

Attachment C

Summary of Public Exhibition Submissions

Summary of submissions and responses: draft operational plan 2026/27 and draft resourcing strategy 2026

The consultation period for the draft operational plan 2026/27 and draft resourcing strategy 2026 was 19 May 2026 to 15 June 2026.

33 submissions were received through a combination of the Sydney Your Say website, direct email submissions, phone calls and emails sent to councillors following the exhibition of the draft operational plan 2026/27 and draft resourcing strategy 2026. Two of these pieces of feedback were received outside the consultation process and are included below for completeness. A summary of the issues raised in the submissions and responses, and the recommendation following their assessment by staff are included in the table below.

No	Background	Response	Recommendation
1.	A submission was received from a member of the public during the exhibition period commending the City's childcare service and expressing support for fees charged.	Noted.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
2.	A submission was received from a member of the public during the exhibition period opposing budget allocation to the Town Hall square project.	The project scope was approved by Council at its February 2026 meeting. This new square is the next step in making Central Sydney a city designed for people. It will be a welcoming place where people can sit, relax, meet friends and take part in community events and major gatherings.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
3.	A submission was received from a member of the public during the exhibition period requesting the City find cost savings.	We have developed a financially sustainable plan that avoids borrowing, while carefully managing our resources.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
4.	A submission was received from a member of the public during the exhibition period requesting rent concessions for the hire of creative spaces.	The City's Cultural Strategy includes the Action to 'Provide access to dedicated spaces for artists, musicians, writers and performers in suitable City of Sydney-owned properties.' The City currently provides an estimate 10,000m2 to cultural and creative industries enterprises, including organisations such as Brand X who provide subsidised workspace. Discounted rates are available for rehearsals at selected community venues. In addition, community groups can apply to have 100% of the venue hire and insurance fees waived for our community spaces. Noting the above, the City's Cultural Strategy notes serious decreases in private sector supply of space to cultural workers, We are continuing to explore options to increase the supply of affordable cultural space.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
5.	A submission was received from a member of the public during the exhibition period: 1. Supporting Town Hall square 2. Requesting a permit system to manage performances and other public addresses.	1. Noted 2. Busking is supported through the City's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice and Busking Policy. People wishing to busk in our local area can obtain a permit as outlined in this Policy. Protests and other forms of public free speech are not regulated by local councils.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
6.	A submission was received from a member of the public during the exhibition period requesting lighting upgrade around Railway square and promotion of 24-hour business activity.	The City has recently carried out works to improve the lighting at Railway Square. As outlined in the City South Public Domain Plan the City supports the vision for the development of Central Square and surrounding streets by 2050 alongside a renewed Central Station. However, Central Station is the responsibility of Transport for NSW. The City supports a diverse and global 24-hour city by collaborating with our community, precinct organisations and local businesses to create vibrant places and unique experiences. Around Central Station, this includes supporting events, outdoor dining, late-night trading, and investment in safe and welcoming public spaces. These initiatives help create opportunities for a greater range of late-night and 24-hour businesses and activations that can support passengers and visitors using the transport hub.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.

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7.	A submission was received from a member of the public during the exhibition period supporting the plans.	Noted.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
8.	A submission was received from a member of the public during the exhibition period requesting more funding for cycling.	The City currently allocates over \$20 million in the Bicycle Related Works budget. On a per capita basis, this is very high by global standards. In addition to this, there is funding for additional cycling works and activities in other parts of the City's capital and operational budget.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
9.	A submission was received from a member of the public during the exhibition period supporting planned projects including Town Hall square, Belmore Park upgrade, the Mandible Street sports precinct and upgrade to Victoria Park and Cook and Phillip Park pools.	Noted.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
10.	A submission was received from a member of the public during the exhibition period requesting council coordinate facades of shop fronts, particularly north side of Erskineville Road to beautify the area and commending the upgraded park and tree planting.	The City's current focus is on public domain and streetscape improvement works for Erskineville Road rather than facilitating upgrades to private property facades.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
11.	A submission was received from a member of the public during the exhibition period requesting greening of Bridge Street and expressing support for Loftus Street Road closure.	Council continues to explore opportunities to reallocate road space for pedestrians and greening in city centre streets. Future opportunities identified in the City North Public Domain Plan include Hunter Street and Gresham Street. Bridge Street currently has traffic network constraints making footpath widening unfeasible at this stage. Feedback about Loftus Street is noted.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
12.	A submission was received from a member of the public during the exhibition period: 1. Objecting to Town Hall square 2. Supporting planned revitalisation of George Street.	1. Refer response to submission 2. 2. Noted.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
13.	A submission was received from a member of the public during the exhibition period objecting to: 1. Town Hall square 2. Loss of vehicle accessibility for people with mobility issues.	1. Refer response to submission 2. 2. There are very few streets in Sydney that limit access to vehicles, and where vehicle access is limited, it is to improve access for the overwhelming majority of people who access the City by public transport, walking and cycling. Around 85% of commuters use public transport to access the Sydney City Centre and over 92% of trips in the City Centre are made on foot. We maintain access for the small proportion of people who need to drive in the City of Sydney (for servicing or making deliveries, for construction, due to disabilities, or many other reasons) while improving access for the majority who use modes other than motor vehicles. The Town Hall square will not change vehicle access arrangements.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
14.	A submission was received from a member of the public during the exhibition period: 1. Supporting Town Hall square 2. Requesting a public square at central station 3. Requesting increased expenditure in Chippendale, for bike lanes down Broadway, narrowing of traffic lanes at Broadway.	1. Refer response to submission 5.1 2. As outlined in the City South Public Domain Plan the City supports the vision for the development of Central Square and surrounding streets by 2050 alongside a renewed Central Station. However, the land on which the square would be developed belongs to Transport for NSW. 3. The City is progressing the Green Avenue project idea for Broadway that was outlined in its Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Strategy. While the NSW Government controls this road, the City is developing schemes to advocate for reducing the number of traffic lanes, widening footpaths, improving safety and connectivity for people riding and making space for light rail.	1. Refer response to submission 5.1 2 & 3 That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.

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15.	A submission was received from a member of the public during the exhibition period requesting: 1. A clear account of what the City of Sydney delivers for residential and commercial ratepayers 2. Staff headcount data and details of workforce composition.	1. The City's draft 2026/27 operational plan identifies programs and activities that the City will undertake in the coming financial year, as well as our budget. Our draft 2026 resourcing strategy identifies how we'll use our resources and assets to achieve our goals set in our community strategic plan delivering Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050. 2. Included in the draft 2026 resourcing strategy is our people (workforce) strategy which includes a workforce profile.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
16.	A submission was received from a member of the public during the exhibition period requesting reduced hire rates for the City's commercial venues and increased support staffing.	The City has kept standard hire fees for our Landmark spaces largely the same since 2023, only increasing them in line with CPI. Some heritage venues have higher event staffing demand which contributes to the higher venue hire fees, within the portfolio spaces have significantly lower or zero hire fees attached. Charities and not-for-profit groups may be eligible for a 50% discount in Sydney Town Hall, Stapleton Hall and Barnet Long Room.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
17.	A submission was received from a member of the public during the exhibition period suggesting: 1. Automated processes for service delivery eg. parking permits 2. Economic intervention to support Glebe Point Road commercially and allocation in the City's budget for capital works for Glebe Point Road.	1. In 2024, the City introduced a new online parking permit application process with clearer eligibility information, fewer manual steps and automatic issue of interim permits following payment. Further enhancements, including electronic notifications for permit holders and a simplified renewal process are planned. This work is part of the City's broader digital transformation program, which is streamlining processes, reducing reliance on paper-based administration and increasing automation where it improves community and operational outcomes. 2. The City of Sydney supports local high streets as vibrant and diverse centres. The City's revised grant guidelines will go live from July 2026, with a new economic grant category to provide opportunities for place activation, including for local high streets such as Glebe Point Road. The City also has held Sydney Streets events in high streets across the local government area to support local communities and traders, including in Glebe Point Road.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
18.	A submission was received from a member of the public during the exhibition period which did not provide any specific feedback about the City's integrated planning and reporting documents.	Noted.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
19.	A submission was received from a member of the public during the exhibition period: 1. Objecting to Town Hall square 2. Supporting other planned projects.	1. See response to submission 2 2. Noted.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.

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20.	A submission was received from a member of the public during the exhibition period requesting: 1. Funding for a School Streets program 2. Additional funding for walking and riding infrastructure.	1. Transport for NSW (TfNSW) has not defined nor does it currently recognise a “school street” typology in its guidance. Further, TfNSW has been reluctant to support temporary restrictions to vehicle traffic around schools. Further, relevant NSW Government agencies have resisted providing the operational funding required to install temporary vehicle restrictions around schools. Until NSW Government agencies overcome these hurdles, the City of Sydney is not considering a “School Street” program. 2. The City currently allocates over \$20 million in the bicycle related works budget. On a per capita basis, this is very high by global standards. In addition to this, there is funding for additional cycling works and activities in other parts of the City’s capital and operational budget. The City typically spends over \$28 million per year on walking-related improvements, including footpath upgrades, new crossings, streetscape upgrades and traffic calming. We continue to advocate for increases in NSW Government funding for walking and cycling.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
21.	A submission was received from a member of the public during the exhibition period requesting: 1. A service to collect furniture for recycling 2. Parks and public infrastructure design to consider safety of women and girls 3. More cycling infrastructure 4. Funding for a range of walking, cycling, public transport and traffic initiatives.	1. The City offers collection of small items of furniture in good condition for reuse through its doorstep recycling service. The City also accepts larger good quality furniture for reuse at our quarterly recycling events. Details of both services can be found on our website. 2. Safety of all users is always a design consideration for parks and public infrastructure projects. Research and methodologies developed by the State Government Safer Cities Her Way program is also informing perceptions of safety for women and girls for projects such as Belmore Park. 3. The City has more cycling infrastructure under construction (Rosebery Quietway and Ashmore to Green Square Connector along Ngamuru Avenue); about to start construction in coming months (O’Dea Cycleway, Surry Hills to Central Quietway, Ultimo to Surry Hills Cycleway and a safe crossing on Belmont Street across Fountain Street) and under development (Victoria Street streetscape improvements, Elizabeth and Randle Street cycleway and South Eveleigh to Waterloo Metro walking and cycling improvements). 4. The City typically spends over \$28 million per year on walking-related improvements, including footpath upgrades, new crossings, streetscape upgrades and traffic calming. Our focus is on building the permanent cycleways to complete our regional and local bike network. We support calls for the NSW Government to fund and support the remaining items.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
22.	A submission was received from Scentre Group during the exhibition period: 1. Expressing support for the Town Hall square project and the City’s vision to enhance Sydney as a global city, and recognising the City’s leadership in delivering pedestrianised George Street 2. Offering suggestions about potential future planning, design, and activations for Pitt Street.	1. Noted. 2. Currently there is no budget for any upgrade of Pitt Street Mall. City staff will consider the suggestions made in relation to Pitt Street Mall. The City is supporting activation through the planned creation of a Special Entertainment Precinct across the city centre.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
23.	A submission was received from a member of the public during the exhibition period objecting to the increase in fees for occasional childcare.	The City of Sydney offers childcare services at competitive and discounted rates. The childcare subsidy is available to assist with the cost of fees. A discount off the standard fee is also available for eligible families.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.

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24.	A submission was received from Friends of Ultimo during the exhibition period: - Supporting Town Hall square and Wentworth Park renewal - Requesting information on drainage works at Wentworth Park to alleviate flooding - Requesting information on the consultation process for Wentworth Park and Ultimo Community Centre.	- Noted. The City has commenced consultation with the State Government regarding their commitment to return the central portion of Wentworth Park to public open space and committed funding in the long-term financial plan for renewal and upgrade of the park. - Flooding is managed on a catchment wide basis. The City is planning to update the Blackwattle Bay Flood Risk Management Plan in future years which will consider options to manage flooding throughout the catchment. Planning for renewal and upgrade works at Wentworth Park, including any required drainage works, will be informed by community consultation and detailed site investigations. - Consultation for the projects will be guided by the City of Sydney's community engagement strategy. Details will be available when the projects commence. Engagement activities will be publicised through the Sydney Your Say webpage and enews, and to local residents and stakeholders.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
25.	A submission was received from a member of the public during the exhibition period: - Requesting exemption from stormwater charge of \$25 for properties from which no stormwater is discharged - Suggesting incentives to households to manage water use and sewage and that revenue from stormwater charges be used to fund this and Council-built infrastructure.	- Exemptions are set by NSW government. Individuals owning vacant land, as in land containing no buildings, car parks or large areas of material such as concrete (i.e., no impervious surfaces), can contact staff for a review. - The City's Annual Report details income received from the stormwater levy and how these funds were spent, including specific completed projects and locations.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
26.	A submission was received from a member of the public during the exhibition period: - Objecting to the Town Hall square project - Objecting to the elevator project at McElhone Stairs in Potts Point - Requesting banning of share bikes or enforcement of "docking stations", and boost in funding to police cyclist behaviour.	- See response to submission 2. - A budget to deliver a lift at the McElhone Stairs was approved by Council in June 2025. The project is proposed to improve accessibility between Woolloomooloo and Potts Point and will be subject to community consultation in the future. - The NSW Government is developing regulations to manage share bikes. The City's view is that share bikes contribute to the growth of cycling but have historically created unacceptable impacts on the rest of the community, especially footpath clutter. The City's submission to the exhibition of draft NSW Government regulations called for clear powers for local government to enforce poor share bike parking in real time. We are installing designated bike parking areas on our streets to provide places for share bikes to park. The NSW Government tells us their regulation will commence later in 2026. NSW Police is responsible for enforcing all other road rules.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.

No	Background	Response	Recommendation
27.	A submission was received from a member of the public during the exhibition period: - Objecting to Goulburn Street parking station remediation - Requesting a cost/benefit of all heritage areas and allocation of funds to preserve heritage architecture - Expressing support for the NSW Government lifting of rate caps (assumed to be rate pegging) - Suggesting alignment of commercial and residential rate to incentivise housing - Expressing support for the NSW Government increasing investment in social housing.	The Goulburn Street carpark was constructed in the early 1960's. It is located on land owned by Transport for NSW. The City holds a ground lease over the land with 35 years remaining. The proposed works comprise extensive structural remediation to address identified defects and ensure the ongoing safe operation, maintenance, and serviceability of the structure for the remainder of the lease term. In February 2025 Council resolved to offer the NSW Government the opportunity to buy the City out of its lease for the purpose of developing the site into affordable housing for key workers. To date the parties have been unable to reach an agreement and a meeting with senior Executives is now being sought. The structural remediation works that are the subject of this project are required to be undertaken to maintain the on-going operation of the car park. There are no viable alternative options available at this point in time. - The City's conservation areas include some of the densest residential areas in Australia and are highly valued by the community. Current planning controls allow sensitive development. The City has continued to facilitate significant housing growth in former industrial areas. - The City advocates for the removal of the rate peg. - The City's residential rates are currently lower than business rates. - Noted. The City also supports increased investment in social housing from the NSW Government.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
28.	A second submission was received from a member of the public (refer also submission 25) during the exhibition period requesting: - Adopt consistent terminology and insert trend graphs to show the preceding 10-year history and the forthcoming 10-year predictions in this budget and for each annual budget and annual report to allow independent, objective scrutiny - Publish this data as trend graphs in an explanatory newsletter to accompany every budget and rates notice expected to be delivered to rate payers in July 2026.	- The City's budget, Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) and financial statements serve different purposes and therefore use different presentations and terminology. The LTFP covers the upcoming year, and provides 10 years forward projections, and the financial statements report historical results. Financial statements must also comply with accounting standards, which require terminology that may differ from that used in community focused planning documents. The City's annual financial statements are audited annually by the Audit Office of NSW. - In addition to the budget and annual reporting, Council prepares quarterly budget review statements (QBRS) in line with legislative requirements. These statements provide updated financial forecasts and formal assessment of Council's financial position, supporting ongoing financial oversight.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
29.	A submission was received from Bittersweet Productions during the exhibition period expressing appreciation for the fee waivers.	Noted. These fee waivers were put in place to support the theatre sector. The aim was to help theatre companies restart their programs, rebuild audiences and improve their financial position while the City manages the venue.	That the feedback is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
30.	A submission was received from a member of the public supporting a cap on unhosted Airbnb properties and support for hosted Airbnb properties.	The NSW Government is reviewing short term rental accommodation (STRA) to which the City made a submission in 2024. Based on research, the City's submission recommended that the NSW Government's STRA register needed significant improvement to enable effective monitoring and compliance for any change to a cap to be effective.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.

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31.	A submission was received from a member of the public requesting: - Council explore options for retaining underground retail premises at Town Hall Station as part of Town Hall square project - Resolve lack of liveable household shopping available to residents in the CBD overall.	- See response to submission 2 – this is not feasible. - The City's planning rules allow for major retail development, including supermarkets, in Central Sydney under which developers can submit proposals.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
32.	Feedback on the draft Operational plan was received via a letter from a member of the public of behalf of the Paddington-Darlinghurst Community Group prior to the exhibition period requesting 5 areas be added to the list of pocket parks in the Fees and charges Appendix 2.	We classify the 5 green spaces identified as street greening or street closures, based on their location, size, design purpose and amenities.	That the feedback is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
33.	A voicemail was received from Sydney Grammar seeking clarification for the definition of a category 2 hirer for Sydney Town Hall.	Staff were unable to contact the caller however their feedback is noted.	Appendix 1 revised to align with definition of category hirer in the Statement of revenue policy.