

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.
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.

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