

Attachment B

Engagement Report

Engagement report – draft greening Sydney strategy



Contents

Background	3
Engagement summary	4
Survey respondents	5
Key findings	6
6 directions	8
Subjects/issues raised in submissions	14
Activities	32
Appendix	34

Background

Draft greening Sydney strategy

Trees, plants and the natural environment are a city's life support system. A greener Sydney will improve our health and wellbeing, reduce the impact of heat, and bring nature into the city.

This proposed strategy outlines how we'll be a cool, calm and resilient city by increasing greening and sharing its benefits with our communities.

In 2019, we spoke to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, children and young people, residents, businesses, workers and visitors about their vision for the future.

A city that is environmentally responsive and green with trees and plants were key priorities.

We've taken insights from communities, government, and industry to develop this strategy. It outlines 6 directions, 20 supporting actions, builds on what we have already achieved and sets ambitious new targets to green our city.

The draft document was on public exhibition between 19 April and 24 May 2021.

This engagement report

This document summarises key findings and outlines activities that took place during the public exhibition of the draft greening Sydney strategy.

All feedback captured in this report will be considered before reporting back to Council.

Engagement summary

From 19 April 2021 to 24 May 2021, we asked the community for feedback on our draft greening Sydney strategy.

Consultation on the plan provided an opportunity for stakeholders and the community to review and comment on the draft strategy before being taken to Council for adoption.

Consultation activities included online engagement, a school activity kit, and discussion guide. The consultation was promoted on various social media channels.

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

Purpose of the engagement

The purpose of the engagement was to:

- gather feedback from stakeholders and the community about the draft strategy
 - determine the level of satisfaction with the draft strategy
 - inform the development of the final strategy.
-

Outcomes from the engagement

Over 200 pieces of feedback were received during the consultation. Below is a break-down of the feedback received:

- 158 surveys
- 24 email submissions were received
- 173 pieces of feedback were received from 54 people on an interactive map

Submissions received from organisations

- Sydney Water
- Urban Taskforce
- Far West Redfern Dwellers
- Friends of Fernhill and Mulgoa Valley

Issues raised in submissions from organisations have been captured in the submissions table below.

Survey respondents



158 PEOPLE SURVEYED



32% AGE 20 - 40

44% AGE 41 - 60

24% AGE 61+



78% LIVE IN THE AREA



47% WORK IN THE AREA



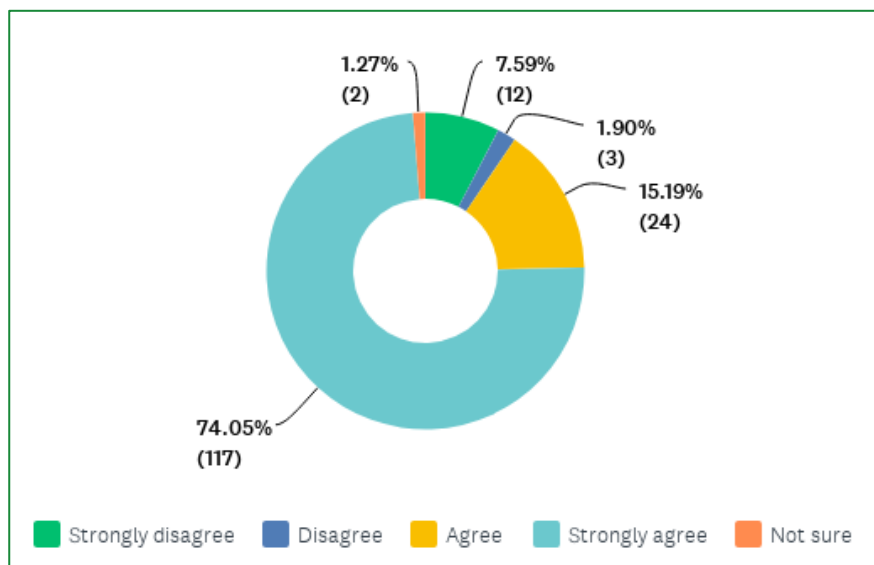
48% MALE

47% FEMALE

Key findings

Survey results indicate overall support for the draft strategy's vision and confidence in the City's ability to meet the targets and vision. It also clearly shows concern over increasing heat impacts in the city, with 83% of respondents either very concerned or concerned about increasing heat.

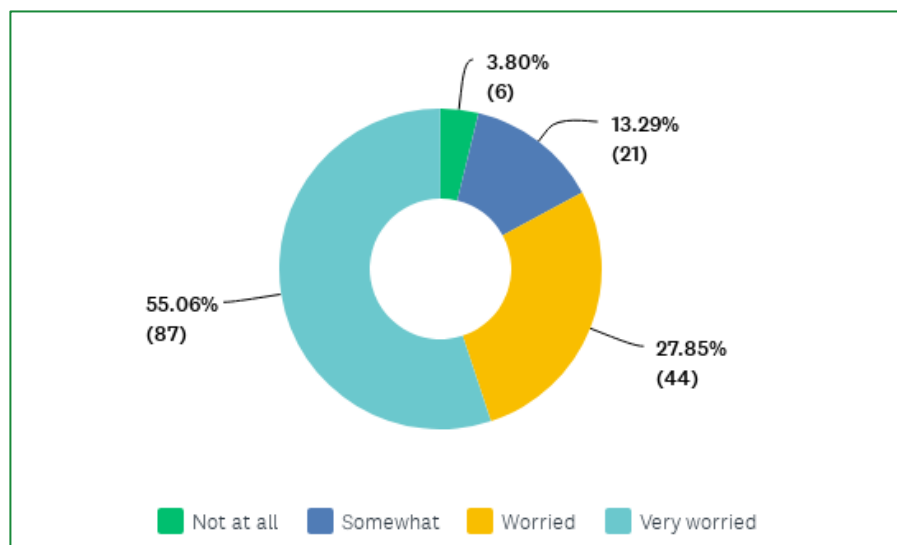
Q: How strongly do you agree or disagree with this strategy's vision for a cool, calm and resilient city, with increased greening?



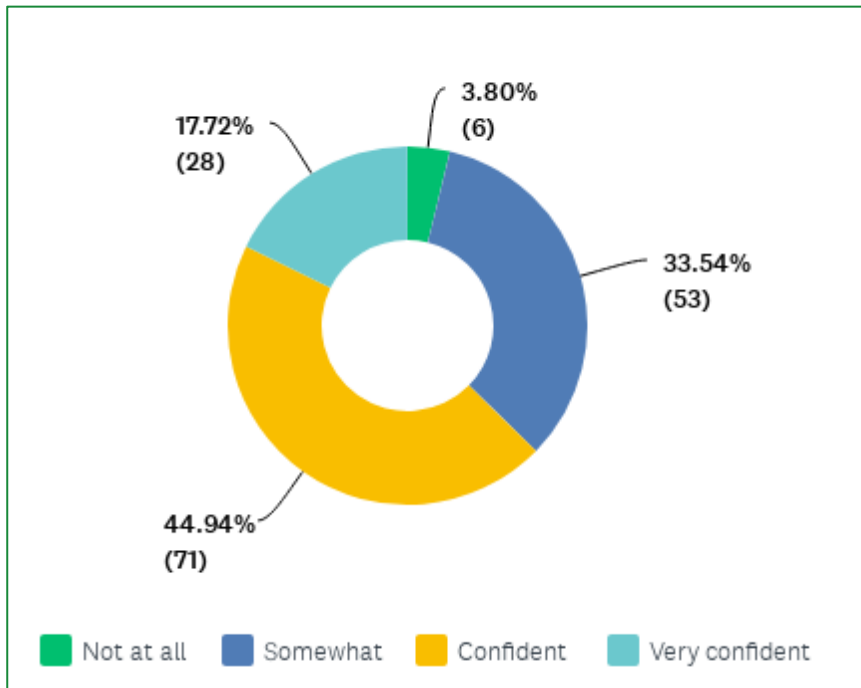
89%
strongly
agree or
agree

Q: How worried are you about the impacts of increasing heat in the city?

83%
very
worried
or worried



Q: How confident do you feel that the City can meet the targets and vision set out in this strategy?



63%
confident
or very
confident

When asked why respondents made their selection, people who selected 'very confident' or 'confident' cited the City's leadership and track record as key reasons. Others who were confident cited low targets as the reason for their confidence.

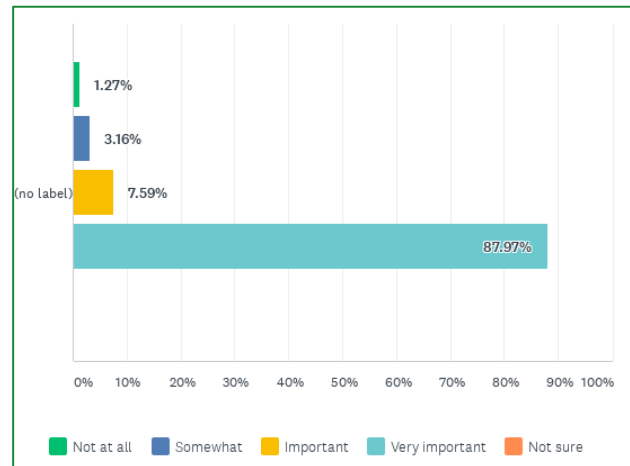
Respondents who selected 'somewhat' or 'not at all' cited red tape, resourcing, maintenance, politics, planning laws and overdevelopment as key reasons.

6 directions

Survey respondents were asked how important the draft strategy's 6 directions are. Most respondents think all 6 directions are either important or very important. Direction 1 was identified as 'very important' the most respondents (88%).

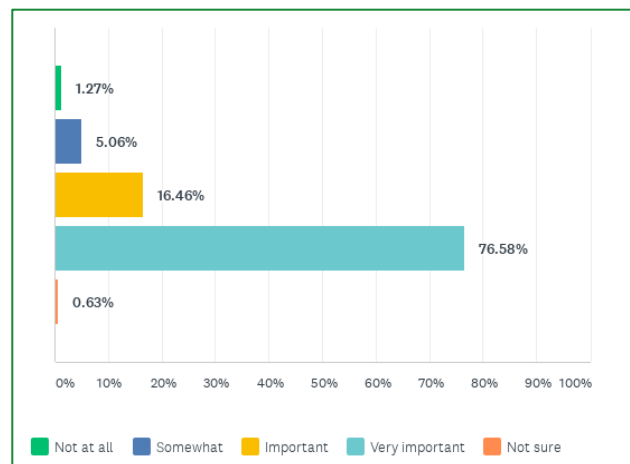
Direction 1 – Turn grey to green

96%
very important
or important



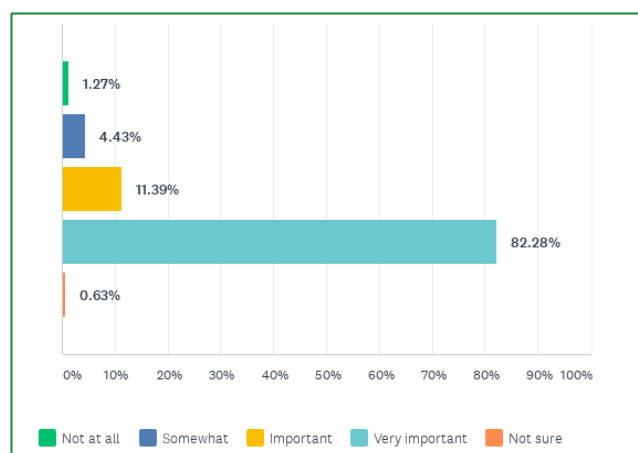
Direction 2 – Greening for all

93%
very important
or important



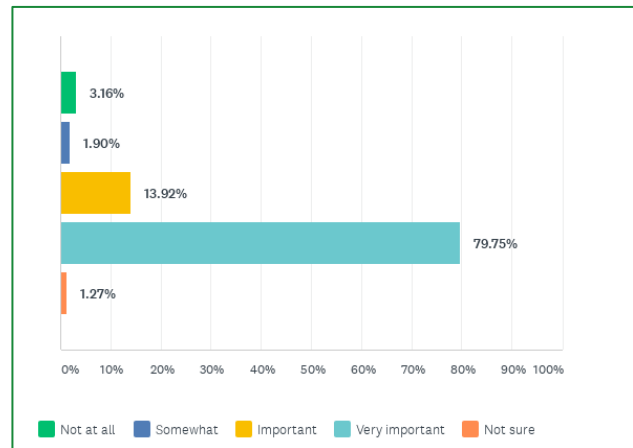
Direction 3 – Cool, calm spaces

94%
very important
or important



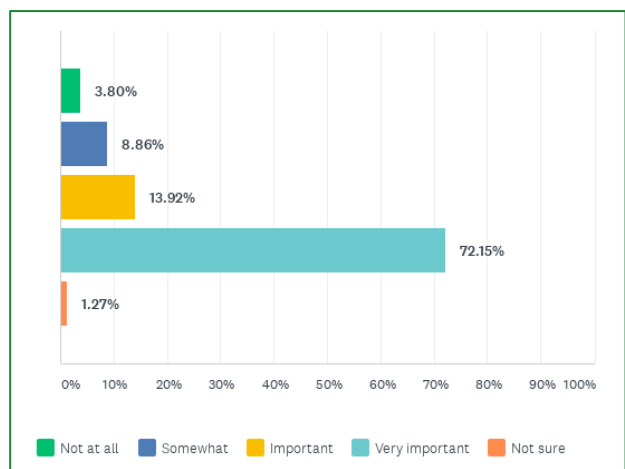
Direction 4 – Greener buildings

94%
very important
or important



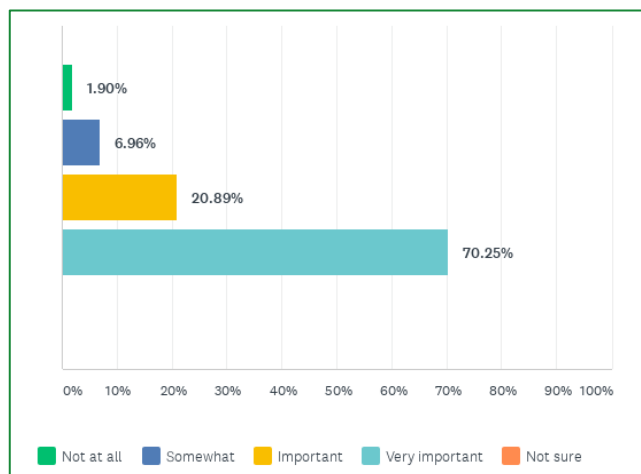
Direction 5 – Nature in the city

86%
very important
or important



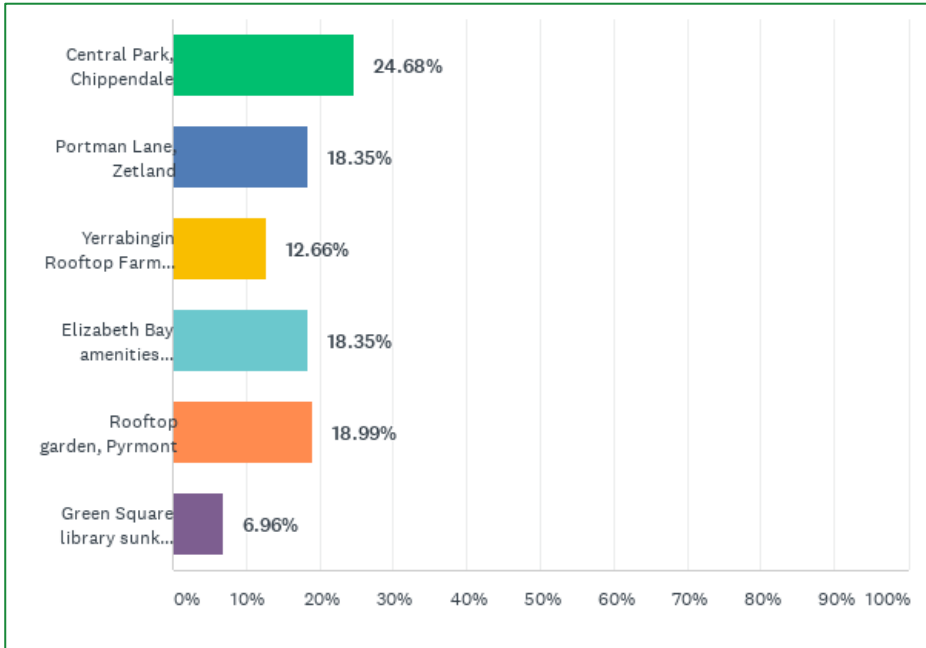
Direction 6 – Greening together

91%
very important
or important



Green buildings and laneways

We gave respondents six examples of green buildings and laneways in the local area and asked them to select their favourite image. We then asked why that image resonated with them. Below are the selections respondents made and some quotes about each image from survey respondents.



Central Park, Chippendale



“Because it makes my heart sing to see something that’s generally ugly as a garden in the sky.”

“I see it every day and it gives me hope that we will do better.”

“It clearly demonstrates how high-density developments can actually increase green cover.”

Rooftop garden, Pyrmont



“Provides a peaceful place to be rather than a hot rooftop nobody wants to use”

“Rooftops can be developed to support insect life and provide a calming space to inner city residents”

“Nice wildness to it, giving life to a usually blank roof.”

Portman Lane, Zetland



“The other examples are fantastic, but this image of Portman Lane represents something that can be done to a lot of lanes and streets in Sydney.”

“Because it is simple: a laneway with vegetation, like a country lane but in the city.”

“More human scale, provides public amenity, not private space.”

Elizabeth Bay amenities building



“I like that an ugly building and look like part of the landscape.”

“There's a lot of ugliness in our city; greening them turns them into things of natural beauty”

“The building disappears behind the greenery”

Yerrabingin Rooftop Farm, Eveleigh



“Aboriginal knowledge and native plants, growing bush tuckerbush.com.au and educating people on plants that are appropriate for our environment. 80,000+ yrs of survival deserves a lot more respect. We have to learn how to survive on this continent from those who obviously know better.”

“Creative use of space, creative image of future possibilities”

“It combines solar power with natural cooling from the rooftop garden, and I guess allow actual growing food too!”

Green Square library sunken garden



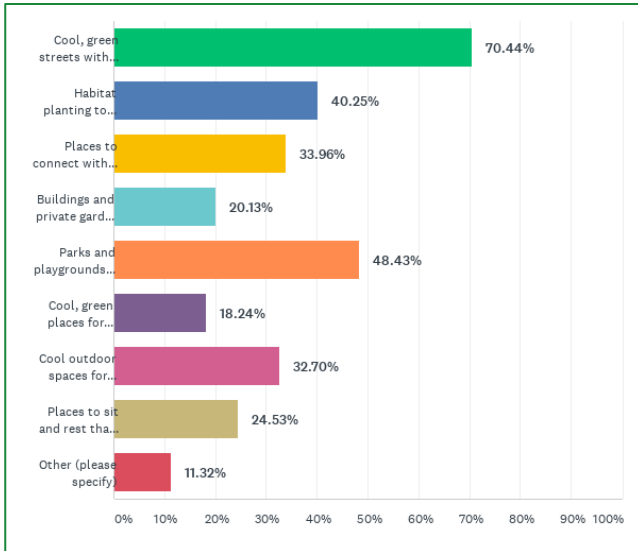
“it looks like a haven of community, coolness and tranquillity.”

“Beautifully designed constructed and maintained, as are the rooftop farm and gardens! There needs to be a lot more of all of these!”

“public access to a quieter retreat and reflection. Less noise pollution.”

A cool, calm city

We asked respondents to select the three most important things that contribute to a cool, calm city. Most respondents selected 'cool, green streets with shade' (70%), followed by 'Parks and playgrounds with trees and shade' (48%) and 'Habitat planting to encourage nature in the city' (40%). There were 18 'other' comments; these are captured in the submissions table below.

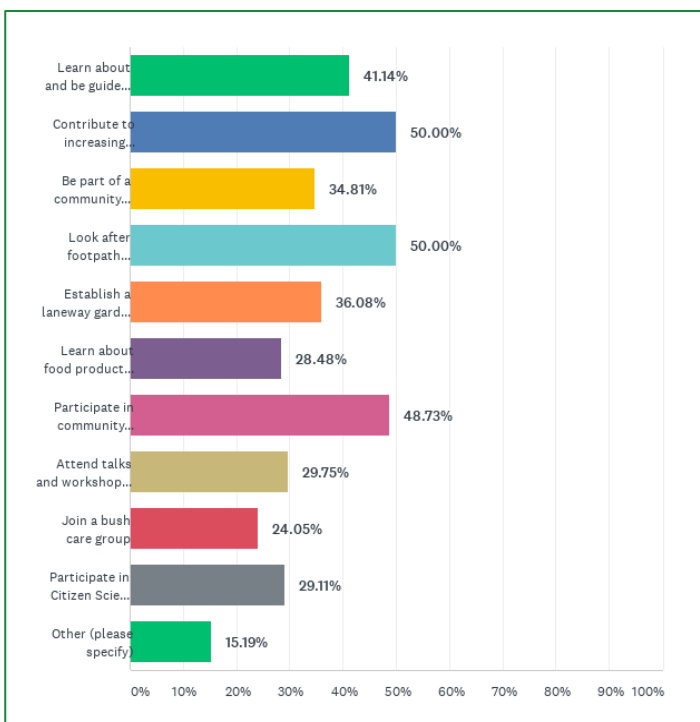


70%

Cool, green
streets with trees

Working together

We asked people to select the things they are interested in being involved in. Fifty percent of respondents chose 'Contribute to increasing habitat in my area' and 'Look after footpath gardens in my street', followed closely by 'Participate in community planting days' (49%). There were 24 'other' comments; these are captured in the submissions table below.



50%

Increase habitat
and look after
footpath gardens
in my area

49%

Be part of
community
planting days

Subjects/issues raised in submissions

Subjects/topics raised in submissions

Several subjects/topics were raised in the feedback received. These were presented as concerns, suggestions and/or requests and are summarised below.

Streets, cycleways, railways & walkways	Total	City of Sydney Response
Shady, cool walkways (e.g. Utlimo pedestrian network), and green cycleways	5	The Greening Sydney Strategy (the Strategy) has several actions focused on increasing greening and providing cool and calm connected public space across the city.
Reducing cars, noise and pollution, decrease car parking space on streets to cater for more greening and cycleways.	3	<p>To achieve the Strategy's targets, the planting of more trees and greening within roads is required.</p> <p>Further, a comprehensive and connected bike network across the city will encourage more people to cycle locally, also reducing reliance on cars to get around.</p> <p>Sydney is changing. With an estimated 115,000 more residents, 56,000 new dwellings and 200,000 more jobs by 2036, existing open space and transport connection will be put under considerable strain if we don't act.</p> <p>We will need more space for people and public life. As our climate changes, urban temperatures will also increase and we will need more connected tree canopy to cool the City and protect the public domain, to ensure the health and wellbeing of our communities.</p>
Traffic calmed green spaces	2	Noted, refer above.
Green rail corridors and make public open green space (e.g. connect North and South Eveleigh across the railway line to/from Carriageworks)	2	Noted. Beyond the scope of this Strategy, however the City continually advocates for better connected, open and green spaces as part of major urban renewals.
Covered walkways (e.g. in Italy)	1	Noted
More focus on main roads and highways – a serious contributor to heat. Partner with TfNSW to deliver (especially outside	1	The City's 'green avenue' project (which includes Broadway) aims to deliver more space and more trees. It relies, however, on successful delivery of current and

Engagement report –
draft greening Sydney strategy

hospitals, schools, malls where vulnerable communities gather on street).		planned mass public transport infrastructure such as metro, by the NSW Government – to reduce reliance on road networks across the city, to make more room for buses, service vehicles and freight, and more room for bicycle lanes. The vision for Broadway reduces the road width to two lanes in each direction or four lanes in total.
Concerned about the planned Greening of Sydney / green avenues and removal of vehicle lanes and loading zones all over the city. Impact to truck drivers who need to (not want to) drive into the city to service the people and businesses of Sydney will be affected by the changes in road use.	1	Servicing and access requirements for the city centre is a key consideration for both the City and Transport for NSW. The City engages widely with stakeholders when developing project ideas. Refer to comments above regarding green avenue projects. Further, as such projects progress into design development, comprehensive traffic and access studies will be undertaken to ensure our city can be serviced and remains productive.
Micro-misting to cool streets, parks and plazas	2	The City appreciates that we will not be able to use greening in all instances, and where required, will use other approaches to help cool Sydney. The use of misters and other water focused cooling approaches are included in the Strategy within Action 8, Cool the Hot Spots and also Action 10, Celebrate Water.
Need more planting of trees in the road.	1	As outlined above, to achieve the Strategy's targets, the planting of more trees and greening within roads is required.
Concern that greening will narrow footpath widths and adversely affect access (e.g. Reservoir Street in Surry Hills)	1	Noted. Careful site selection for streetscape greening and tree species selection is an important consideration. The City has policies to help guide this, including the Footpath Gardening Policy and Street Tree Master Plan. These policies are due for review in the coming two years and will include community consultation.
Connect parks and green spaces with green corridors.	1	Three actions will work together to connect parks and green spaces with green corridors; Action 4, to distribute greening equitably, Action 8 to cool the hot spots and Action 9, calm green spaces.
Transform back of house working streets and laneways of Sydney.	1	Action 2, to green our laneways, identifies the opportunity, and challenges involved, to green these public spaces.

Engagement report –
draft greening Sydney strategy

Consider using one side of the road for a verge garden and the other for through pedestrian access.	1	Noted. All properties require pedestrian access.
The light rail should be green like the one in Antalya, Turkey.	1	<p>The City recommended a green track during design development and construction phases; however, it was ruled out by Transport for NSW (TfNSW) and ALTRAC, the consortium delivering the light rail, due to implications from the associated costs and operational matters.</p> <p>Under section 144B of the Roads Act, TfNSW is the Road Authority for the Permanent Light rail Corridor which includes the light rail tracks. Transdev as TfNSW's light rail operator, maintains the tracks. The City of Sydney does not have the jurisdiction to make changes and retrofit green tracks along the light rail corridor.</p> <p>Any greening of the light rail now would require demolition of the existing track-form, installation of a new track-form type that facilitates green tracks, and a cessation of light rail services for a significant amount of time to construct the green tracks. It is not a feasible option post-construction, given the costs of such an exercise and the impact to light rail operations. Light rail is now an essential piece of public transport infrastructure that needs to keep operating.</p>
Reducing the paved area of wide local streets is not specifically addressed e.g. under Public Domain Greening (page 25), Where We Need To Be 2050 (page 39), reducing the amount of paving (page 50), and the Directions & Actions in Attachment 1.	1	<p>The Strategic Framework (page 25) summarises the City's overall current and future strategies, policies and master plans. Reducing the paved area of wide streets is an action within these documents, such as the Urban Forest Strategy, Street Tree Master Plan and Footpath gardening Policy.</p> <p>The diagram on page 39 includes the wording 'More greenery at ground levels and reductions in hard surfaces', which is a broader term for all paved surfaces.</p> <p>The Directions and Actions within the Attachment 1 are an overall summary of the Strategy's implementation and does not need to detail associated works (removal paved surfaces).</p>
Prioritise the use of pale or off-white road and footpaths in narrow streets where the options for canopy cover are limited.	1	The City has undertaken trial of use of white footpaths. The City has noted glare issues and is trying to establish a general position moving forward.

Engagement report –
draft greening Sydney strategy

I travel often, and judge places on the vibe I get from the locals. There's a correlation between happiness, smiling faces and the amount of green in a city where people can go to relax, or play. Green Space is more than aesthetics, it's vital, as you point out.	1	Noted
Trees and planting	Total	City of Sydney Response
Support/ more native planting	10	<p>The City plants a mixture of native, exotic, evergreen and deciduous species. Species selection involves many complex considerations, which broadly fit into three main categories: environmental, functional and aesthetic.</p> <p>We appreciate that there may be various views on the types of trees planted, and that it is hard to always achieve a tree species that everyone supports.</p>
Only native planting	4	Refer to response above.
Do not support London Plane Trees	5	A review the Street Tree Master Plan in planned the next two years, which will include a review of the species planted in each street across the City. The review will also include community consultation, providing all residents an opportunity to make comment on species selection at that time.
Tree types – more deciduous trees for Autumn colour and more sun during winter	4	<p>Refer to responses above.</p> <p>Further, with an increase in canopy cover required in many parks, an increase in deciduous trees will be planted to ensure shade in summer and sun in winter, with the added benefits of the beautiful autumn colours.</p>
Comment that trees are currently damaging footpaths, causing tripping hazards and access issues. Concern that this will only increase.	4	<p>The City has a comprehensive asset management approach in managing all of its assets, including trees, parks, footways, roads etc. The maintenance of assets is based on a number of factors, including the current condition and overall lifecycle.</p> <p>The process to select species has been outlined above.</p> <p>Further, we also try to select for the largest tree suitable for the site, as research has confirmed that larger trees provide more benefits. For example, a larger tree's canopy cover shades more area from urban heat, reducing temperatures by as much as 10 degrees Celsius in the immediate area.</p>

Engagement report –
draft greening Sydney strategy

The strategy should directly inform the 2011 Street Tree Master Plan to integrate the current mono-culture planting along streets with new trees of diverse species to increase biodiversity. A new Street Tree Master Plan should not feature mono-culture planting along streets.	1	The Greening Sydney Strategy will inform its urban forest, tree and greening related policies. Refer comments above regarding the Street Tree Master Plan review.
Non-native trees/plants continue to be planted in parks such as Bamboo in Daniel Dawson Reserve. Gardens are not planned or installed to be low maintenance, a major example of this being Sydney Park, also Daniel Dawson Reserve.	1	Noted
We believe tree pruning carried out by utility companies takes a toll on the trees affected, with some trees in our areas permanently stifled by excessive pruning. The City should actively advocate for the relocation of cables underground to limit the ongoing damage to mature trees and this should be enshrined in the strategy.	2	The City continually advocates for our tree assets to be considered essential infrastructure. We work with utilities to reduce the impact of their assets, including alternative technology options and maintenance approaches such as bundled or undergrounding cabling.
More strategic thought to planting is needed in terms of what are the right trees/ plants for the area. More consultation with residents required when selecting species.	2	Noted. Refer to comments above re species selection.
Planting should include a mix of endemic and exotic plants and trees (comment that Jacarandas have successfully formed canopies in Sydney. Respondent would like to see liquidambars, maples, lombardy poplars, birch, beechwood and oak trees in our parks and nature strips).	1	Noted. Refer to responses above regarding the City's species selection and Street Tree Master Plan.
Do not support planting more jacaranda trees	1	Noted. Refer to responses above regarding the City's species selection and Street Tree Master Plan.
Request that when plants are chosen, the ones that many have allergies to, such as the plane trees that line our streets, are avoided. Paper barks also add to respiratory problems.	1	Noted. Refer to responses above regarding the City's species selection and Street Tree Master Plan.
Concern that eucalypts don't provide enough canopy cover (eg. Harold Park in summer).	1	A review of the canopy cover within the park has been undertaken, with additional tree planting to occur.
Concern over cold, dark houses if too much shade	1	As outlined in comments above, the City plants a mixture of native, exotic, evergreen and deciduous species. With an increase in canopy cover required in many streets, careful selection of deciduous trees will undertaken to provide shade in summer and sun in winter.
Respectfully ask that Council consider those residents who have made a very significant investment purchasing a	1	The City's tree management policies are clear in that trees are not pruned or removed for views, and replacement trees

Engagement report –
draft greening Sydney strategy

property solely on the basis of the view it enjoys (e.g. Blackwattle bay). We wholeheartedly support the tree planting initiative, but their placement needs careful consideration. Ill considered plantings should not come at the expense of those who's amenity will be obscured.		will be planted where trees have been planted before. Our qualified staff consider a range of site constraints and issues prior to selecting new planting locations for large canopy trees, and a significant obstruction of long-standing iconic view is one such consideration.
Suggest using native grasses, shrubs and ground covers under tall trees instead of regular grass.	1	Noted
Importance of understorey planting and 'green drains'.	1	Noted. The target to increase greening will assist in delivering more under story planting, which may also incorporate water sensitive design elements.
Why do you plant trees in the street so far apart? Why do you strip all the low branches of trees and remove low bushes?	1	Street trees are planted at distances to allow their mature canopy to develop and are also spaced for sightlines and for other infrastructure considerations. Lower branches are removed to provide clearances for footpaths, roads and buildings.
Change the law and protect trees by making them citizens	1	Noted. Beyond the scope of the Strategy.
We need to water mature trees, understand impact of shade, nutrients and soil compaction.	1	Noted
Are trees in the city only rain-fed?	1	<p>The majority of the City's street trees are watered from rain. Where appropriate, water sensitive urban design elements are implemented to increase the passive watering of the trees. Trees in the City's parks are watered from rain and irrigation systems.</p> <p>The selection of species that thrive in the site conditions is a key factor in maintaining a healthy urban forest.</p>
Question regarding the porous sponge surrounding street trees. Would like to know whether this is best practice, and if it affects heat levels.	1	The porous paving allows for water to penetrate through to the trees root system and is therefore beneficial for the tree. The heat from these tree bases is not significantly different compared to other non-irrigated tree base materials used.
Comment that the street side planting seems very successful (e.g. Abercrombie St Darlington and others). This seems like a relatively fast and high return approach.	1	Noted
Consideration should be given to previous landowners planting mistakes and allow new owners to plant in more suitable locations/ species.	1	Noted. The City's Tree Management Policy outlines our approach to the various tree issues. This includes when trees will be removed and under what circumstances. This Policy is being reviewed within the next year and will include community consultation.

Engagement report –
draft greening Sydney strategy

Council should rectify historic and more recent mistakes in street trees if it is serious about greening the city between now and 2050.	1	<p>The City has a comprehensive tree maintenance program in place, with our qualified arborists inspecting each street and park tree every year to assess its health and structural stability and to identify any maintenance works required. In addition to this tree management program, an urban forest approach is required. This includes managing canopy cover, including the replacement of historic / legacy issues, where appropriate.</p> <p>Further, the City has an Urban Forest Strategy, Tree Management Policy and Street Tree Master Plan that outline our approach to the various tree issues. This includes when trees will be removed and under what circumstances</p>
Concerned about the trees that seem to be very sick right now. I see they are drilled into, weeping, leaning over and have signs of disease (tree canker etc). We definitely need more trees in general but the severe amount of trees I see that are diseased this all makes no sense to me when the existing trees are not treated well.	1	<p>The City has a comprehensive tree maintenance program in place, with our qualified arborists inspecting each street and park tree every year to assess its health and structural stability and to identify any maintenance works required. These inspections indicate that 83% of the City's trees are in good health and condition.</p>
Caring for Country and Aboriginal involvement	Total	City of Sydney Response
Implement Aboriginal Caring for Country principles	2	Action 14 of the Strategy, recognise and support Aboriginal ecological knowledge covers this comment.
Work more with Indigenous Australians	1	Noted, refer to comment above.
While we support wholeheartedly the strategy, we are particularly looking forward to the implementation of Action 9 - "Calm green spaces", Action 14 - "Recognise and support Indigenous ecological knowledge" and Action 20 - "Increase our community engagement"	1	Noted
Green roofs and walls	Total	City of Sydney Response
Where greening isn't possible on rooftops, encourage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. solar panels 2. white rooftops to reflect heat 	1	Noted. The City will consider this in the upcoming Development Control Plan review.
Planting on parti walls in terraces should not be allowed. It causes damage to the older buildings and mould to neighbours houses.	1	Noted
Adding rooftop gardens is good but it is far more efficient from a sustainability perspective to have plants on the ground.	1	Roof gardens provide an increase in greening where ground level (and deep soil) canopy cannot always be sufficiently achieved (e.g. CBD).

Engagement report –
draft greening Sydney strategy

Support, encourage and research retrofitting green walls and roofs for use on old housing stock in limited space areas.	1	Generally supported at the sides and rear of properties in conservation areas.
Water	Total	City of Sydney Response
Use of water in the environment (eg. use of wetlands and mangroves for filtration) Bring water back to streetscapes	3	Water is critical for a healthy and resilient city. Action 10, Celebrate water, recognises the importance of water and how we can best increase and manage this vital resource.
Water collection and storage is also a priority to keep the city green.	2	The City has developed several climate resilient water supplies which we utilise for watering in the public domain including the Sydney Park stormwater harvesting project, the precinct wide stormwater harvesting system in Green Square and our groundwater supplies. The City continues to investigate and develop new local scale projects to support greening.
Observation that raingardens frequently in poor health/ dying. Suggestion that cafes nearby could receive rate/water rebate and water these? That may be innovation greening Sydney needs to keep plants alive e.g. Palmer Burton Sts raingarden.	2	Noted. Requests were sent to the relevant maintenance teams for action. Water rebates are beyond the scope of this Strategy and the City's jurisdiction. They would need to be requested from Sydney Water.
More interactive water play features, pocket fountains in parks	1	Noted
Are there opportunities to connect to Sydney's existing bodies of water? Are there plans to build an ambitious man-made body of water?	1	The City of Sydney is fortunate to have its northern edge of the local government area bounded by Sydney Harbour. With the competition for space so high across all land uses, such as buildings, roads, parks etc there are no plans to build a significant man-made water body within the council area.
Design to retain rainwater in the green spaces in addition to redirection of storm water and grey water - this is easily done via buried ag pipes on periphery, rain gardens, dry creek beds and other mechanisms to soak rainwater deep into the soil and preventing pollution of storm water systems.	1	The City uses water in the landscape through a range of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) treatments, including many of the examples provided in the submission.
Sydney Water strongly supports the intent of the draft Strategy. We especially welcome the draft Strategy acknowledging the intrinsic need for water to help deliver urban cooling and quality open space. We agree that water should be efficiently used to achieve canopy and tree targets and mitigate heat extremes.	1	The City looks forwards to collaborating with Sydney Water, with the shared aim of improving the health and wellbeing of our community and numerous environmental improvements. We agree that climate resilient water supplies need to be developed to support greening during the dry, hot periods predicted in the future. The City has developed several climate resilient water supplies which we utilise for

Engagement report –
draft greening Sydney strategy

<p>Sydney Water is in the process of planning education and engagement activities. We would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with Council to understand how Sydney Water might support the execution of this action (Action 10) and help deliver on these important outcomes for our customers and communities.</p> <p>Further, we would support the Strategy raising potential water constraints during extended dry periods and the potential need for additional water under standard operating conditions in future changing climates. We would welcome partnering with the Council to support greening objectives and the use of water efficiently in the landscape.</p> <p>The draft Strategy also could provide guidance on sustainable irrigation and water management so that green spaces are resilient during droughts or periods of high rainfall. The draft Strategy should look beyond passive irrigation to mitigate weather conditions on plant survival. Guidance may be given to use active irrigation to maximise both the growth and development of green infrastructure.</p>		<p>watering in the public domain including the Sydney Park stormwater harvesting project, the precinct wide stormwater harvesting system in Green Square and our groundwater supplies. The City continues to investigate and develop new local scale projects to support greening.</p> <p>Further, we have a water monitoring and control system in place for our active irrigation areas and we are currently running a Smart Watering proof of concept to test the use of soil moisture data, weather data and consumptions data to make better watering decisions. The City also has several stormwater harvesting and groundwater systems that provide climate resilient water supplies for irrigation.</p> <p>The City would welcome development of recycled water supplies at a district or regional level to future proof water supplies across Sydney through the Eastern Sydney sub regional plan.</p> <p>We look forward working with Sydney Water to improve access to climate resilient water supplies, like recycled water, to support greening.</p>
Planning	Total	City of Sydney Response
Planning – all developers should be made to underground cables to increase tree canopy.	3	Noted. The City works with developers and utilities to improve the public domain during their works, including greening and alternative technology options and maintenance approaches such as bundled or undergrounding cabling.
Planning measures to encourage strata and developers to be involved.	2	Noted. Direction 4, Greener buildings, contains several actions to help facilitate increased greening through the development process. This includes the development of a green factor score or similar, to help architects, planners and other experts plan how they can green the property and meet the City's planning controls. This tool can also provide engagement and visualisations that assist strata and other parties understand the various types of greening and benefits they provide.
Limit development and incorporate the rights of nature into planning decisions, stop allowing developers to the edges of	2	Noted, refer to response above.

Engagement report –
draft greening Sydney strategy

every block and encourage better planting plans, not just pebbles and cactus.		Further, the City is reviewing its planning controls to include updated provisions for greening.
Council to make it mandatory for new developments to have 1 external vertical wall, trees/shrubs between building and street, and any unused rooftop space to have greenery.	1	Noted
Urban Taskforce recommends that development incentives be included in accompanying planning instruments to offset the cost of additional greening requirements.	1	The planning system has a complex set of incentives that are finely balanced. The cost of provision to developers will be offset by lower land costs. No incentive is proposed.
Modify heritage restrictions which might prevent the sympathetic greening of a façade in heritage conservation area.	1	Sympathetic greening is permitted where the heritage values of the streetscape are not reduced.
Make and enforce rules/policies requiring landscaping in asphalted area of more than 1000 square metres.	1	The City will consider this in the upcoming Development Control Plan review.
Food production and waste	Total	City of Sydney Response
Local food production: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Look at from a scale perspective with targets around local food production and circular economy. - Look at new forms of protein that could replace unsustainable big agriculture and global supply chains, how can it become a commercial operation within the city to serve the wider area? 	2	Noted. Action 7 – grow food locally outlines the City's actions proposed under the Strategy. Beyond the scope of the Strategy.
Redirect food waste from households and local cafes to inground composting systems that would deliver nutrients to the soil and reduce the carbon emissions from transport of food waste.	1	Noted. Beyond the scope of this Strategy.
Other ideas for working together	Total	City of Sydney Response
Strata involvement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green roofs - Establish and maintain green spaces - Encourage green balconies - Training for strata communities to increase their capacity and get their community involved - Learn about gardening in shade in high-rise areas 	6	Noted. The City will consider including greening as part of its programs focused on strata and other environmental programs.
Volunteering	2	Two actions from the Strategy, Action 18 to support community participation and Action 20 to increase our community engagement, support volunteering for greening.
Petitions, letter writing, promote work on social media	2	Noted

Engagement report –
draft greening Sydney strategy

Comments that greening should be the City's responsibility, not the community's	2	The City owns and manages just 38% of the Local Government Areas land in its streets and parks. The remaining 62% is private owned / managed. Further, the increase of the greening is 38% higher for the City, than for private greening. In a just and fair city, everyone should contribute, and share the benefits from greening.
More trees and planting on private property	2	As outlined above, the City supports and will require any increase of trees on private property. The upcoming review of the Development Control Plan will include tree canopy / replenishment rates required on private property during the development process.
Would like to be able to collect native plants in the local area to assist with WIRES volunteering.	1	Noted
Community involvement with tree asset register valuation.	1	The City's qualified arborists update the tree asset register daily, as are inspected and works performed. Street and park tree data is available via the City of Sydney Data Hub. See here: https://cityofsydney.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/minimalist/index.html?appid=d33a3376158a4135a9028619420857a6
Community involvement in tree selection	1	As outlined above, a review of the Street Tree Master Plan is planned the next two years, which will include a review of the species planted in each street across the City. The review will also include community consultation, providing all residents an opportunity to make comment on species selection at that time.
Events in parks other than sports	1	The Strategy notes the importance of providing equitable access to parklands, and the differing park uses.
Encourage residents to participate in community-led greening of small streets and laneways, and to engage with, plant and look after their streets.	1	Three actions from the Strategy, Action 18 to support community participation and Action 20 to increase our community engagement, support volunteering for greening and Action 2, Green our laneways will collectively assist the City and the community to green and care for their streets.
Suggestion to implement lots of mini milestones; plenty of publicity to rouse up continual interest and participation; and progressive community and stakeholder consultation.	1	Noted. Increasing community and stakeholder engagement and focus will be a key component of achieving the Strategy. Action 20, Increase our community engagement, is included in the Strategy to assist.
Cost implications	Total	City of Sydney Response
Urban Taskforce recommends that in finalising the draft Strategy the anticipated	1	The relative burden of canopy cover is shown in Figure 3. The growth burden to

Engagement report –
draft greening Sydney strategy

financial costings of implementation be clearly identified both in terms of how much and who pays.		property that represents 62% of land area and is predominantly privately owned is 7%. The growth burden to streets and parks that represent 38% of land and is predominantly Council owned is 11%. The relative burden to land area is 36% higher for Council than private land. The direct cost of planting is relatively low, the higher cost is a notional opportunity cost if it is assumed that development yield were lost which is not proposed.
Concerns about the costs of trees from reduction in solar access (e.g. increased electricity bills) and from damage to property (e.g. sewer system, building damage) needing to be taken into account by Council.	1	<p>Noted. Refer comments above re selection of appropriate species (i.e. deciduous trees for winter sun and summer shade) and comments regarding the City's proactive tree maintenance program.</p> <p>In regard to property damage, the City has procedures in place to inspect and maintain its assets, including street trees. Property owners are responsible for the care and maintenance of their own property. Further, the responsibility to repair or replace old or worn infrastructure rests with the private property owner. For example, many properties have undergone bathroom and/or kitchen renovations however the original sewer and stormwater system and pipes remain in place. It is reasonable to assume that pipes can deteriorate with the passage of time so upgrading essential infrastructure is an important part of owning a property. The City cannot be held to be legally liable in situations where evidence suggests the property is not damaged as a direct result of a City owned asset.</p>
Targets and what should be measured	Total	City of Sydney Response
Targets should be more ambitious	6	The City's new targets have been informed by the latest scientific research available, and developed based on comprehensive data and analysis, for every street, park and private property. This methodology is robust, ambitious, and sets a clear pathway for the City to increase canopy cover – noting we are one of the few Australian councils to consistently do so since 2008.
City should be as ambitious as Melbourne, with a tree canopy target of 40%	1	Every city is different and direct comparisons of a numerical target cannot be easily made.

Engagement report –
draft greening Sydney strategy

		<p>In terms of target methodology, the City of Melbourne target of 40% was not developed following this level of granular and comprehensive analysis. Further, their target of 40% solely applies to council owned land in the public realm (streets and parks) – which is about 30% of their local government area. They currently have no target for the other 70% of privately owned land.</p> <p>Therefore, in effect, the City is almost doubling canopy across all land, whereas Melbourne is almost doubling canopy on about 30% of the land.</p>
‘Action 15 – Strengthen urban nature protection measures’. Would have liked to see more power and importance given to strategies around biodiversity, habitats, ecological connectivity and ecosystem health as well as a strong commitment towards diverse native species.	1	<p>The City endorsed its Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan (UESAP) in 2014. This plan outlines the City’s objectives and targets in relation to restoring and conserving resilient urban ecosystems that support a diverse range of locally indigenous flora and fauna species. The plan can be found at https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/strategies-action-plans/urban-ecology-strategic-action-plan.</p> <p>Key targets include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Habitat sites in the city are protected and the area of bush restoration sites is increased by 100 per cent by 2023 from a 2012 baseline of 4.2 hectares - Indigenous fauna species diversity, abundance and distribution is maintained or increased by 2023 based on a 2012 baseline - A progressive increase in the number of habitat features for priority fauna species is established along potential habitat linkages by 2023 <p>The City’s UESAP is due for review in 2022/23.</p>
Need targets for 2025, 2030, 2035, 2040 as well	1	<p>Noted. The City has published targets for 2030 (23% canopy cover). As we acquire and analysis the data, we may consider including an interim 2040 target.</p>
Would like to see an ambitious goal like being in the top 10 greenest cities worldwide.	1	<p>The City aspires to be a leader and provide a green international city.</p> <p>Importantly, every city is different with regards to their climate, land use and governance structures. Direct comparisons cannot be easily made.</p> <p>For example, city scales are different and may be based on a local council area (City</p>

Engagement report –
draft greening Sydney strategy

		<p>of Sydney) compared a metropolitan area (Greater Sydney). A city may contain forests or national parks that are included in their targets / measurables, which skews the figures when other cities only have urban greening.</p> <p>The City has developed its ambitious targets on what we can achieve, if we collectively strive for them. A 75% increase in canopy, from our 2008 baseline canopy cover will be a significant achievement.</p>
Request that the City measures the carbon sink and temperature cooling improvements until 2050 and provide statistical information to business and the public.	1	Noted
Place-based comments	Total	City of Sydney Response
North end of Garden street is a fabulous opportunity for greening and calming whilst reducing rat run safety issues.	1	Noted
Oppose proposal to reclaim part of Moore Park Golf Course	1	Noted
Moore Park north – City should consider planting trees to create a canopy in this area.	1	Noted
Town Hall square adjacent to St Andrews needs to be renovated and landscaped in accordance with this directive. To sell the ideas to the public the council need to show how it should be done. Get rid of the pebblecrete and plant shade loving plants and places to sit possibly even grass? reinstate St Andrews perimeter wall and permanent planting outside town hall.	1	Noted
Request regarding any plans to improve the area at 1 Kings Cross Rd Darlinghurst where the Ken Unsworth 'Stones Against the Sky' public artwork is located. This space is extraordinarily ugly with concrete bollards, pigeon droppings and skateboarders tearing through it. It is also a high wind area. Replacing the concrete boulders with flower boxes and benches to sit on would be a vast improvement. It would also be good to have some shrubs to act as windbreaks so that alfresco dining was an option and the restaurant on the forecourt a viable option.	1	<p>The area identified is not managed by the City.</p> <p>The City installs greening adjacent to the area through the living colour program with a green wall in place for 9 months a year and seasonal displays in summer and spring for 16 weeks. Permanent greening opportunities in the area are limited by services and ground conditions on the overpass.</p> <p>The City will investigate whether further permanent greening is feasible.</p>
Two submissions regarding Mulgoa Valley in Western Sydney. Highlighted the rich collection of colonial buildings and diminishing original Cumberland Plains,	1	Noted. The Greening Sydney Strategy is predominantly focused on greening within the City's local government area

Engagement report –
draft greening Sydney strategy

and that expansion of suburbia into this valley will be a tragedy when facing an onslaught of development secondary to the nearby Aerotropolis.		and will not have an impact on the Fernhill or Mulgoa Valley.
Are there any plans to green the area above the Cross City Tunnel/Eastern Distributor at William Street/Palmer Street?	1	As this land is owned and managed by Roads and Maritime Services, it limits the City's ability to undertake the greening work. Under the draft Greening Sydney Strategy, we hope to create new opportunities for collaboration with landowners and the community to green areas like this, potentially through the proposed Greening Sydney Fund and other community based programs.
Other comments	Total	City of Sydney Response
Support for Strategy and want to see more councils adopting	18	Noted
Concern over synthetic fields	5	<p>As our local population continues to grow there is increased demand from our communities for more sporting fields and open spaces.</p> <p>We know synthetic fields aren't perfect. However, we need to balance the needs of the entire community and a limited number of synthetic fields will help us do that – creating space for regular sport as we continue to protect and create new grassed parklands wherever possible.</p> <p>We are reviewing strategies to improve the environmental performance of synthetic fields, by looking at materials, design and operational measures.</p> <p>Right now, we are reviewing the feedback from consultations on proposed synthetic fields in Annandale and Rosebery. We will keep the community updated on the outcome of these consultations.</p>
Greater equity of green space across local area	2	During the Strategy development, the City mapped the canopy and greening across the entire local government area. We measured the percentage of canopy within a 1.6km radius (based on the latest scientific research) and also a 100m radius to provide more granular detail on where to focus our efforts. This method removes the artificial boundaries of suburbs, and also council areas, as we have considered canopy from neighbouring councils, to ensure our equitable greening approach is evidence based, robust and targeted.

Engagement report –
draft greening Sydney strategy

Through competitions and grants encourage greening hacks for limited space areas. For example, making a certain number of mobile gardens available to be left for a fixed time period outside resident's homes who do not own a car. Imagine a small skip with greening information on the side.	1	Noted. Action 19, to Develop a Greening Sydney Fund, is one of the key actions the City is progressing to assist with the greening on private property.
While green is important, what about playgrounds in these green spaces for kids who are older than 5. Physical challenges. The playground at Darling Harbour and kid friendly water features are fabulous.	1	The Strategy notes the importance of providing equitable access to parklands, and the differing park uses – including structured and unstructured play.
Distribute greening assets equitably within suburbs and not just between suburbs.	1	We have mapped the canopy and greening across the entire local government area. We used a 1.6km radius (based on the latest scientific research) and also 100m radius to provide more granular detail on where to focus our efforts. This method removes the artificial boundaries of suburbs, and also council areas, as we have considered canopy from neighbouring councils, to ensure our equitable greening approach is evidence based, robust and targeted.
Suggestion for an exercise park for seniors	1	Noted
Concern that planting is happening at the expense of road space for parking and cars, causing adverse effects for traffic.	1	<p>As outlined in a response above, Sydney is changing and existing open space and transport connection will be put under considerable strain if we don't act.</p> <p>We will need more space for people and public life, which includes greening, to ensure the health and wellbeing of our communities.</p> <p>The City engages widely with the community when developing projects. We also investigate and consider local access, service vehicle and freight access, particularly during the design development phase of our streetscape projects and work closely with our Transport for NSW colleagues.</p>
Comment that it is important to have green spaces for people living in small spaces	1	Noted
The city of Sydney should use a product called POLYTER. It's used in semi arid environment and does wonders in urban areas, pots, trees...it would definitely help.	1	Noted
Question whether the City has adequate staffing levels to look after trees in the city.	1	The City has a comprehensive tree maintenance program in place. Our qualified arborists inspect each street and

Engagement report –
draft greening Sydney strategy

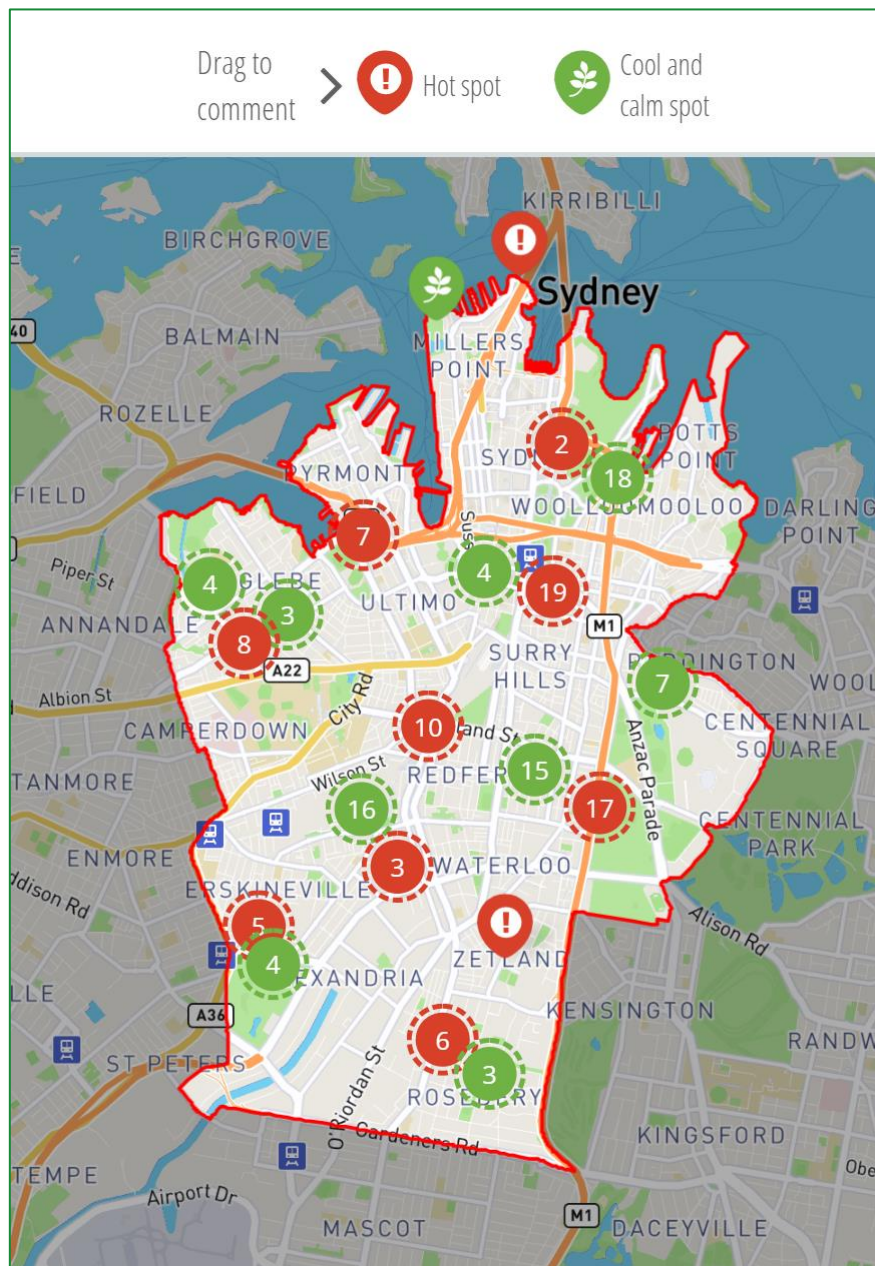
		park tree every year to assess its health and structural stability. They identify and undertake any maintenance works required.
I would also like the Harold Park lease for Greyhound racing terminated asap as it no longer represents the community and contemporary use of space outlined in the Greening strategy.	1	Noted
The sustainable use of energy and water is critical. Some provisions of the Heritage Development Control Plan DCP2006 prevent the sustainable use of energy and water resources in the City. If the Council is to truly claim it is committed to sustainable and green energy use, the use of solar hot water and photovoltaic systems must be widely encouraged and facilitated. This requires a change to heritage provisions so that these systems can be installed on all properties and, in particular, residential properties.	1	The City has recently released a guideline to facilitate installation of photo voltaic solar panels in conservation areas in most situations without requiring a development application. See the “Development application exception for solar panels in heritage conservation areas – guideline”. The City is exploring a local exempt provision to allow solar panels without any application in many situations. The City is reviewing planning controls in conservation areas including controls affecting installation of rainwater tanks.
Concern over NSW Govt plans for Waterloo	1	Noted. Beyond the scope of this Strategy.
More seating in parks	1	Noted
Will require increased gutter cleaning	1	The benefits provided by trees far outweigh the inconvenience of regular property maintenance. There are products on the market, such as leaf gutter guards, that can reduce the extent of maintenance required.
Request for council to provide individuals with the ability to see if other residents and ratepayers have similar concerns, how they have been addressed or resolved and help establish best practice within Sydney LGA.	1	The City has data publicly available on all of its trees, including the location, species etc. Improvements to our customer reporting system will also consider functionality that allow customers to see the other requests and an ability to track their progress.
Dog-friendly parks	1	Noted
More passive on-leash spaces	1	Noted
Concerns over Council’s ability to deliver on strategy.	1	The City understands the importance of greening and has been actively increasing canopy and greening for more than a decade. The City is one of few councils across Australia that has consistently increase its canopy cover since 2008. This Strategy includes the new canopy and greening targets for the streets, parks and properties portfolios. This provides greater transparency and accountability for the City to work across all land types to achieve the targets.

Engagement report –
draft greening Sydney strategy

		The actions to achieve the targets will get harder, and therefore we require everyone to contribute to a greener Sydney.
Comment in support of incentivising Electric Vehicles, moving away from internal combustion engine vehicles and asking Council to provide leadership on this.	1	Noted. Beyond the scope of this Strategy.
We also need to think more about using our green spaces more productively. (See article in Griffith Review - creating sustainable cities) creating places where people can grow food, watch and create art and culture. Too many of our green spaces focus on having a large grassy area to kick a ball and tall trees around the perimeter.	1	The Strategy notes the importance of providing equitable access to parklands, and the differing park uses.
Request to update the two research papers cited.	1	Noted. References updated in the Strategy
The strategy seems more of a vision document than an action plan. It is hard to navigate. It should clearly show what is possible e.g. compare to results or plans of other comparable cities and detail how it will be realistic implemented.	1	The Strategy is a high-level strategic document that will inform more detailed strategies, policies and master plans.
Concern over cleanliness of streets and illegal garbage dumping.	1	Noted

Mapping our hotspots and cool, calm spaces

The knowledge and experience of our local community is crucial to this work. It supplements our existing data and provides insights we can't gain with our data collection tools. We asked respondents to tell us about the hotspots and cool, calm spaces in the city. [You can visit this interactive map](#) to see what people have told us.



Activities

Engagement and marketing activities undertaken to support the consultation included:

Sydney Your Say webpage and survey

A Sydney Your Say webpage was created. The page included the draft strategy, data story map, schools kit, discussion guide, and online survey. There were 1,230 unique pageviews of the Sydney Your Say page.

Stakeholder email

An email was sent to 111 stakeholders with information about the consultation and inviting feedback (see Appendix D).

Data story maps

A data story map was developed to support the community to explore the data behind the strategy in a visually engaging way. A range of activities were developed alongside the data story maps (see Appendix A).

School kit and discussion guide

A school kit and discussion guide were developed and sent to local schools and community groups (see Appendix B).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel

The draft strategy was presented to the City's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel in May 2021.

Digital marketing

A two-phase digital marketing campaign was rolled out to promote and support the consultation. Details can be found in Appendix C.

Media

An exclusive ran with the Sydney Morning Herald, followed by a broad release which provided images and video.

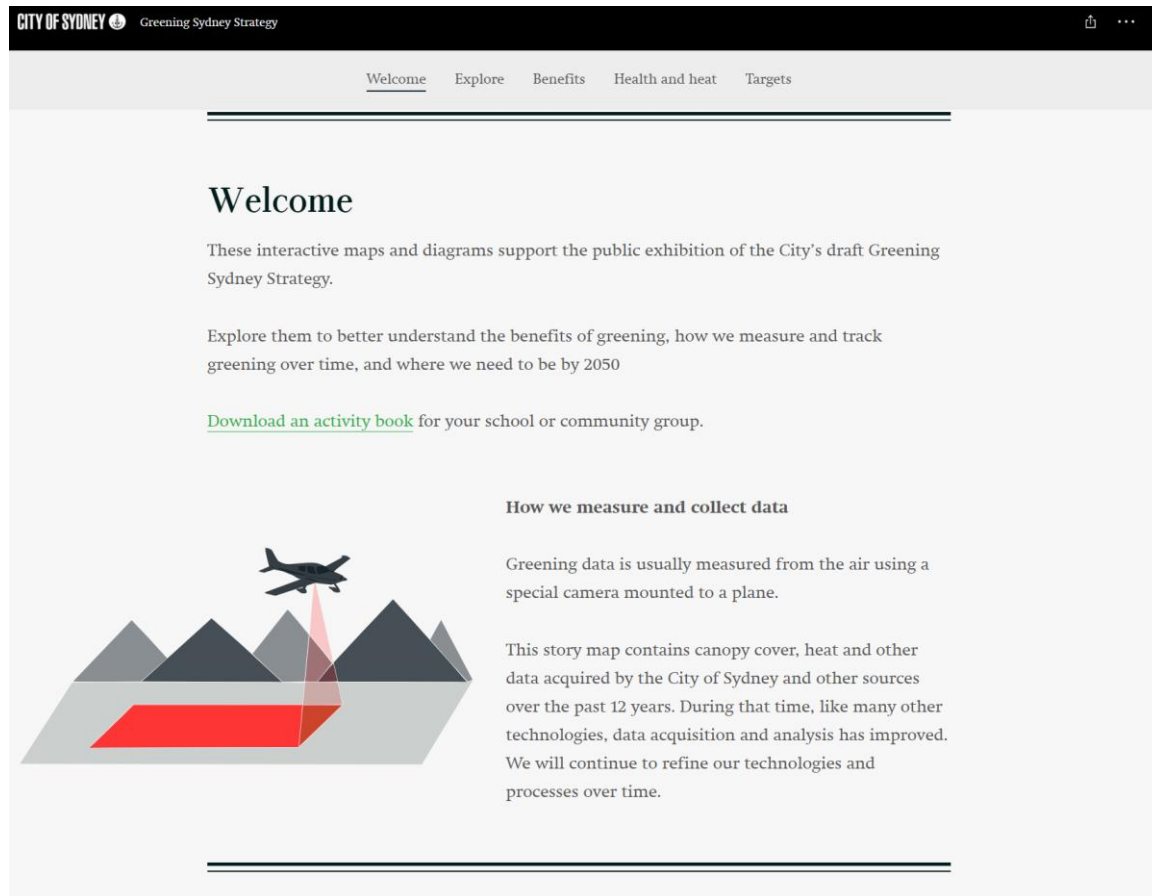
The broader release was picked up and ran on Channel 7, in Concrete Playground and the Xinhua and Bloomberg news agencies as well as a number of environment and architecture related sites.

Appendix

Appendix A: data story map

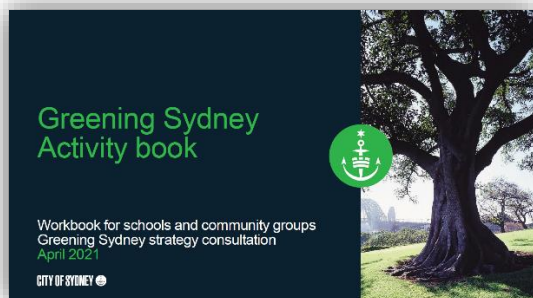
Interactive maps and diagrams were created to support the consultation:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/85414328c5984feb83e7f7b37b5d5270>



Appendix B: school kit and discussion guide

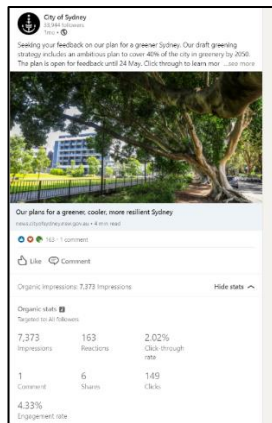
An activity kit and discussion guide were created to support community groups and teachers engage in the consultation.



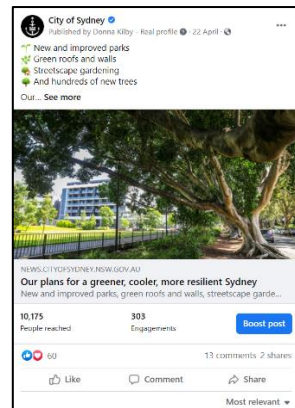
Appendix C: Digital marketing campaign

Phase 1: awareness raising

A Greening Sydney news article was created for the City of Sydney news site and featured in the City of Sydney News e-newsletter and shared on Facebook and LinkedIn. There were 1,859 unique pageviews of the Greening Sydney news article.



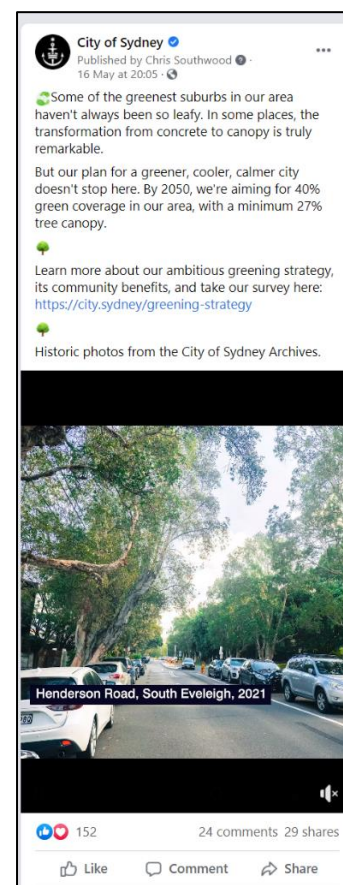
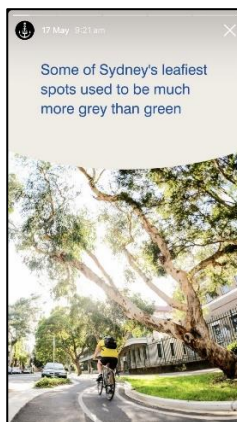
LinkedIn post



Facebook post

Phase 2: drive traffic to consultation page via social media

Instagram drove the most referrals to our Greening Strategy consultations page from all social activity. Our Instagram story was very popular, reaching 8,862 people. Below are some examples of posts across Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.



Appendix D: email to stakeholders

An email was sent to 111 stakeholders inviting feedback on the draft strategy.



Greening Sydney strategy

We'd like your feedback on a proposed new strategy to green Sydney and create a cool, calm and resilient city. It builds on what we have already achieved and sets ambitious new targets to green our city.

Consultation closes 5pm 24 May 2021.

[Read more](#)