge in all kinds of weather  
I am tops in bright colours made by a friend who designs and manufactures them  
I am freshly brewed coffee which reminds me of waking up in Paris  
I am Japanese food at Enya – it is to die for  
I am the sounds of a European emergency vehicle with the ee-oo sound  
I am the rage when others don't have their opal card ready at the bus stop  
I am white light for doing craft and knitting  
I am shadows from apartment windows – reflections at night  
I am calmness, space, accessibility



# 8. Hope

## She felt both excited and nervous for what life would be like in this new world.

**Margaret Yue**

**17 July 2007. Tuesday. Sunny**

After a long and tiring flight, Rita anxiously waited for the exit of the airport arrival. She felt both excited and nervous for what life would be like in this new world.

The airport was much smaller than where Rita came from which surprised her as she thought she was going to live in a world famous big city.

It was a beautiful day with blue sky and lovely white clouds, but a bit cold and quiet as the driver drove along the narrow streets.

Rita got to her first 'home' which was a small red block, not far from her university.

She couldn't wait to see more of the city, so went out for a walk to do some grocery shopping.

Rita enjoyed her walk to the grocery store but nearly got lost on the way back.

A lady came to offer her help and led her home. "What a friendly city!" Rita thought.

**17 July 2017. Monday. Sunny**

On the bus to her work in the city, Rita opened her Facebook, a selfie jumped into her eyes – it was younger Rita in the mirror of Sydney Airport.

"Oh ten years!!!" Rita thought, "Where did all these years go?"

After finishing her degrees, Rita started her job in the CBD. Feeling the need for personal space after sharing apartments with other people, she moved to the newly developed Green Square to live on her own.

Before she decided where to live, she heard that the City of Sydney is going to invest a lot in this area. She felt super excited about the future as a resident of Green Square.

Moved from old unit buildings to newly constructed apartments, Rita sees changes around her place every day.

She felt much safer now inside the security apartment after her old unit was broken into during daytime.

She also looks forward to seeing the upcoming Green Square Community Centre and enjoying her life here.

# 9. Memories

## I want the past to be remembered...

**Lyn Taylor**

I am a born and bred Sydney girl.

I used to love the sea breeze which blew up the streets from Sydney Harbour, cooling the city down. Back then, I was more aware of the shadows, the light and dark which surrounded me in the city.

The smells that assaulted you in those days were from the breweries at the south end of town.

My first job was as a comptometrist, with Dairy Farmers in Harris Street. A comptometrist is a business machine. Part of the Dairy Farmers building replaced the glaciorium, a skating rink which was very popular.

At lunchtime we would go to the Marcus Clark and Grace Brothers department stores.

*I love my city and wish to see it develop sensitively and to advantage all. I want the past to be remembered and the future to be considered with the past in mind. I want this to be something that is read and taken note of. The city should be for everyone and should be easily accessed.*

*We were once a wonderful young promising teenager, but we have started to go into middle age badly. My early days in the city were mostly getting a coat or other special item of clothing which was available in town.*

When I was of “dating” age, we would go to balls in the Trocadero and Mark Foys Ballroom among others, which were on the top floors of the department stores.

My wedding reception was in the original Wentworth Hotel Ballroom which was so charming but coming towards its end. It was replaced by the Qantas building.

I loved the Royal Easter Show when it was at the original showground and enjoyed attending every year! I haven’t been to the new location.

I enjoy going to the Sydney Cricket Ground to watch the cricket these days. There used to be many more events there than there is nowadays. The mighty dollar has its grip on sport.

My mother used to meet her sister every week in town to have lunch and catch up. She once said she was pleased that I had the good grace to walk at nine months of age so that she didn’t have to fiddle around with a stroller.

Later, when I was going to school, I would know mum had “been to town” because of the smell of freshly ground coffee and there was fresh fish for tea. Her freshly laundered clothes would be on the line drying before their next outing.

*I would hope that with the growing population of seniors, planning for their future is large in the minds of the planners. I know of nowhere that I could move to in my area of Alexandria. So it is essential that transport, medical and general wellbeing support is in place now. We have the possibilities and the opportunities, so let’s go for it!*

# 10. Positivity

## A sense of accomplishment creeps over my being.

**Robert Thaike**

“I am Sydney” so the program says. But who am I?

Firstly, I will have to learn more about myself and who I have become. So that I can make a positive contribution to shaping Sydney for the future.

To help me do this today, I am joining the ‘I Am Sydney’ program.

February 9, 21C morning, bright and sunny! Slowly I pull myself out of bed. I have mixed feelings about joining the program as sometimes I find it hard to mix with other people. But the program will give me a chance to try something different and meet new people.

Here I am at Redfern Community Centre in Hugo Street, Redfern. Forty or so people are here. The City of Sydney and Story Factory staff guide us through the program schedule.

After a photo shoot we board a bus with a guide from the Story Factory. The bus drives through Redfern, Waterloo, St Peters, Alexandria, Surry Hills, Darlinghurst, Kings Cross, Woolloomooloo and back to Redfern.

The guide from the Story Factory was extremely bubbly and entertaining. He shared with us aspects of Aboriginal identity and culture as we passed through each part of Sydney. And we learnt about the history of some of the parks in inner Sydney.

A feeling of oneness with the other members of the group develops. A sense of accomplishment creeps over my being.

So do I want to contribute to a 50 year vision and leave a legacy for future Sydney dwellers – I say why not?

My vision is that in 50 years’ time there will be ample social services as well as a liveable environment that will help people to shed their negative blues and encourage them to have positive attitudes.



# 11. One step back, two steps forward

**Will we have help for our struggle? We'll need to take a step back into the past and take two steps into the future.**

**Anon**

A decade ago there was this place called The Block. Most people from outside the community would think it was full of drug addicts as that is what the media portrayed.

I was six at the time and I remember going to my cousin's house in Eveleigh Street and playing tips like any other kid from Australia. The only difference was that we were more "disadvantaged", or that is what other people would say. What would I say, you ask? Well I would say we were "poor".

Every Christmas we would be having fun and as kids we thought life would always be like this. We were wrong! You see growing up I would hate the word "disadvantaged". I thought it sounded like an excuse so instead I would say "troubled".

Four years later, when I was ten and in Year 5 and my younger sister was eight and in Year 3. We were Christians! One day we were at church, I was praising the Lord and when I got home from church I noticed the home phone was ringing. Mum answered. She was shocked. She was crying hysterically. I wanted to know why.

An hour later I heard about what happened. My Dad had passed away. I didn't know how to handle it, I was only ten. This was my first sense of reality.

Not long after The Block was sold. Our home was sold. My Aunty made a tent embassy to fight for it. She "won", so they said. Yet they sold it anyway. Both my parents fought to save The Block, so I felt I had to do something. But how could I, I wasn't even in high school. I had to focus on school. So I did.

The start of Year 7 was rough as standing up for what I believed in to the privileged private school kids led me to fights. After two and a half long years of fighting and not learning I decided to move schools.

It was the start of Year 9, I was soldiering on. Everything from my Dad, The Block to Year 7, I simply soldiered on.

My younger sister wasn't, she got herself caught up in gangs and trouble. I noticed she was stealing cars and thought she was having fun. Until she got shot. She spent months in hospital. She survived. We kept a close eye on her and surprisingly she soldiered on more than me.

My Father told us we were strong and he was right. My sister said sayonara to the gang life and started helping herself.

See most people see Redfern as a place for junkies. A place for alcoholics. A place for "disadvantaged" people. I knew it was much more than that and I wanted to help the youth through the struggle.

The first kid I 'mentored' grew up in Redfern and like me he never touched a drug in his life. Now he is a rapper in Miami. Now I am mentoring kids in Redfern and Waterloo.

I am only 16 and its funny how I have gone from being looked after to looking after. Now I am looking at the future, I feel we'll need the past to help us. Will we have a new home called The Block? Will we have help for our struggle? We'll need to take a step back into the past and take two steps into the future.

# 12. Reflecting on Inner City Life

## A Tale of Chippo, Erko, Paddo, Surry Hills and Glebe

### By a City Dweller

I love living in the inner city:

I love the walkability between villages;

I love 'old Sydney's' lanes and sandstone steps inviting me to explore my neighbourhood;

I love the creativity and diversity of people living here, its small venues and theatres;

I love little gardening initiatives that pop up and guerrilla gardening on the verge; and

I love the landscape, the harbour edge and more.

BUT THAT WAS THEN

In recent decades I have witnessed:

A decline in the diversity of residents and a loss of working people;

A change from working city to commuter city;

A loss of intimate streets and community life to high density living;

A loss of individual expression and sole trader ventures; and,

A decrease in intimate venues for creative art expression.

Turning point

Are we at a turning point where we can foster more vibrant inner city living and a regain a sense of belonging and connection?

Can we foster a streetscape:

Where we will be able to have curb-side conversations?

Where our children can chase their shadows in the afternoon light?

Where we can discover the cobble streets where our forebears trod?

OR

Will we live in permanent shadow cast from high density developments?

Will we be high-risers commuting between office and a manicured environment?

Will we be wearing noise cancelling earphones to cancel out the 'roar of traffic in a city by the harbour, a city fractured by traffic arteries?

Custodians:

I want to see us sew the seeds for community, 2050:

Belonging

Community spirit

Landscape and adventure for our children in our local neighbourhoods

Small venues for talking, for sharing ideas, for creativity for local people

Opportunities for collaboration and participation

Through nurturing the walkability, through inviting a sense of curiosity and exploration, creativity, connection and diversity and breathe new life into the streetscapes of Chippenham, Erko, Paddock, Surry Hills and Glebe.

# 13. Someone's idea of a beautiful future!



**To me, a city has to be a living organism, pulsating with energy, vibrancy of its people.**

## Vito Radice

I was almost 6 years old when I arrived in Sydney on the 24<sup>th</sup> December 1964. I came with my mother and brother from a small village (called "San Fele") in Italy where I was born.

We came over on an ocean liner called the "Galileo" and that's when I met my father for the very first time. He had been here since 1960.

Sydney was a much more innocent and simpler place in the 1960s. On Saturdays *ALL* shops closed at midday and night shopping...forget about it! Of course, *EVERYTHING* was closed on Sundays! Sunday was reserved for family!

Being a "wog" (a derogatory term for immigrants from southern Europe), I would be forced to go to "The Fresh Food Markets" in the city on a Saturday morning at 4:30am with my dad to buy live chickens. (He liked fresh food!)





The markets were located where the old “*Entertainment Centre*” was. The markets were demolished to make way for it and now, it has also been demolished! Who knows what is being built to replace it (apparently more apartments, hahahahaha). Whatever it is, that place has a lot of memories and history but who will remember and tell its story?

The markets were a hive of activity, although I hated getting up at such an ungodly hour.

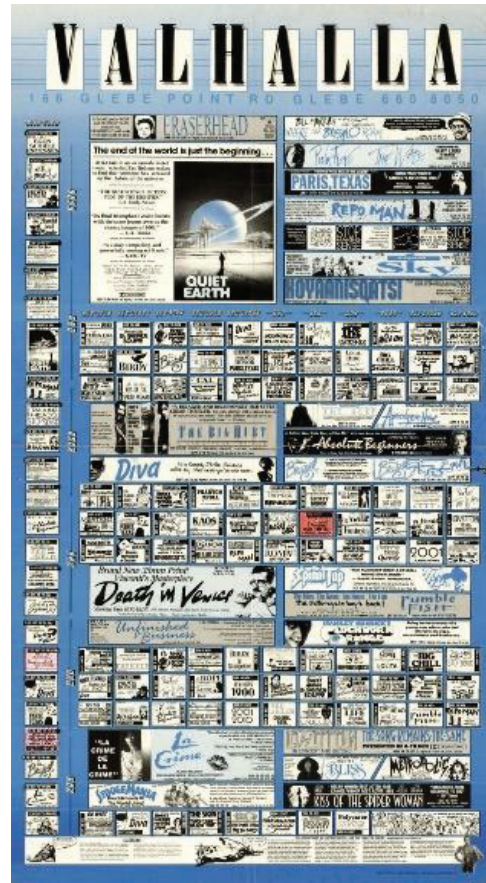
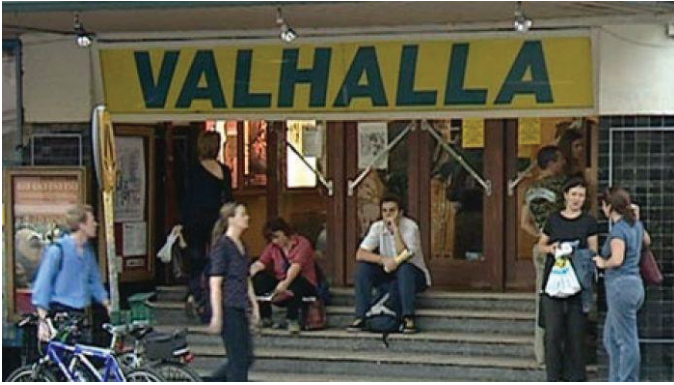
We took the live chickens back to Five Dock in a box on the bus.

Buses in those days had conductors to collect your fare, so we had to be very careful because it was not allowed to take live animals onto a bus, especially chickens.

When we arrived home, it was time to kill the chickens, but that is another story!







In the 1980s, it showed 'Art House' films not shown anywhere else. It also had midnight screenings. Many a time was spent with my friends, "stoned out of our heads" watching Fellini, John Waters or Andy Warhol films.

In my late teens, I went to university and started hanging around the inner city, especially Glebe and Newtown. A place that I have extremely fond memories of was "The Valhalla Cinema" in Glebe, which has now been converted into apartments.

The façade is still there though and when I walk past it now, I get very sad that it is no longer there for others to experience the joy and happiness that I enjoyed.







The changing face of Sydney and especially the inner city, has been very sad for me because as Sydney has transformed from a sleepy backwater into an international city, it has lost its innocence and vibrancy. I know and accept that times change and so they should. But in many ways, in the process and rush for change, we have lost many irreplaceable treasures, which are memories to me now.

With the enormous urban development going on and the introduction of the "lock-out" laws, Sydney has lost its vibrancy, culture, venues, it's LIFE!

*Kings Cross* is no longer the *Kings Cross* of my youth, in the 1980s and 90s. Now, it has become gentrified and acceptable. But back in my day, it was sleazy and notorious. Some would say that it was bad and needed to change.!

I, on the other hand, loved it. Loved its personality, its characters, its venues and the night life, which now has ALL gone.



One of my favourite places that I used to be a regular at in "The Cross" was the "Manzil Room", (it was located at 15 Springfield Avenue and operated until 1990, when the venue changed its name to "Springfields"). It no longer exists, like so many places. But it still lives on in my memory. This place was not a place for "lock-out" laws. It didn't open its doors until 11:00pm. It had live bands playing but they didn't get on stage till 1:00am or 2:00am. So this was not a place for an early night, more like an early morning! Say 6am or 7am in the morning.

To me, a city has to be a living organism, pulsating with energy, vibrancy of its people. Sydney today is stunted, stifled, strangled, suffocated, not allowed to breathe. Bound and restricted by administrators that control what and when things can be done.

The is someone's idea of a beautiful future.....but NOT MINE!

My vision for the future of Sydney is for these chains to be removed. For it to be allowed to evolve, without these restrictions placed upon its creativity by politicians.

A place of vibrancy, culture, colour, music and life. What is especially important to me is that it has a personality, a character, whether you like it or not this is what defines LIFE!

**Sterility is not LIFE!**

**Personality is LIFE!**

**George Lancaster**

I am Sydney Park with the dogs, unleashed, chasing sticks  
I am walking along inner city streets  
I am people watching  
I am lightweight shorts with side-pockets to carry everything  
I am the scent of wet moss that takes me back in time  
I am a large platter of fresh sushi from King Street  
I am hard rain on the old tin roof  
I am moonbeams through the mist  
I am the streetscape, morning swims, inner city living

**Finn Cowper**

I am Central Park, it's awesome and futuristic  
I am building lego – it's creative  
I am a black soft robe  
I am pizza with hot Hungarian salami  
I am the smell of a caramel and hot fudge sundae  
I am the whosh of a spaceship lifting up  
I am the rage when mum takes stupid photos  
I am twinkling water  
I am the shadow of clothes hung on the window  
I am plants uniting with man-made and something taller than Centrepont Tower.



**Sharlene Smith**

I am the harbour on a barmy summer evening  
I am drinking wine watching the sunset  
I am a silky flowing dress for summer  
I am the smell of salt filled air from my Sydney Harbour  
I am ricotta cheese cake from Bad Manors Café, Glebe  
I am the sound of waves against the hull of the Manly Ferry  
I am the rage when the government sells us off to overseas investors  
I am the lights that flicker on the water in the dark  
I am the shadows of buildings as the sun sets on the water  
I am community, family and time, for I am Sydney

Lyn Taylor

I am the inner city in autumn when it is crisp  
I am visiting the city galleries and museums  
I am loose, comfortable, colourful clothing – dresses and trousers  
I am the smell of the wet gravel in the mornings on Wynyard Station  
I am take-away sushi from the Japanese café in Fountain Street  
I am the bird song in the morning  
I am the rage when I hear that more local transport is taken from us  
I am the light from solar garden lamps  
I am a shadow given protection from the sun in the heat  
I am community, safety, consideration

*Here is my ditty  
I love my City of Sydney  
I want to improve  
Get in the groove*

**Farah Nur Fatimah**

I am Sydney Observatory Hill in the afternoon  
I am reading a book in a quiet place  
I am a black loose shirt and colourful scarf  
I am the aroma of fried noodle, it reminds me of home and my country  
I am a well done beef ribs with spicy sauce  
I am chirping birds in the morning  
I am the rage when my friend gives away a spoiler of a movie  
I am sun rays that appear in your photo  
I am shadow of the city scape from the ferry on my way back home  
I am the books, the Opera house, the University of Sydney

**Danielle James**

I am my garden on a sunny blue sky afternoon  
I am lying on the artificial grass, children's heads tickling my arms.  
I am scungy, cat-hair-covered, second-hand, lululemon, comfy bootlegs  
I am my husband's aftershave  
I am frozen berries with yogurt and nuts on the deck  
I am the sound of rumbling and the continual hum of a washing machine  
I am the rage when emotional and mind-manipulation games are played  
I am the light just before a storm  
I am my long shadow from the afternoon sun  
I am my family and friends, my home, our yoga studio.

**Arlo Coleman**

I am my house  
I am reading in bed, all different kinds of books  
I am my school uniform  
I am the smell of tofu being cooked  
I am sushi from Newtown  
I am the bell at the end of the school day  
I am the rage when Rosy does anything  
I am the light at the end of the tunnel  
I am shadow on the sidewalk for shade  
I am my friends, pets and animals in general



**Belinda Norman**

I am book shopping on King Street with Arlo  
I am walking around neighbourhoods in Surry Hills  
I am my LCD sound system t-shirt that I customised  
I am the smell of the Carlton United Brewery on Broadway – reminds me of my undergraduate days  
I am health food from Iku in Glebe  
I am the sound of magpies and butcher birds  
I am the rage when the bus doesn't come  
I am sunlight in the early morning or evening or when a storm is brewing  
I am the shadow of the photographer in a photo  
I am our stories, our heritage, understanding Aboriginal culture

# 14. My new home

**Although Sydney is not perfect, I know there are good people here who want to make it a better home for everyone. And now it is home for me and my family.**

**Farah Nur Fatimah**

11.00am

"I'm at Wharf Y.  
Where are you?"

11.01am

Me too – Near  
Hungry Jacks

11.02am

Ok got it!

It's been a long time since we met. And now he's here. We are here. Different place, same feelings. This is my story.

"Where are we going now?" he asked. I usually take people to the Opera House on the first day they come here, so they can really feel the Sydney vibes from the start.

"Definitely Opera House. Let's go!" I grabbed his hands and we walked to the Opera House.

We didn't say a word for a while, until he started the conversation. "So how are you doing? What makes you stay here a bit longer?"

"Well...I love this city, the people, the public transport, the beaches, parks, everything. I'm afraid I'll miss them when I leave" I answered.

We arrived at the Opera House. He looked so happy to be there, he took a lot of pictures, asked me to have a selfie with him. Until something unfortunate happened. He accidentally dropped his phone in the gap of the Opera House stairs. It was impossible to save it and we called the security guard for help.

But sadly, they said that his phone couldn't be retrieved because they couldn't remove the blocks until building maintenance was undertaken in three years' time.

"That's okay then. Maybe it's a sign that I should enjoy my holiday without phone distraction" he said and tried to forget what just happened. I left my phone number with the Opera House office just in case they had good news.

I figured out how to make him happy again. I took him to one of my favourite places. "I'll take you to my favourite spot around here. I'm sure you'll love it" I said.

After ten minutes walking, we arrived at Sydney Observatory Hill. "Wow! I love this place. Look the Harbour Bridge looks so close from here" he said excited. The view at this place is always amazing, especially at sunset. Sometimes I can see cotton candy sky with pink streaks from here, or tiger-ish sky with the strong touch of orange colour. But, if I'm unlucky, I'll just see a dark gloomy sky and no sunset.

It was still midday and the sun was shining bright so we sat under a tree facing the Harbour Bridge.

"I know you have many things to love about this city. But is there anything that bothers you? Something you don't like? He asked while crossing his legs.

"Mmm...nothing bothers me actually. But I'm quite struggling with the rent fee of my house. So expensive. Housing prices in Sydney are more expensive than other states. So yeah. Also, the public transport fares. It is getting more expensive. Sorry, lots of complaints." We laughed, and I continued.

"But I love being here anyway. Friendly people, its diversity, lovely beaches and parks, great libraries, and easy access for anyone and anywhere. We can take bus or train or ferry to any place. They are all reachable in Sydney." I explained the reasons why I love this city. Sydney, you never fail to amaze me.

We really enjoyed our time on the hill. Sound of chirping birds, sun rays that appear on his picture on my phone, everything. We left after a while and headed to my school, University of Sydney. "Oh my God this building looks like Hogwarts in Harry Potter" he said surprised. He was talking about the Quadrangle building.

"I know right! It's the oldest university in Australia. It's good that they keep these old buildings. Many old artsy buildings in the city are replaced by tall buildings. I was sad when I went to Sydney Tower Eye, I couldn't even see the Opera House because the city is covered by huge modern skyscrapers" I explained to him. Then I took him around the university.

Even though my life is not easy, I want to work hard to make a better life for my children.

Although Sydney is not perfect, I know there are good people here who want to make it a better home for everyone. And now it is home for me and my family.

# 15. Renewal

**Our eldest likes to catch crabs in the mud, and I marvel that in my new city we can engage with so much wildlife.**

**Jennifer Fletcher**

## Fire

I didn't know him then, in Glebe of the mid-1970s. He had a fixation, a passion he pursued. It was a secret, for a time, in a suburb of boarding houses peopled by down-and-outers, just 'bourgeoisising' up after the formation of the Glebe Society in 1969. It was a former landholding given to the Anglican Church. I had never heard the word, let alone imagined the place or the boy in it.

A little thin blonde moppet of a boy slips out the back gate of the former boarding house his parents brought cheaply and fixed up to a point, a tow-headed anomaly amidst the black haired Greek boys from migrant families. He eases down Avenue Road, past the tingling, cloying incense wafting over the back wall of the Joss House, and on to Jubilee Park, anchored by Federation era giants, the "Modern Day Figs," as I misheard them called. He fidgeted in his pocket with his treasure, looking for a target.

A slip of a boy in an industrial pocket of the inner city wanders out at dusk. He wonders how far to go today? Take his treasure to the lumber yard? That would get him into serious trouble, like police trouble. Settling onto a metal chained swing, the young child washes over him and he thinks only of

whether he can kick the branch above with his swinging foot.

He throws some stones into Blackwattle Bay at the end of Glebe Point Road. He's as raw as the landscape around him, and ready to act, he spies something black in the distance. It isn't a Holden FJ – his Dad had one of those for about six months. It is a black London taxi, a foreigner in these parts. What a transplant! What luck! He explores it. Runs his fingers down its reflective surface – sees his small, impish face staring back. Windows smashed in, he jumps over the door and sits inside, imagining himself touring the streets of London where his father had gone to university. The upholstery is a bit torn and it makes good kindling along with some dried leaves and twigs with whoosh-scratch, the pile ignites. He leaps out to gather more fodder and finds an *Argus* from 1964.

A small figure walks back up the hill. No sirens chase his addition to his industrial landscape. He goes unnoticed. He can't help but glance back over his shoulder down Glebe Point Road, to his oasis, a campfire, maybe later a star.

## The Sun

I know this story. It is 2006. I am one of the 25 percent of Australia "from somewhere else." The former arsonist and I are raising two boys, and we are back in Glebe, transplanted from New York. Jubilee Park is pretty. I love it. It beats the East River. It still has wild edges, bamboo groves by the water's edge where I've heard some pretty bad snakes hang out. Its forecast to be 45 degrees today, a heat I cannot conceive of.

I am responsible for two tow-headed boys, potential future arsonists, and I don't want them to burn today.

We head out if the basement apartment we're living in, underneath his mother's house. I've been disabused of my misunderstanding of "Modern Day Figs," and I've learned a little about the city, but the mysteries of this continent are still many and fresh. I am out of my element, and I know it. Armed with bottles of cool water, fruit and cookies (not 'biscuits'), we stroll our babies in their double carriage down Avenue Road to the deep shade of Moreton bay Figs, so majestic and such a relief already at 8 a.m. and 30 degrees.

The boys tear out of their enclosure and we push them in adjoining baby swings. The arsonist is now the picture of paternal perfection. The Redheads have been replaced by Percy, Thomas and Henry.

Yes, as you would expect, it's perfect. The sun glints off Blackwattle Bay. I hear a Kookaburra, which I mistake for a monkey. So many misunderstandings. We stroll toward the Fish Markets. A few intrepid souls are out for their morning runs. This is a city of possibility and potential where people are undeterred by a "little heat". I can do this! Tightening the hat ties under my sons' chins, and velcroing the sunshade, we head on.

Our eldest likes to catch crabs in the mud, and I marvel that in my new city we can engage with so much wildlife. We feel a searing miasma, and creep like the blacksnake into the cool refuge of the bamboo grove. I feel like a mouse.

Fearing vaporisation, we emerge and walk back to the playground. The heat is already oppressive.

One last swing at 11 is all we can manage before the stultifying presence engulfs us, and bakes my babies.

No cars in sight, we walk wearily up the hill to our cave-like sanctuary. The arsonist seems at peace with who he's become after engaging with the wide world. Like his city, he's left a dodgy past behind and has settled into a purposeful repurposing of a place, a life.

### Heart

This is only a guess. We might come back to Jubilee Park. I see a warm day, but nothing much different to 2006. The Tramsheds are established. A new Moreton Bay Fig planted in 2015 is its own giant, rubbing arms with his grandpa. I'm pleased by the continuity.

Blackwattle Bay has a city beach, with waterway conservancy yielding some safe, much needed aquatic recreation in this Harbour City, on this side of the Bridge. It's even netted to prevent commingling with the bull sharks that frequent the clean bay.

We creak down Avenue Road, at 80. One of our sons has taken over the old family home on Toxteth Road, where he lives with his pregnant Japanese-Australian wife, probably a love engendered by the 800 episodes of "Naruto" he watched at eleven. I am looking forward to adding to our multicultural family—Australian, Armenian, American, English, Irish, French-Canadian, German and now Japanese.



We all spread across Edward Lane – twelve of us – in the fug of Joss House incense. The children fan out across the sixteen swings that now service a booming inner city population that we have added to with our four sons and six grandchildren. My husband and I retire to a cool bench while our sons swing their children. The cool shade created by the safe arms of the Moreton Bay Figs is welcoming.

Out of his pockets he spills old metal toy cars and hands them to John who has come toddling to me for a biscuit. John takes the black London taxi in miniature and runs it through the dirt. The car is too small to reflect back his small face under a mop of brown hair. He vrooms and keeps it by the knee of the former arsonist, the embodiment of renewal.

# 16. Past - Present - Future

## Julia Martin

My initial response to each village was visceral. At first, I thought of all the areas as one Sydney. Slowly, I began to realise that each “village” had its own unique personality. I finally understood the value of the concept: “CITY OF SYDNEY City of Villages”.

During the rest of the weekend, I found my thoughts became more analytical until last night when I woke after midnight with a flood of florid thoughts about Green Square. I gave in, switched on the light and wrote them down.

In the morning, I realised that the three villages to which I responded the most were from my PAST, PRESENT and what I saw as representing a FUTURE village of Sydney.

## Past - Ultimo, Pyrmont & Glebe

### Glebe

After WWII, all refugees had to agree to labour for two years before they could begin their life as citizens of Australia. (Thus the derogatory expression was born: WOG - Workers of the Government).

Dad shovelled coal at White Bay power station. The local workers told him not to work so hard, but he was a POW in Auschwitz during the war and this work was easy by comparison (although certainly lacking the prestige of a Civil Engineer which he was before the war).

As soon as he was able, dad rented a small attic-sized space with a large deck on the top floor of 14 Lombard Street, Glebe. It was not an easy task. There were so many refugees looking for rental properties and ones with small children were even less popular.

This was where my brother and I met Gary. He was the same age as I was (i.e. three) and was an only child. He was my first Australian friend. His mother owned the enormous house where we rented. We quickly learned English from Gary and became interpreters for our parents. We formed a gang of three and would play together in the huge, empty, paved garden. I remember tall sunflowers towering over me and amazingly blue skies.

Mr Croft was a local who would pass by each day with his gigantic cart horse, hauling wooden barrels.

I was delighted to see that Glebe had retained many of the varied townhouses and grand mansions with beautifully kept grounds. The many cafés and local shops added to the village feel.

### Ultimo

As the bus drove down Wattle Street, Ultimo, I noticed that my next home was now a Service Station with petrol bowsers marking where I lived until I was about ten. The little terraced houses no longer existed and the junk yard full of metal bits that was directly behind our home, was also long gone. My brother and I had discovered a loose board in the back fence which led to the interesting treasures where we could build a world of our own imagination. What child could ask for more?

The Technological Museum was just a block away in Harris Street where my brother and I could walk on Saturdays while our parents caught up with housework and prepared for friends who would arrive for lunch on Sundays. We would lose ourselves in the amazing museum displays: magnificent, elaborate mechanical or clockwork pieces; glass cases full of rocks; a room with a domed ceiling which would suddenly become the night sky, full of stars and planets. We stood in awe.

Saturday afternoons, we could walk to the cinema in Broadway and watch a movie with the obligatory Saturday serial: The Phantom, Hopalong Cassidy, Superman and my favourite, "I am The Shadow".

Occasionally we would all go to Paddy's Markets, in Haymarket, and buy live "chooks" which would

be killed and then taken home where mum would scald them in hot water to make the feathers easier to pluck. There were flowers, fruit and vegetables and my favourite: puppies, kittens, bunnies, ducklings and chicks.

Many of the children at Ultimo Primary School were either Australian-born Chinese or English kids from East End, London, who came with their parents just before, or just after, the war - very few European-Australians and only one Indigenous-Australian boy. Naturally there were also little British-Australian children who were born here, but not as many as one would expect.

The headmaster, Mr. Tracy, was a wise man with a vision for his pupils. He was my mentor. He would organise excursions to the Art Gallery of NSW and to symphony concerts at the Town Hall. He introduced "Star Pupil" to recognise and encourage the children to be the best they could be. I remember him - as a Principal - coaching a student who had difficulties in reading. Kudos, Mr. Tracy!

We would often walk down George Street with our parents in the evenings. It was a European custom which we all enjoyed.

It was here that I was first aware of bedraggled men with empty eyes in long khaki coats, sitting on the footpaths, drinking out of bottles or staggering along the street shouting at people. Their anger sometimes turned on our family. "Bloody New Australians! Why don't you go back to your own country?" or "Bloody refos! Why don't you speak English?" (It was usually in that form: a comment followed by a question - a bit like a test at school.)

Mum and dad certainly tried to speak English, but although they spoke several languages, English was unlike most other European languages so it took some time to learn.

Further up George Street there was a shop with prosthetic limbs displayed in its window. My brother and I would stand fascinated, looking at these pieces. Mum and dad would become impatient and move us on. Now I understand why.

The house in Wattle Street was on a hundred year lease and by the time we moved there the lease was almost up. So after a few short years, we had to move out into the suburbs.

The bus trip with 'I Am Sydney' somehow triggered the memory of the smell of the wool stores and tanneries that we walked past on the way to school.

### **Pymont**

CSR (Colonial Sugar Refineries) had a large laboratory complex in Harris Street, Pymont. Most of the labs were for quality control using various sugar analyses. They were mainly manned by females and headed by males. But they had a Special Analyses Lab which developed methods for mineral analysis. (CSR also owned mining companies). In my early twenties I worked here.

CSR was also a company that encouraged relationships between the males and females so that they could breed good Colonial Sugar families. Although there was a lot of harmless flirting, it didn't feel like sexual harassment. It was

playful and light hearted. At that age, although we worked hard, we also had lots of fun.

I asked an old friend about that period; he said: "There were quite a few CSR activities in the area, including a rum distillery and bone char factory as well as a refinery, workshops, a laboratory and hostel where [he] stayed. CSR also had Engineering workshops on the corner of Harris and Bowman Streets. They made 'engineering stuff' for mills and refineries there. There was also a sugar refinery on the water and a Cane-ite factory." He didn't "think asbestos board was ever made at Pymont, but it was elsewhere. However, a lot of asbestos lagging was used in the refinery".

So the trip through Glebe, Ultimo and Pymont triggered memories of some of the happiest years of my life.

## Present - My Redfern

Lean lycra bodies  
cycle past -  
full uniformed -  
on carbon fibre rims.

Amid the traffic  
Porsches pass  
between buses plumped  
with multi-accents.

Homeless sit on footpaths  
shrunk and bent -  
in sottovoce -  
they ask for spare coins.

Others stagger along streets  
spewing rage  
at invisible gods' attempts  
to restrain them.

Hipsters sit laughing  
in animated conversation  
at boutique cafés.  
They spill out to tables  
under dappled light  
of planted liquid amber.

Louboutins flash their red  
on youthful, long extended legs  
cascading down high-glam stools  
at plush designer wine bars.

Artists' studios hide  
between high rise  
or in alley ways  
frescoed with graffiti.

Carriageworks Farmer's Market  
tempts with local produce.  
Amid Omar Kayyam's bread and wine,  
perfume from blossoms  
underscores  
the heady notes of chocolate.

Australian Technology Park  
cradles the Innovation Centre.  
Lateral thinkers create & test  
diverse future technologies.



While all around -  
in silent tribute -  
visions of Sydney's  
industrial history.

Once furnaces forged metal,  
and steam drove machines  
to build locomotives  
that now stand -  
like "Simon Said..."  
non-kinetic.

Carriageworks constructed  
and hand decorated carriages,  
with artisans'  
long lost skills.

Now catwalks, craft and art shows,  
are crowned with brilliant light  
and shadows move like stage sets  
throughout the theatre of daylight.

Each stands alone -  
yet when joined together -  
form an all-embracing village,  
MY REDFERN.



## Future – Green Square

Green Square was like standing in front of a gargantuan, 3-D Jeffrey Smart painting – surreal.

Three elongated silhouettes, dressed in black - on their skateboards - flip and turn in random jerks in the plaza below the towering buildings.

A baobab tree's bulbous trunk balances the straight, vertical lines of the architects' aesthetic imaginings - so visually appealing and varied in textures and colours with gashes of cerulean blue occasionally visible in the skyline between. Certainly the variety is there; the external surfaces seem beautifully sculpted, but somehow it has lost its human scale.

Water trickles down a long sandstone trough. The stone is natural and soothing to the eye. But where are the people in the village? It's a Saturday afternoon and yet I only see these three young skateboarders.

Cellist, Clancy Newman's composition, 'Trance Music' (2004), mimics Green Square. It captures the hauntingly lonely soul and even includes the "plunks" of dripping water. I'm glad I saw Green Square before I heard this piece. Each brought greater meaning to the other.

How long will the buildings survive before they show construction flaws? Is the inside of these buildings as substantial as the outer surface appears to be? Or will the residents be woken by a sonic crack followed by stones crumbling? Will the outside look as glamorous in five or ten years? And what of the scale? (a de-

humanising sensation overwhelms me). The natural textures are enticing, but in some way they exaggerate the contrast of the towers.

What can be added further to give a sense of humanity? Are the parks, plantings and a pool enough to make a difference?

Will the occupants feel a part of a community or will they feel isolated? Buildings under six storeys tall encourage interaction between occupants. These were all far greater than six storeys and they were cheek by jowl. Would the residents greet each other or brush past with heads bent to their palms or mumble and laugh into their chins? It's easy to become anonymous in a city of high rise. Humans need to feel part of a social group, not banished into gangs like young male chimps.

A thirteen year old boy in the group said he liked the area very much. Perhaps this is the playground of the future.

An older woman questioned the lack of parking space for such a high population. As we learn to "share" bicycles and cars perhaps this will not be a problem. Hopefully, we might become a different community where we will not think of ourselves owning individual toys, but simply learning to use - and let others use - what is necessary, when needed, rather than having them sit idle. (Read: The Third Industrial Revolution by Jeremy Rifkin.)

Perhaps Green Square is the village of the future and I am of the past.

# 17. Time to stop and listen

**Let us be the generation that changes this cycle and ensures the community and all level of governments plan a beautiful future.**

**Sharlene Smith**

We have been asked to embrace a growing metropolis. To look ahead and ensure our communities are still connected and have our culture intact as we head for 2050. I fear there will be a repeat of mistakes already made.

That we do not stop long enough to listen to what the land is telling us, before we silent its protests with layers of concrete, rubbish and token art works. It's a numbers game – 61,000, a figure thrown out by politicians so removed from the everyday traffic jams and lack of public transport they do not hear what the people of this land are saying.

As we walk around community areas empty of people covered with cleverly designed architecture, I have to wonder if the hospital that once stood on this ground was not a better idea for this growing population.

As government's change, we pull down, replace and rebuild in a continual cycle of wasted resources. There seems to be no projection into the future past the three year political term.

We have a beautiful city but the cost of living has paralysed a whole generation into silence. The energy to

make ends meet leaves little left to ensure their voices are heard as plans are made for the future.

It's time to stop.

We just need to stop.

The local members representing our communities need to remember they are here for the people. It is time to plan together. Councils have always allowed public conversation, but when foundations stones are laid community input is so often overlooked for developers with long pockets and big bank accounts.

So let's stop it.

Let us be the generation that changes this cycle and ensures the community and all level of governments plan a beautiful future. Let's tell developer what we want and lets not accept anything less for our future Sydneysiders.

# 18. What Happened?

## Sydney in 2050 is a 24/7 city with a magnificent skyline of architectural buildings...

**Jodie Hill**

Sydney in 2019 was on the verge of change. Lock out laws prevented revellers from bar hopping and causing havoc on the streets but they also were the demise of many long standing establishments. Bulldozers were flattening anything that was in their path while property developers rubbed their hands together.

Residents resisted where they could, the redevelopment of their neighbourhoods, by protesting and standing up to politicians. Oxford Street was a mere shell of its former self. A sad and sorry sight of long standing family businesses gone overnight. Bars once filled with tourists were filled with silence and a lonely bar tender. What happened?

Surry Hills was my favourite haunt of the city. Once a breeding ground for Sydney gangs and fraught with crime it is now a place to "be seen". The well-heeled frequent the glistening Beresford Hotel on a Friday and Saturday night. If you're up with the who's who you'd recognise many of the patrons. The Beresford was once a bar only for gay men. Wow! Imagine being so segregated that you were only accepted in a limited few places.

As I walk the streets of Sydney today in 2050, I imagine how it was 100 years ago in 1950 compared with how it is now, the tallest building Sydney Tower has been dwarfed by magnificent skyscrapers, Sydney's magnificent harbour is home to a world class marina. Oxford Street is home to beautiful designer stores where window shopping for "mere Mortals" has become the thing to do. There are restaurants open until late filled with tourists and laughter. Nightclubs co-exist with

restaurants and bars. 2050 is filled with tolerance and acceptance and also disbelief. Disbelief in how people were segregated depending on their sexuality, disbelief in why anyone wanted to knock down and rebuild Sydney's history, disbelief that there was a curfew in which business owners could operate.

Sydney in 2050 is a 24/7 city with a magnificent skyline of architectural buildings that their architects are proud of. It is a city where family businesses thrive amongst the franchises. The city parks will remain as beautiful as they have always been, filled with young families and grandparents. Sydney in 2050 will still be home to the homeless and as many troubles, this is only human. Sydney in 2050 will be recognised as a forward thinking city where change is embraced and heritage protected, where people are proud to live and where the rest want to live.

# 19. The Buzz of George Street

**Memories flood back of days past riding the old green trams and the infamous non-air conditioned 'red rattlers'...**

**Janette Frape**

Have you ever sat and listened to George Street?

It is the main thoroughfare since settlement on Gadigal land, connecting the constant hum of Circular Quay with the myriad comings and goings of ferries, large cruise ships, small sightseeing cruisers, day trippers luncheon and dinner cruises, noisy buses and trains.

The smell of diesel from all those vessels permeate the salt air, whilst Ibis peck their way through smelly garbage and seagulls swoop on any scrap of food they spy, right through to historic Central Railway you can listen to George Street's heartbeat (BUZZ).

Memories flood back of days past riding the old green trams and the infamous non-air conditioned 'red rattlers' and my first job in 1960 for The Railway Department under the large clock at Central Station.

Have you walked down this usually throbbing street without the sound of traffic, a street that has so many iconic buildings such as the imposing Town Hall with pride of place, which has always been the 'meeting' spot and past a once fully functioning magnificent 'General Post Office'?

Have you reflected as you pass Martin Place, not a siren, quiet ticking of traffic lights or the loud hum of a bus diesel engine, but instead the joyful anticipation filling the air along this artery through Sydney's heart?



Did you ever in all your wildest dreams growing up in the 'burbs' of Sydney imagine doing this?

At the conclusion of the 2000 Olympic Games there was a celebratory ticker tape parade for the athletes, including volunteers along George Street from Circular Quay, culminating at Town Hall.

What a dream come true to actually do this one bright 'sunshiny' day in October 2000. I took part, how amazing was that - as a volunteer working with Telstra. Green and gold was in abundance.





It was a day filled with anticipation, excitement and jubilation mixing and mingling with our extremely successful athletes from the games– electric, Sydney you owned it. Aussie Aussie Aussie Oi Oi Oi!

Sydney's personality changed during those few weeks – you were welcoming, happy, vibrant and energetic – the only place to be.

2019 and again you are able to walk without traffic along George Street whilst the long awaited and highly anticipated light rail is being installed – the same feel as 2000 but very different.

2050 what will you look like – maybe plaques recording the history of your past life embedded in wide walkways, cool tree lined streets, preserved original shopfronts, silent movement of light rail, workers going about their business, shoppers and tourists exploring - all enjoying the BUZZ of YOU?



**Ibrahim Elbadawi**

I am the MCA roof top café in the afternoon  
I am a walk across the harbour bridge on a rainy day  
I am a grey polo shirt with blue and red lines on the collar  
I am the smell of wet grass – reminds me of autumn in Sudan  
I am Turkish Lokum from a street stall in the Rocks  
I am the bellowing horn of a big cruise ship in the harbour  
I am the rage when the train is late on the weekend at Green Square Station  
I am the full moon light  
I am my shadow at the beach  
I am nature, diversity of people, art

**Robert Thaike**

I am Crown Street when I wake up  
I am day dreaming  
I am a cotton t-shirt, light and bright  
I am perfume from a flower that take me back to fields of jasmine  
I am the taste of Indian Sweets from Elizabeth Street restaurants  
I am birds chirping  
I am the rage when people talk loudly and aggressively  
I am moon light in the park at night  
I am the shadow of trees  
I am laughter, smiles and singing

**Audrey Lobo-Pulo**

I am nature, trees, grass in autumn, gum leaves, birds calling  
I am relaxing, reading, eating, drinking, walking, strolling  
I am a white shirt soft cotton, comfy jeans, favourite shoes  
I am gum leaves, smell of rain in the air, eucalyptus, jasmine  
I am slow cooked chicken on a barbeque, crispy yet soft, smokey  
I am kookaburras laughing, birds chirping, wind blowing, rain falling  
I am the rage when I'm told what to do and how  
I am sunset, golden and rose hues  
I shadows of trees and leaves shaking, moving  
I am people, relationships, harmony

**Jodie Hill**

I am walking the streets of Surry Hills early in the morning  
I am stopping at the French bakery to buy a baguette and coffee on my way home  
I am strolling in a cotton dress on a hot summer's day  
I am taken away by the scent of the murraya blossoms  
I am crunchy fresh red capsicum, it's a delight to bite into  
I am the sound of a restaurant full of laughter, it makes me smile – the chorus of laughter from  
gatherings is as good as the finest music  
I am feeling rage when I see people who get annoyed by silly little things  
I am walking in the morning light, as time ticks by, the light increases  
I am focussed on the long afternoon shadows  
I am acceptance, tolerance, education

**Jofy Dolev**

I am happy for the pastizzi in Newtown for a celebration  
I am lucky to do art at home with my mum  
I am a T-Shirt with a good message on it  
I am cookies baking in the oven, they remind me of my friend Lara  
I am margarita pizza from Dust in Glebe  
I am my cat's purring  
I am the rage when my brother annoys me  
I am natural light at sunset  
I am the shadow of me at sunset that makes me look really long  
I am my family, friends and food



**Jennifer Lewis**

I am The Rocks down beside the Harbour  
I am swimming at Prince Alfred Park Pool while the kookaburras sing  
I am big blue baggy shorts with big pockets and long legs  
I am the smell of lavender in the hanky sachets in my sweater draw  
I am a mango – a big round one that's soft and yellow  
I am the sound of rainbow lorikeets outside the window in the early morning  
I am the rage when neighbours dump rubbish on the nature strip  
I am the light on white puffy clouds moving across the sky  
I am the shadow of the tree in Prince Alfred Park where the masked lapwings stand on a hot day  
I am calm and space, pleasant architecture, rustling trees

**Margaret Yue**

I am Coogee beach before sunrise  
I am dancing on stage in a theatre  
I am my red dress with flowers  
I am the forest in the rain  
I am enjoying pork ribs from Pancake On The Rocks  
I am birds singing in the park  
I am the rage when the fire alarm turns on after midnight  
I am the spot of light in the centre of a stage  
I am my shadow on the beach with long legs  
I am having fun on the beach, in the park, with multi culture

**Jennifer Fletcher**

I am the Powerhouse Museum – a refuge of cool on a 40 degree day  
I am eating biscuits and drinking free tea  
I am a skort – a practical mix for childminding  
I am the sanitised scent of a well-kept institution  
I am a special day which means hot chips from the overpriced café  
I am Waltzing Matilda emanating from kids' feet on the floor keyboard  
I am the rage when perfect blonde twins take over that keyboard  
I am the enclosed dusk which answers blinding blue out the big windows  
I am walking in the the rectangular shadows of black that cools  
I am my family, curiosity, this new place

# 20. The Plant Tube

**They slapped their hands back and forth in a secret handshake, they both laughed and headed to school with a half skip, half walk.**

**Yofy Dolev (daughter)**

**Setting: Erskineville 2050**

When walking she walks her 10 year old girl E.P.S to school in the plant tube to avoid pollution. Her mum is a scientist studying allergies. Jess sat up in bed and brushed her sandy blonde hair out of her face. She had a very strange dream. The first sound to her ears every morning was the trickle of water.

“Morning Des” she said touching his large green leaf. Des was her favourite plant. It was time to get ready for school. Her school uniform was emerald green bearing a green lead on her jumper.

Before heading off, Jess checked the pollutant monitor. *Beep beep.* >45. When levels were low there was no need for the plant tube.

Jess just needed to text Lou, her best friend. Lou had severe allergies and needed to walk the plant tube most days.

The plant tube is a pipe for humans. It's above all the pollution. It has loads of plants dangling above it and a sustainable watering system throughout the tube. Plants, water and fresh air spreads to the house.

**Danielle James (mother)**

Jess woke from a strange dream. She brushed back her sandy blonde hair from her face. The

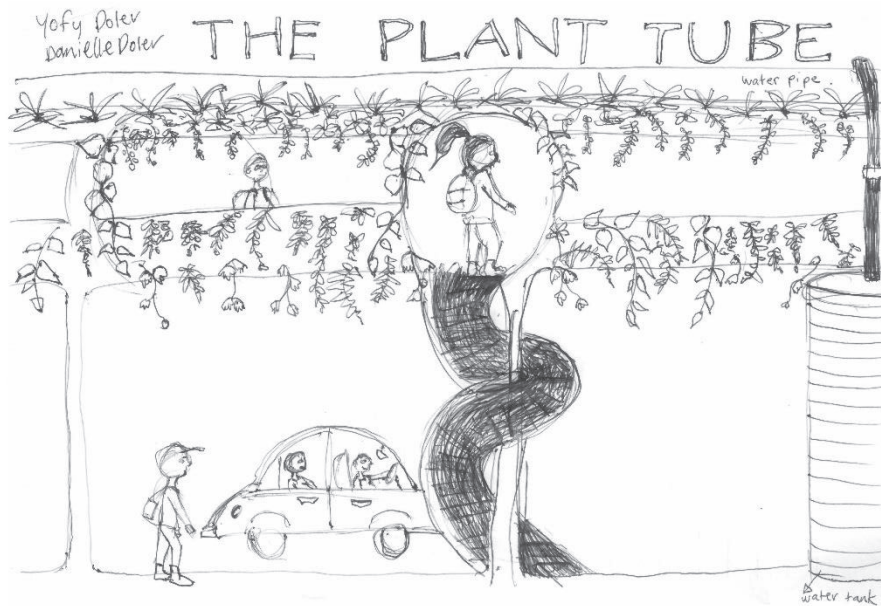
trickle of water was the first sound she heard every morning. A sound of comfort and security. It was the water running through the pipes. She opened her eyes “Good morning Des,” she said whilst reaching her hand up to pat the heart shaped leaf of her favourite plant. Jess sat up in bed and stretched forward for a moment before doing her breathing exercises. Every morning she did 10 cycles of alternate nostril breathing, various retention patterns and vacuum breath. After completing her breathing exercises Jess pressed the button on the pollution monitor, “beep, beep, beep”... “seven hundred and thirty five,” revealed an automated voice.

Levels were rather low today. Jess smiled and slipped on her bamboo green school shirt with a brown leaf emblem on the pocket symbolising Erskineville Public School, the most evolved school in the inner west of Sydney. Three generations of Jess's family had attended Erskineville Public School.

After a quick text to Lou, her best friend, to see where they would meet, Jess slid down the vine that was central to her house, into the kitchen. Jess grabbed her anaph satchel and pulled out her content analyser.

Jess's mum was stirring porridge on the stove “morning my sweet girl, how were your dreams?”. “Strange,” replied Jess. Jess's mum looked at her wide eyed “please record them Jess before they vanish from your mind, it's very important.” “Yeeees mum, please don't harass me.” said Jess.

“Where's your content analyser?” asked Jess's mum. Jess handed her mum a small grey box. Jesse's mum held it next to the porridge and



pressed the round green button. Within one second a robotic voice came from the box, “nuts negative, sesame negative.” This meant the porridge was safe for Jess to eat.

Jess scoffed her breakfast down quickly, partly from hunger, partly from being in a hurry to see Lou. She checked for messages. Lou had replied, she was feeling good and was satisfied with the low pollution level. Jess grinned, they could meet on the corner and walk the footpath together. It had been 3 months since they had walked the footpath to school.

Lou’s allergies were worse than Jess’s and most days they would walk along the plant tube to school. Exhaust fumes and minor outdoor pollutants could trigger an allergic reaction. All except three of the students in Jess’s class had severe allergies. Most students walked the plant tube to school.

Most people had sensitivities and allergies to various air pollutants and reactions could be as extreme as anaphylaxis.

The plant tube is a large pipeline existing on stilts above the footpath. It is covered in plants that filter pollutants. It is an amazing vision of green leaves and vines and flowers. Every 50 metres is a water tank that pumps water through small pipelines and irrigates the entire plant system of the plant tube. Any excess water is distributed to households.

Jess’s father was involved in the design and installation of the plant tube and also gave his life,

some would say, in order to complete the plant tube. Inside the plant tube the same sound that Jess woke to in the morning, that trickle of water, could be heard. This was part of the soundtrack to Jess’s life. For those with extreme allergies the plant tube went straight to the office door of Erskineville public school.

Otherwise there existed a 400 metre vehicle free zone around the school, making it safe for many of the students to walk outside in this area.

“Where are you meeting Lou?” asked Jess’s mum. “On the corner,” mumbled Jess. “Well if you are not waling the plant tube please wear a mask,” said Jess’s mum. “No,” replied Jess defiantly and left the house straight away.

Jess took her first steps beyond the trees that created a thin but effective barrier between her house and the footpath. City life had changed in the last 31 years. The importance of trees and plants was relevant more than ever with the influx of allergies. Jesse’s house is only 2 metres from the road at the front. There is no front yard but a strip of trees exists. Plants and trees create a barrier to Jess’s house wherever possible. Her house is camouflaged, it is difficult to see one brick. Jess was sure the birds didn’t realise it was a house for humans. There were a couple of nests amongst the branches a little higher up. All of the houses in Jess’s street were similar, it was hard to see a door or a window, the houses were unrecognisable. Jess stepped out from behind the line of trees a little nervous but excited.



Straight away she spotted Lou on the corner. Lou has long straight brown hair, she wears glasses and reminds Jess of a mouse or a squirrel. Lou was waving with excitement at Jess. Jess ran to greet her. They slapped their hands back and forth in a secret handshake, they both laughed and headed to school with a half skip, half walk. They were on the opposite side of the street to the plant tube and through the windows of the plant tube they could see students walking. The students were looking down at Jess and Lou in amazement and with envious eyes. Jess and Lou enjoyed being the envy of the other students and revelled in their freedom for the morning.

On the way to school Jess and Lou had to take a detour. They needed to avoid the Westconnex vents. Underneath the streets of Erskineville and Newtown exists a motorway and in peak hour there is an increased release of exhaust fumes through the vents. Even though there are more electric cars than ever as well as solar and hydrogen cars, the problem is with the evolution of allergies through the generations. Not only does a majority of the population have allergies but the sensitivities are more extreme. It does not take much exposure for a serious allergic reaction to occur. Everybody even people who are known to be allergy free avoids the WestConnex vents.

This day on their way to school Jess and Lou were enjoying, kicking at stones, picking flowers and watching lorikeets feast on their favourite red berries. It was the beginning of the school year and they were happily chatting about their new class.

They had scored big time, it was their last year of primary school and the four of them, the fabulous four, were all in a class together. Cath and Adrien

were the other half of the fabulous four. The four of them had been "best friends forever" for the last three years that is since grade three.

Jess and Lou absent-mindedly walked round a corner and a dog ran past yapping loudly. Then Jess saw it first, but it wasn't until she heard the low grumbling sound that Lou became aware as well. A big yellow garbage truck was chugging along the road loud and clear like a monster unaware of the damage it can create. Jess looked at Lou and saw the expression on her face change in an instant. Jess's heart started to beat a little faster, so she consciously slowed her breath in order to calm her heart. Panic increased the possibility of a reaction.

Jess put a hand on Lou's shoulder and straight away said "It's ok, stay calm, cover your mouth and turn away." As the truck came closer the two girls held hands covered their mouths and turned their backs to the road. "Keep breathing," said Jess, "you still need to breathe." It seemed to take forever for the truck to pass, by the time it had passed Jess and Lou were still breathing and had no signs of a reaction.

Simultaneously they took out their face protection masks and slipped them over their mouth and nose. They walked on quickly without talking. They had not walked far when another sound set their hearts racing again. Although the new airport was outside the city, it could not manage the full capacity of aeroplane traffic. There is a minority group fighting to keep flights coming and going from the mascot airport. Both Jess and Lou's Grandmas are a part of this group. They were comrades camping out in Sydney Park to protest against the WestConnex 30 years ago and were still activists for various

causes today. The two girls knew between the truck and the plane overhead there was a much higher chance of a reaction. Straight away they decided to leave their detour and head for the nearest entrance to the plant tube.

As Jess and Lou arrived to the base of the stairs leading to a plant tube entrance Jess caught sight of a slumped figure ahead. Jess tugged on Lou's shoulder. "What?" said Lou. Jess pointed to the figure further down the footpath. Jess recognised the backpack, "its Robin". "He doesn't have any allergies," said Lou. "Maybe it's his first reaction, it does happen you know, in which case he may not have an anaph satchel on him. We have to go and help." Lou expressed reluctance in her eyes but Jess knew Lou's heart and with faith that Lou would follow Jess left to help Robin. Jesse's throat started to tickle, she could not only smell but feel the residual fallout from the plane as if it was seeping into her body. She ignored the sensation as she had been trained to do, she knew Lou would be going through the same internal process too.

Every morning, first class at school was first aid and emergency training. As she had been taught Jess switched on the emergency button in her brain, one word came to her mind, "FOCUS". All sensation and sound receded, any faltering fluctuations in her mind and emotional state ceased. The only thing that motivated both Jess and Lou now was the task at hand. The safety of Robin and themselves. By the time they reached Robin he was still conscious but was obviously having trouble breathing and was starting to clutch at his throat.

Straight away Jess got out her epi-pen. She positioned herself to hold Robin's leg still. Lou calmed Robin and told him everything was going to be ok whilst also trying to keep him still. It was going to hurt, it always does, this was no small needle. After pulling off the blue tab Jess pressed firm and strong with the epi-pen straight into Robin's thigh. They waited and within seconds Robin's breathing was getting better. Then with some degree of difficulty they managed to get him to the plant tube. Instantly a crowd of people surrounded them. Everyone had their phones out and were calling emergency.

A mother of 2 children said it looked like he may need a second epi-pen. Robin's breathing had recovered for only a few minutes. He was starting to struggle with his breath again. "Here take mine" said Jess. The mother recognised Jess and instantly took it from her. Jess could get epi-pens for free. For everyone else the first epi-pen was subsidised by the government and cost \$90 out of pocket, the second epi-pen was a full \$500.

Jesse's mum was one of the leading scientists researching allergies and anaphylaxis. Her name was especially well known in this area, Dr Fredricka Munro. Jess reached for Lou's hand and lay back on the curve of the plant tube. She took off her mask, gave herself a dose of anti-histamine and offered some to Lou.

They both put their heads down and together breathed. Jess closed her eyes and listened for the sound, there it was, the trickle of water through the pipes. This was the sound of comfort, security, of her father and home. Peace set in.

# 21. All's Changed 'Cept the Sky

**Leaning back against the tiller, I stare up at the sky. It's the same deep blue; it hasn't changed.**

**George Lancaster**

Jocund. That's the word. Takes a while to think of 'em these days. Not dementia, knock on wood. Just slower blood flow, I reckon. Can remember breakfast last Monday. Names of my children, their children, and their children. And my husband's face, in every detail, God rest his soul. Jocund. Apt description of those humpbacks swimming by the tip of the old tourist tower.

Past ninety and still kicking this January, 2050, breathing without effort out here in the open air with my great-granddaughter Jess. She loves riding with her great-grandma, bless her eight-year old heart. Seeing the world through her eyes is a reversing-of-age miracle. I feel a lightness all over, as if I could run a marathon before lunch and scale a peak before dinner.

A rough chuckle escapes my lips.

"What's funny, Gran?"

"Nothing, dear. No. Make that everything. So happy to be out here with you."

Jess smiles and turns straight ahead and the wind catches her braids like kite tails. We've been on the water since early morning and only now is traffic building up. The boat's not much more than a short-masted dinghy. Astern is a small outboard motor powered by the sun. When on, it barely makes a sound, the lapping waves against

the gunwales drowning it out. There's wind enough for the sail today and we're making good time.

Leaning back against the tiller I stare up at the sky. It's the same deep blue; it hasn't changed. A scream startles me awake. Jess is scrambling back towards me, horror etched across her face.

"A croc! Right there!" She points to calm water. "Its eyes! They were staring at me!"

"There, there." I reach out to grab her, bring her close, smother her fear. "Don't you worry, Jess. More afraid of us, I promise." A pause. "As long we're in the boat!" I make as if to pick her up. Then tickle her. Her peeling laughter peels back another year.

Funny how my joy is ever present now. With the change. The Great Riddance. Maybe it's the satisfaction.

The right of it.

"Tell me again, Gran." Jess never tires asking the question. "Tell me what it was like."

When asked, I go way back. Before the first wave. Long before I was born.

"People like us was all there was. Proud peoples, hundreds of languages, living as they wished across this great land."

"Great land?" Jess always stumbles at these words.

"Yes, dear, land as far as you can see. Even here." I point to the bottom of the boat. "Ocean wasn't for miles yet, and between our mountain home and that bit over there," I point to the far off aerial, pretty much all that's left visible of the once tall tower, "was land, unspoiled land."

“And?”

“Trees. So many trees. Huge, beautiful trees. And animals you can’t count. Lush. Green. A paradise like no other.” Though I wasn’t there at the time, I’d grown up with the stories, the suggested images as real as anything seen with my own eyes.

Further questioning is cut short; we’ve reached Jess’s favourite spot. I slacken the sail.

“C’mon Gran, it’s time!” Jess lifts the lid of a small bin and takes out two sets of face masks and snorkels. “Here you are!” She shouts she’s so excited, handing me the larger one, one better suited for an adult shape.

I help strap hers on before affixing mine. We can’t help but giggle when we look at each other through glass. What I see is innocence magnified and eyes too large for her face. What does she see? A mass of wrinkles shoved together, like a Shar Pei puppy. How can we not laugh?

She grabs my hand and pulls me to the side of the boat. Before leaning down we place the snorkels in our mouths. Dentures shift but hold.

“Down, Gran!”

Her hand is on my back, urging me forward, into the drink. A quick glance assures me the sea croc is nowhere near. Nor any other threat. Sea snakes and box jellyfish are deadlier, now ever present in the warmer water. A flotilla of sailing boats slides by, respecting our right to stop, giving us a wide berth, sailors calling “Hallo!” as they pass. Wakes won’t be a problem. Together we blow hard into our mouthpieces and plunge our faces into the tepid water.

As my sight adjusts the scene below clears to eye-popping clarity. Brilliant, live coral are

everywhere, festooned thickly upon wide, curving concrete. Reds and blues and yellows, fans and clumps and appendages, the sheer fecundity a marvel of regeneration. Abundant fish of every description swim undisturbed, some singly, more in mass groupings, darting as one. The concrete ribbon splits in two, re-joins into one, swoops and dips in and around a tunnel, the dark entrance a beaconing maw. Can’t help but imagine some frightful sea beast lies await inside, just out of sight. Staring doesn’t provoke; nothing emerges but bubbles, the remnants of an ancient air pocket, or a cracked gas pipe that’s been bleeding for years. Every time we visit, the tiny bubbles are there, floating up in a steady stream. Soon we’re past it, moving east with the tide, the crumbling rooftops too far down to see.

“So beautiful! Could watch that for hours!” Jess, her head held high, still has the mask on her face. “Can we turn around? See it again? Please, Gran?”

“Sorry honey. Got to keep moving.” I massage my face, trying to rid it quickly of the red circle I know is there. “But don’t you worry. St. Peters Interchange, and everything connected to it, isn’t going anywhere. The billions they poured into that folly? It’ll stand for eons.”

## 22. Our Place

**The old in the city is what attracts me. If you go down a side street, you might see a row of wrought-iron'd terraces, or an old, red-brick house with a feature-tile motif...**

**Joyce Noble**

I watched my father die part-time. He'd left the city years before—for a tree change. When he was dying of cancer, I'd commute up the M1 on the weekends and witness his decline. Now, I wonder if I'm witnessing the city's decline.

I'm a commuter. I've always lived on the outskirts of the city. For me, Sydney—the city—mostly consisted of the inside and the fringes of the city circle: Central Station, Town Hall, Wynyard, Circular Quay, St James and Museum. My working week was the CBD, the shopping precinct, the cinema district, the quay and the gardens—a landscape studded with old sandstone buildings.

A little Greek restaurant in Pitt Street, anywhere in Chinatown, the bars beneath Wynyard, old pubs—places I'd hang out with colleagues through the week.

Ethnic restaurants in Surry Hills, Glebe, Leichhardt; theatres around the city; loud pubs with bands, bars up the cross—places I'd hang out with friends on weekends. Community colleges from Bondi to the burbs—places I'd go to learn.

Markets, movies, beaches, the show—places I'd go to explore.

Libraries—places I'd go to plan my escape.

The parks at lunchtime, to walk or read. Wandering the paths in the Botanic Gardens, eyes on the harbour, eyes on the horizon. Sitting in the sun or in tree-shade, birds chatting, flitting in, out, about. Sitting on a bench in Hyde Park near St James, water flowing in the fountain, watching tourists pose in front of it, then noticing the statues, gods with tridents and sculpted horses, rampant. The park, up near the museum end, the Oxford Street end, exhaust fumes and not-so-dulcet tones of traffic on the outside, but benches on the inside, where I'd sit with my library book—still and always a hard copy—maybe borrowed from Sydney Library at the QVB, Town Hall, Circular Quay or now, the Green Square branch—an oasis in the wasteland. Reluctantly retreating to the postage-stamp park behind Wynyard, bounded by busses, but still a patch of green. The Domain, because you got a little walk in, not because of any redeeming features. But never Belmore Park, where the homeless men hung out, though you didn't call them 'homeless men' back then.

I'd read too on the commute to and from the city.

The red rattlers are gone now, from my line at least, though I still have memories of being packed in on summer days, holding onto a pole in the vestibule, swaying, and almost passing out from heat and nausea. Living further out now gives me an advantage of being able to get a seat in the morning, though I still have to climb over people sitting on the stairs or wait for blue-uniformed school boys with bulging backpacks at their feet to



get out before I can. The tunicked girls in the opposite corner stay put.

Much of my commuter's view remains the same. But that's changing now.

I can't cry about the lost views; nothing of any note backed onto the train lines—bare backyards, graffitied brick buildings, old factories, rail yards and eventually, the approaching city skyline.

Now it's some of the same, plus boarded up lots, waiting for development or blocks with cranes and constant activity. Or the high rises at Hurstville or Wolli Creek—cancers, well established, with secondaries creeping along the rail corridor.

When you think you'll be better off travelling by car and you're psychologically prepared to keep a cap on your road rage, you might venture out, behind the wheel, into the streets. You can watch anxious commuters, standing waiting for the bus, making sure they won't be hidden by a truck and left behind by the bus driver. While you wait at the lights, your engine thrumming, listening to the tick-tick, tick-tick of the indicator, and seeing the orange flash from the corner of your eye, you can watch drivers in the lane beside you: the Asian guy in the white 4WD with a purple-ghost bobble-man on his dashboard; or, in his black sedan, the handsome, western European guy with short, dark, wavy hair, curling at the collar of his midnight-blue shirt, toying with his wedding ring. Or you can watch the homes you drive by.

The old in the city is what attracts me.

If you go down a side street, you might see a row of wrought-iron'd terraces, or an old, red-brick house with a feature-tile motif, or if you're very lucky—you might see a house called Edna. If you're lucky, you

might also see a solitary new structure with a bit of soul or a single, redeeming architectural feature.

If you get out of your car in the new developments, near Green Square say, you'll see the cancer up close. Empty blocks still waiting for development, heat blasting up from the concrete, alleys between high rise apartments, where a balcony with a bicycle or an old pot-plant-studded drop-leaf table might indicate human habitation. The new horizon.

My old city was never all that big. But its skyline seems to be shrinking now. Its character seem to be shrivelling. Its possibilities seem to be more elusive. But maybe that's just my view.

Still, I want to see more—more skyline, more artistic, more surprises. I want to see more Sydney bursting from the streets, not just pockets of it.

I want to see our past. I want to see our promise. I want to see our place.

## 23. Sydney through the eyes of a taxi driver

**I like driving around Glebe and Newtown, which is a vibrant and diverse area where people are generally friendly and happy.**

### Pauline Su

As a migrant/refugee newly arrived from Manus Island, my qualifications as an engineer are not recognised in Australia.

So I drive taxis to survive, to look after my wife and children.

We have to live far out west in Fairfield, I have to wake up very early to start my shift and don't get home till late so I don't even get to see my children. Through driving taxis all over Sydney, I see people and things of all kinds.

Lucky for me, public transport in Sydney is so unreliable, people have to take a taxi to get somewhere on time.

Although I cannot guarantee that, as traffic congestion can mean I am stuck in a jam, and then my passengers might get angry and frustrated.

People can be so rude, some are even racist, telling me to "go back to where you come from". And some people are dishonest and run away without paying their fare. Still, that is better than being robbed and beaten up by drunks. Or having drunks throw up in my taxi, because I have to clean it up and miss out on my fares.

Driving taxis is very challenging - on one hand I am being squeezed by the taxi owner who is being

squeezed by another company – on the other hand, we are being 'disrupted' by ride share companies.

You can understand why taxi drivers are grumpy and whinge to each other in our own language on our mobiles while we are driving.

I wonder how some people can get so rich in Sydney, when I drive around the harbour side and blue-ribbon suburbs of Vaucluse, Bellevue Hill, Rose Bay Darling Point and Point Piper. I am told you need to have good connections and grease palms. Look at some of the councils which permit high rise development, the developers have the politicians in their pockets.

At least, I feel hopeful I will soon be able to vote and I have an interim Medicare card so I can get some health services.

But private doctors in Australia are so expensive and the public hospitals have a very long waiting list. My family's English is also not so good, but we want to learn.

I encourage my children to study hard, it is the best way to have a better life, get a good job and maybe you could get a house.

But everyone is in a rat-race, so competition is very stiff.

Sometimes it is a 'jungle out there' and people can be very rude, forget their manners. In Sydney everyone seems to be stressed and forget to smile, they smile for their selfies but not for others. I am told it wasn't always like this.

Since young people now believe they may never be able to afford to buy their own homes, they have decided to spend their money enjoying life.

I like driving around Glebe and Newtown, which is a vibrant and diverse area where people are generally friendly and happy. I think it may be because there are 'university' suburbs. I think a civil

society starts with a good education, not just at school but at home. Because children take on their parents values and attributes, don't they?

I want my children to grow up and be good citizens of this country which has taken us in. When I have any free time, I take my family to Sydney Olympic Park. Sydney has a few parks with trees and flowers. They are nice places where families can relax with their friends, relatives, and pets. They are happy places where I can hear birds tweeting and I can forget my worries for a while.

Even though my life is not easy, I want to work hard to make a better life for my children.

Although Sydney is not perfect, I know there are good people here who want to make it a better home for everyone and now it is home for me and my family.

# 24. Bronx the Redfern Dog

## They always stop to give me a scratch on my back.

**Natasha Sitanala**

Oh! Mum is back! She took my harness! Oh my God it's time for walkies! So excited! I ran to the lift. Mum will take me to this small park across the road from the apartment it's called Gibbons Street Reserve.

She took this black thing which she put my poop in. Haha I always think it's funny when she picks up my poop. Why would she? Mum told me that it's the rule to live in Sydney to pick up my poop. Oh, suit yourself mum. You picked them up for me, so I don't have to work hard at burying it.

She took me off the leash! And...yes! Run free...Ooooh...hold on what's this great smell? Oooh...I'm following it. I think it's something yummy. I wonder if I can eat it? Let me see what Mum's doing.

Well, she's busy with the square! Yes! She won't see me eat this then. I ran so quick and grabbed the delicious thing. Oh my...so good. And then here comes mum. She pulled me away from the food! Why? It's free food! Mum stop! I'm gonna growl at her.

What? She put the leash back on and she picked up my food. Oh no she put it in the poo bag! Mum that's not my poop! Oh no how dare she bin it. Mum talked to the square again and said she was sick of people leaving food in dog parks. She sounds really angry. I hope I won't get a time out at home because I ate food in the park. This is my worst fight with mum so far. I hope she still loves me.

I am confused. Everyone else is taller than me and they have two legs. I used to have some friends at my height with 4 legs but since I have a new home, I am the only one with 4 legs.

My human friend really tried to put this thing on me. It goes over my body and has a really long thing she's holding on to. It makes me attached to her. It's called a harness. Oh no, I really want to run free on my own! But boy, she feeds me well. If I sit and stare, I get yummy things! I'll do it so often then. Oh, her name is Mum.

My Mum took me to her work. What is work? Where there are so many desks and cables! Oh I love cables! But Mum always scream at me when I get closer to the cables. This place has doors but they're always open. Maybe I should try to go out and pee on my own. Oops that didn't go well. I get in trouble. Mum put me in a naughty corner. After Mum finished with this work thing, Mum took me out to this place called Alexandria Park. Lots of four legged friends and they are my size too! I have more friends now. She took me here every afternoon. It's my favourite time of the day, after treat time!

I now go to work with Mum every day. I get to meet so many people who are my neighbours. I met them when I go with Mum to the place she buys flowers, fruit and vegetables on Regent Street, I met them at other fun parks like Redfern Park, Waterloo Green. But Mum doesn't let me off leash because there are so many people around. I know most of them. They come to me and Mum's work often. They always stop to give me a scratch on my back. Wonder if they have some yum treats in their pocket.

I overheard Mum talk to the square thing that makes so much noise and it vibrates, scares the hell out of me when it does. Mum loves that square

thing. I can tell. She always holds it and looks at it. And she even tries to make me look at it while posing for her. Weird! Mum said to square that she doesn't want to go to the city because she can't take me with her. She wants to go to the Tudor Hotel around the corner in Redfern instead because it's dog friendly.

What? Mum? Stop! Why are you putting shoes on but not my harness? Where are you going Mum? Am I not invited? Was I a bad boy today? Mum, look let's play fetch instead. Take your shoes off! Or I'll help you take them off! No! I am not biting your shoes Mum! I only want you to stay with me. So Mum said she's going to the city. And she can't take me along. What is the city? And why can't I come?

Mum said I can't go on a train or bus with her so she has to go alone. This makes me sad. I will have to stay home alone. I hope Mum will be back soon. She always said she doesn't really like the city anyway. She said it's so hectic!



# 25. There is an Elephant beneath our city

Sharlene Smith

The Elephant has a long memory,  
lying beneath the rubble

He hopes the new age will bring some common sense,  
to ensure that there is green space to roam and clear the air

The Elephant knows he should not be here,  
placed with little care or thought

Like many of us left behind,  
now the keepers of the fort.

The Elephant is not alone,  
he is blessed to share the ground with the local kangaroos.

He values their knowledge and input,  
learning how to manage this complicated soil.

The Elephant is waiting to be heard,  
as he lies patiently beneath our city park.

His bones a reminder of our failings,  
his memory a gift to future generations.

# 26. Time to let go

**Sharlene Smith**

Holding on is stifling the future.  
letting go hurts.

Craving times long past,  
a modern day curse.

Needing to create a memory for the children  
a gift to give the universe.

Building a new community for tomorrow,  
a responsibility not the worst.

Working together so important,  
diversity, not the purse.

Creating our identity,  
I am Sydney must be first.

# 27. Friday Night

Esther Bailey

Aaaaah  
 I sit  
 On my balcony  
 The sun sets  
 I breathe in. breathe out  
 The city skyline twinkles in the distance.  
 The first lights coming on in the spiralling towers  
 Cable cars thrum as they ferry the high rise workers out to transit hubs  
 Sailing down from the sky into the tree canopy of the city below.  
 I close my eyes.  
 The swish and swash of the ghost gums on the levels above  
 Play shadows across my ears and eyelids.  
 Fragrant, cool, transpired oxygen swirls in eddies  
 Cooling the heat of the day  
 Soothing the soul.  
 Laughter bubbles up from the children playing below  
 At ground level  
 And below  
 Making dens and tunnels through the fun forest  
 Playing chase  
 Roaming free  
 In and out of the tower blocks  
 The clack and hum of skateboard wheels and go-smart-go-carts  
 Looping endlessly around the bike lanes  
 Terrorising old ladies with their tartan magno-shopping trollies  
 Weaving. Wheeling.  
  
 Their parents flick and flap their laundry  
 On their balconies  
 In their pants  
 The intimacy and collusive, collective blindness of high density living  
 They check the screen of the kid safe app  
 Comforted by the circling on-screen blip  
 Telling them their child is safe, included and still hydrated.  
 Soon the alarm will remind the kids to come in for tea.

A little flutter of wings  
 A chirrup and squawk  
 A family of cheeky lorikeets  
 Drive a warbling maggie from her perch  
 On the roof-top bird-box mini-city.

The tiny buzz of electronic bees  
 and my iridescent E1000 hummingbird  
 Finish their days work, pollinating my wall garden.  
 Great yield this month.  
 If you like tomatoes anyway!

I'll have to make up with Mrs Patel  
 If I want to trade avocados with her this week.

The smell of ripening neighbourhood fruit hangs heavier  
 The air becomes still.  
 The bats will arrive soon.

In the middle distance, a siren wails  
 The sound first sharp then dull  
 Moves left to right  
 Near to far  
 Comforting

Ferrying the days heat stroke victims  
 To the medi-cool centre.  
 I wouldn't want to be an outdoor worker nowadays.

Closer, women laugh  
 And the sound of music ripples in.  
 It's Friday night  
 I hear them joking, dancing.  
 Suddenly, the sound of breaking glass.  
 Abrupt Silence  
 "Sky taxi!" someone shouts  
 Then more laughing erupts. Louder. Bolder.  
 I love this track  
 Oh god  
 I hate this one.  
 I check myself. Let it go. They've having a good time. Chill out  
 I turn my head and the noise washes back.

Later, if the party noise gets too much  
 I'll retreat inside  
 Pull up the noise-cancelling screens  
 Activate the Faraday cage.  
 Float in the stillness  
 Or  
 Crank up my own tracks  
 Turn on Skype immersive party mode  
 And hang with the London crew. They'll still be up!

Life is good.

The Sydney I love has  
 Space to be together and Space to be alone  
 Joy in casual neighbourly interactions  
 Places to hang with friends  
 Great breakfasts  
 Food picked on site and freely shared  
 A barista who knows your name  
 Splash play in every park  
 Shady trees  
 Jogging and Tai Chi  
 People from many places, speaking many languages  
 Chess in the park  
 Leathery old dudes strolling  
 with their pants high and their tops off  
 Comfortable in their skin  
 Quirky. Diverse. Welcome  
 Enveloped in their community.  
 Clean air  
 Streets for people  
 Efficient transport  
 Fulfilling employment  
 Equality of opportunity  
 Peace  
 Respect  
 Prosperity  
 Fun

(and if you want a manifesto, read bottom to top!)







**Thank you**

# **Attachment K**

**Citizen's Jury Report (Unedited Version)**

# Sydney 2050 Citizens' Jury Concepts Shortlist

*What concepts should be implemented  
in Sydney by 2050?*

## ***Letter to the future:***

Dear Sydneysiders in 2050,

In August 2019, a group of fifty Sydney-siders came together over three months faced with a huge task: to imagine Sydney in thirty years' time.

We invested our time and personal energy towards creating a vision for the people of the future. Our discussions have been deeply influenced by what was happening around us - Sydney is ringed by bushfires, highlighting the global climate change crisis. Droughts across the state have meant tighter water restrictions. We are witnessing our neighbourhoods change as a result of the increasing cost of real-estate in Sydney, and we are spending countless hours in congested traffic.

Those of us who were living in Sydney thirty years ago know that Sydney has changed dramatically in that time, and we are certain it will continue to change in the next thirty to come. In working with the City of Sydney, we have been given the opportunity and responsibility to come up with a vision for the future of the city, and bridge the past with the future.

In looking forward, we also have to look back. It is important that we acknowledge the connection that the Eora nation have had for thousands of years to the land that Sydney is built on. It is important that we acknowledge the negative impact of colonisation on the landscape and its traditional custodians. We have much to learn from our First Nations people about nurturing and respecting the land.

Our hope for Sydney in 2050 is that it is a sustainable, inclusive, diverse city that is welcoming and embraces people from all walks of life. A city where people want to live.

Citizens' Jury, 2019



## ***Executive Summary and Introduction***

The jury was randomly selected from residents, workers and citizens in the City of Sydney and surrounding councils. The jury met for six full Saturdays, reviewing public over 2500 submissions for ideas for the future of the city. On the first Saturday we the jury set the goal to identify the concepts to realise the community's vision for 2050, mindful of the challenges it faced.

The process commenced by sifting through thousands of ideas submitted by the public, followed by hours of discussion about "what will Sydney look like in 2050?". We spoke with subject-matter experts from architecture, town-planning, sustainability, housing, and more. We also consulted with holders of Indigenous wisdom and knowledge. The process was not always smooth-sailing, however through the dynamic facilitation we were provided, we were able to create a document which was presented to the City of Sydney.

Through continuous group discussions, all ideas were progressively distilled down into eight overarching concepts.

- **Participatory governance** - a new model of governance that genuinely engages citizens in decision making on all levels, which is responsive and adaptable
- **First peoples of Australia** (leadership & representation) - the traditional custodians of the land being able to play a central role on how to shape the city, through active participation in governance that is embedded and respectful
- Innovative and future ready - a city that is always ready for the future
- Housing for all - a city providing a wide range of accessible and affordable housing options, being inclusive, promoting social and community cohesion
- Regenerative ecosystem - a leader in reversing climate change and restoring the natural environment by giving back more than what the city takes
- Moving efficiently and sustainability - a city with efficient, people-focussed transport that is car-free, green and enjoyable
- Embed creative arts in everyday life - a future where creative arts are alive, interwoven and celebrated in everyday life, accessible for all at different times
- 24 hour city - a vibrant, lively, culturally diverse city, that is open 24 hours

Through these eight concepts we want to ensure that the culture of the city we live in evolves and adapts for the future. As the City of Sydney is already developed, we need to ensure that no space will go to waste. We want all spaces in the city to be flexible for a multitude of purposes throughout the day and the night. The City has a responsibility to play an active role in providing and encouraging health for our people. We care for the livelihood of our citizens, and want greater priority to be added to health and wellbeing.

For these ideas to come to life, we need action taken now so that our vision for the city will be achieved by 2050. The vision that we have outlined in this report will take a combined and sustained effort from the City, citizens, and businesses.

-----

## ***Participatory governance***

**What:** We want a new model of governance that genuinely engage citizens in decision making on all levels, and is responsive and adaptable.

**Why:** There are currently concentrated power structures making decisions for citizens, rather than citizens holding the power.

We want a city influenced by diverse views, needs, and wants. We want to rectify imbalances and inequities.

**How:**

- Participatory budgeting:
- Citizens' panels of sizeable scale for true representation
- Innovative online voting system
- Data to be used by council to generate economic benefit, and help communities

## ***First Peoples of Australia – leadership and representation***

*Although we as a Jury are a diverse range of people there were no Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people amongst us. However, we did receive some input.*

**What:** We want the traditional custodians of the land to help shape the city, through active participation in governance that is embedded, respectful.

We want Sydney to be a place where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices influence the identity, design, and functioning of Sydney (Eora).

**Why:** We recognise that our history has displaced the First Peoples of Australia, and that current systems don't adequately allow First Nations perspectives, values, and priorities.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities possess wisdom and knowledge that must be valued in shaping how we care for our country and our communities – in governance, planning, education and health. This has the capacity to enhance social and emotional wellbeing for all.

We must recognise the cultural authority of the First Peoples of Australia. We want a society that shares the respect for, and connection to this land that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have had for 60,000 years.

**How:** We need to promote First Nations' self-determination and empowerment so that ideas are not imposed on people and we don't repeat the mistakes of the past.

In line with the principles of reconciliation, we want to place responsibility on non-Indigenous people to adapt their systems and practices to value and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues and encourage discourse and community reflection.

We need a process of truth telling and recognition that deals with the impacts of invasion and colonisation.

## ***Innovative and future ready***

**What:** We want the City of Sydney to become a city that is always ready for the future.

**Why:** Our current built environment in the city of Sydney stifles the attraction of new innovators and creators - the current rules of our city's development and administration are rigid and risk becoming outdated. In the past, Sydney has not been prepared for major technological changes. Priming Sydney to continue to evolve enables us to be ready for new technologies and changes we haven't anticipated.

**How:** The City of Sydney should ensure a focus on buildings and spaces with adaptive uses. The City should take charge to make space for innovation instead of allowing for developer's narrow interests to dominate the development of Sydney. Information the City of Sydney collects should be richer, deeper and freely available to allow the critical assessment needed to know if they're doing the right thing. The city should not just support the creation of new ideas but also provide the environment to incubate those new ideas into new industries. This must include affordable training, as it is essential in preparing people for technological challenges to come. There must also be a fund that is readily accessible to local innovators so that we do not lose our brilliant ideas. This could be initiated and promoted by the City and draw upon the wider international investment community.

## ***Housing for all***

**What:** We the jury envision a Sydney that can be called home throughout any stage of life. We want to ensure diversity in the city by providing a wide range of accessible and affordable housing options. We want Sydney to be inclusive and to promote social and community cohesion.

**Why:** Sydney is currently an unaffordable city to many and is at risk of losing the diversity of its people and neighbourhoods in its villages. Sydney does not provide a safety net nor adequate supply of accessible housing for people at risk of homelessness. People who provide essential services in Sydney are being pushed out of the city.

### **How:**

- Planning incentives for developers to include affordable housing in new developments
- Stimulate supply of collaborative/cooperative living projects and the number of affordable single/family residences
- Advocate for the introduction of financial penalties, taxation and incentives to curb the amount of unused space in the city
- Encourage community cohesion through the development of mixed affordable housing for diverse demographics, including emergency accommodation, disability, student, youth, artists etc.



## ***Regenerative ecosystem***

**What:** We the jury, envision the city as a leader in reversing climate change, and restoring the natural environment by giving back more than it takes. Creating a city where every space is maximised for the greater community good.

**Why:** To combat the climate emergency, we need to be regenerative and beyond sustainable. The City has finite access to natural and financial resources, the built environment and space. Air pollution, water pollution and water scarcity must be addressed for a healthy city.

We want the buildings of our city to be made of materials which support the environment, not degrade it. We want the people to transform their waste into materials to feed back into the economy.

We want no space in the city to go to waste. We must renew empty spaces and unused buildings to support lively and vibrant communities.

### **How:**

Key recommendations, for more detail refer to the infographic and appendix.

- expansive greening: trees & plants enveloping the city: street, buildings, rooftops, small spaces
- regenerative agriculture & urban farms
- ocean regeneration
- 100% renewable energy including multiple micro-grids
- circular economy: zero waste, share, repair, reuse, recycle
- an educated environmentally conscious society
- sustainable building construction standards with integrated recycling and waste management
- policy to incentivise and support regenerative practices
- green transport

## Green Trees

- Trees, forests, plants, gardens
- Urban farms & farm walls
- Vertical gardens
- Public access to interconnected rooftop gardens
- Tree-lined streets, green corridors to public parks

## Food

- Source from regenerative agriculture (plant diversity, grazing animals)
- Urban farms, community gardens & farm walls
- Eat less meat or meat substitutes
- Plant based diet, beans for protein
- Zero waste cafe & restaurants, on-site composting
- Zero waste supermarkets & farmers markets
- Stores selling surplus foods - charity, happy hour
- Restore grasslands
- Add seaweed to animal feed (reduces methane emissions)

## Water

- Ocean regeneration to restore ocean life
- Marine permaculture: seaweed, kelp coastal farms
- Create eco tourism and education centre
- Adapt to sea level rise

## Green Energy

- 100% renewable energy: solar & wind (offshore)
- Micro-Grid technology
- Households sharing excess energy

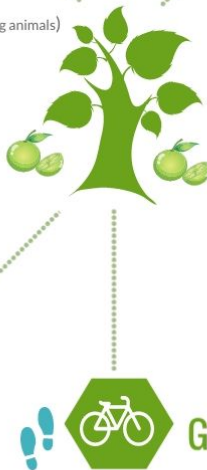


## Circular Economy

- Products 100% made from recyclable material
- Proven bioplastics
- Reusable containers
- Environmentally friendly packaging (e.g. seaweed)
- Micro recycling facilities in each village
- Garment & textile collections, smart e-bins
- Technology subscriptions
- Zero-waste stores e.g. produce sold loose, paperless
- Repair & refurbish centres
- Reuse centres, stop and swap events
- Cradle-to-cradle product design
- Carbon capture to grow plant greenhouses
- Carbon neutral building & product materials
- Industrial composting

## Education

- Large billboards displaying visual environmental dashboards
- Sustainability and social well-being leaderboards
- Large billboards and TV displays in buildings
- Quality education and improve work opportunities for all
- Financial and social support for full-time parents



## Green Transport

- Active transport (walk or bike / e-bike) to transport hubs
- Electric public transport - free, reliable, accessible
- Semi-automated mobility, hydrogen trains
- Green corridors, interconnected extensive cycleways
- Bike racks & secure storage at major transport hubs
- Car free streets 24/7 - only emergency and trucks

## Policy

- Policy Based on Science Fact, Evidence, Independent Experts
- Social well-being & Environmental Indicators (prioritised over GDP)
- Pollution Tax (Carbon Price) that subsidises Regenerative Practices
- Universal Basic Income (Trickle-up Economy)
- Zero / Reduced subsidies for Fossil Fuel and Factory Farming
- Corporations Banned from False Advertising & Campaign Financing Limits
- Extend Ban (5 years) on Lobbyists from working in Government (vice versa)
- Delist Companies from Stock Exchange not meeting Environmental Criteria
- Public report on Emissions Calculated for Business & Events

## Green Burials

- ReComposition, an alternative option for citizens
- our body becomes the soil to nurtures the trees to provide clean air for the living.



## Building Standard

- Improved Insulation Standards
- Sensor solar-powered LED private & public lights
- Smart meters to reduce vampire energy usage
- Battery storage to offset peak demand
- Recycling & Waste management integrated into building
- Grey water recycling - reuse car parks for reservoirs
- Dual water supplies - potable and reusable waste
- Street level chutes connected to
- underground micro-recycling facilities
- Reuse and Refurbish existing buildings first
- Offset new construction emissions by restoring nature: Tree-lined streets, Vertical Gardens (entire building) and Public access to Rooftop gardens and Urban Farms
- Build with Carbon negative and Greener cement
- Use recycled cement, glass, materials. Build to Last
- Design buildings to be easily deconstructed
- Modular design to pass components between buildings

## Moving Efficiently and Sustainably



**What:** We want a city designed for people and not vehicles, active 24/7, where there is space to walk, bike, stroll, jog, chat, rest, relax and enjoy life.

**Why:** We have a city that is congested with too many vehicles. Not only making our transport inefficient, but also creating air and noise pollution. Sydneysiders and visitors are increasingly sedentary and we face an obesity epidemic. We want walking and biking to be easy and enjoyable and the first choice, leading to better social cohesion and mental health.

**How:**

### 1. Car-free, green spaces

We want a car-free city that allows for vibrant green open spaces for the people, where no space goes to waste (fewer cars will improve emergency vehicle response times, critical in a densely populated city). People can get around our city in 30-minutes.

## **2. Connected green corridors**

We want green spaces that are connected by green corridors that enable & encourage people to move efficiently and enjoyably by active transport. We have traffic light signalling that favours pedestrians, cycling & public transport, over vehicles.

## **3. Active transport - walking and bikes**

We want to be a city designed to facilitate safe and active lifestyles 24 hours a day. Suitable for all ages and mobility levels - from the infants to the incapacitated. Whether by walking or cycling, we have a positive culture through early education, and safe, secure and efficient infrastructure (in-journey & end-of-journey) that truly encourages car-free alternatives.

## **4. Accessible public transport**

We want a 24-hour public transport system that is accessible to all users (reliable, safe, clean and low to no expense), connected to other modes of transport and sustainably powered; maximising space (overground and underground), so that no space goes to waste.

## **5. Electric vehicles for freight and people moving**

We want sustainable electric vehicles available where active transport is not feasible/not favourable.

## ***Embed creative arts in everyday life***

**What:** We want a future where creative arts are alive, interwoven and celebrated in everyday life. We want creative arts to be more accessible for all people in order to invigorate and strengthen our cultural identity. We want Sydney to be a city that is lively, culturally diverse, an entertainment and recreational hub.

We as the citizens jury define arts as creative productions; they come in the form of live music, live theatre, visual arts, literature and entertainment.

### **Why:**

We don't feel that art and culture are valued enough in our community.

Making art accessible fosters an understanding of art as a professional highly skilled and valued practice.

Art stimulates and gives form to empathy and understanding: it is a necessary part of a democratic community that recognises human rights.

A cultural identity for Sydney must be established that values creativity, diversity and inclusion.

### **How:**

- City of Sydney to foster creative expression through community cultural development
- City of Sydney needs to support professional and emerging artists by providing long term, low cost studio spaces so we can maintain the creative industry in the City of Sydney.
- We need artist led creative industry consultations with the City and commercial interests, with a focus on a creative community.
- We want creatives to live, practice and be exhibited publicly in the city.
- Artists creating art in Sydney for Sydney.



## ***24-Hour City***

### **What**

We want a vibrant, lively, culturally diverse city that is open 24 hours a day. We want a city that has a soul and an identity that people can enjoy at all times. We want Sydney to have a normalised night-time economy that includes live music, theatre, art, shopping, health services, food, and education.

### **Why**

Sydney has lost its night time identity, and global standing, as well as jobs and opportunities. People are becoming more sedentary and isolated, leading to social disharmony. We need to increase the liveability of the city by creating a true 24-hour city. The rigid 9-5 city is missing the economic benefits of the night-time economy.

### **How**

- Have a 24-hour public transport system, including metro, train, light rail, and buses.
- Dedicated night mayor
- Law reform around trading hours and licensing of night time venues
- Cap on empty shops, before action by the City of Sydney and private businesses if that cap is exceeded
- Increased safety measures to increase night time participation
- Introduce late night precincts to more easily manage night time economy

## **Item 5.**

### **Land Classification - 546-552 George Street, Sydney**

**File No: X011294**

#### **Summary**

On 28 October 2019, Council resolved to acquire 546-552 George Street, Sydney, as part of the City's acquisitions to create the future Town Hall Square. On 1 November 2019, the City settled on the purchase of the property.

Under the Local Government Act 1993, all council-owned land must be classified as either community land or operational land. The community classification is intended to support the management of recreational open space and reserves. The Local Government Act 1993 requires Council to classify land within three months of the date of acquisition.

On 28 October 2019, Council resolved to publicly notify for a minimum period of 28 days a proposed resolution to classify the land as operational.

The application of a community land classification to 546-552 George Street would be inconsistent with other City-owned land acquired and intended to form part of the future Town Hall Square. The operational land classification enables the City to manage these income producing assets and fulfil the City's long term objectives.

The proposed resolution to classify the land was publicly notified in The Sydney Morning Herald on 2 November 2019. Submissions closed on 29 November 2019. As of the date of this report, no submissions have been received.

This report recommends that Council resolve to classify the land as operational.

#### **Recommendation**

It is resolved that Council classify 546-552 George Street, Sydney, being the whole of the land contained in Lot 2 of Deposited Plan 231095, as operational land in accordance with section 31 of the Local Government Act 1993.

#### **Attachments**

Nil.

## Background

1. On 28 October 2019, Council resolved to acquire 546-552 George Street, Sydney, as part of the City's acquisitions to create the future Town Hall Square. On 1 November 2019 the City settled on the property.
2. Under the Local Government Act 1993, all council-owned land must be classified as either community land or operational land within three months of the date of acquisition. Community classification is intended to support the management of recreational open space and reserves.
3. An application of a community land classification to 546-552 George Street, Sydney, would be inconsistent with other City-owned land acquired and intended to form part of the future Town Hall Square.
4. The operational land classification enables the City to manage these income-producing assets and fulfil the City's long term objectives.
5. On 28 October 2019, Council resolved to publicly notify a proposed resolution to classify the land as operational and to publicly notify the proposed resolution for a period of 28 days.

## Relevant Legislation

6. Section 25 of the Local Government Act 1993 requires all public land to be classified as either community or operational land.
7. Section 31 of the Local Government Act 1993 requires Council to classify newly acquired land as operational or community land within three months from the date of acquisition of the land. The following sections of the Local Government Act 1993 are relevant:
  - (a) section 31(2) permits Council to resolve to classify land prior to acquisition or within three months following acquisition; and
  - (b) section 34 requires the proposed resolution to classify be publicly notified and made available for inspection by the public for a period of 28 days.

**Critical Dates / Time Frames**

8. The proposed resolution was publicly notified for 28 days.

**Public Consultation**

9. The proposed resolution was publicly notified in The Sydney Morning Herald on 2 November 2019.
10. No submissions were received.

**AMIT CHANAN**

Director, City Projects and Property

Nicholas Male-Perkins, Commercial Manager

## **Item 6.**

### **Licence Approval – Part of the Grandstand and Redfern Oval**

**File No: S096218**

#### **Summary**

This report seeks Council's approval to grant a new licence renewal to South Sydney Members Rugby League Football Club Limited ("South Sydney Rabbitohs") for parts of the Redfern Oval and Grandstand for a term of 10 years.

Essential lease terms and conditions of the proposed lease are shown in Confidential Attachment B.

#### **Recommendation**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve a 10 year licence renewal with South Sydney Members Rugby League Football Club Limited for parts of the Redfern Oval and Grandstand; and
- (B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise the terms of the licence in accordance with the essential lease terms and conditions in Confidential Attachment B to the subject report, and to sign the licence.

#### **Attachments**

**Attachment A.** Plans Showing Licence Areas

**Attachment B.** Essential Licence Terms and Conditions (Confidential)



## Background

1. South Sydney Rabbitohs currently holds three licence agreements from the City in respect of the following licence areas within the Redfern Oval and Grandstand:
  - (a) Licence Area 1 is 619m<sup>2</sup>, which comprises the lower ground floor weights (or Gym) area, offices and change rooms, in addition to the ground floor entry and video room. The current licence agreement for this area commenced 1 January 2009 and expired 31 December 2018, currently leased on a month-to-month basis.

The current Licence agreement also provides for a licence to use the Redfern Oval field for training purposes only and is on a non-exclusive use basis.
  - (b) Licence Area 2 is 67m<sup>2</sup>, comprises two lower ground floor offices and the referee's room, which front the passageway that leads out of the building onto the field. The current licence agreement for this area commenced 1 January 2012 and expired 31 December 2016, currently leased on a month-to-month basis.
  - (c) Licence Area 3 is 67m<sup>2</sup>, comprising three offices situated at the southern end of the lower ground floor. The current licence agreement for this area commenced 15 February 2014 and expired 14 February 2019, currently leased on a month-to-month basis.
2. The total tenancy area of the three above licence areas is 753 square metres. Refer to Attachment A for plans showing these areas.
3. For this renewal, the City proposes that one licence agreement is entered into for all three areas and the Redfern Oval field for a term of 10 years and it is proposed to be back dated to commence 1 January 2019. A surrender of the current licence for Licence Area 3 as at 31 December 2018 would be required to facilitate the new licence agreement commencing 1 January 2019.

## Rental Determination

4. The City appointed independent valuers, BEM Property Consultants and Valuers, to undertake an assessment of rental value of Redfern Oval and ancillary rooms and facilities for leasing purposes.
5. The proposed lease terms are in line with the independent valuation.

## Key Implications

### Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030

6. 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 program is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
  - (a) Direction 10 - Implementation through Effective Governance and partnerships. Specifically, Action 10.5.1 - Expand revenues from commercial operations, property portfolio and other income generating assets.

## Budget Implications

7. Property rental revenue in the 2019/20 Operating Budget will be favourably impacted as there is an uplift in rent, in line with new valuation. In addition, the rental increase will be backdated and effective from 1 January 2019.

## Relevant Legislation

8. Local Government Act 1993 - Section 10A provides that a Council may close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.
9. Attachment B contains confidential commercial information and details which, if disclosed, would confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.
10. Discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest because it would compromise Councils ability to negotiate fairly and commercially to achieve the best outcome for its ratepayers.

## Options

11. The City has considered the option to renew South Sydney Rabbitoh's Licence agreement at Redfern Oval and believes it will have a positive impact on the Redfern Community and achieve commercial income for the City.
12. There is no commercial advantage for the City to go back to market and source an alternative tenant.
13. Not allowing the South Sydney Rabbitohs to renew the Licence agreement on their home grounds could also generate adverse publicity for the City.

**Public Consultation**

14. A Public Notice was advertised in the Sydney Morning Herald 2 October 2019 advertising the City's intention to issue a licence to South Sydney Rabbitohs. A similar notice was placed on the building and a mail out was sent to nearby stakeholders. To date no submissions have been received by Council.

**AMIT CHANAN**

Director City Projects and Property

Matthew Woodroffe, Commercial Portfolio Manager

# **Attachment A**

**Plans Showing Licence Areas**

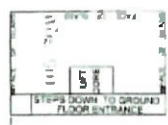
(A2)

m<sup>2</sup>

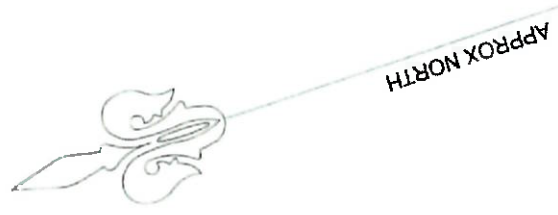
619 licence 1

67 licence 2

67 licence 3



100% FLOOR AREA ABOVE GATE (NOT)



**CITY OF SYDNEY**

CITY INFRASTRUCTURE & TRAFFIC OPERATIONS  
TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION  
SURVEY SECTION  
CITY OF SYDNEY

APPROX-D  
SAP SURV-134

SS-16/1314

REDFERN OVAL GRANDSTAND BUILDING  
INTERNAL FLOOR LAYOUT  
AND COMPILED OF LETTABLE AREAS  
51 REDFERN STREET  
REDFERN

DETAILS	
Scale	1:100
Date	17/08/16
Drawn	17/08/16
Checked	17/08/16
Appr'd	17/08/16
Rev No.	000001



CHALMERS STREET

TOTAL AREA 1126 SQ M  
INCLUDING COMMON AREAS



Document is Restricted

**Item 7.****Lease Approval – Ground Floor, Level 1 and Level 2, 46-52 Mountain Street, Ultimo****File No: S099550****Summary**

This report seeks Council's approval to grant a new lease to Laureate Educational Services Australia Pty Ltd for Ground Floor, Level 1 and Level 2, 46-52 Mountain Street Ultimo, for a term of seven years and five months with a further five year option for the tenant to renew.

Essential lease terms and conditions of the proposed lease are shown in Confidential Attachment A.

**Recommendation**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve a lease with a term of seven years and five months with a five year option to renew to Laureate Educational Services Australia Pty Limited for Ground Floor, Level 1 and Level 2, 46-52 Mountain Street Ultimo; and
- (B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise the terms of this proposal in accordance with Confidential Attachment A to the subject report.

**Attachments**

**Attachment A.** Essential Lease Terms and Conditions (Confidential)

## Background

1. Laureate currently lease Suite G04 and Levels 1 and 2, 46-52 Mountain Street Ultimo, and the lease will expire 31 March 2021. Laureate wish to surrender their lease for these premises and enter into a new lease for seven years and five months for all of the Ground Floor, Level 1 and Level 2 of 46-52 Mountain Street, which is an additional 1,196 square metres of commercial space.

## Rental Determination

2. The City appointed independent valuers, BEM Property Consultants and Valuers, to undertake an assessment of the rental value of 46-52 Mountain Street Ultimo for leasing purposes.
3. The proposed lease terms including rental incentives are in line with the independent valuation.

## Key Implications

### Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030

4. 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 SS2030 strategic directions and objectives:
  - (a) Direction 10 - Implementation through Effective Governance and Partnerships. Specifically, Action 10.5.1 - Expand revenues from commercial operations, Property portfolio and other income generating assets.

## Budget Implications

5. Property rental revenue in the 2019/20 financial year will be favourably impacted due to the uplift in rent, in line with the new valuation.

## Relevant Legislation

6. Local Government Act 1993.
7. Attachment A contains confidential commercial information and details which, if disclosed, would confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.
8. Discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest because it would compromise Councils ability to negotiate fairly and commercially to achieve the best outcome for its ratepayers.

**Public Consultation**

9. There was no requirement to consult with the public for this leasing matter.

**AMIT CHANAN**

Director, City Projects and Property Services

Matthew Woodroffe, Commercial Portfolio Manager

Document is Restricted



## **Item 8.**

### **Tender – Reject and Negotiate – Perry Park Recreation Centre Stage 2**

**File No: X024644.007**

**Tender No: 1961**

### **Summary**

This report provides details of the tenders received for the Perry Park Recreation Centre Stage 2 works.

The project works include the enclosure of two outdoor multi-purpose courts, associated facilities and amenities, demolition works, landscaping, services, external and site works. These works follow on from Stage 1 of the facility, which was completed in March 2019.

The works comprise Stage 2 of the Development Approval D/2014/1780 in accordance with the Resolution of Council dated 23 June 2014.

Tender submissions received for Perry Park Recreation Centre Stage 2 works were evaluated as being non-compliant.

This report recommends that no tender be accepted and the City enter into negotiations with suitably qualified companies for the construction of the Perry Park Recreation Centre Stage 2 works.

## **Recommendation**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council reject all the tenders received for Perry Park Recreation Centre Stage 2, for the reasons set out in the Tender Evaluation Summary at Confidential Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to enter into negotiations with any person with a view to entering into a contract in relation to the subject matter of the tender;
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to execute and administer a contract in relation to the subject matter of the tender with a suitable vendor following completion of the negotiations;
- (D) Council not invite fresh tenders, as it is considered that inviting fresh tenders would not attract additional suitable tenders over and above that have responded to this tender; and
- (E) Council be informed of the successful vendor by CEO update.

## **Attachments**

**Attachment A.** Tender Evaluation Summary (Confidential)

## Background

1. Perry Park is located on the corner of Bourke Road and Maddox Street, Alexandria, and is surrounded by industrial and commercial land uses. The park is within 700 metres of Green Square station and within walking distance of the new Green Square residential area.
2. The existing Alexandria Basketball Stadium was built in 1968 and is located in the south west corner of the park on a separate parcel of land.
3. The City proposed to construct a new separate building to the north east of the existing stadium. Council, at the meeting of 23 June 2014, resolved that:
  - (a) Council endorse the development scope as described in the subject report for the purpose of proceeding with seeking any relevant planning approvals and documentation of the construction works for Stage 1 and 2; and
  - (b) Council endorse the development scope as described in the subject report for the purpose of proceeding to tender for the construction of Stage 1.
4. The works comprising Stage 1 of Development Approval D/2014/1780 dated 28 July 2015 included the construction of two indoor and two outdoor multi-purpose courts, associated facilities and amenities, landscaping, external and site works, substation installation and services. Stage 1 works were completed in March 2019.
5. The additional funds required to proceed with the Stage 2 works were in the adopted budget endorsed by Council at the meeting of 25 June 2018.
6. The works that are the subject of this tender report are the Stage 2 works, comprising the enclosure of the two external courts, completion of associated facilities and amenities, demolition works, landscaping, services, external and site works.

## Invitation to Tender

7. The Request for Tender for Stage 2 works was advertised in The Sydney Morning Herald and The Daily Telegraph and on the City's e Tendering portal on Tuesday 27 August 2019.
8. The tender closed on Wednesday 9 October 2019 at 11.00am.

## Tender Submissions

9. Two submissions were received from the following organisations:
  - Rork Project Pty Ltd; and
  - SDL Project Solutions Pty Ltd.
10. No late submissions were received.

## **Tender Evaluation**

11. All members of the Tender Evaluation Panel have signed Pecuniary Interest Declarations. No pecuniary interests were noted.
12. The relative ranking of tenders as determined from the total weighted score is provided in the Confidential Tender Evaluation Summary – Attachment A.
13. All submissions were assessed in accordance with the approved evaluation criteria being:
  - (a) demonstrated experience in carrying out works of a similar size and nature;
  - (b) personnel allocation, qualifications, experience and capacity, including sub-contractors;
  - (c) proposed program;
  - (d) proposed methodology, including pedestrian and traffic management and environmental management;
  - (e) Work, Health and Safety;
  - (f) financial and commercial trading integrity, including insurances; and
  - (g) lump sum price.

## **Performance Measurement**

14. Key Performance Indicators were identified in the Request for Tender document. Performance will be assessed at each project stage and at the completion of the contract, with each assessment forming the basis of the Performance Review Results.

## **Financial Implications**

15. Based on current estimates, there are sufficient funds allocated for this project within the current year's capital works budget and future years' forward estimates.

### Relevant Legislation

16. The tender has been conducted in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 and the City's Contracts Policy.
17. Attachment A contains confidential commercial information of the tenderers and details of Council's tender evaluation and contingencies which, if disclosed, would:
  - (a) confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business; and
  - (b) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.
18. Discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest because it would compromise Council's ability to negotiate fairly and commercially to achieve the best outcome for its ratepayers.

### Critical Dates / Time Frames

19. Project time frames are:
  - (a) Commence reject and negotiate process, December 2019
  - (b) Chief Executive Officer approval to execute contract, May 2020
  - (c) Contractor site establishment, July 2020
  - (d) Practical Completion, pending tender negotiations

### Options

20. Council has the following options in regard to the tenders:
  - (a) reject the tender and re-advertise, which is not recommended as it is considered this will not attract additional submissions; or
  - (b) reject and negotiate with suitably qualified contractors with the capacity to carry out the works. This option is recommended.



**Public Consultation**

21. Extensive consultation was undertaken with the original Development Approval which included both Stage 1 and 2 works.
22. The community and various sporting groups were consulted during the development of the scope and detail of the development proposals.
23. The works were advertised in a Development Application submitted for the site dated 18 November 2014. Development consent was received on 28 July 2015.
24. During construction, site signage will be placed on site to advise residents and park users of the construction works to be undertaken.

**AMIT CHANAN**

Director City Projects and Property

Terry Byrnes, Specialist Project Manager

Damon La' Rance, Delivery Manager

CONFIDENTIAL  
By virtue of the Local Government Act 1993 Section 10A Paragraph 2

Document is Restricted

## Item 9.

### Grants and Sponsorships - NSW Business Chamber Awards Sydney City Region 2020-2021

File No: X008661

#### Summary

In December 2013, Council adopted the City's Economic Development Strategy which aims to strengthen the city economy and support business. Under this Strategy, the City of Sydney is committed to influencing the success of entrepreneurs and small businesses in the local government area through promotional and capacity-building programs, providing access to research and data, as well as initiatives that make it easier to do business.

The success and promotion of local businesses is paramount to a thriving local economy. Business awards provide an opportunity for participating local businesses to generate increased publicity, promotion and profile for themselves, network with other businesses and generate new business opportunities. The NSW Business Chamber is an independent not-for-profit organisation focused on helping businesses to maximise their potential. They have a membership of over 20,000 businesses and a long standing working relationship with the City which has sponsored their business award program for many years.

An application has been received from the NSW Business Chamber for sponsorship of their Business Awards program for 2020 and 2021 consisting of \$65,000 cash and \$17,500 value-in-kind per year for two years. This report recommends a contribution of \$65,000 cash (excluding GST) for sponsorship and marketing support and \$17,500 (excluding GST) value-in-kind support for hire of Centennial Hall at Sydney Town Hall for the Gala Awards night, per year for two years.

The NSW Business Chamber Business Awards judging criteria reflect many of the attributes the City wants to strengthen and foster in businesses, including celebrating excellence in sustainability and innovation.

In exchange for the sponsorship, the NSW Business Chamber has offered the City of Sydney the Principal Partnership of the Sydney City region awards, and sponsorship of the Excellence in Small Business category at the state level. The Sydney City region correlates with the City's local government area boundaries and provides an opportunity for the City's local business community to be specifically celebrated and recognised at Sydney Town Hall at the Annual Awards Gala ceremony.

Additional benefits include speaking opportunities for a City representative at key events, including city and state awards, as well as promotional opportunities for the City to reach the NSW Business Chamber's extensive database of businesses. Once approved by Council the terms will be incorporated into a sponsorship agreement to be negotiated and signed by the parties. Over the next two years, the City will work closely with NSW Business Chamber to activate its own networks to encourage a mix of businesses to participate in the program.

The request for sponsorship for 2020 and 2021 has been evaluated and cash and value-in-kind sponsorship of the event is recommended.

## **Recommendation**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve a sponsorship of:
  - (i) \$65,000 cash (excluding GST) per annum for two years for the NSW Business Chamber Business Awards (Sydney City region) and statewide sponsorship of the Excellence in Small Business category; and
  - (ii) \$17,500 venue hire fee waiver (excluding GST) per annum for two years for the Sydney City region awards to be held at Centennial Hall; and
- (B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer a sponsorship agreement with NSW Business Chamber in support of this event in 2020 and 2021.

## **Attachments**

Nil.

## Background

1. The City of Sydney is committed to influencing the success of local businesses and entrepreneurs in the local government area.
2. As a major supporter of businesses through multiple initiatives, the City of Sydney has been involved in business awards programs for over 15 years, both through sponsorships and via its own City of Sydney Business Awards program, which concluded in 2012.
3. Business awards provide an opportunity for participating local businesses to generate increased publicity, promotion and profile for themselves, network with other businesses and generate new business opportunities.
4. The NSW Business Chamber is an independent not-for-profit organisation focused on helping businesses to maximise their potential. They have a membership of over 20,000 businesses and a longstanding working relationship with the City which has sponsored their business award program for many years.
5. From 2017 to 2019, the City was the Principal Partner for the NSW Business Chamber Business Awards Sydney City region and statewide sponsor of the Excellence in Small Business category, at a cost of \$80,000 per annum for the three years of the sponsorship contract.
6. The NSW Business Chamber is now seeking sponsorship for the NSW Business Chamber Business Awards Sydney City region and statewide sponsorship of the Excellence in Small Business category for 2020 and 2021, to the value of \$65,000 cash per annum (excluding GST) and \$17,500 value-in-kind (excluding GST) venue hire per annum for Centennial Hall hire.
7. The NSW Business Chambers Business Awards judging criteria reflect many of the attributes the City wants to strengthen and foster in businesses, including celebrating excellence in sustainability and innovation.
8. The renewal of this sponsorship will ensure the City of Sydney continues as the principal partner of the Sydney City region awards, and category sponsor of the Excellence in Small Business category at the state level.
9. Additional benefits include speaking opportunities for a City representative at key events including city and state awards, as well as promotional opportunities for the City to reach the NSW Business Chamber's extensive database of businesses.
10. Over the next two years, the City will work closely with NSW Business Chamber to activate its own networks to encourage a mix of businesses to participate in the program



## Key Implications

### Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030

11. 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 sponsorship is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
  - (a) Direction 1 - A Globally Competitive and Innovative City - Business awards help promote continual improvement amongst the local business community, increasing Sydney's global competitiveness.
  - (b) Direction 6 - Vibrant Local Communities and Economies - Business awards encourage, support and promote businesses that make up local economies.
  - (c) Direction 10 - Implementation through Effective Governance and Partnerships - Business awards are the outcome of the City's longstanding working relationship with the NSW Business Chamber, and this renewed sponsorship will continue the work of both organisations to support thriving local economies.

### Organisational Impact

12. The delivery of this sponsorship will require a contract and relationship manager for the duration of the project, which can be managed within the existing resources.

### Budget Implications

13. There are sufficient funds allocated within the 2019/20 Grants and Sponsorship budget for the 2020 program. Provision will be made in the 2020/21 Grants and Sponsorship budget for the payment corresponding to the 2021 program.

### Relevant Legislation

14. Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 provides that a council may, in accordance with a resolution of the council, contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons for the purpose of exercising its functions.

### Critical Dates / Time Frames

15. The Business Awards program will take place between May and November 2020, and then May and November 2021 (depending on Town Hall availability).

## ANN HOBAN

Director City Life

Grace Bowe, Senior Program Manager, City Business