

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?
Which feeling fits you a little...
- Public "Urban Cool Rooms"
 - Open streets
 - Restaurants in the sky
 - Bookless Libraries
 - Car-free neighbourhoods
 - Drive delirious
 - Charging for waste
 - Urban farms
 - Late night performance venues
 - More Tourists
 - Shared backyards



Our Future Sydney

Consulting children and young people about 2050

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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.

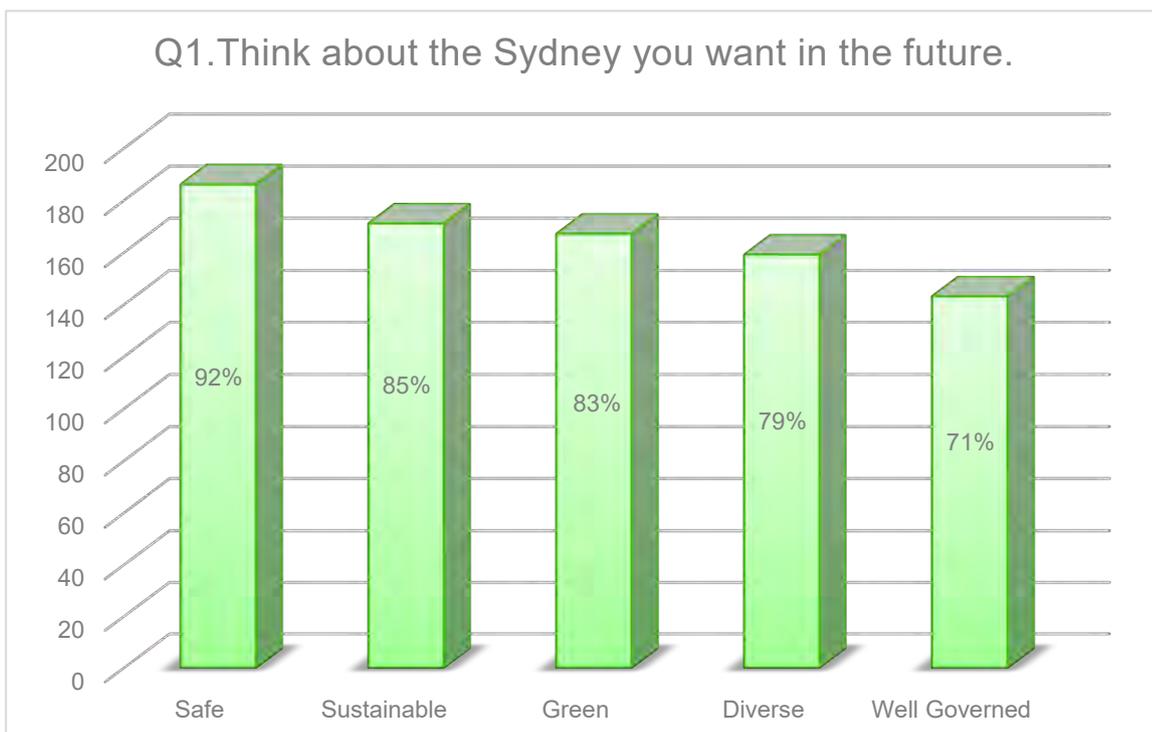
Safety, fairness and social cohesion are also high on the list of priorities for children and young people, along with the related ideas of friendliness, diversity and different cultures living together. The overarching idea of the need for tolerance came through strongly across all age groups. For example 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.

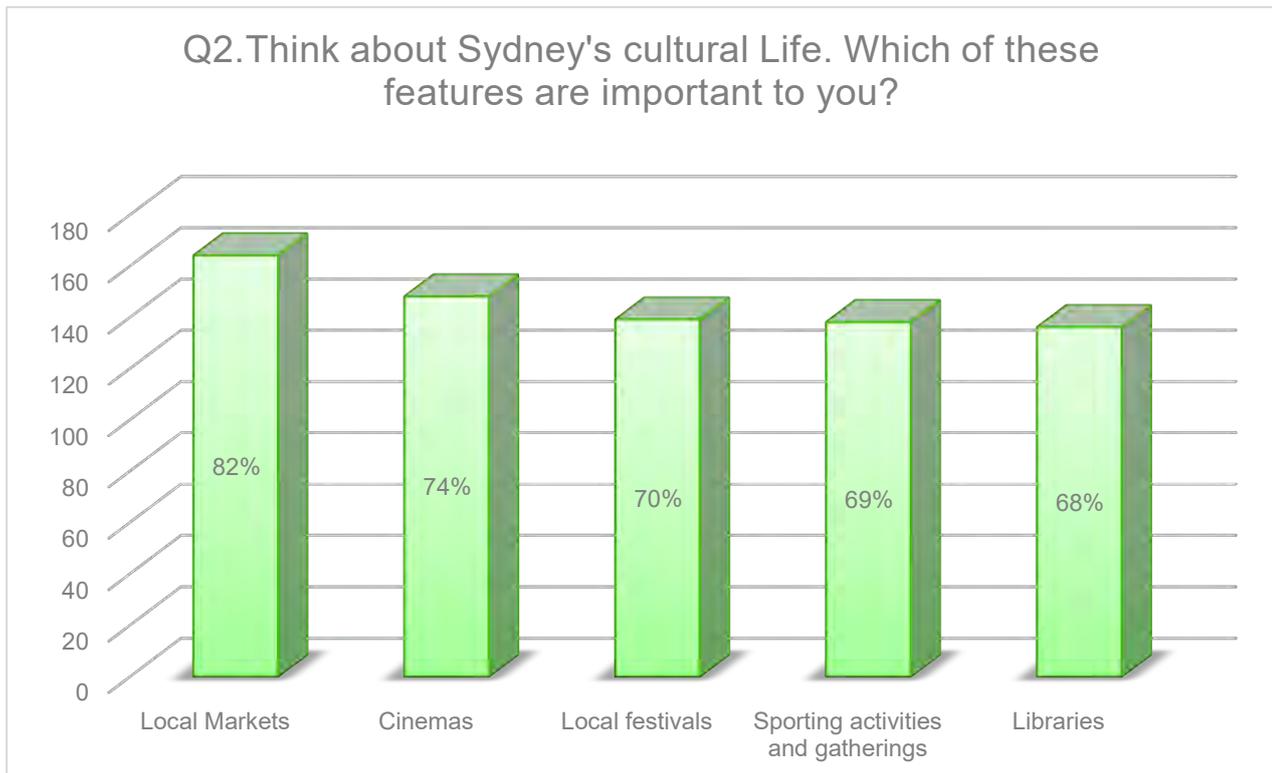
High School Survey Results

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.

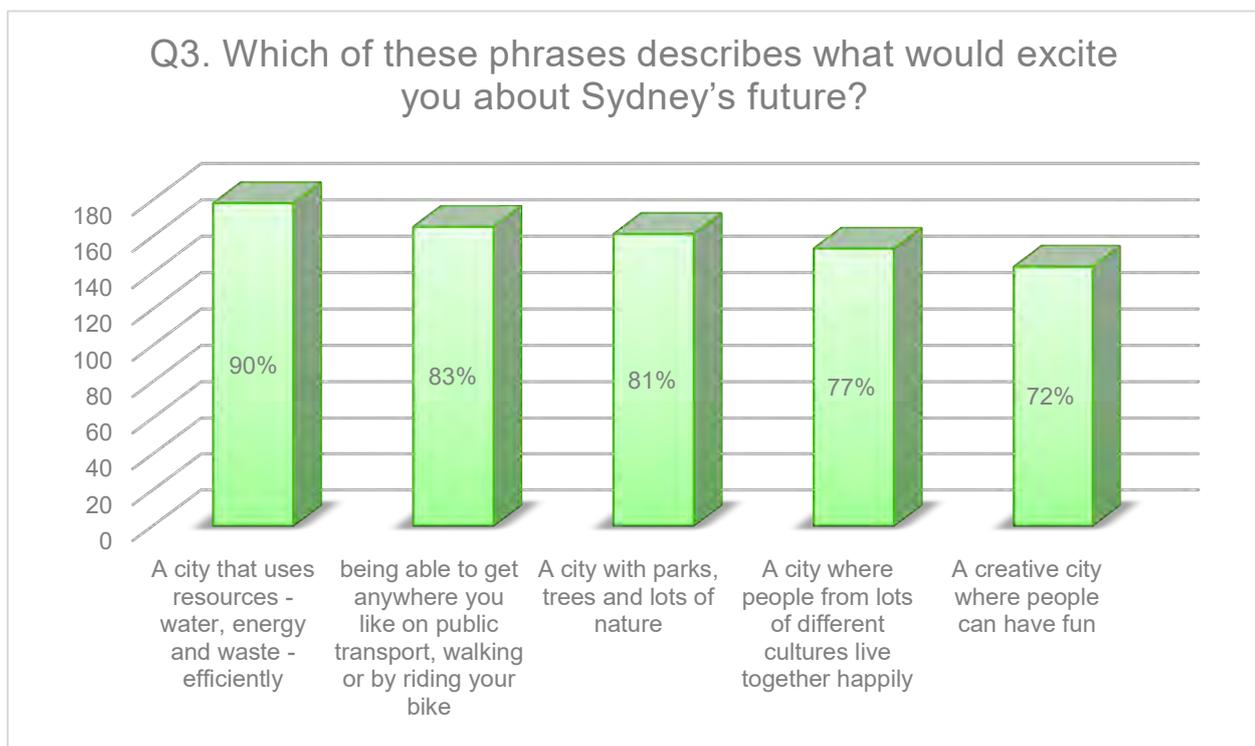


Our Future Sydney

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%.

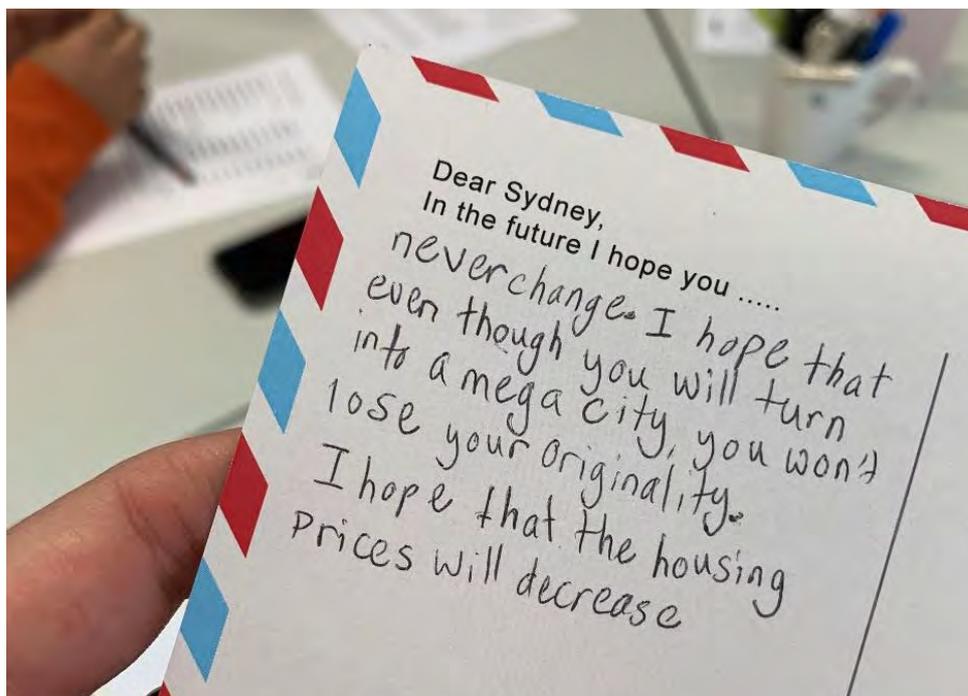
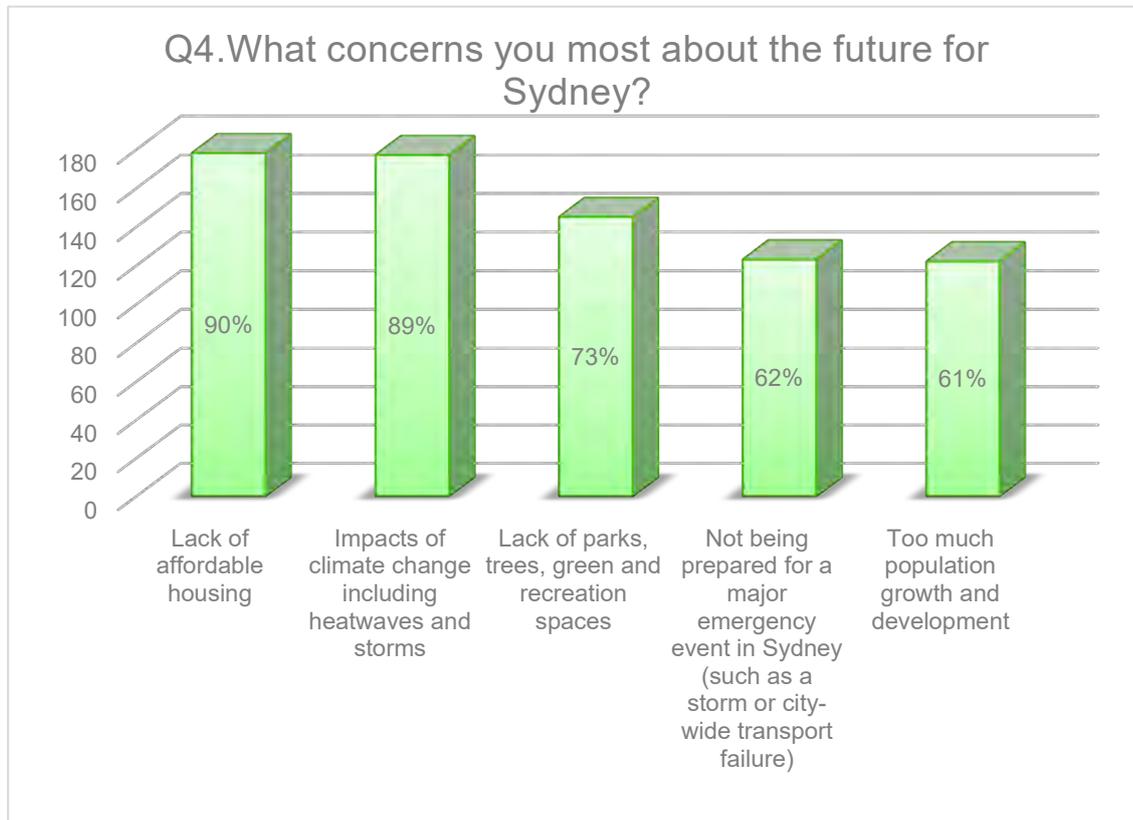


Question 3: Responses to this question demonstrate the consistent desire for a sustainable and more environmentally conscious city. 90% wanted a city that uses its resources such as water, energy and waste efficiently.



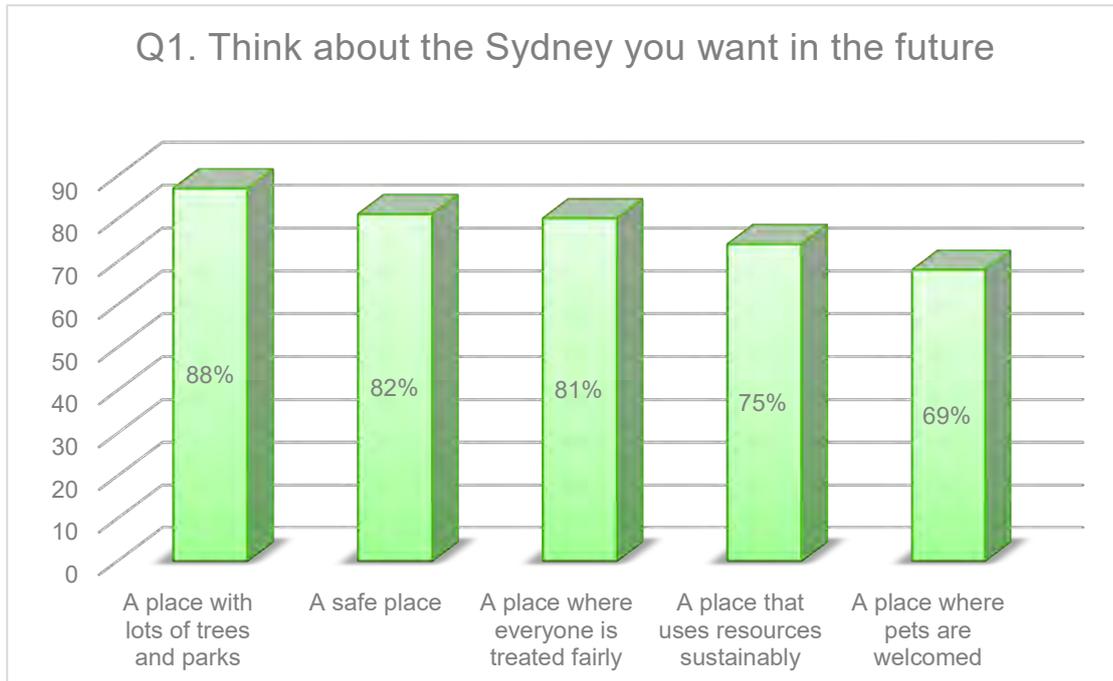
Our Future Sydney

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.

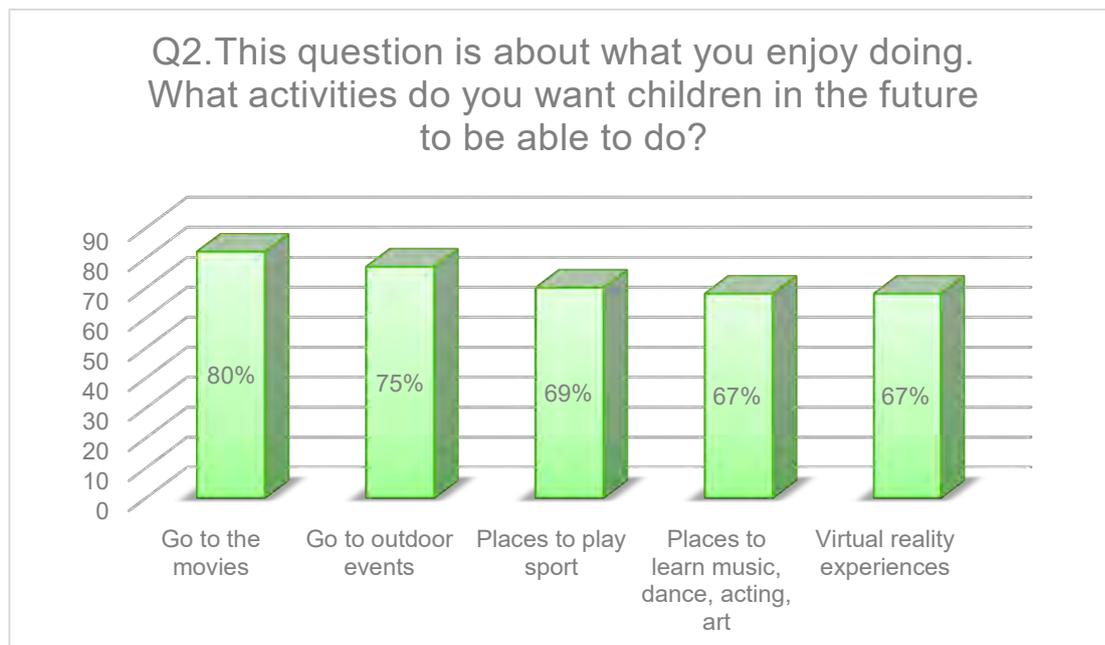


Primary School (Year 4-6) Survey Results

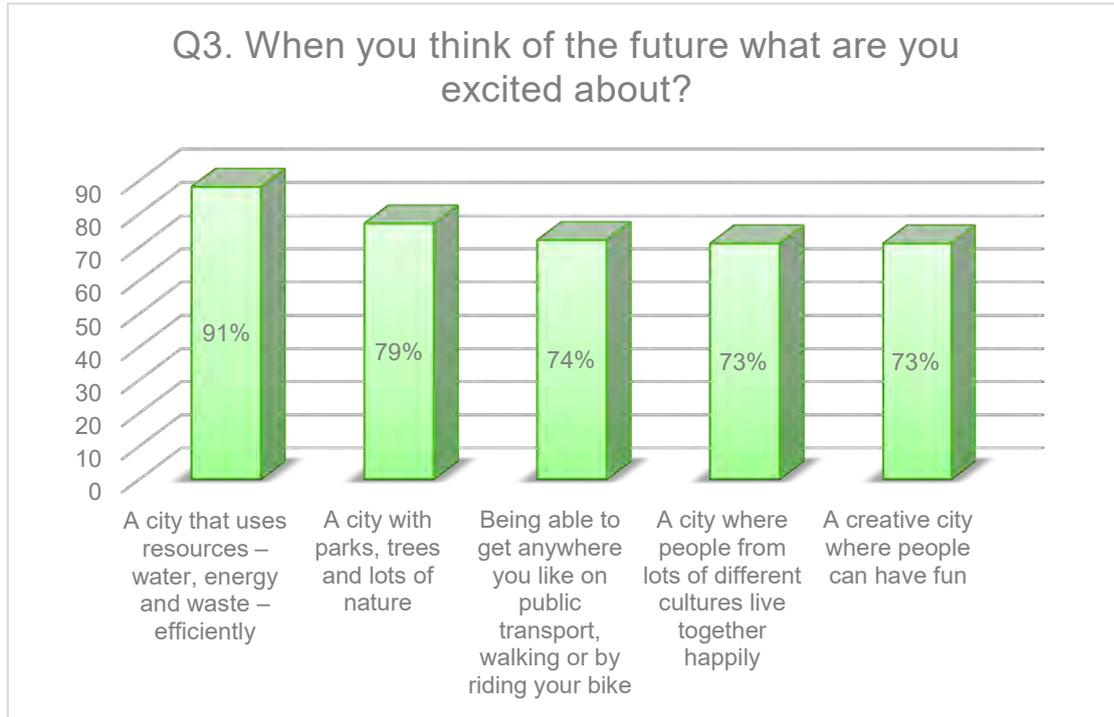
Question 1: As with their high school contemporaries younger students also hoped for a future that was safe, green and equitable.



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.

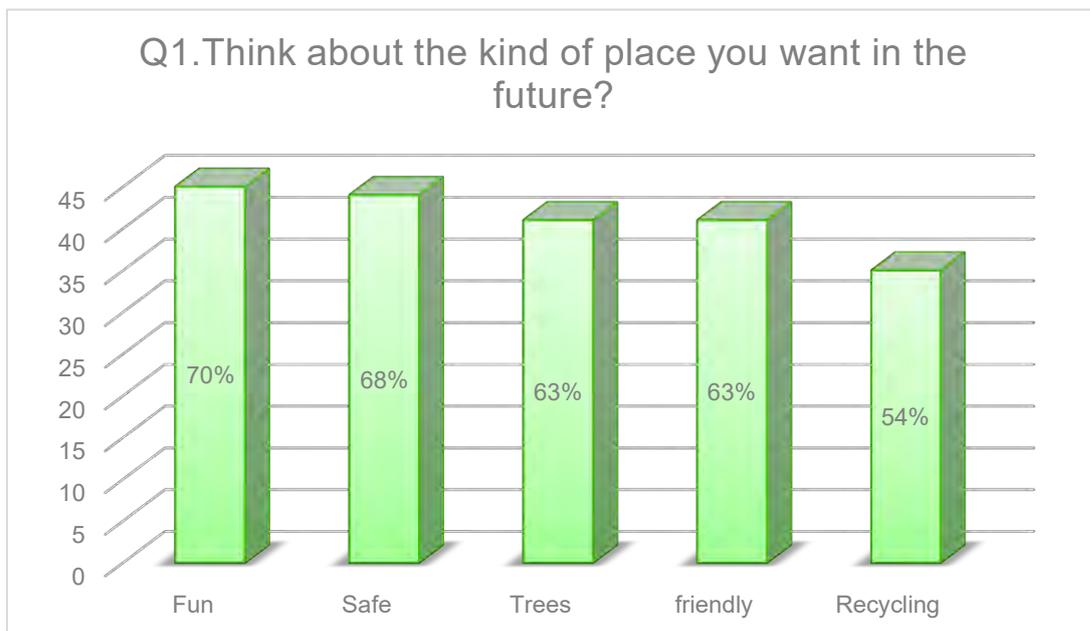


Question 3: Mirroring the older student responses, 91% of primary aged participants want a city that is efficient in its use of resources, again the message of environmental responsibility comes through strongly.

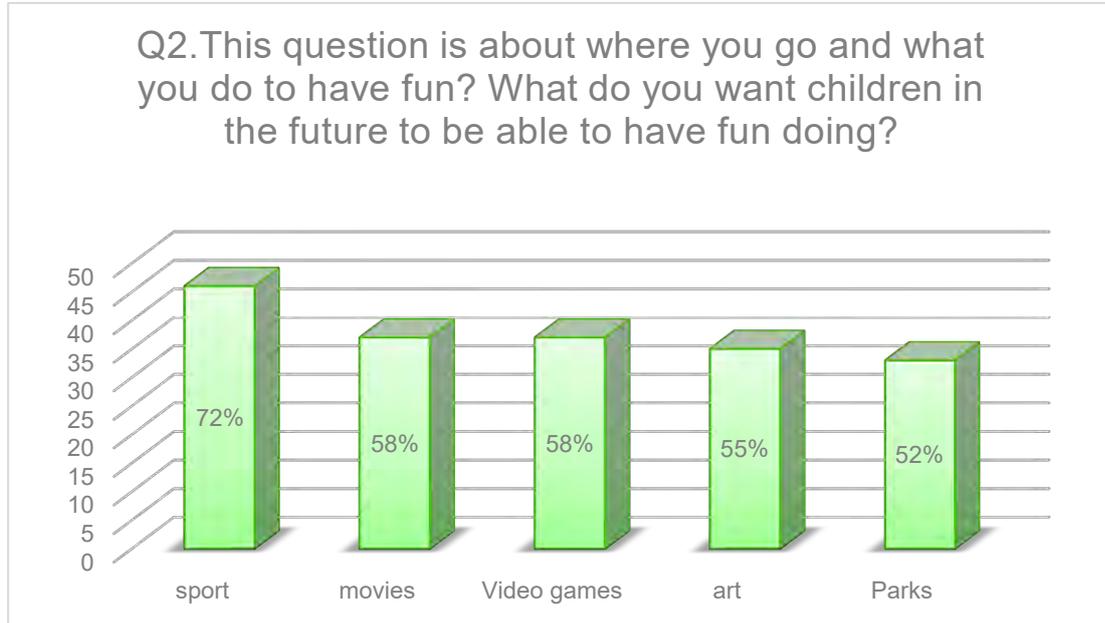


Primary School (Years K-3) Survey Results

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...



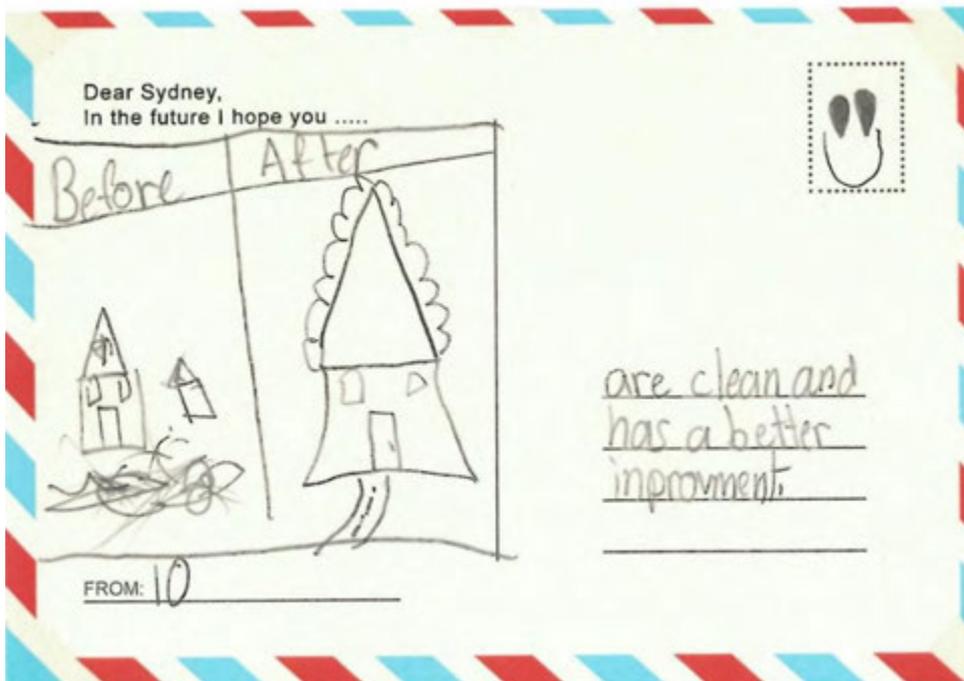
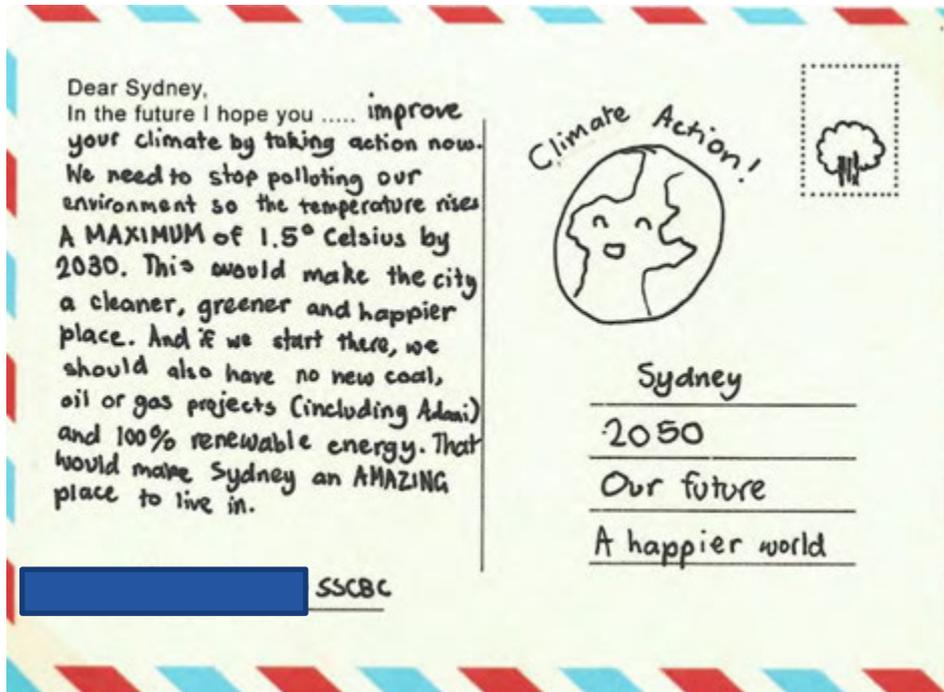
The writing here reads:

Underground cars

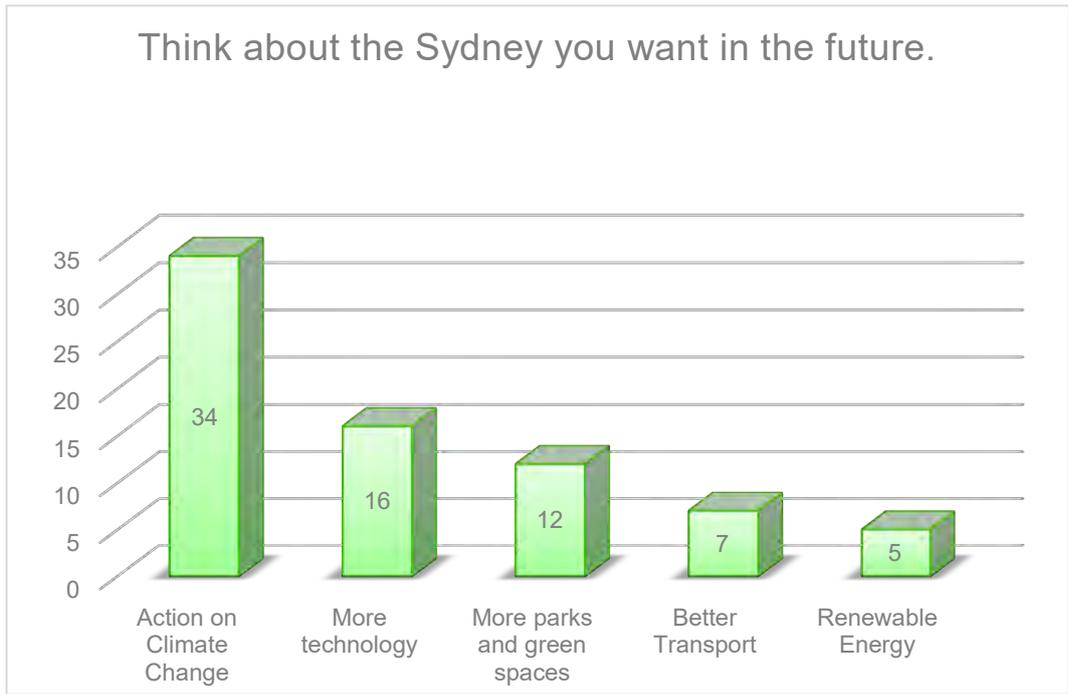
and green up top.

Postcards

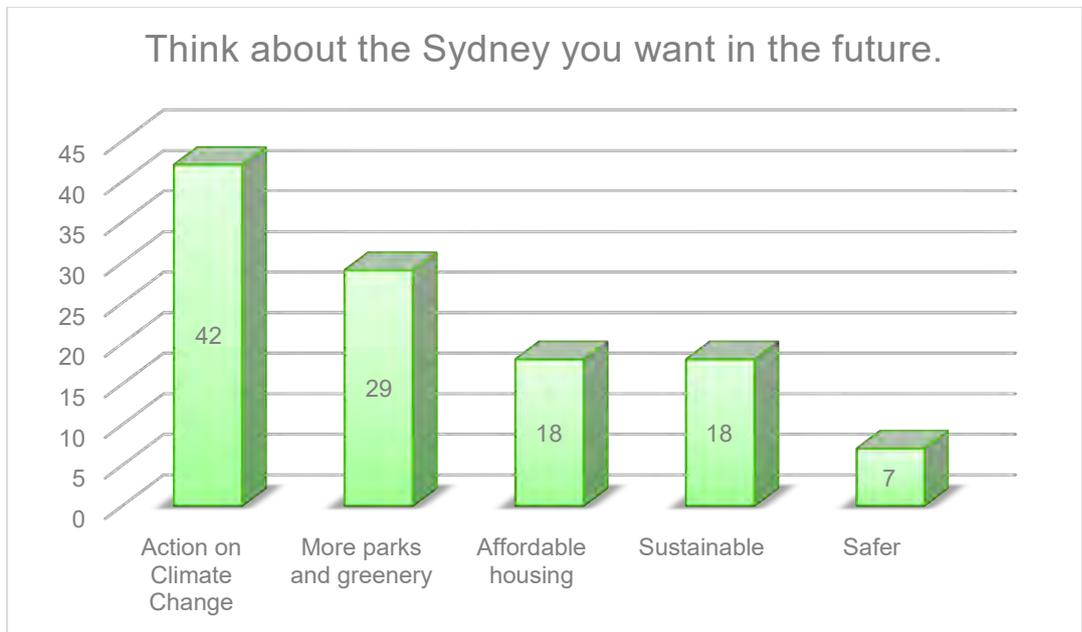
The desire for action on climate change, improved housing affordability, the importance of green spaces and good public transport were again echoed in the open field writing activities such as the postcard activity.



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.

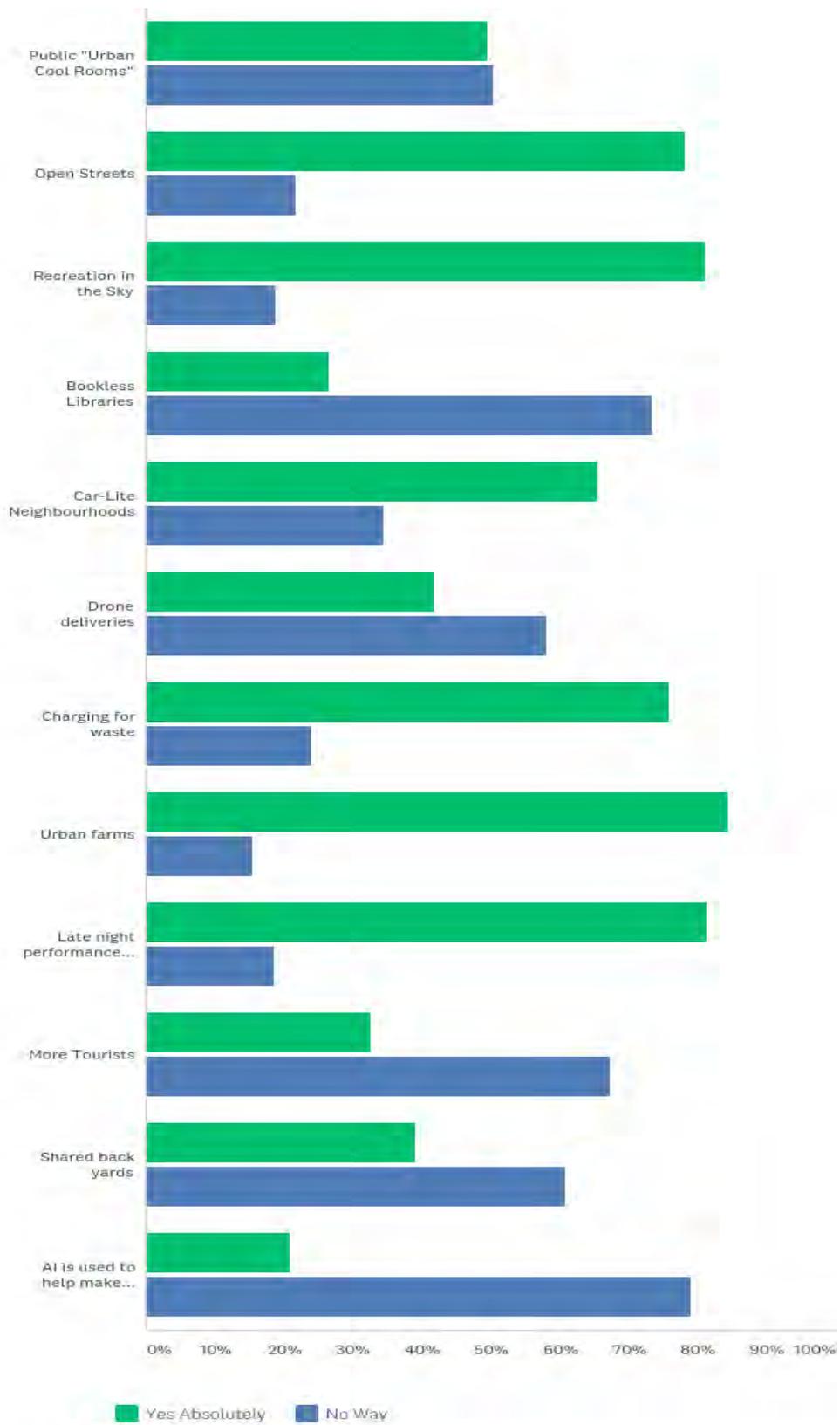
Open Streets are an exciting idea and sound like something lots of people would enjoy. The roads are congested and hazardous so if anytime the road can be clear of cars, sounds like a city that I'd visit regularly.

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.

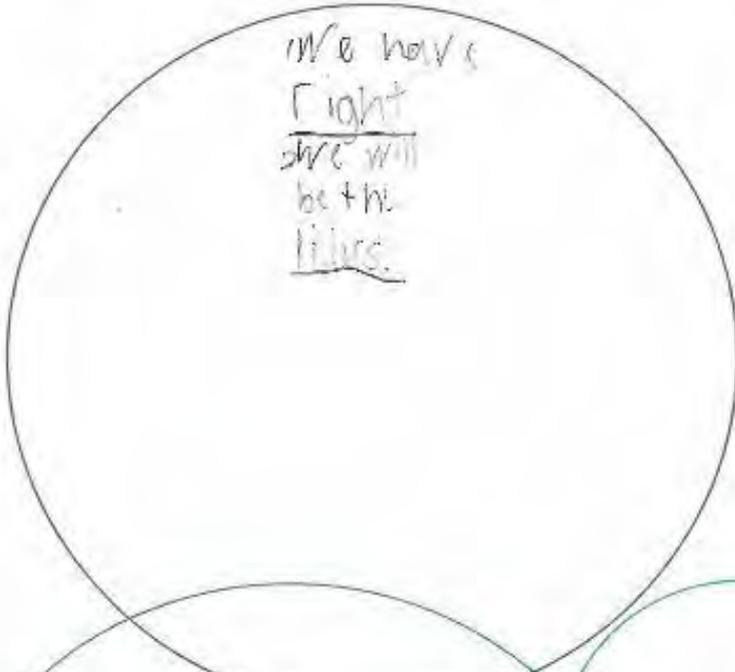
"Surprisingly" teenagers have opinions on things that "matter". A lot of people my age understand the consequences of climate change, human impacts, urban development, if not better than the average adult. We are all informed and educated; we have a voice, but little opportunities to voice them.

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 teachers them about art and culture.

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



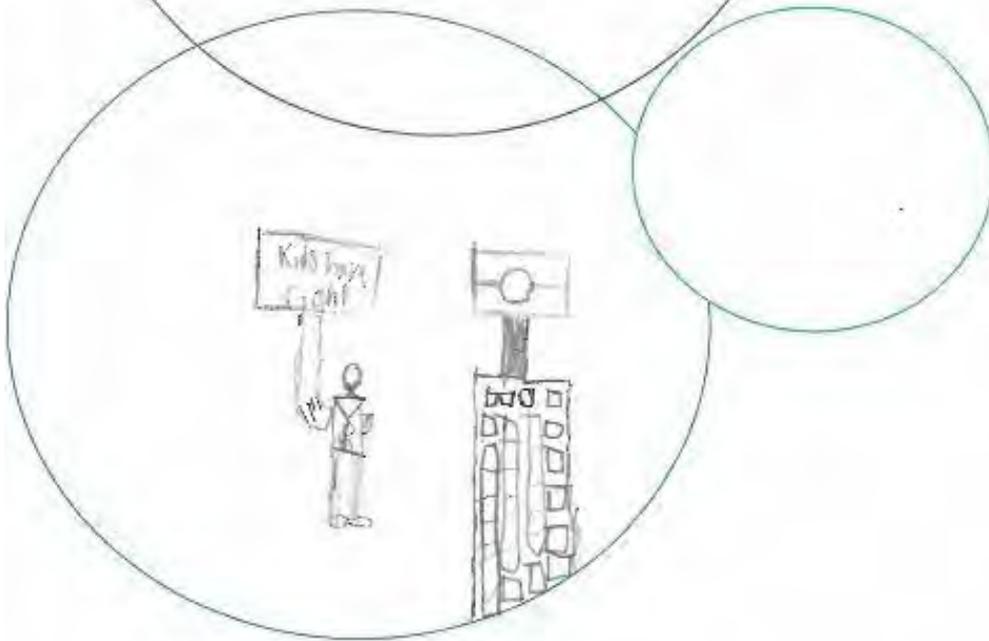
The text reads:

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

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Our Future Sydney:
Children's Summit



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

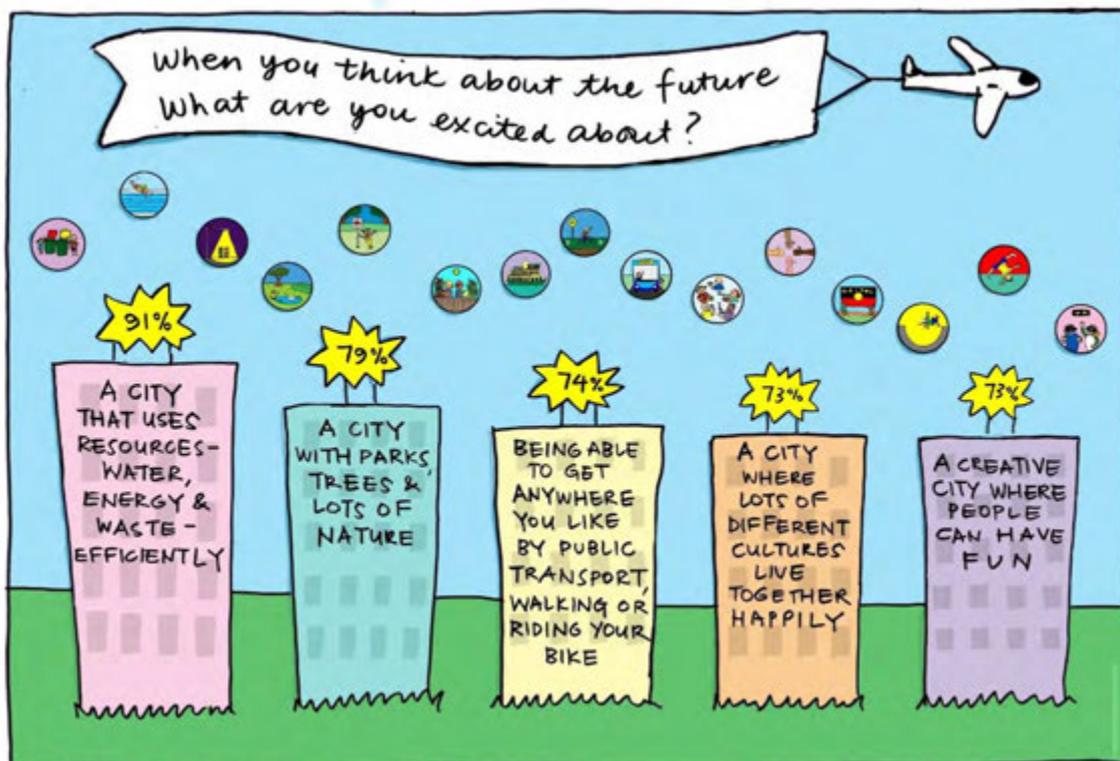
The children worked their way through a five step process that started broadly and progressively narrowed the focus of their ideas. Participants were supported by teachers from different schools and a member of the City of Sydney team.

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



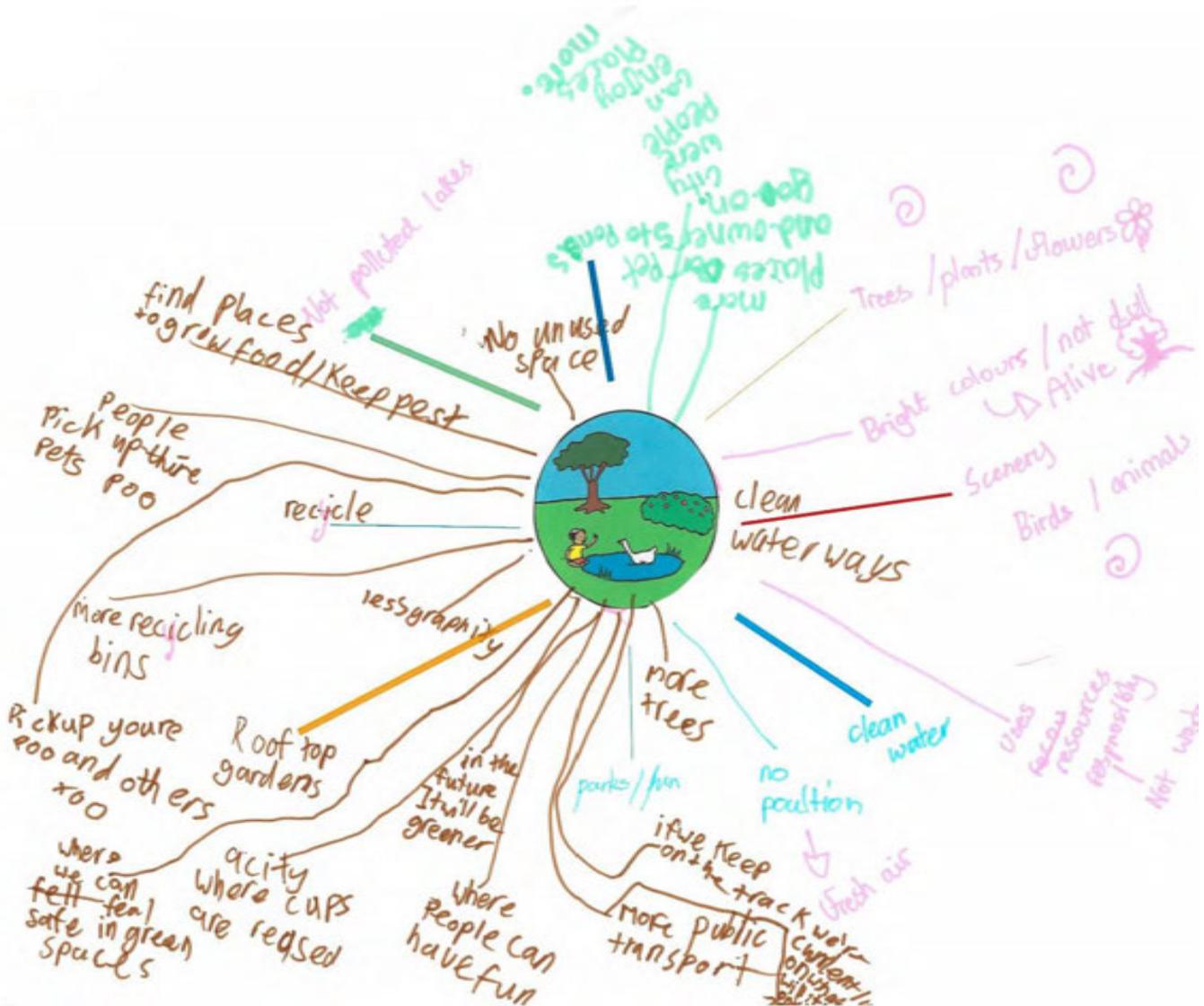
Green city

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

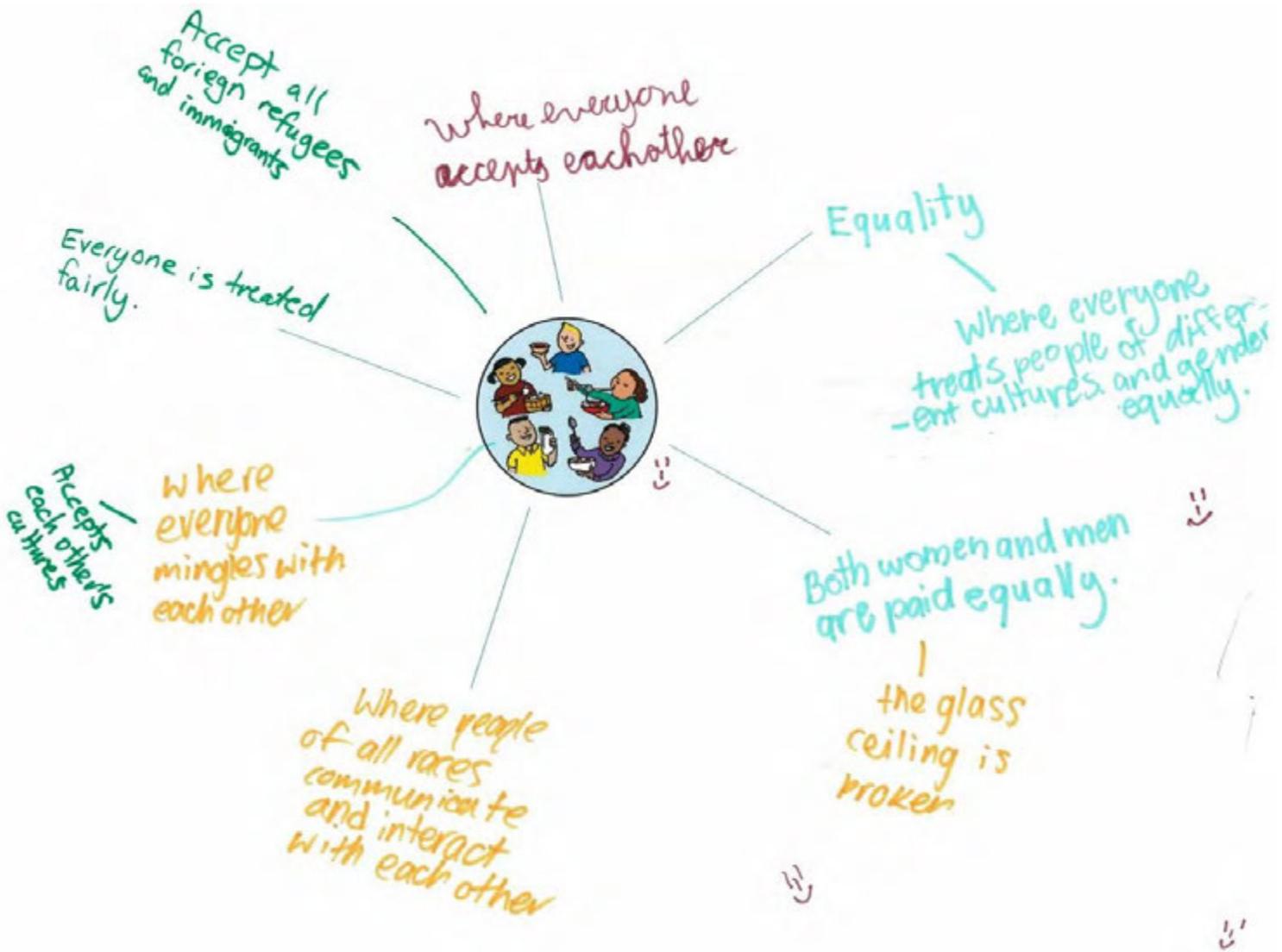
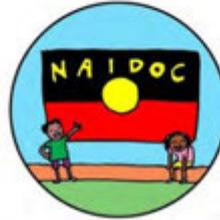
Storytelling Cultural Festival

- 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

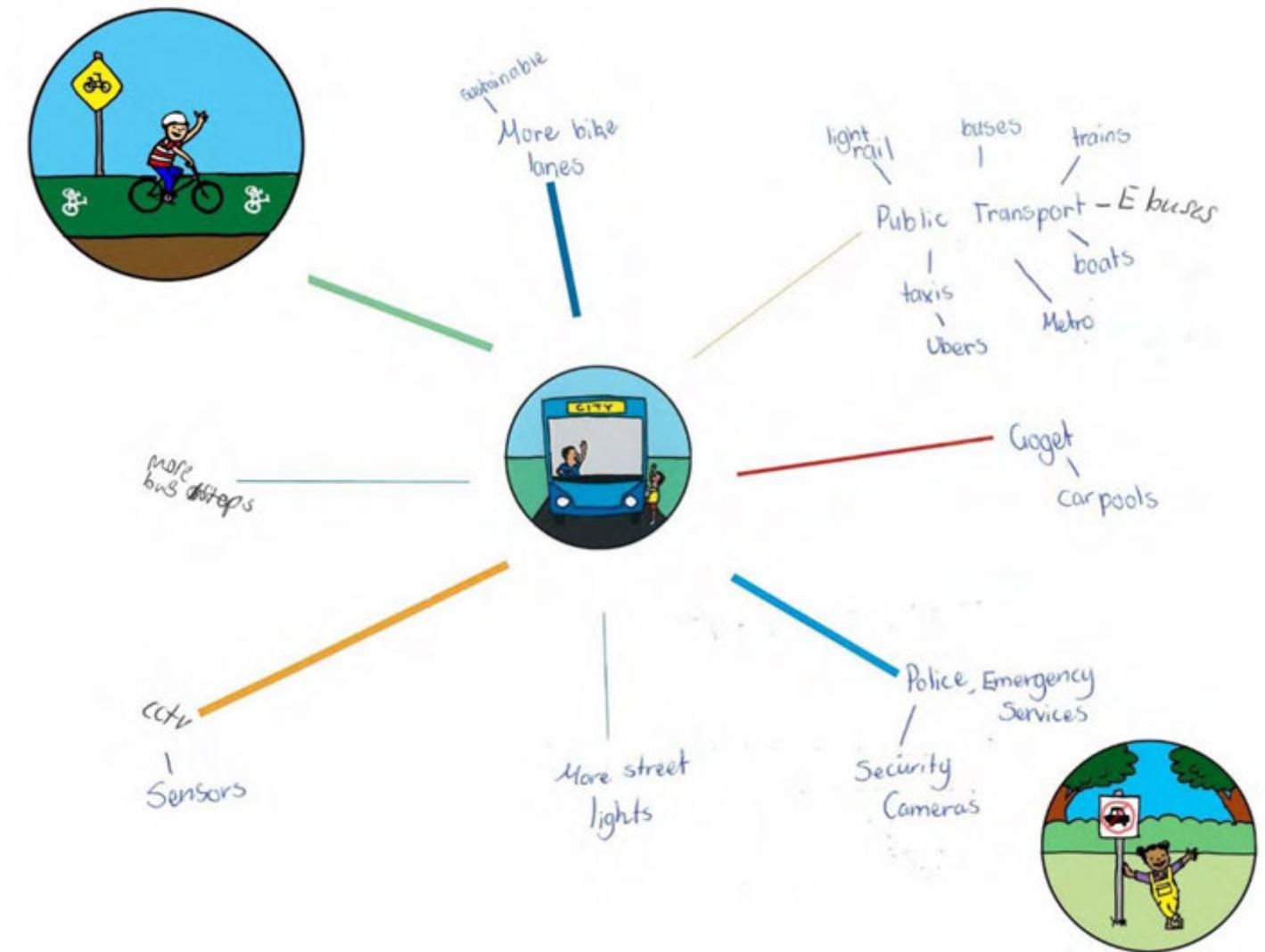


A Safe and easy to get around

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 26th 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 12th 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
- Llewellyn 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

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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

- 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

CITY OF SYDNEY



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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

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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.



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

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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>

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

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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:

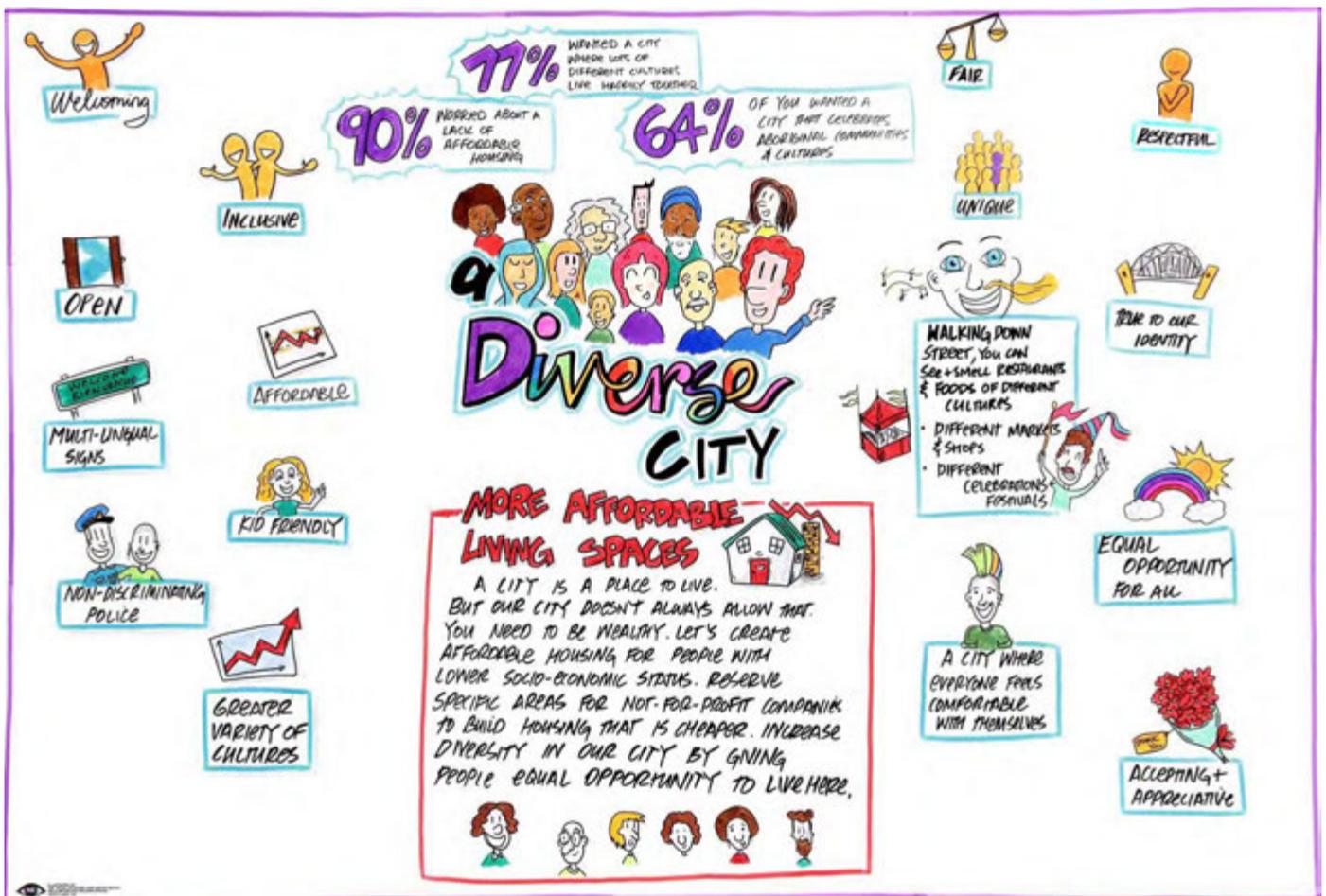
More Affordable Living Spaces

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

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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

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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

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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.

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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.



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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.



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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.

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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.”



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

