CITY OF SYDNEY

31 March 2025

At the conclusion of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee

Environment and Climate Change Committee

Agenda

1. **Confirmation of Minutes**
2. **Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest**
3. **Public Exhibition - Environmental Strategy 2025-2030**

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1. Register to speak by calling Secretariat on 9265 9702 or emailing secretariat@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au before 10.00am on the day of the meeting.
2. Check the recommendation in the Committee report before speaking, as it may address your concerns so that you just need to indicate your support for the recommendation.
3. Note that there is a three minute time limit for each speaker (with a warning bell at two minutes) and prepare your presentation to cover your major points within that time.
4. Avoid repeating what previous speakers have said and focus on issues and information that the Committee may not already know.
5. If there is a large number of people interested in the same item as you, try to nominate three representatives to speak on your behalf and to indicate how many people they are representing.

Committee meetings can continue until very late, particularly when there is a long agenda and a large number of speakers. This impacts on speakers who have to wait until very late, as well as City staff and Councillors who are required to remain focused and alert until very late. At the start of each Committee meeting, the Committee Chair may reorder agenda items so that those items with speakers can be dealt with first.

Committee reports are available at www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Item 1.
Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the following meetings of the Environment and Climate Change Committee are submitted for confirmation:

Meeting of 10 March 2025

Item 2.
Statement of Ethical Obligations

In accordance with section 233A of the Local Government Act 1993, the Lord Mayor and Councillors are bound by the Oath or Affirmation of Office made at the start of the Council term to undertake their civic duties in the best interests of the people of the City of Sydney and the City of Sydney Council and to faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act, to the best of their ability and judgement.

Disclosures of Interest

Pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, the City of Sydney Code of Meeting Practice and the City of Sydney Code of Conduct, Councillors are required to disclose and manage both pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting.

In both cases, the nature of the interest must be disclosed.

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

Item 3.

Public Exhibition - Environmental Strategy 2025-2030

File No: X103899

Summary

This report recommends that Council endorse the draft Environmental Strategy 2025-2030 (the Strategy) to be placed on public exhibition. The strategy sets the directions, priorities, and targets to continue to reduce our operational and local area environmental footprint for the next 5 years.

This is a revision of the Environmental Strategy 2021-2025, endorsed by Council in July 2021 and replaces the Climate Emergency Response 2020. It builds on existing programs and initiatives to set our pathway towards our 2030 and 2035 targets. As with the previous strategy, it commits us to a set of targets for improvement in energy, water use and quality, and greening in our own operations and for the local government area. Progress against these targets is reporting annually in the Green Report.

The strategy reinforces our commitment to working across the organisation and in partnership with the city's community of residents, business and grassroots organisations and all levels of government.

This revised strategy considers the 12 environmental and sustainability related strategies across the organisation, including the forthcoming Waste Reduction and Circular Materials strategy 2025, and aligns with their targets and strategic priorities.

The strategic directions of this strategy are:

Direction 1 - Resilient and efficient operations

Direction 2 - Efficient and climate resilient buildings

Direction 3 - Regenerative and inclusive city

Direction 4 - Strong foundations for growth

The strategy outlines 17 priorities across these 4 directions, committing to a program of work to reduce our energy use and embodied carbon. It includes a new priority to focus our collaboration and advocacy for renters to enable them to make their homes more efficient and comfortable in extreme heat and cold.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note the finalisation of the Environmental Strategy 2021-2025 and the significant achievements delivered during that period;

(B) Council approve for public exhibition the draft Environmental strategy 2025-2030 (the Strategy) for a period of 4 weeks, as shown in Attachment A to subject report;

(C) Council note the finalisation of the Climate Emergency Response 2020 and its replacement with this new revised Environmental Strategy 2025-2030;

(D) Council note that the Environmental Strategy 2025-2035, including any recommended changes, will be reported to Council for adoption following the exhibition period;

(E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make minor editorial amendments for clarity or correction of drafting errors prior to the exhibition of the draft Environmental Strategy 2025-2035; and

(F) Council note the engagement report summarising consultation for the development of the draft Environmental Strategy 2025-2035, as shown at Attachment B to the subject report.

Attachments

Attachment A. Draft Environmental Strategy 2025-2030

Attachment B. Draft Environmental Strategy Engagement Report from Sydney Your Say

Background

1. The City of Sydney's first Environmental Strategy was published in June 2016, with the second iteration in July 2021. Each iteration has built on the successes and learnings of the one before; as well as responding to rapidly changing external conditions.

2. Sustainability, environmental responsibility and resilience are core to our overarching organisational strategy: Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050: Continuing the vision, and to delivery of Direction 2: Leading environmental performer.

3. The Environmental Strategy 2025 - 2030 is part of a suite of strategies that support delivery of this direction. This also includes:

    - Greening, open spaces and biodiversity – see our greening Sydney strategies
    - Climate resilience – see the resilience strategy
    - The green economy – see our economic development strategy
    - Public transport and other transportation such as cycling and walking – see our transport and access strategies
    - Waste and the circular economy – note our forthcoming waste reduction and circular materials strategy

4. This most recent iteration of the Environmental Strategy has been developed in parallel with, and aligned to, the updated Community Strategic Plan.

5. The City reports annually against all our sustainability strategies through the Green Report. The Green Report documents progress towards operational and local area targets and objectives.

Conclusion of the Environmental Strategy 2021 - 2025

6. The Environmental Strategy 2021 - 2025 was endorsed by Council in July 2021. It included 23 actions under 4 Directions. Progress on delivery of this strategy is reported annually in the Green Report.

7. Significant progress against our operational objectives and targets has been made, including:

    (a) 76% reduction on our operational emissions from our 2006 baseline, as of June 2024.

    (b) Fleet emissions have reduced by 13% against our 2014 baseline, through the electrification of our passenger vehicle fleet

    (c) Two electric bin collection vehicles came online in 2023 and now collect litter bin waste up and down the light rail line from Circular Quay to Central Station.

    (d) 92% of operational waste diverted from landfill in 2023/24. This is through programs like our uniform recycling program with Upparel and the use of our 2 food dehydrators which diverted 7.4 tonnes of food waste into soil conditioner used in our parks.

(e) 15% reduction in the use of potable water since 2006. Projects include the use of smart irrigation systems in parks, an extensive rainwater tank repair program, and partnering with Royal Prince Alfred Hospital to recapture clean medical water to clean our streets.

8. In our local area, we have also achieved consequential outcomes:

(a) 41% reduction in local area emissions since 2006, as of June 2023.

(b) New net zero planning rules came into effect on 1 October 2023, requiring net zero energy in new buildings and major redevelopments in the local area. They will make buildings more every efficient and require the use of renewable electricity.

(c) Our sustainability programs such as Better Building Partners, Sustainable Destinations Partnerships and CitySwitch are all helping to our business community to contribute to reaching our local area targets.

(d) We have invested in organisations and initiatives that help drive innovation and change through our grants such as the new Greenhouse Climate Tech Hub near Circular Quay launched in October 2023, supported by a $31 million City of Sydney accommodation grant; the $60,000 grant awarded to Barnardo's to install a solar system at their Ultimo offices; and we also funded Dempstah, a textile design company, to trial the processing of used clothing that would be sent to landfill into yarn for reuse.

Draft Environmental Strategy 2025-2030

9. The Environmental Strategy 2025-2030 is a revision of the Environmental Strategy 2021-2025. Programs and initiatives that continue to be effective will carry through to the new strategy, while we have added new areas of focus to respond to changed external conditions and feedback from the community.

10. Through community engagement to inform the Community Strategic Plan, the Resilience Strategy 2023-2028 and the next Resilient Sydney Strategy, climate change and living more sustainably remain a priority to our community of residents, workers and businesses.

11. The strategy includes a revised set of targets for our own operations:

(a) We have retained and updated our target to reduce operational emissions by 85% and have also set a target to reduce energy use by 30%. While our switch to 100% renewable electricity in 2020 has significantly reduced our operational emissions, it is vital to consider overall energy use. Reducing our use of electricity, gas and petrol allows us to reduce our pressure on the energy networks, save money and reduce our emissions further.

(b) We have also committed to eliminating the use of fossil gas by 2030 in our own operations. Reaching this target will reduce our operational emission by a further 19.2%. This responds to the ROC 10.1 from 23 October 2023 and our commitment to the Global Cooksafe Coalition.

(c) The fleet emissions target has been revised to take account of the rapidly evolving electric vehicle market. Our passenger and light commercial fleet will be converted to fully electric vehicles; and we will improve the fuel efficiency and use of our larger vehicles, that due to unavailability cannot yet be replaced with electric models.

12. Most of our local area targets carry through to 2030, with 3 revisions:

(a) The local area renewable electricity target (50% by 2030) has been removed. This target has been exceeded by the Federal government's ambition to have 82% renewable electricity by 2030. In addition, we are unable to measure the proportion of renewable electricity at a local area level and have had to report the NSW average as a proxy. The City remains committed to supporting the uptake of renewable energy in our local and area and this is addressed in the strategy.

(b) Modelling now provides us with the ability to better understand the pollution components in our water run-off and the impacts of our interventions to improving water quality. The water health targets have been revised to account for this deeper statistical analysis.

13. The residential water use target has been revised to take account of changed external conditions. The previous target of 170L/person/day required the realisation of several developments that have not transpired: increased BASIX water requirements being introduced by the NSW state government, increased uptake of recycled water in the local area; and continued Sydney Water efficiency program funding. Therefore, we propose adjusting the target to match recent usage (average of last 5 years): Reduce residential potable water use to 204L/person/day by 2030.

14. The strategy outlines 4 directions and 17 supporting strategic priorities:

(a) Direction 1 - Resilient and efficient operations

(i) Priority 1: Reduce direct operational emissions and energy use by electrifying our buildings and fleet

(ii) Priority 2. Deliver environmental sustainability through responsible asset planning and management

(iii) Priority 3. Build water resilience in our operations with increased efficiency and non-potable water use

(iv) Priority 4. Practise sustainable procurement to reduce supply chain emissions and create circular economy opportunities

(b) Direction 2 - Efficient and climate resilient buildings

(i) Priority 5. Drive electrification of all buildings and reduce reliance on fossil gas

(ii) Priority 6. Support communities to reduce embodied carbon

(iii) Priority 7. Encourage community uptake of renewable electricity including onsite solar

(iv) Priority 8. Build water resilience through encouraging water efficiency in homes and businesses

(v) Priority 9. Support renters' access to energy efficient and climate resilient homes

(c) Direction 3 - Regenerative and inclusive city

(i) Priority 10. Enhance and regenerate waterways and land through restorative practice and managing environmental risk

(ii) Priority 11. Support cultural, social, and economic outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through environmental action

(iii) Priority 12. Improve walking, cycling and zero emissions transport options for everyone

(iv) Priority 13. Provide inclusive access in the community to reduce, reuse and repair instead of buying new

(d) Direction 4 - Strong foundations for delivery

(i) Priority 14. Understand and manage our climate risk

(ii) Priority 15. Produce transparent reporting and inclusive communications

(iii) Priority 16. Use and share data to drive efficient and clear decisions

(iv) Priority 17. Strengthen employee and community expertise to drive environmental outcomes

15. Due to our long commitment to, and investment in, environmental action, we have already significantly reduced our operational environmental footprint. *Direction 1 - Resilient and efficient operations*, outlines how we will continue to reduce the impact of our operations through reducing energy use, electrification and building water resilience. We will also focus on managing and designing our assets for efficiency and prioritising the use of recycled materials and lower carbon products to reduce embodied carbon. Further reductions in emissions will be slower to come to fruition than in the past, as we have already addressed all but the hardest to eradicate emissions sources.

Support for priority communities

16. During community engagement undertaken to inform the strategy, we heard from renters in private and social housing about the barriers that impede their participation in sustainable practices. This includes their ability to easily access sustainability programs and services, the inability to make changes to a home they don't own, and cost of living challenges. Based on this, a new strategic priority has been included which commits us to collaboration, advocacy and education to support renters to make their homes more energy efficient and comfortable in extreme heat and cold.

17. The focus on renters is part of a broader commitment to supporting our priority communities - those people who are disproportionately affected by climate change.

18. In August 2024, Council passed Resolution 11.3 'Incentives for Sustainability', which asked the Chief Executive Officer to "consider the feasibility, costs and potential social and environmental benefits of establishing an Incentives for Sustainability program referring to the City of Adelaide's program or other programs, including additional incentives for switching to a 100 per cent accredited GreenPower electricity plan"

19. The City of Adelaide's program provides rebates of up to 50% on the cost of a range of items that help residents to live more sustainably. These include e-bikes and e-scooters, solar panels, external shading devices and energy efficient appliances. Given that there are many low-value grants being provided to individuals, the grant program requires substantial staff time to administer. This approach is different from the City's environmental grants program that works at a more strategic level to support building owners to decarbonise at a whole of building level. It would not be possible to incorporate a rebate program for individual residents within our existing grants budget and resourcing.

20. The City recognises the need to support individuals to live more sustainably, no matter their financial status or culture background. This has been included in several strategic priorities within the strategy:

    (a) Priority 9: Support renters' access to efficient and climate resilient homes

    (b) Priority 11: Support cultural, social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through environmental action

    (c) Priority 12: Improve cycling and zero emissions transport options for everyone

    (d) Priority 13: Provide inclusive access to reduce, reuse and repair instead of buying new

21. We believe the best way to achieve this is through the provision of information tailored for apartment dwellers and renters about available state and federal government grant funding, renters' rights, updates to rental laws and relevant City of Sydney sustainability programs and services, such as clean up services useful at the end of a lease. We would do this through our own communications channels and through those of other organisations such as the Tenants Union, Better Renting, the Rental Commission website and real estate agents. We would also look at partnering with frontline community organisations on research and programs, including through our grants programs to help address this issue. We would also advocate for structural change that will support more equitable access to the benefits of decarbonisation and support in adapting to the changing climate, such as updating the minimum rental standards in NSW include minimum energy efficiency standards, and requiring the disclosure of the energy performance of existing residential dwellings (proposed under the NSW Government's Consumer Energy Strategy) include apartments and that disclosure is required at time of lease as well as of sale.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

22. Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision renews the communities' vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2050. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the city, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This strategy is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:

    (a) Direction 2 - A leading environmental performer - By providing the roadmap and details though our targets, strategic priorities and action on how the City of Sydney will continue to lead in environmental sustainability.

    (b) Direction 4 - Design excellence and sustainable development - The Strategy has a focus on electrification of new buildings.

    (c) Direction 5 - A city for walking, cycling and public transport - Inclusive access to zero emissions transport such as walking, cycling and available public transport is considered in strategic priority 12.

    (d) Direction 6 - An equitable and inclusive city - Inclusivity is embedded through the strategy, particularly Direction 3 with focus on actions supporting cultural, social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The strategy also identified the importance of supporting priority community groups who are disproportionately affected by climate change.

    (e) Direction 7 - Resilient and diverse communities - The strategy has a focus on asset design and managing climate risk, so our infrastructure, services and communities are prepared to withstand and adapt to the shocks and stresses of climate change.

Strategic alignment - other policies and strategies

23. In 2018, the City adopted the Building Upgrade Finance Policy, which specified the circumstances under which the City of Sydney Council would enter into an Environmental Upgrade Agreement (EUA). An EUA is a finance mechanism that enables building owners to access finance through a tripartite agreement between a building owner, a finance provider and the Council. The NSW State Government promoted EUAs as a tool to fund upgrade works improving the environmental and sustainability performance of existing buildings. The NSW Government is no longer actively supporting EUAs due to low uptake over time and other forms of finance being more easily available.

24. The City's final EUA is due to finish in May 2025. Therefore, it is proposed that the Building Upgrade Finance Policy should be rescinded when the final version of this Environmental Strategy is brought to Council for adoption.

25. In 2019, Council declared a climate emergency, stating that climate change poses a serious risk to the people of Sydney. In 2020 Council adopted the Climate Emergency Response - a document outlining key actions the City was taking on climate change. While the City stands firm on the urgency of climate action, the Climate Emergency Response Document itself has been superseded by the actions included in this Environmental Strategy 2025-2030, and the Resilience Strategy 2023 - 2028.

26. Therefore, it is recommended that the Climate Emergency Response be closed out and replaced by this Environmental Strategy 2025-2030.

Organisational Impact

27. The revision of strategy included an in-depth consultation with staff across the organisation. All actions, initiatives and programs and resources required in the delivery of the strategy are being considered in the budget and business plans of responsible teams.

28. Individual projects, programs and initiatives to deliver this strategy will be reported through the City's annual operational plans over the life of the strategy.

29. Direction 4 - Strong foundations for delivery includes measures to understand our operational climate risks and actions to further develop staff capacities to deliver the strategy.

Risks

30. The Environmental Strategy 2025-2030 is within the City of Sydney's risk appetite and tolerance as per the Environmental and Sustainability risk category in the City of Sydney Risk Appetite Statement which states:

    (a) We recognise the critical importance of environmental protection and sustainability in our operations and decision-making. We are committed to minimising our negative impact on the environment and striving for a more sustainable future. We accept that sometimes environmental protection (e.g. pollution) and environmental sustainability (e.g. cleaner energy) place us at opposite ends of the risk appetite spectrum.

    (b) We are dedicated to actively identifying and addressing environmental risks associated with our activities and services. We prioritise prevention and proactive measures to minimise our ecological footprint, conserve resources and protect ecosystems.

    (c) We have no appetite for decisions, activities and practices that result in long term or irrevocable environmental damage.

    (d) We have minimal appetite for non-compliance with environmental laws, regulations and industry standards. In many cases we strive to exceed base level legal requirements and engage in sustainable practices that align with the best interests of the environment and the priorities of our community.

    (e) We have an open appetite for changes to procedures and practices to accommodate improved environmental outcomes.

    (f) We embrace innovative solutions and emerging technologies that enable us to minimise environmental risks and enhance sustainability. We actively explore and invest in sustainable alternatives, renewable energy sources and efficient resource utilisation.

    (g) We have robust risk management in place to minimise environmental incidents, adapt to climate change impacts and to enhance our resilience against unforeseen challenges.

Social / Cultural / Community

31. Inclusion and climate equity is a key consideration throughout all actions included in the strategy. The needs of priority communities who are disproportionately impacted by climate change are addressed specifically through Priorities 9, 12, 13 and 15. Priority communities include, but aren't limited to, people living with disabilities and their carers, renters, those with chronic physical and mental health conditions and people who are new to the city and English is not their first language.

Environmental

32. This strategy will help the City to manage environmental risk and protect our natural environment; and also to strengthen the sustainability of our built environment, reduce resource use and adapt to climate change.

Economic

33. This strategy aligns with the recently released Economic Development Strategy 2025 - 2035. It supports the Economic Development Strategy's aim of "*transitioning our economy to shield ourselves from the impacts of climate change and realise the opportunity to grow green industries and jobs*."

Financial Implications

34. This strategy includes actions that have capital and operational funding implications. Actions requiring capital funding have already been incorporated into the long-term financial plan. Additional operational funding will be sought each year through the annual budgeting process by teams responsible for delivering actions.

Relevant Legislation

35. Local Government Act 1993

36. Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997

Critical Dates / Time Frames

Commencement of public exhibition for a period of 4 weeks	April 2025
Conclusion of public exhibition	May 2025
Final strategy submitted to Council for endorsement	Mid 2025

Public Consultation

37. This draft strategy was developed with regard to the findings of public consultation that took place in November and December 2024. The Engagement report is attached.

38. Insights from consultation activities undertaken during the development of the Resilience Strategy 2023-2028 and Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050: Continuing the Vision were also taken into consideration.

39. Subject to endorsement by Council, the strategy will be placed on public exhibition for 4 weeks. Further consultation will be via a Sydney Your Say page and through further focus groups with members from priority communities living within the local area.

KATE DEACON

Executive Director Strategic Development and Engagement

Anna Mitchell, Executive Manager Sustainability and Resilience

Zoe Morrison, Senior Sustainability Strategist, Sustainability and Resilience

Attachment A

Draft Environmental Strategy 2030-2050

Draft Strategy
March 2025

Environmental strategy 2025–2030

The City of Sydney acknowledges the Gadigal of the Eora Nation as the Traditional Custodians of our local area

CITY OF SYDNEY

Contents

Front cover photo: Victoria Park Parade, Zetland. Credit: Chris Southwood

The City of Sydney acknowledges the Gadigal of the Eora Nation as the traditional custodians of this place.

We acknowledge the continued care and protection that Elders and knowledge holders have provided for this place since time immemorial. These leaders are the custodians of the land, water, sky, plants, animals, stories and spirits.

This strategy explores ways we can work together to heal Country and honour the traditional ecological knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and cultures.

Kim Healey, *Jagun* (detail), 2022

Message from the Lord Mayor

The impacts of climate change are now undeniable and being felt by everyone. Nine years after the Paris Agreement was signed, the world is not on track to limit global cooling to 1.5 degrees from pre-industrial levels. 2024 was, globally, the hottest year on record. For the first time, in 2024, the Arctic emitted more carbon dioxide than it absorbed – one of our biggest carbon sinks is failing.[1] Australia, on average, has warmed by 1.51 degrees since national records began in 1910.[2] NSW's climate is changing - 6 of the 10 warmest years on record occurred in the past 10. Released in 2024, NSW and Australian Regional Climate Modelling (NARCLiM) figures show under a high emissions scenario, metropolitan Sydney will experience 10 more days a year above 35 degrees and more extreme storms and rainfall events by 2050.[3]

Across the world, more than 90% of biodiversity has been lost due to extracting and processing natural resources through mining, creating rubbish pits and over irrigating rivers and lakes. Emissions from human activities are still growing and waste is piling up. Greater Sydney is expected to run out of landfill space by 2030.

Stronger, swift collective action is needed now more than ever. Since our first environmental strategy was released in 2016, we have made substantial strides in improving the sustainability of our own operations and those of the local area. Our operational emissions have decreased by 76% from our 2006 baseline. In June 2024, 92% of our operational waste was diverted from landfill and we aim to improve even further.

Businesses and residents have worked hard to improve their environmental impact through energy reduction projects, switching to renewable electricity sources, cultivating community and balcony gardens and helping us be one of the top 10 cities in the Global Destination Sustainability Index in 2024.

As enhancing our performance becomes even more challenging, new technologies and ways of working will be needed. But we will reach our targets and continue to lead by example. Networks, industry bodies, all levels government and businesses must collaborate to maximise effectiveness and efficiency. Together, we will take firm action to combat climate change and adapt to its impacts. In doing so, we will place equality at the core of our efforts to safeguard those most affected by its impacts.

Clover Moore AO
Lord Mayor of Sydney

1 https://arctic.noaa.gov/report-card/

2 https://www.csiro.au/en/research/environmental-impacts/climate-change/state-of-the-climate/australias-changing-climate

3 https://www.climatechange.environment.nsw.gov.au/regional-climate-change-snapshots-narclim2

About this strategy

Sustainability, environmental responsibility and resilience are core to our overarching organisational strategy: Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050: Continuing the vision.

This environmental strategy focuses on **Direction 2: Leading environmental performer**. It is one of several strategies that support delivery of this direction. To avoid duplication, the following strategic areas are referenced in this strategy:

– Greening, open spaces and biodiversity – see our greening Sydney strategies

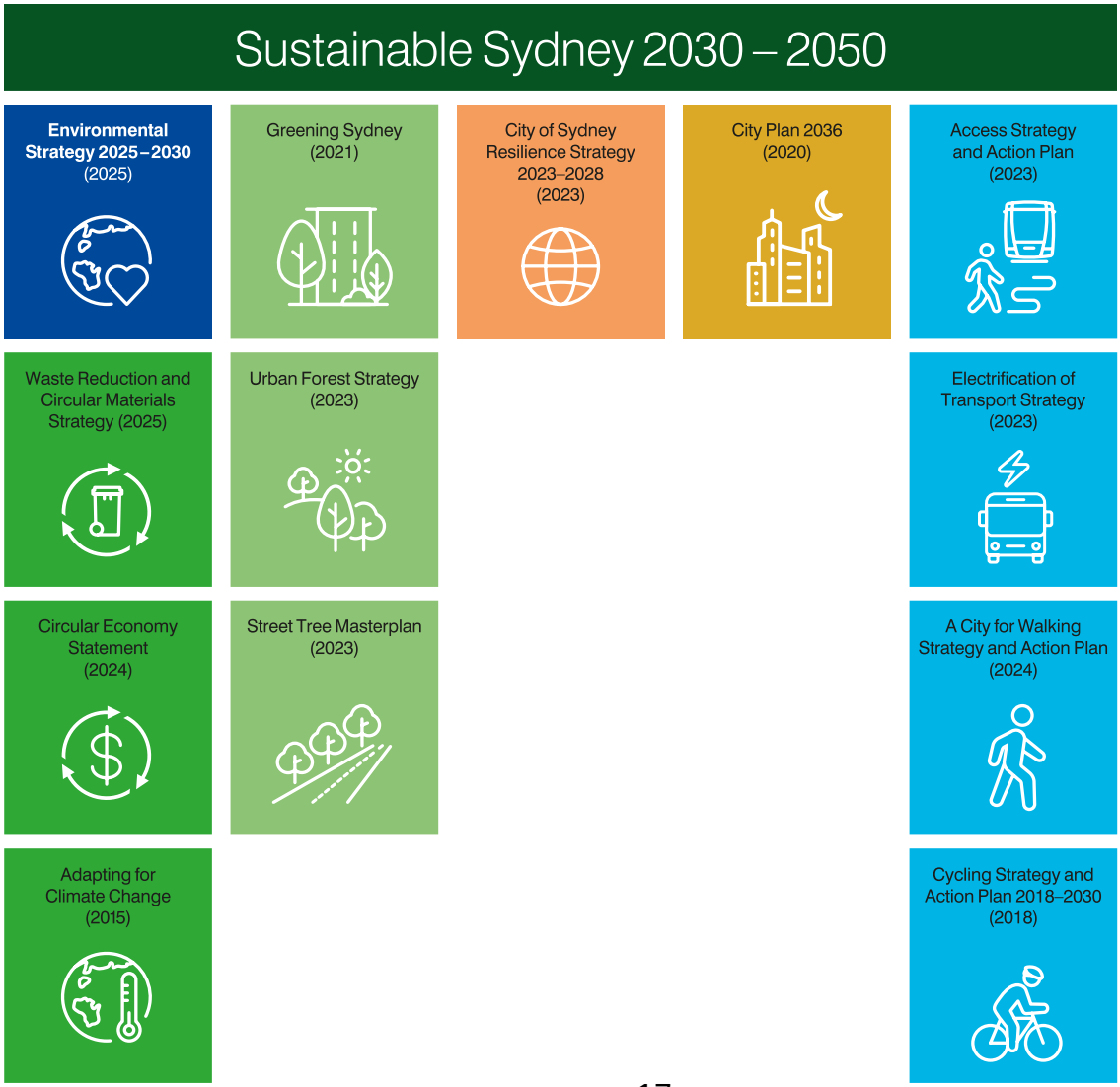
– Climate resilience – see the resilience strategy

– The green economy – see our economic development strategy

– Public transport and other transportation such as cycling and walking – see our transport and access strategies

– Waste and the circular economy – see our forthcoming waste reduction and circular materials strategy

Environmental and sustainability strategies



Executive summary

Through previous strategies, we became a global leader in mitigating climate change with ambitious targets, partnership and action.

Our environmental strategy 2021-2025 helped us to significantly reduce our operational environmental footprint and provided clear direction and support for our communities to play their role.

This strategy is a revision: building on many of our existing programs and activities, it sets out our pathway to 2030 - which will be some of the most crucial years in dealing with the climate crisis. Through 4 directions and 17 strategic priorities, we will continue to focus on reducing the environmental impacts of our own operations and those of our community.

We've committed to new work programs that will reduce energy use, emissions and water use in our operations, including eliminating fossil gas by 2030. We're designing and managing our assets to be more efficient and resilient, and we're upping our focus on embodied carbon.

We continue to support businesses and residents to achieve their sustainability goals and contribute to our targets. This includes prioritising those groups who are disproportionately affected by climate change. A new strategic priority will focus our collaboration and advocacy to enable renters to make their homes more efficient and comfortable in extreme heat and cold.

Aligning with the Greening Sydney strategy, regenerating and restoring our land and waterways will mitigate the urban heat island effect, enhance greening and help minimise environmental harm.

Strong foundations enable collective action, helping us achieve the strategy's goals and meet our targets. We will continue to share knowledge and facilitate collaboration to support businesses and communities lead their own climate action and build capabilities and resilience. Our progress towards the targets outlined in this strategy will be tracked and reported on annually.

Our vision

The city is part of a decarbonised world. Our communities live in a city that is regenerative and makes a positive contribution to the planet, to society and to individual lives. We're innovative leaders in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

– The city reaches net zero emissions by 2035 with embodied carbon significantly reduced
– Greening has increased to create a cool, calm and resilient city
– Water is managed to support a resilient, sustainable and liveable city
– A circular economy approach is embedded in products, services and systems
– Our community has the capacity to understand risk, take action and collaborate for sustainable outcomes

Sustainable Sydney 2030 to 2050: Continuing the Vision is our community strategic plan. It is the result of extensive consultation with people who live, work and visit in our city. This is their vision for 'a leading environmental performer' that is central to the future of our city.

Strategy snapshot

Operational targets

by **2030**

85% reduction in emissions from 2006 baseline

CO_2

30% reduction in energy use from FY2023 baseline

All light commercial and passenger vehicles **100% electric**

20% reduction in fleet emissions from FY 2023 baseline

Use of fossil gas eliminated

Zero increase in potable water use yearly from 2006 baseline

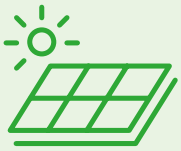
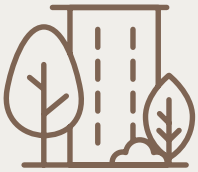
Local area targets

by **2030**

- **70% reduction in carbon emissions** from 2006 baseline
- **Reduce residential potable water use** to 204L/person/day
- **10% reduction in non-residential potable water use** for each m^2 from 2019 baseline
- **23% reduction in total suspended solids** from 2006 baseline
- **37% reduction in gross pollutants** from 2006 baseline
- **12% reduction in total phosphorus** from 2006 baseline
- **5% reduction in total nitrogen** from 2006 baseline

Net zero emissions by **2035** CO_2

Increase green cover by **40%**, including **27% tree canopy** by **2050**

	Strategic directions			
	Resilient and efficient operations	**Efficient and climate resilient buildings**	**Regenerative and inclusive city**	**Strong foundations for delivery**
Priorities	Reduce direct operational emissions and energy use by electrifying our buildings and fleet	Drive electrification of all buildings and reduce reliance on fossil gas	Enhance and regenerate waterways and land through restorative practices and managing environmental risk	Understand and manage our climate risk
	Deliver environmental sustainability through responsible asset planning and management	Support communities to reduce embodied carbon	Support cultural, social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through environmental action	Produce transparent reporting and inclusive communications
	Build water resilience in our operations with increased efficiency and non-potable water use	Encourage community uptake of renewable electricity including onsite solar	Improve walking, cycling and zero emissions transport options for everyone	Use and share data to drive efficiency and clear decisions
	Practice sustainable procurement to reduce supply chain emissions and create circular economy opportunities	Build water resilience through encouraging water efficiency in homes and businesses	Provide inclusive access in the community to reduce, reuse and repair instead of buying new	Strengthen employee and community expertise to drive environmental outcomes
		Support renters' access to efficient and climate resilient homes		

What our communities told us

We asked our communities to help inform our Sustainable Sydney 2030 – 2050: Continuing the vision strategy and our Resilience strategy 2023 – 2028. It was clear that despite stressors such as cost of living, environmental sustainability is still a very important issue for them.

When we asked for feedback to revise our environmental strategy, there was strong support to continue to improve the environmental performance of our operations and prepare new and existing buildings for the shocks of climate change, such as hotter days. More green spaces and trees to support liveability and manage heat were also important. The general view, especially among young people, was that regenerating waterways and land is essential because climate change is a significant threat to our future and the environment must be protected.

Our previous environmental strategy supported businesses to help reduce our local area's environmental footprint and they want to continue this work. Businesses identified that collaborating with us and each other is essential to further mitigate emissions and build climate resilience.

As equity is fundamental to our work, we held several focus groups with priority communities – people disproportionately impacted by climate change. Participants were from a variety of backgrounds. All felt strongly the next environmental strategy should prioritise providing access to nature in the city, supporting the community to reduce energy use and emissions, supporting renters with climate-resilient homes, and helping the community to reuse and repair instead of buying new items.

People identified managing waste as one of the key areas where they would like to be more sustainable. They see their part in reducing waste and fostering collective action to reuse or repair items. Responses also highlighted that people are keen to take local action to combat climate change.

A need to reduce fossil gas use through electrification and more use of renewable electricity was also highlighted by our communities. The impact of the cost of living, including pressure caused by increasing energy prices, and a need to retrofit older buildings to be more energy efficient were emphasised in discussions, especially when we spoke with renters and those from low-income households.

Community feedback has been incorporated into this 5-year plan.

About our local area

Sydney is dynamic, diverse and densely populated. For tens of thousands of years, the land on which it stands was cared for by the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. They were the custodians of the land, water, sky, plants, animals, stories and spirits. Since colonisation, these natural features have been overlaid by roads, buildings, infrastructure, new plants and animals, and people from all over the world. As stewards of our area, we acknowledge these layers of history and the many activities that have harmed our environment. But we are now working hard to rehabilitate the land and make sure our built environments welcome people and natural systems. Balancing these goals with economic and social objectives is a constant challenge, playing out in a very small area.

26 sq km

230,000+
residents [3]

1 million+
daily users [4]

140,000+
homes [5]

5100+
commercial buildings [6]

21,000+
businesses

215 hectares
green open space

35,500
trees in streets and parks

330km
roads

[3] ProfileID, as at June 2023
[4] City of Sydney, Internal Analysis, 2024.
[5] Housing Audit June 2024
[6] City of Sydney, Internal Analysis, 2024.

Direction 1: Resilient and efficient operations

Rooftop solar panel array at Perry Park Recreational Centre, Alexandria.
Credit: City of Sydney

We've already made many improvements in the efficiency and sustainability of our operations. We've reduced our carbon emissions by 76%. We've reduced the amount of potable water used in our parks and pools and turned to innovative ideas and partnerships to recycle water for street cleaning. Sustainability is embedded in our policies and processes. But we still have more to do.

Decreasing our operational environmental footprint even further will not be easy. As our population grows and our climate changes, we'll need to maintain and increase our services. For example, more green spaces will need to be irrigated, use of our libraries and community centres will increase and our roads and pavements will come under increasing stress.

Priority 1. Reduce direct operational emissions and energy use by electrifying our buildings and fleet

To reduce the impact of our operations, we must cut our energy use and waste in buildings, parks and pools.

Since 2006, we have reduced our direct emissions by 76% (as of June 2024) – see figure 1. Our remaining emissions come from: fossil gas; fuel used by our fleet and major contractors; refrigerants; major events; waste; business travel; commuting; food and catering.

We aim to reduce our emissions to 85% of our 2006 baseline by 2030. We plan to eradicate fossil gas from our properties, use less harmful refrigerants in our air-conditioning and make significant energy efficiency improvements, with long-term budget for these projects confirmed.

We buy all our electricity from 100% renewable sources through a power purchase agreement. We also use rooftop solar. Our target to reduce energy use by 30% will help us save money, remove gas use from our operations and play our part in reducing the load on the electricity grid at peak times.

We don't see a role for renewable gas in our operations, or in the grid. Renewable gas should be prioritised for industrial applications where viable alternatives are currently lacking.

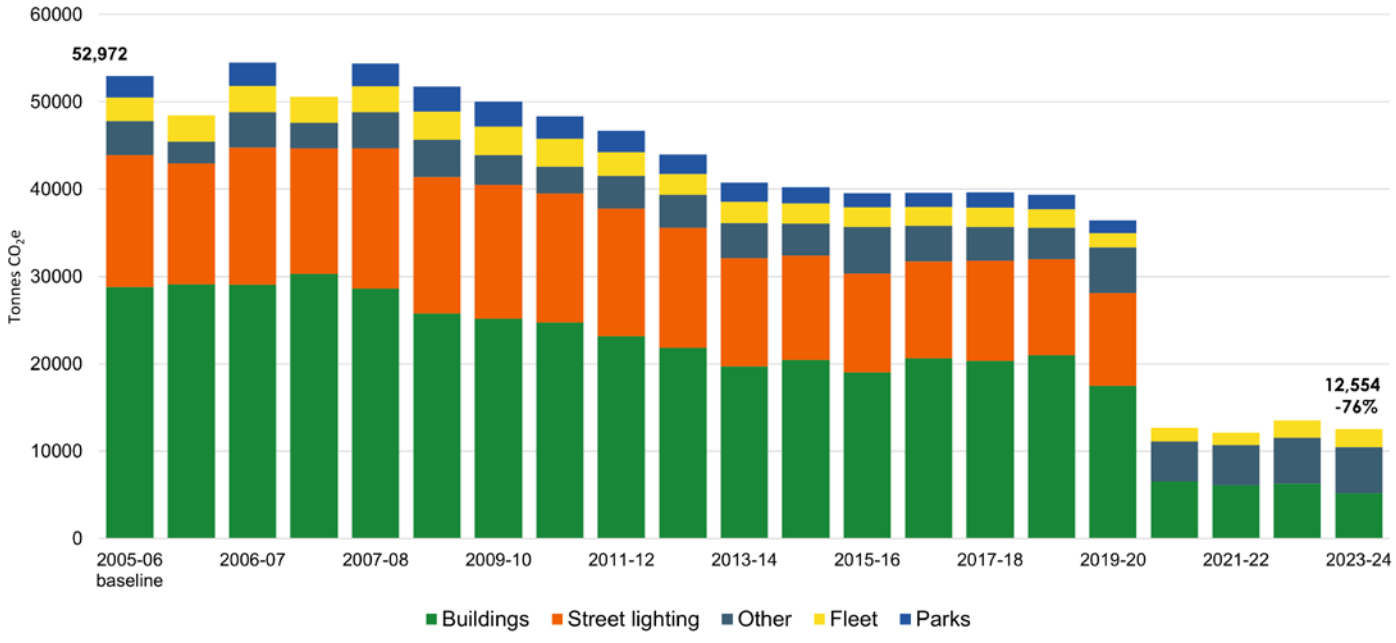


Figure 1: Our operational emissions reduction from a 2006 baseline

Our targets

85% **reduction in our operational emissions by 2030**
from 2006 levels

By June **2030** **fossil gas eliminated**
from our operations

30% **reduction in energy use by June 2030**
from a FY2023 baseline

LED lighting in Alexandria Park
Credit: Jamie Williams

Electric heat pumps replacing gas at Victoria Park Pool.
Credit: Supplied by Image Air Conditioning

LED street lightening, Portman Street, Zetland. Credit: City of Sydney

Our electric passenger vehicles charging at Town Hall House.
Credit: Chris Southwood

Fleet transition to electric vehicles

Several types of vehicles make up our fleet, from passenger cars to street sweepers and large rubbish collection trucks. Since 2014, we've transitioned to lower emissions vehicles by first using hybrid cars and now fully electric passenger vehicles. We've also introduced small electric waste collection vehicles that provide clean and safe cleansing services.

Shifting our heavy vehicles to electric is more challenging due to availability and operational constraints. We are trialling electric trucks to identify operationally viable solutions and future proof our capacity to offer efficient services.

At the same time, we're installing electric vehicle charging infrastructure at our operational facilities.

Our targets

20% **reduction in fleet emissions by June 2030** from FY2023 baseline and all light commercial and passenger vehicles

100% electric

City of Sydney's first electric fleet truck. Credit: Jennifer Leahy

Priority 2. Deliver environmental sustainability through responsible asset planning and management

Our community asset management plan integrates environmental best practice into every aspect of infrastructure, from planning and design to upgrades and maintenance.

Addressing the operational impacts of our infrastructure during the design or renewal phase can lower environmental impacts and ongoing costs. We can enhance the design of our assets by adopting materials and technologies that reduce energy and water use and incorporate circularity from the outset.

Prioritising better design means focusing on how a building functions. Do material choices interfere with energy efficient heating or cooling? Can recycled water be used? Will the building remain fit for purpose over time and not have to be replaced or upgraded too frequently?

Embodied carbon is a key focus for roads, cycleways, stormwater infrastructure, public spaces, and buildings. Emissions from production of materials such as cement, glass, aluminium, and steel are significant but will decrease as industries adopt cleaner processes and materials and use renewable energy.

Although embodied carbon has been challenging to measure, new tools make this possible. Emissions from capital works can be significant. We will assess upfront embodied carbon during decision-making and, as a member of industry groups, work with suppliers to transform the market.

In our own operations, we'll trial and replace construction materials with sustainable, lower-carbon options, such as low-carbon concrete, crushed recycled glass in asphalt and pipes, and recycled aggregates.

We will report on the embodied carbon of major projects.

While global supply transformation is needed to make low-emission materials the norm, we can play a role.

The renovation of the Aboriginal knowledge and culture Centre at 119 Redfern Street used environmentally sustainable materials like cork and re-used materials from the original fit-out. Credit: Will Jones

Explainer: What is embodied carbon?

Embodied carbon
The emissions from manufacturing, transportation and installation of building materials for the initial construction

Operational carbon
The emissions from a building's on-going energy consumption - including those from new interior fit-outs, materials and the like

The embodied carbon from buildings and infrastructure made up 10% of Australia's carbon emissions in 2023[1]. Embodied carbon is the emissions generated from making, transporting, installing, maintaining, and disposing of materials used in buildings and infrastructure. It refers to the entire lifecycle from construction to refurbishment and deconstruction.

It's a big source of emissions globally. Most of these are from emissions which happen before or during construction. These emissions are locked in after construction. Embodied carbon can be minimised by avoiding or reducing the need for new materials during design stages, reusing existing structures, using recycled and low emissions materials, sourcing locally and constructing with techniques such as prefabrication.

Operational carbon refers to the carbon emissions produced during use of a building. Unlike embodied carbon, operational carbon emissions continue throughout a building's life.

The Australian Government estimates that use of more sustainable materials could reduce upfront emissions by one quarter as soon as 2027, with more savings possible through better design and by building less.

As operational emissions decline due to electricity grid greening, embodied carbon is on track to be the largest source of emissions in the building sector. The decisions made today will lock in or reduce emissions for years to come.

1 https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/reports/embodied-carbon-projections-australian-infrastructure-and-buildings

Using smart technology to efficiently irrigate our green spaces helps reduce potable water use. Reg Bartley Oval, Rushcutters Bay.
Credit: Chris Southwood

Priority 3. Build water resilience in our operations with increased efficiency and non-potable water use

Sydney's growing population is driving higher water demand, while climate change brings less predictable rainfall, prolonged droughts, and extreme weather. We rely on potable water for irrigation, cooling, and cleaning. However, increasing urban greening and canopy cover to combat climate change requires a resilient water supply.

Depending entirely on potable water threatens our ability to adapt to future droughts. To address this, we are identifying and integrating non-potable water sources into our water supply. These include stormwater harvesting, expanding recycled water networks, and using rainwater or water in buildings, community gardens, parks, and street cleaning. Reducing potable water use is vital for operational resilience and sustainability.

Priority 4. Practise sustainable procurement to reduce supply chain emissions and create circular economy opportunities

We buy a wide range of goods and services when serving our communities. These purchases have environmental impacts, and we have a responsibility to consider the most sustainable option. We can do this by specifying materials, management practices and circularity principles in our procurement contracts.

Working closely with our suppliers will allow us to monitor their environmental performance and improve it during the life of a contract. We also look to our suppliers for innovation in environmental performance and circularity.

As an organisation, we'll improve how we apply circularity principles to the products and services we buy as well as programs we provide.

Our circular economy statement highlights the ways we support circularity leading to less waste and lower emissions.

Our targets

zero **increase in potable water use yearly until 2030**
from 2006 baseline

Direction 2: Efficient and climate resilient buildings

View over Green Square from the Drying Green.
Credit: Abril Felman

Buildings account for nearly 75% of carbon emissions in our area. As Sydney grows, designing and constructing efficient, environmentally smart buildings is crucial to reducing carbon emissions, water use, and waste.

Through sustainability programs, grants, and advocacy, we've helped improve building performance across our local area. Since 2006, local emissions have dropped 41%, non-residential water use is down 29% since 2019, and residential per-person waste has decreased 18% since 2015. These achievements set the foundation for further progress under this strategy.

Green Wall Trio Building, Camperdown. Credit: Paul Patterson

Priority 5. Drive electrification of all buildings and reduce reliance on fossil gas

To meet emission reduction targets, buildings must transition away from fossil gas to full electrification.

Electrifying existing buildings is more complex than new ones due to space constraints, decision-making challenges, and split incentives between owners and tenants. Governments must provide incentives for electrification, especially for apartments, renters, and low-income households.

Emissions can be reduced and positive health benefits realised by replacing gas appliances with electric options like reverse cycle air conditioners, heat pump hot water systems, and induction cooktops. Switching to cleaner energy sources, such as solar power or renewable electricity plans, further cuts emissions.

Since October 2023, new large commercial developments and major redevelopments in our area must reduce emissions with efficient, renewable energy or be capable of achieving net zero prior to opening. Proposed changes to our Sydney Development Control Plan (DCP) 2012 include rules to improve indoor air quality and health in new residential developments by preventing indoor gas appliances. We are exploring expanding these rules to new non-residential developments and domestic hot water systems in new residences.

Some apartment complexes have embedded networks - private energy networks for electricity or gas. Embedded network operators receive energy from the grid and then on-sell it to the residents of an apartment complex. There is concern from consumer groups and other government agencies about residents being locked into an expensive, and high-emission, power supply. The City does not have the power to prevent the establishment of embedded networks in our local area, but we have joined with other advocates in calling for these networks to be better regulated and to improve consumer protections.

Goulburn Street parking station with EV chargers. Credit: Chris Southwood

Through sustainability programs, we help residential and commercial organisations to electrify their buildings. Initiatives like Smart Green Apartments and green building grants assist owners' corporations with energy use and electrification studies. The Better Buildings Partnership provides electrification resources for the commercial property sector.

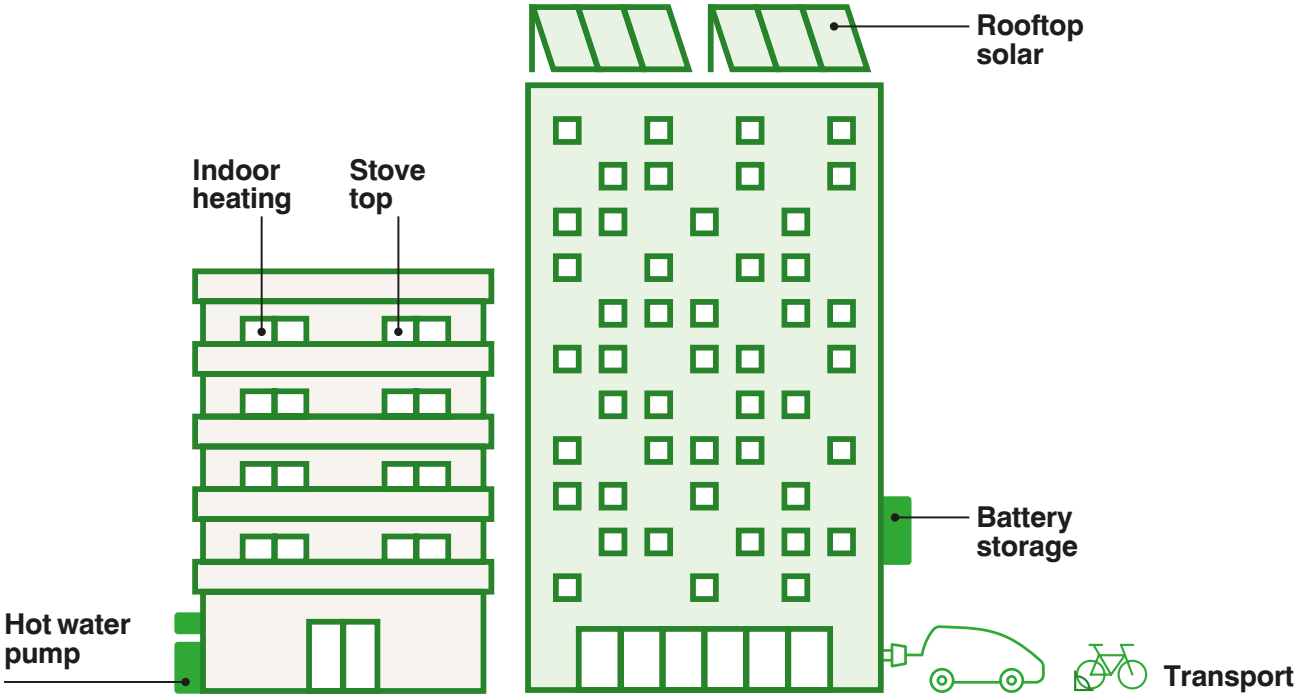
However, voluntary programs will not be sufficient to affect change across the sector. We will continue to advocate for the mandatory disclosure of the energy performance for all major building types, including apartment buildings, expanding on current federal Government requirements for commercial buildings. Disclosure is proven to raise awareness and lead to significant improvements in building performance.

Our targets

net zero by **2035**

70% **reduction in carbon emissions** by 2030 from 2006 baseline

Explainer:
The challenges of electrification



New developments face hurdles like higher upfront costs for all-electric systems, spatial constraints, and preferences for gas. However, the benefits of electrification are substantial:

– lower emissions

– improved indoor air quality

– reduced energy costs

– better climate resilience.

Electric buildings are more efficient, healthier, and cost-effective over time.

Affordable electric appliances and rooftop solar systems create long-term savings and help stabilise the grid. Using solar energy during the day, storing it, or pre-cooling commercial buildings reduces energy waste, afternoon demand, and blackout risks.

Expanding EV charging infrastructure, particularly in apartments, is essential to future proof buildings in the energy transition. We offer green building grants for electrification assessments including assessing the feasibility of EV charging. We also collaborate with the NSW Government to promote retrofitting incentives and advocate for clear EV charging safety messaging.

Through the Smart Green Apartments program, we help building managers and owners' corporations understand the benefits of electrification, energy efficiency and renewable energy. Equitable electrification is key to ensuring renters, apartment occupants and low-income households can benefit from renewable energy and storage.

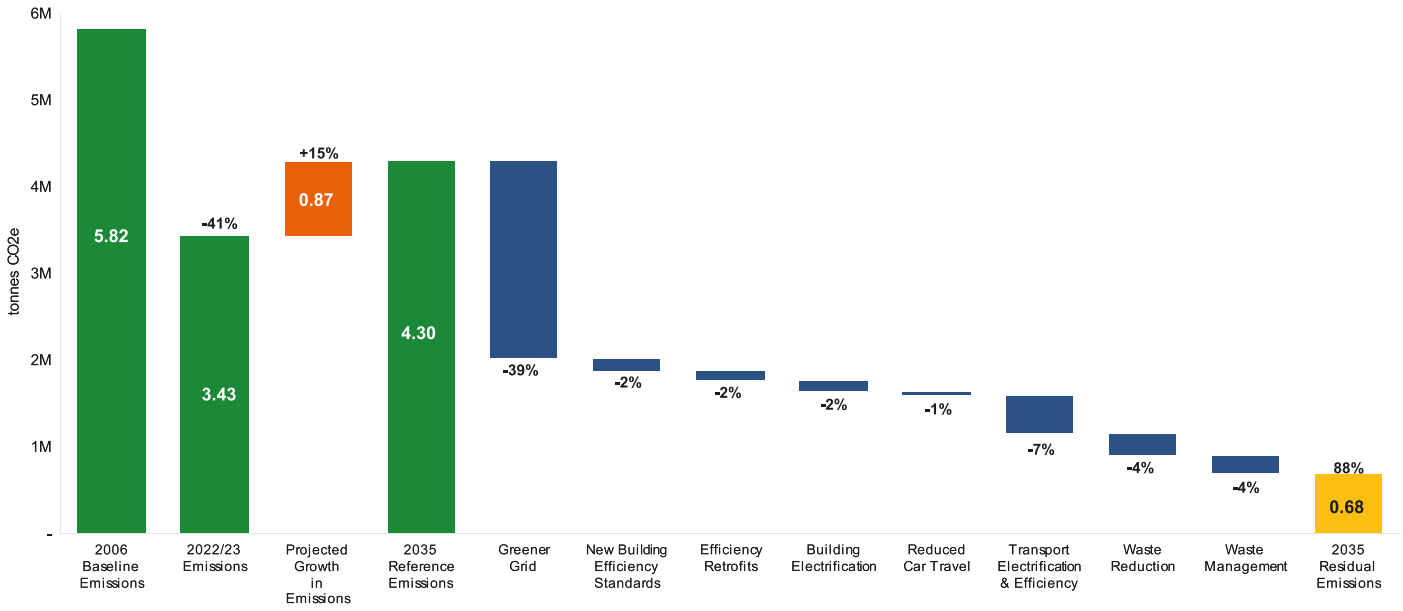


Figure 2: Pathway to net zero emissions (Kinesis data, 2024)

Wulbujubur cultural burning project.
Credit: Aboriginal Carbon Foundation

Our journey to net zero by 2035

As of 2023, emissions for the local area were reduced by 41% relative to the 2006 baseline. The electricity grid has become greener, which together with improvements in buildings and transport has produced real emissions reductions. We have narrowed the gap to net zero.

See figure 2 for what our path to net zero emissions by 2035 may look like. Continued greening of the grid makes the largest contribution, complemented by policies and programs that target waste and gas emissions, improve energy efficiency, reduce car use and electrify transport.

We will use our influence and continue policies and programs that reduce hard-to-avoid emissions in priority areas. But there are likely to be residual emissions. We estimate these residual hard-to-avoid emissions to be 0.68 million tonnes of CO2e by 2035, which is 88% below our 2006 baseline.

We want our local area to align with leading net zero practices by cutting emissions as the top priority and supporting projects that remove carbon from the atmosphere. Innovative carbon removal technologies are emerging as a way for cities to reach net zero, for example by using construction materials that sequester carbon, or by supporting carbon farming in neighbouring regional areas.

Carbon farming is a practice that stores carbon in the soil and plants. The potential for carbon farming in NSW to benefit Aboriginal communities is significant. Aboriginal-led, regenerative carbon farming projects can contribute to employment, cultural practices and revitalisation, wellbeing, healthy ecosystems and connection to Country. Long-term purchase agreements by organisations are key to enabling such projects.

Supporting carbon farming and associated carbon credits is an opportunity for businesses to contribute to social, cultural and economics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We want to see public and private investment directed to Aboriginal businesses and practitioners for high-integrity nature restoration and carbon farming projects. By quantifying these efforts, we can align them to our hard-to-avoid emissions.

We remain committed to our area achieving net zero emissions by 2035. We want to be one of the first cities to show net zero is possible.

Priority 6. Support communities to reduce embodied carbon

Embodied carbon has traditionally been difficult to measure or reduce. Thankfully, momentum is gathering on ways to identify and reduce this major source of emissions.

The NABERS national standard and emissions database is freely available to designers and developers to consistently measure and certify embodied carbon from the construction of new buildings and infrastructure.

There are many industry bodies and government departments working on the policies and support needed to reduce embodied carbon emissions.

New mandatory climate risk disclosure requirements for large organisations will likely lead to a greater focus on reporting embodied carbon as part of investor-led climate action by companies.

Cleaner industries are emerging and commercial products such as low emissions cement, recycled content steel and other materials are available. But more needs to be done.

A NSW Government survey[1] shows a high level of awareness about upfront carbon and its implications in construction but almost all respondents have low confidence in reducing these emissions.

We will advocate for reducing embodied carbon in the built environment sector as a key priority for the national and NSW governments. Reducing embodied carbon remains a key theme for our sustainability program partners. We will apply embodied carbon planning rules in line with the NSW Sustainable Buildings SEPP and national construction code requirements.

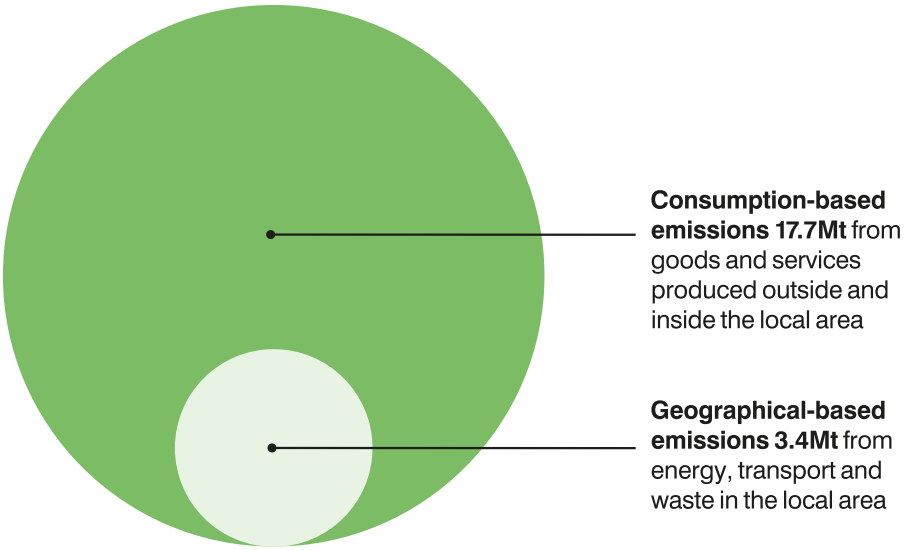
Pyrmont Community Centre under construction.
Credit: Will Jones

Replacing the road surface on Clarence Street with asphalt containing recycled materials to lower its embodied carbon.
Credit: Matt Formica

Skatepark bowl under construction, Sydney Park, Alexandria.
Credit: Chris Southwood

1 https://www.infrastructure.nsw.gov.au/expert-advice/decarbonising-infrastructure-delivery/

Explainer: Geographic verses consumption-based emissions counting



Cities and regions use a geographic-based approach to report emissions including those from electricity, gas, transport, waste, and wastewater. This method prevents double-counting emissions across regions by establishing a boundary around our area. Our target of net zero by 2035 aligns with this geographic-based approach.

However, large city economies like ours rely heavily on products and services made elsewhere, with emissions from these allocated to the regions where they are produced, and we can reduce these emissions by influencing demand. Estimating emissions from products and services used or consumed in our area is known as a consumption-based approach.

Our area's major sources of consumption-based emissions include air travel, food, utilities, construction, and other goods and services. Domestic flights contribute significantly to air travel emissions, and therefore, we will advocate for state and federal governments to prioritise high-speed rail.

Food and beverage emissions, from production to consumption, are also substantial. Supporting local food production and helping communities reduce food waste can lower these impacts.

Embodied emissions in construction will increasingly be managed through policies, measurement, and reporting, supported by our planning rules and programs.

Our forthcoming waste reduction and circular materials strategy focuses on reducing consumption by funding and supporting projects that encourage reuse and repair over buying new, particularly for small electronics, textiles, and plastics.

Air travel to Sydney is one of the largest sources of consumption-based emissions

Food and beverages are a substantial source of emissions too

Smart Green Apartments partner Windsor Plaza and their rooftop solar array. Credit: Katherine Griffiths

Priority 7. Encourage community uptake of renewable electricity including onsite solar

Australia is rapidly transitioning from coal-sourced electricity to renewables like solar and wind. Renewable electricity has grown from 15% to 40% of national supply since 2014. The grid is expected to exceed 80% renewables by 2030. This progress supports climate goals and our local net zero target, with electricity accounting for 69% of local area emissions in 2023.

A more efficient, two-way distributed energy system is emerging, combining large-scale generation with local energy efficiency, small-scale renewables, storage, and flexibility. Cities like Sydney will play a key role in navigating challenges and opportunities as energy generation, use, storage, and sharing evolve over the next five years. Ensuring electricity remains affordable, equitable, and reliable during this transformation will require innovation.

Large-scale solar, wind, battery storage, and transmission infrastructure are expanding rapidly. Smaller-scale batteries in homes and businesses, alongside electric vehicles as "batteries on wheels," are growing in importance. About one-third of Australian homes and many businesses now have solar, generating 21 GW of electricity in 2024. Locally, more than 33 MW of solar is installed across 3,000 buildings.

In a high-density local area like the City of Sydney, rooftop solar must be balanced with other demands, rooftop gardens may be prioritised on flat roofs and solar may not be worthwhile where future development could overshadow solar panels. Nonetheless, installations are increasing, supported by state and federal incentives. Rooftop solar provides free electricity to building occupants, and along with large-scale solar, reduces wholesale electricity prices during the day.

We advocate for incentives and price signals to enable zero-emissions electricity, improve grid flexibility, and allow real-time sharing of renewable energy between buildings. Raising awareness about government incentives and simplifying energy rules are also priorities.

Our sustainability programs offer guidance, workshops, grants, and case studies to promote renewable energy. Since 2021, we've raised awareness of GreenPower, enabled solar arrays in heritage zones, supported feasibility studies in strata apartments, and encouraged innovative solar projects.

Our targets

Reduce residential potable water use to 204 litres /person/day by 2030

10% **reduction in non-residential potable water use** /m² by 2030 from 2019 baseline

Priority 8. Build water resilience through encouraging water efficiency in homes and businesses

The 2017-2019 drought was a stark reminder of Greater Sydney's vulnerability to water shortages, with more than 50% of water storage depleted in just 2.5 years. Desalination plants may help avoid the severest of restrictions and the possibility of Greater Sydney running out of water. But further action is still required to preserve this vital resource. It can take months for desalination plants to reach full production and years to build more weather-independent water sources.

One of the three key elements in the state's Greater Sydney Drought Response Plan is to reduce water demand by restrictions and conservation. Water efficiency can be improved by fixing leaks, using efficient appliances and changing behaviour. This is particularly challenging to address in apartment buildings because it's harder to find leaks and with many owners and stakeholders, the decision-making process is more complex.

We encourage local apartment buildings to take up Sydney Water's WaterFix Residential program. High water-using apartment buildings can access the service to detect and repair leaks and replace inefficient water fixtures and appliances.

Priority 9. Support renters' access to energy efficient and climate resilient homes

In our area, more than 60% of households rent (ABS Census 2021), and rental properties are often less energy-efficient than owner-occupied homes. This leads to wasted energy, higher carbon emissions, cost of living pressures, and health risks. Renters seeking refuge from climate impacts, like heatwaves—deadlier than all other natural hazards in Australia—struggle in homes without effective indoor temperature regulation. These risks will worsen as summers grow longer and hotter.

Upgrading rental properties with insulation, draught-proofing and efficient heating and cooling can alleviate hardships and support our net zero target. Renters have limited control over their homes due to laws, regulations and a competitive market that restricts options.

The national Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings framework includes measures like energy efficiency disclosure, minimum rental standards and financial incentives for landlords. We advocate for mandatory energy performance disclosure, especially in apartments and their common areas. While the National Home Energy Ratings Disclosure Framework is expected in 2025, a benchmarking tool for rating entire apartment buildings is still lacking.

We will advocate for minimum rental standards with safeguards to avoid effects on housing affordability, with resources for monitoring and enforcement.

We also promote state and federal programs and upgrades that help renters access renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies building-wide.

Partnerships

The most powerful changes always happen in collaboration. Minimising the local environmental footprint is no different. Everyone has a part to play to ensure buildings where we work and live have a minimal environmental impact and are fit for the future.

Paloma is one of 300 apartment buildings that have participated in the Smart Green Apartments program.
Credit: Chris Southwood

Smart Green Apartments

We work with owners, strata managers and building managers to improve the environmental performance and resilience of apartment buildings. Participants learn to understand their energy and water use as well as opportunities to reduce waste, install solar panels, electrify their buildings with heat pumps and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Since 2016, we've worked with almost 300 apartment buildings to provide NABERS ratings and action plans, which highlight opportunities for sustainable upgrades.

On average, buildings can reduce their energy use by 33%, equalling a yearly cost saving of up to $40,000.

Apartment buildings taking part can enjoy networking and collaboration with other residential communities. The goal is to accelerate energy efficiency measures and renewable energy uptake as well as reduce water consumption and waste generation.

Our sustainability programs partners coming together to showcase and celebrate their achievements in 2024.
Credit: Katherine Griffiths

Australian corporate law firm Gilbert + Torbin switched to 100% GreenPower through our CitySwitch program.
Credit: Stefanie Zingsheim

Sustainable Destination Partnership

We bring together owners, managers and key influencers in Sydney's accommodation and entertainment sector to reduce emissions, water use and waste. The partnership represents over 70 buildings, 53% of hotel rooms and 17% of entertainment venues in our area. The collective tackles key sustainability issues and develops solutions that are shared among members and tourism partners. In June 2023, the partnership achieved a 24% reduction in emissions and a 24% reduction in water from a June 2018 baseline.

Better Buildings Partnership

We participate in this leading collaboration of property owners, managers and key industry stakeholders to improve the performance and sustainability of buildings across Australia. The partnership has 19 members. In our area, 55% of office space is represented, spanning 99 buildings. As of 30 June 2023, the partnership achieved a 95% reduction in emissions intensity and a 63% reduction in water use from a 2006 baseline.

CitySwitch

We coordinate this free national net zero program that supports office-based businesses. Our partners include City of Melbourne, North Sydney Council, City of Yarra, City of Port Philip, City of Ballarat and NABERS. Designed to help businesses quantify emissions and work towards net zero, the program focuses on areas such as reducing waste, renewables, and supply chain emissions. Members are supported through workshops, webinars, resources and tools. The program represents 10% of office space nationally. Among local members, 80% of tenancies have switched to renewables.

Direction 3: Regenerative and inclusive city

Restored wetlands in Sydney Park.
Credit: Ethan Rohloff

Cities across the world are focusing on how nature-based and community-designed actions can contribute towards their health, connection and resilience. Sydney is a city of green spaces, blue waterways and a very diverse population. In our quest to be environmentally responsible and protect biodiversity, we must ensure that nature-based solutions and inclusive actions are a priority.

The Gadigal, first people of this area, lived with and nurtured the natural environment for thousands of generations, caring for Country. Country is more than the land. It is the people, water, sky, plants, animals, stories and spirits of a place. Caring for Country builds community connections and a shared understanding. It brings balance and inclusivity to this direction.

Across our local area, we have restored contaminated sites such as Sydney Park, a public green space that enables animals and plants to thrive in the wetlands amid careful planting. Rain gardens filter out harmful pollutants from stormwater to help build the health of our waterways and harbour.

As in our resilience strategy, this document acknowledges priority communities are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change, and we plan to strengthen and support them. We'll advocate for priority communities to have equal access to affordable renewable energy options. We want to ensure that everyone in the community has access to environmentally-friendly modes of transport. We will continue to provide programs that support priority communities to reduce waste and achieve their sustainability goals.

Wynyard Park. Credit: Tyrone Branigan

Explainer: Priority communities

Kendall Towers, Redfern. Credit: Katherine Griffiths

While climate change affects everyone, those who contribute the least to the problem are disproportionately impacted. Climate change worsens existing stresses, where even minor shocks can cause long-term harm.

'Priority communities' describes groups experiencing vulnerability due to systemic or circumstantial factors. These individuals may need extra support during stressful situations or emergencies and may belong to more than one priority group, experiencing heightened vulnerability.

Under this strategy, priority communities include:

– Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
– people on low incomes
– renters and social housing residents
– people experiencing homelessness
– people with disability
– those with mental health or chronic health conditions
– people over 65
– babies and children under 5
– new migrants, non-citizens and refugees
– culturally and linguistically diverse people (with English as a second language).

According to the 2021 Census, 60% of residents in our area rent, often in medium or high-density buildings. Over 22,000 households live in social or community housing and/or are on low incomes. These residents are particularly vulnerable to climate impacts due to poor-quality, energy-inefficient housing that fails to protect against extreme heat or heavy rainfall. With fewer resources, less empowerment, and limited ability to adapt, they face greater risks of heat injury, higher energy costs, and decreased wellbeing.

Our programs and actions to address climate change must prioritise those most affected, fostering sustainable, equitable change.

Priority 10. Enhance and regenerate waterways and land through restorative practice and managing environmental risk

As one of the most urbanised parts of Australia, our landscape and waterways have been substantially reshaped since colonisation. Creeks, wetlands and the land in between were converted to industrial precincts, now transitioning into spaces to live and play. We inherited contamination from historic industries and landfills and need to manage the risk of land and water pollution.

Managing environmental risk aims to prevent damage while restorative practice improves the current state of the land and waterways. Both are important. Strong environmental management for our sites and services helps our teams understand how our activities may cause environmental damage, eliminate the chance of harm and respond to problems. In the next 5 years, we will strengthen our environmental management of our own land with updated guidance, more investment in training and improved records management. We also aim to reduce harm reduction in private properties through our contaminated land policy and development application provisions. We enforce water quality improvement through the Water Sensitive Urban Development provisions and the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO Act).

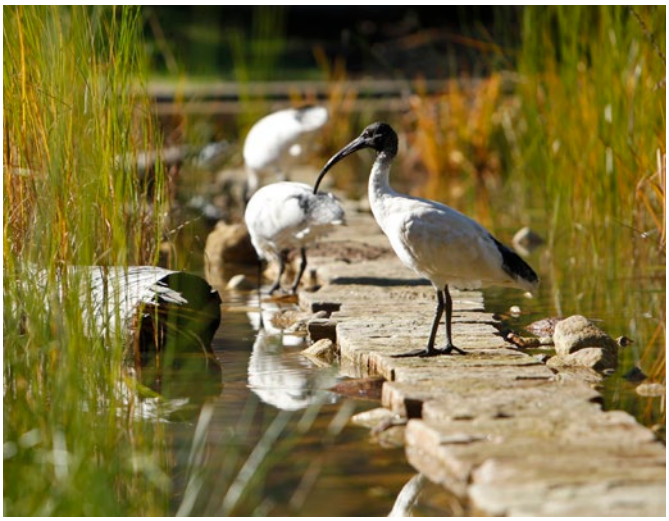
Urban stormwater systems directly affect waterway health, flushing chemicals and items from streets into rivers and bays. We assess water quality by reporting on litter, sediment and nutrient loads that flow from our area into the stormwater system.

As we manage 80% of the local stormwater network in our local area, we have improved water quality by installing 47 gross pollutant traps and 250 rain gardens to stop excess stormwater, nutrients, rubbish and sediment from polluting local waterways. We'll expand the number of gross pollutant traps by installing an additional 9 traps over the next 5 years.

We'll also tackle pollutants by collecting waste from public places, cleaning streets, and enforcing planning rules in private developments.

Our artificial wetlands, such as Sydney Park or Woolwash Park Pond, are examples of our restorative practices. Rehabilitated from their industrial past, they provide habitat for local wildlife and migrating birds, replacing some of the wetland ecosystems lost through urban development. They also act as a biological stormwater filter, with plants and algae catching sediments and absorbing pollutants. We'll continue to measure the levels of nutrients in our stormwater harvesting systems to ensure adequate filtering by plants. These water stores are also an important source of non-potable water for irrigation. We'll look for more opportunities to deliver naturalisation projects.

Our area is located between 2 saltwater ecosystems. Water that falls in the north flows into Sydney Harbour and water in the south flows into Botany Bay (Kamay) through Alexandra Canal. The health of these waterways and coastal areas depends on multiple stakeholders. We will continue to support the coastal management programs for Sydney Harbour and the Cooks River catchment, and advocate for a concerted effort to protect water quality.



Birds in Victoria Park, Broadway. Credit: Jamie Williams

Shea's Creek water channel, Alexandria. Credit: Adam Hollingworth

Our targets

Improve water health by 2030

from 2006

- **23%** reduction in total **suspended solids**
- **37%** reduction in **gross pollutants**
- **12%** reduction in total **phosphorous**
- **5%** reduction in total **nitrogen**

Increase overall **green cover to** **40%** across the local area, including **27% tree canopy by 2050**

Glebe Bushcare Group helping to restore local bushland around Orphan School Creek in Forest Lodge. Credit: Katherine Griffiths

JV McMahon Reserve, Forest Lodge. Credit: Abril Felman

Explainer: What is nature positive?

According the NSW plan for nature, nature positive means the environment is being repaired and regenerated. Cities and economies depend on healthy, functioning natural systems. This is the next step beyond current sustainability approaches of minimising negative effect, and instead focuses on the repair and regeneration of the environment. International, national and state governments and organisations set targets, develop nature positive frameworks and report on progress. The diagram above demonstrates the key elements of a nature positive approach.

Our greening Sydney strategy provides more information about how we help regenerate the environment.

WINYA is majority Indigenous owned and controlled business, supplying workstations, sit-stand desks, task seating, lounges and storage, lockers and Boardrooms through Indigenous employment focused manufacturing. Credit: Shyma Sreekanta, WINYA

Priority 11. Support cultural, social, and economic outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through environmental action

We acknowledge the incredible resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who, despite unconscionable adversity, continue to remain connected to, and protectors of, Country.

We will always respect Indigenous cultural and intellectual property and never use Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge without full, prior and informed consent. We commit to community involvement and to invest, remunerate, listen, learn and work together on tangible ways to heal Country.

The City of Sydney maintains carbon neutral status for our operations through the purchase of carbon credits. We will continue to purchase high quality carbon credits from Aboriginal carbon farming projects to address unavoidable emissions, offering social, cultural and economic benefits. This aligns with our organisational commitment to reconciliation as detailed in our Reconciliation Action Plan.

Country-centred

An action in our local strategic planning statement: City plan 2036 is to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through land use planning, including designing with Country in mind.

The NSW Government's Connecting with Country framework incorporates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in the built environment in ways that protect Aboriginal interest and self-determination. This is a key opportunity to return to more sustainable and environmentally responsible ways of restoring land and waterways. It's a great starting point for responding to Country and positive tangible benefits for communities.

We aim to use a Country-centred approach when developing new programs and projects. It will include truth telling, working with Indigenous cultural knowledge holders, cultural heritage, recognition in the public domain, and economic development.

Separated cycleways around Waterloo. Credit: Chris Southwood

The Sydney light rail Credit: Mark Metcalfe

Priority 12. Improve walking, cycling and zero emissions transport options for everyone

Transport is the second-largest source of carbon emissions in our local area, currently equivalent to 15% of our overall emissions. Some forms of transport contribute to noise pollution, urban heating, and ecosystem fragmentation, including urban forest corridors. Our electrification of transport in the city strategy and action plan details our approach to achieving net zero from transport emissions by 2035.

Our area is well served by public transport, with substantial improvements to the light rail, metro and bus system in recent years. As well as using space more efficiently, public transport emits fewer carbon emissions per person than driving. Further gains will come from moving away from fossil fuels – for example, in 2024, Sydney Trains transitioned to buying 100% renewable electricity. The NSW Government is committed to transitioning the bus fleet to zero emissions, with some depots and fleet already electrified. We advocate to accelerate this action.

Our access strategy and action plan shows how we'll create a city for walking, cycling and public transport. We now have 25 km of permanent separated cycleways, 3.6 km of pop-up cycleways, 66 km of shared paths and 71 kms of other bike friendly streets, including bike lanes, traffic calmed streets, helping residents and visitors travel across Sydney by bike. Ongoing upgrades to improve walkability include better footpaths, ramps, crossings, lighting, shade, seating and wayfinding.

We will work with the state government to expand the separated bike network and improve walkability. For example, actions include reducing speed limits on our streets reduces noise emissions, makes the streets more walkable and supports more cycling on more streets, contributing to streets that are more sustainable, safer, more inclusive and equitable, and more economically productive.

To complement this approach, we'll use planning requirements and feasibility studies to facilitate expanded EV charging in apartment buildings, and supplement this with a small amount of public on-street charging.

Banga Community Shed in Green Square operated by The Bower. Credit: Brook Mitchell

Ideas and Innovation grant awardees, ReLove who are a furniture rescue organisation that provides no-cost recycled furniture to families in crisis. Credit: Abril Felman

Priority 13. Provide inclusive access in the community to reduce, reuse and repair instead of buying new

Creating new products relies on extracting finite materials from the earth—an unsustainable process, especially at current manufacturing and consumption rates. The best way to counter this is by keeping materials and products in use for as long as possible, reducing the need for new. Systems to support reuse, repair, and recycling remain underdeveloped. These options are often less accessible and more expensive than buying new.

As a local government, we encourage reuse, repair and recycling by:

– reusing furniture and office equipment, and recycling electronics and employee uniforms

– using recycled materials in major roads, cycleways, and footpaths

– hosting resident-focused reuse and repair events like clothes swaps, toy swaps and mending workshops

– providing pick-up and drop-off options for hard-to-recycle items such as electronics, paint, and polystyrene

Despite progress, we urgently need more accessible and embedded systems, alongside increased community awareness and participation. Local councils alone cannot achieve this and require financial and regulatory support from other levels of government to incentivise industry and transform service models.

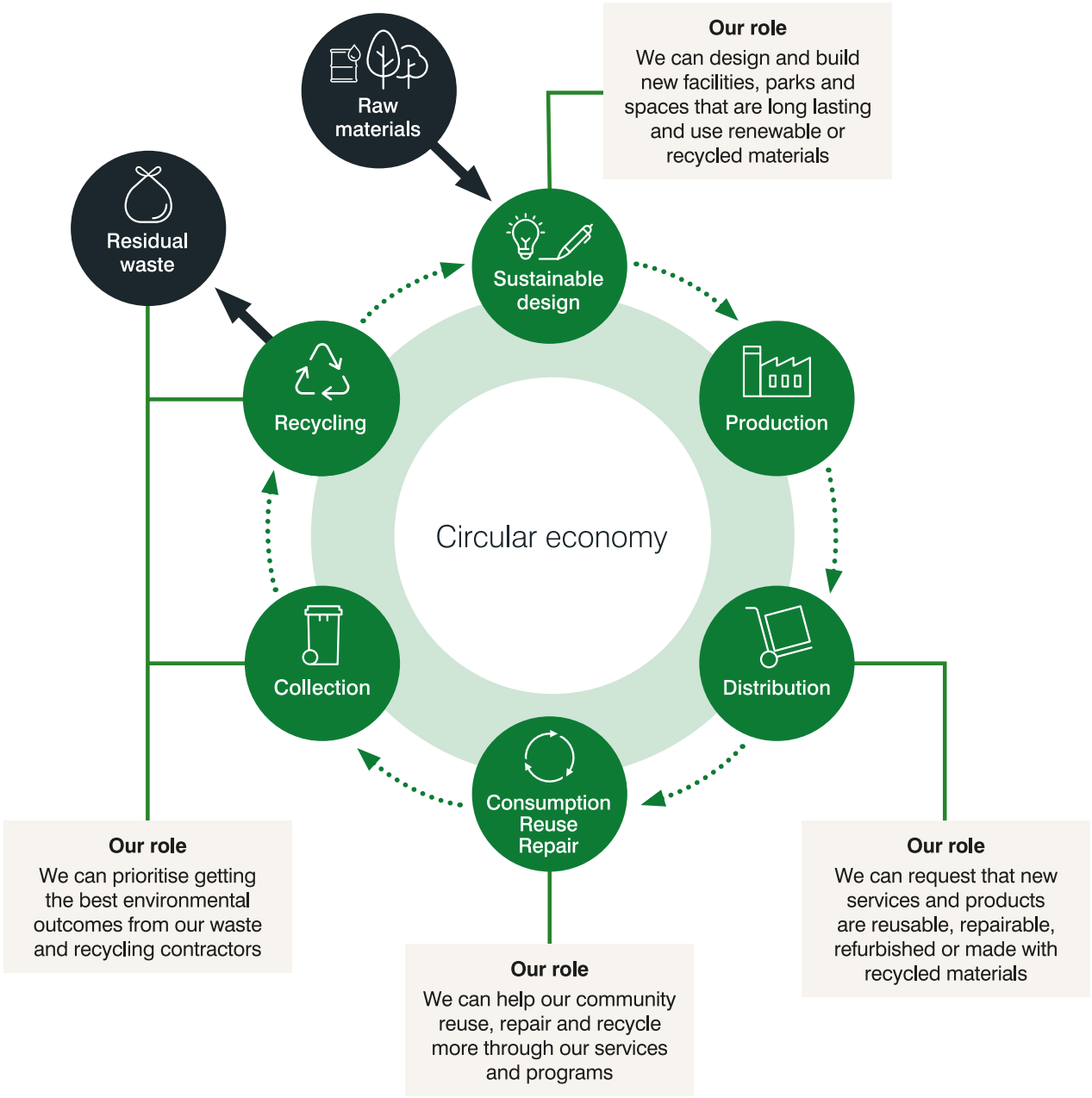
30% of the furniture that is thrown away is household furniture. We'll continue supporting reuse and repair by trialling programs to rehome quality furniture for those in need, including a quarterly event specifically for household furniture.

We will support organisations who provide repair services and education programs with grants.

We will better promote the reuse, repair and recycle services that are available to priority communities.

More information about how we support waste management and circular practices is available in our forthcoming waste and circular materials strategy.

Explainer: What is the circular economy?



In a fully circular economy, services are carefully designed for sharing and products for reusing, repairing and refurbishing many times before they need to be recycled.

It's a different way to look at the things we buy, use and throw away. It's an opportunity to rethink buying or building something new in the first place.

Local governments have several connections with the circular economy. We don't extract or make raw materials, but we have some responsibility for how places and buildings are designed. And while we don't produce items, we do buy and use them. We are responsible for collecting waste and recycling from our residents, buildings and public spaces. We work with industry to design processes that better recycle and dispose of waste we collect. There is no one blueprint for transitioning to a circular economy. It will require shared responsibility from all levels of government, industry and our communities.

Direction 4: Strong foundations for delivery

Sydney Rainbow Path Prince Alfred Park.
Credit: Chris Southwood

Strong foundations allow us to realise this strategy, achieve our targets and report on our progress accurately and transparently.

We are committed to developing strong foundations of knowledge, services and leadership that play an important role in reducing the environmental consequences of our actions in and around our local area.

Priority 14. Understand and manage our climate risk

Climate change creates new risks for us and our communities. These can be environmental, such as more frequent and intense storms, or changes to the economy, laws, technologies, business and investment, as people and organisations respond.

We have identified climate change as one of the most significant risks facing our organisation and likely to affect our facilities and services.

One of the challenges we, like many organisations, face in understanding and managing climate risk is access to the right information. In 2024, the state government updated the NSW and Australian Regional Climate Modelling (NARCliM) project. We can now use this to understand how climate change may impact our area in specific places and over a range of time periods. This will help us to better adapt our properties and services to a changing climate.

We help our communities understand how climate change may affect them and to adapt their homes, businesses and lives. This requires collaboration with the NSW Government, community organisations and the private sector. It is particularly important for our priority communities, as the most vulnerable are disproportionately affected. Climate change compounds existing stress and disadvantage, where even minor shocks can lead to long-term impacts.

Explainer: Why is climate resilience important?

Climate change is already affecting Sydney, particularly through increased temperatures and more extreme weather. The NSW Government predicts that under a high-emissions scenario, increased temperatures are expected across metropolitan Sydney and in all seasons over the coming decades. There will be an increase in the number of hot days above 35 degrees. Rainfall will be variable and severe fire weather days will increase. Sea level rise will accelerate, which has an impact on Sydney Harbour and the local ecology.

While we focus on reducing emissions, we also need to adapt our operations and build the resilience of our assets to cope with the continued shocks and stresses of climate change. This is to ensure continuity of our core services as well as help prepare and support priority groups more adversely affected by climate change.

We have outlined the climate resilience challenges for our organisation and local area, and how we will address them, in our resilience strategy.

Priority 15. Produce transparent reporting and inclusive communications

We have a strong history of communicating environmental issues and solutions. Through various channels, we listen to our communities and provide advice about reducing emissions, reusing and recycling, and the natural environment. We also connect our audiences with resources such as community organisations and government grants.

Reaching our diverse communities effectively can be challenging, requiring the right level of detail in the right format at the right time. To improve, we are exploring greater use of spatial data, digital and non-digital communication, and partnering with community organisations, which is often the most effective way to reach specific groups.

Standards for public sustainability reporting are rising globally to enhance accountability for climate action. In Australia, legislation and policies now require corporations and federal and state entities to disclose emissions and manage climate risks. While local governments aren't yet included, we must prepare for stricter reporting requirements.

We will continue to publish an annual environmental report that tracks progress against our targets and showcases the achievements of our collaborative impact programs.

Priority 16. Use and share data to drive efficient and clear decisions

We hold and access vast amounts of information to guide our operations and decisions. The way we use data is evolving, with smart sensors and new tools enabling more evidence-based, climate-responsive work. We rely on smart systems to collect and report data, requiring efficient solutions to capture and analyse performance. For example, the water data we collect from our irrigation meters tell us how and when we need to irrigate parks and ovals, so we don't waste water by watering at the wrong time. The collection of information on our operational energy allows us to see where best to prioritise energy efficiency initiatives like using heat pumps to replace gas boilers.

Technology helps us improve efficiency, integrate sustainable practices into asset design, and reduce energy, waste, and water use. This includes tools to review performance and upgrades such as irrigation systems, water monitoring and building management systems.

Priority 17. Strengthen employee and community expertise to drive environmental outcomes

Our understanding of climate change impacts and solutions – technical, policy, and behavioural – is constantly evolving. To remain sustainable and environmentally responsible, we must equip our employees and communities with the knowledge and skills necessary for the transformative action needed to achieve our targets.

We will continue to invest in employee training to enhance environmental and social competencies such as training our architects, urban planners and development assessors in how best to manage urban heat through modelling, and improved design principles, enabling them to address current climate impacts and build resilience for the future.

Educational programs and co-designed projects empower our communities to reduce emissions, energy, waste and water, contributing to environmental resilience while saving money.

We will continue to collaborate with businesses, peak bodies and strata organisations to focus on reducing their environmental footprint in our area.

Attachment B

Draft Environmental Strategy Engagement Report from Sydney Your Say

CITY OF SYDNEY

Engagement report – Environmental Strategy

Contents

CITY OF SYDNEY

Overview

Project background

The City of Sydney first published an Environmental Strategy in 2016 to outline the City's aims and actions in becoming more environmentally sustainable. We have a long history of working to reduce the environmental impact of our operations, buildings, people and transport on our local area and beyond.

The current environmental strategy (2021-2025) focused on reducing emissions and energy use, using alternative water sources, supporting the growth of the circular economy and better performance standards for buildings. The strategy also furthered the work on mitigating the impacts of climate change and protecting biodiversity, green spaces and waterways.

Our green report measures the progress towards our targets.

Environmental strategy 2025-2030 builds on the work of our previous strategy. We've revised our strategic directions and priorities. To do this we've listened to our employees, environmental experts and communities through previous related consultations.

The revised strategy proposes 4 core directions to achieve a vision of a sustainable and resilient Sydney:

- **Resilient and efficient operations**

Ensuring our work and suppliers reduce energy, water and waste in our buildings, pools, parks and other facilities.

- **Efficient and climate resilient buildings**

Reducing the reliance on fossil fuels by supporting electrification to cut emissions, encouraging the use of renewable energy sources and helping people make their homes more climate resilient.

- **Regenerative and inclusive city**

Regenerating the waterways and land. Ensuring everyone can access zero carbon transport and has the ability to reuse and repair instead of buying new.

- **Strong foundations**

Communicate our progress and use data to drive informed decision making.

Purpose of engagement

Consultation on key aspects of the revised environmental strategy's directions and priorities occurred between 28 October and 25 November.

The purpose of this consultation was to inform community members that the Environmental Strategy was being revised and to better understand what the community think the City's Environmental Strategy should cover and the support they need to contribute to a Sydney that is more sustainable and resilient.

Engagement summary

This report outlines the engagement activities that took place in October and November 2024 to gather feedback on the Environmental Strategy revision. It also summarises the key findings from this consultation, which have been used to further develop the draft Environmental Strategy 2025-2030.

90 surveys were completed during the consultation period, and 68 comments were left on the Community ideas board between 28 October and 25 November 2024.

Engagement submissions

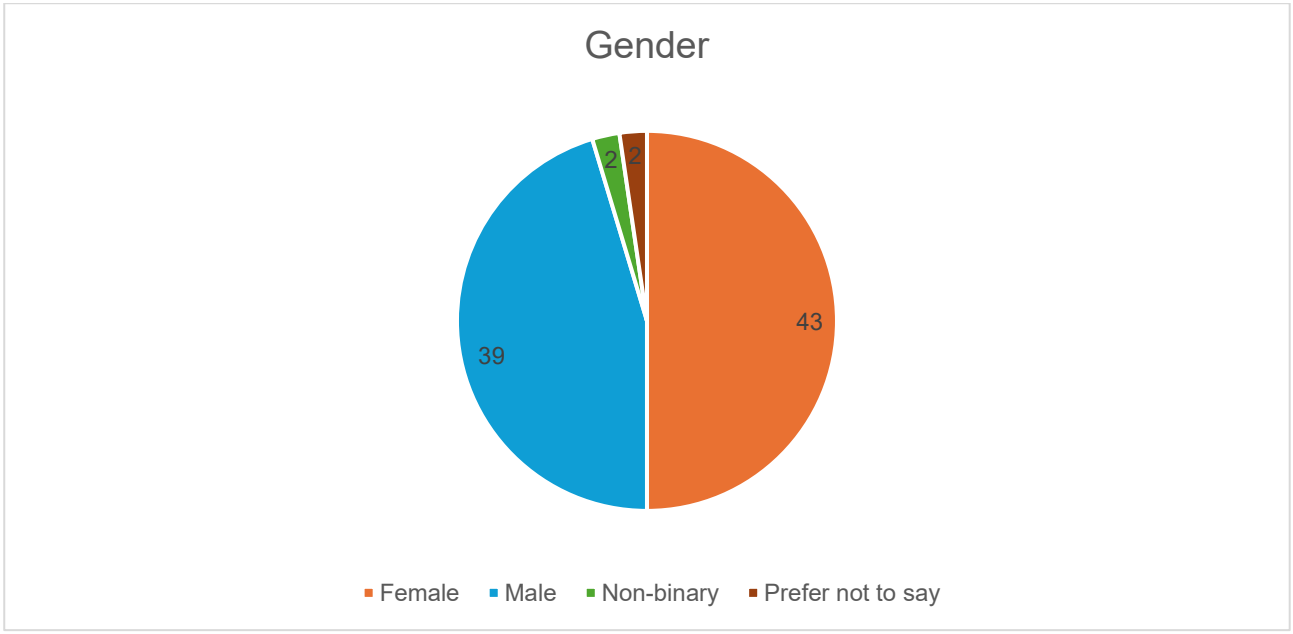
The following is a snapshot of the engagement submissions.

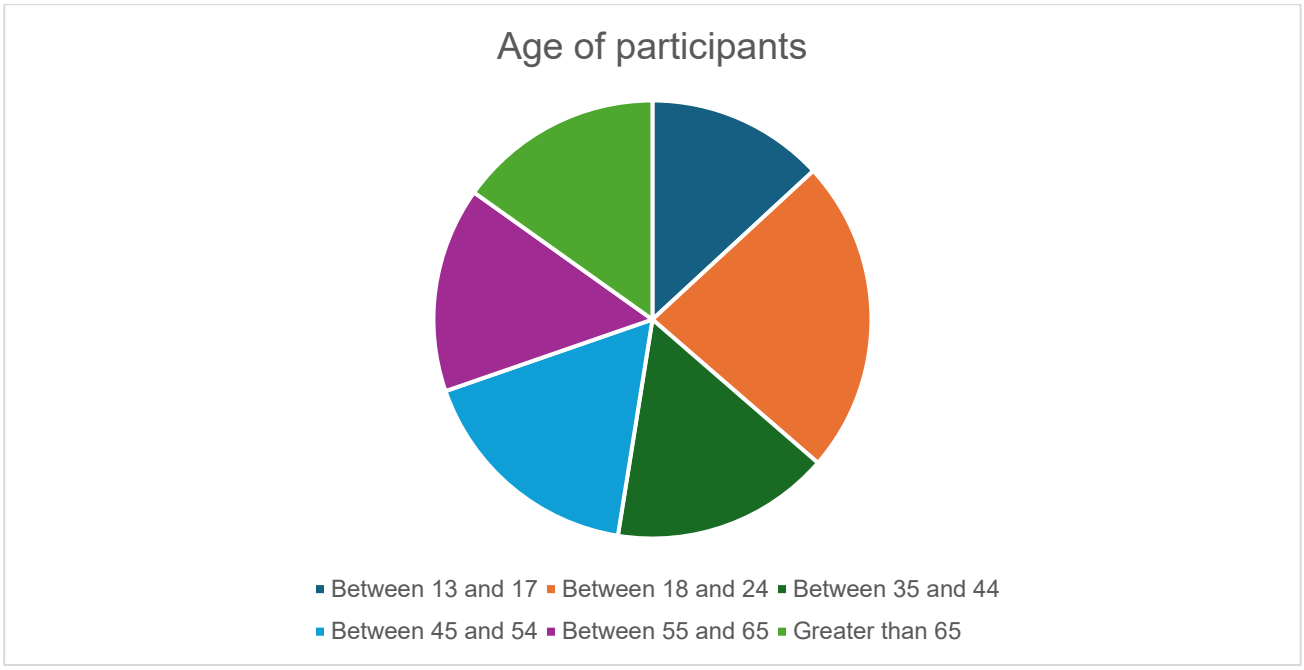
Submissions received during October 28-November 25, 2024

Quantity	Description of activity
164	Total submissions received
77	Survey submissions general public
13	Survey submissions high school students
68	Comments were submitted to the Community Ideas Board
1834	Votes were cast by 79 people
6	Written submissions received via email
3746	Sydney Your Say webpage visits

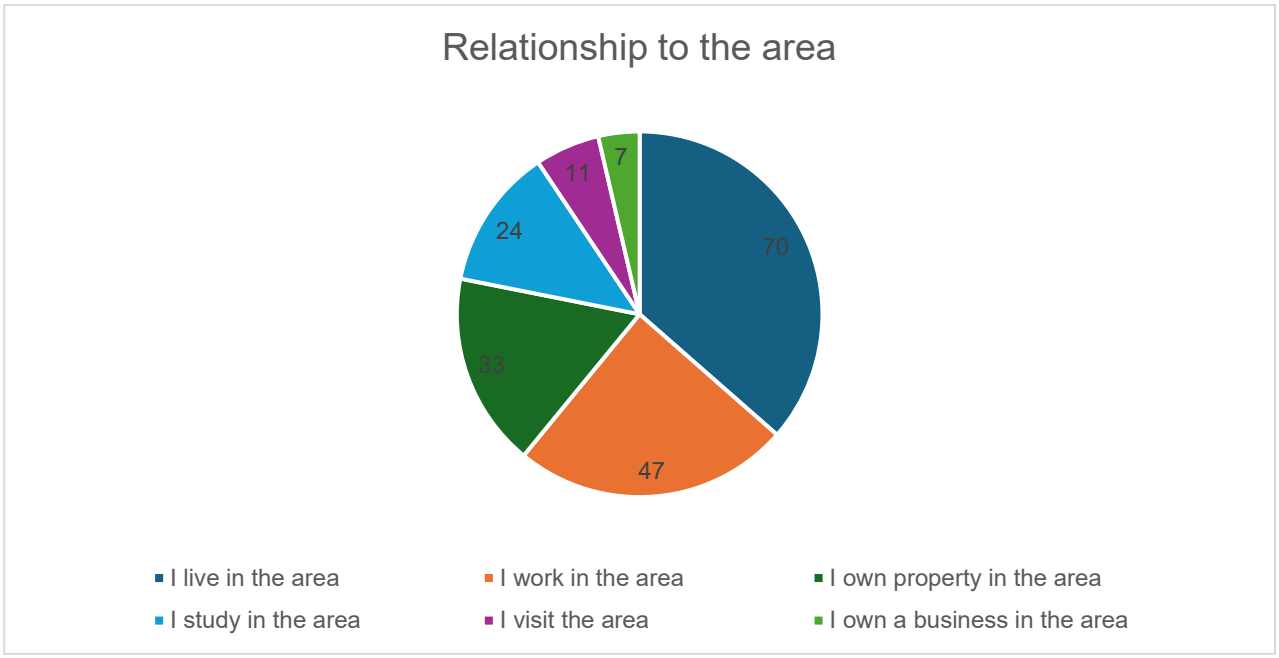
Demographic data

The consultation reached a relatively even number of males and females and people aged from 13 to over 65 with a relatively even distribution across age groupings.

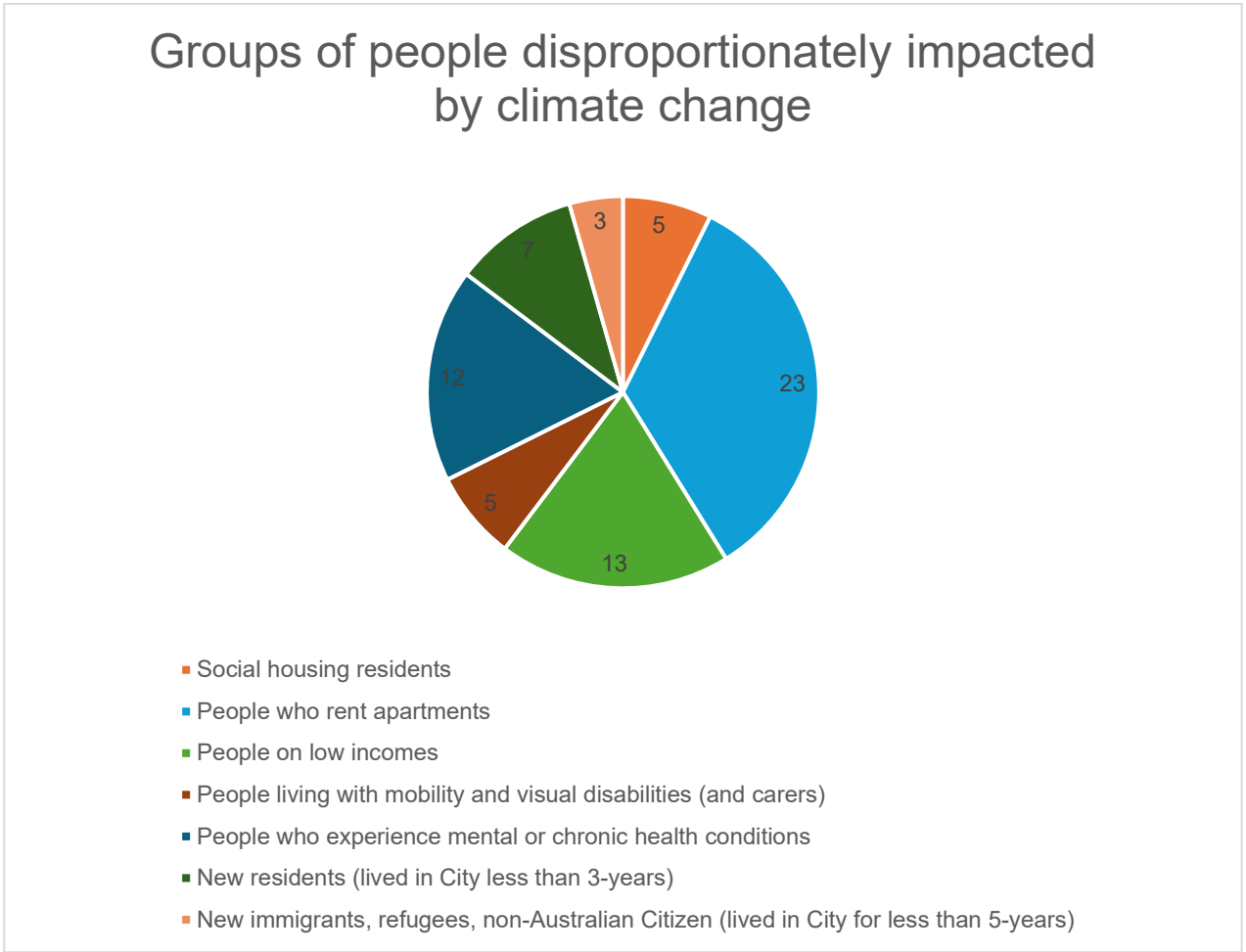




The majority of consultation respondents either lived or worked within the City of Sydney Local Government Area (people could select multiple options).



The consultation reached a range of people who identified as members of groups recognised as disproportionately impacted by climate change, including renters, people on low incomes and people living with a disability (people could select multiple options).



Executive Summary

Engagement findings

Environmental Strategy 2025-2030 – Priority Areas

The City of Sydney identified a range of key priority areas for the Environmental Strategy 2025-2030. In this consultation we wanted to understand if these were aligned with community expectations about the environmental areas council should be focusing on.

The priority areas were as follows:

- Drive electrification of all buildings and reduce reliance on fossil gas
- Support the community to reduce carbon emissions arising from the creation of materials.
- Encourage community uptake of renewable electricity including on-site solar
- Support renters to make their homes more comfortable in extreme weather
- Enhance and regenerate waterways and land and prevent pollution
- Build water resilience through encouraging water efficiency in homes and businesses
- Work towards access to zero emissions transport for everyone eg: electric buses, the ability to walk or cycle
- Provide access for everyone in the community to reduce, reuse, repair and recycle instead of buying new

All priority areas received strong support

All priority areas received strong support from both the general community and our specific engagement with young people.

The strongest support across both general community and young people was received for the regeneration of waterways, land and pollution reduction and working towards zero emissions transport.

Why these priority areas are important

General community and young people felt that the priority areas identified in the strategy were important because climate change is a serious threat to our future and these priority areas were important ways to support the protection of our environment and the liveability of the City. People felt that taking local action on these matters is important.

How can the City support the community to be more sustainable?

Sustainability is at the heart of this Environmental Strategy 2025-2030 and it needs to support the community to participate in this endeavour. To this end one of the key questions we asked in this consultation was how can the City support the community to be more sustainable. The primary ideas raised by the community within the following key areas were as follows:

Reduce potable/drinking water use, increase alternative water sources

- Support for water tanks: particularly in apartments – subsidies and rebates
- Increase access to public drinking water: bubblers, bottle fill stations

Get access to nature in the City

- More green space: parks, nature strips, biodiversity, microforests, street-tree underplanting, rooftop gardens, protect wildlife habitat, limit light, noise and air polution, support safety of local wildlife, community gardens, limit building development and stop synthetic grass use

Reduce energy use and emissions

- Support for solar power – particularly how apartment buildings can install solar panels, solar for schools, subsidies for solar panels and batteries
- Rental support regarding sustainability changes: subsidise energy reviews, sustainability incentives for landlords, insulation options and the importance of solar power
- Improve renewable energy powered public transport

Use renewable energy

- Solar energy/battery support: Apartment solutions, community solar projects, Council builds a network of batteries (decentralise private energy storage), Electric Vehicle charging access (public/generic), support for electrification and making renewable energy cheaper. Explore the use of hydrogen power for heavy industry.

Make your home more comfortable in heatwaves

- Improve building requirements for sustainable living (including retrofitting): mandate/ subsidies/incentives for insulation, double glazing, green noise/heat barriers, ceiling fans and natural airflows

Reuse and repair instead of buying new items

- Repair hubs and tool libraries at community centres, libraries or popup locations. Provide places to take items for repair or exchange, get advice, borrow tools and do workshops

Walk or cycle more

- Support cycling and walking infastructure: separate cycleways, complete cycle network, improve pavements, proiritise pedestrians at intersections and promote the health benefits.

Support for renters

- Advocate for minimum habitability / sustainability rental standards with state and federal governments and changes to strata by-laws. Incentivise landlords to make properties sustainable**.**

Education and Advocacy

Throughout the consultation the community also strongly identified Council as having an advocacy and education role to increase environmental awareness and action. Key ideas raised included:

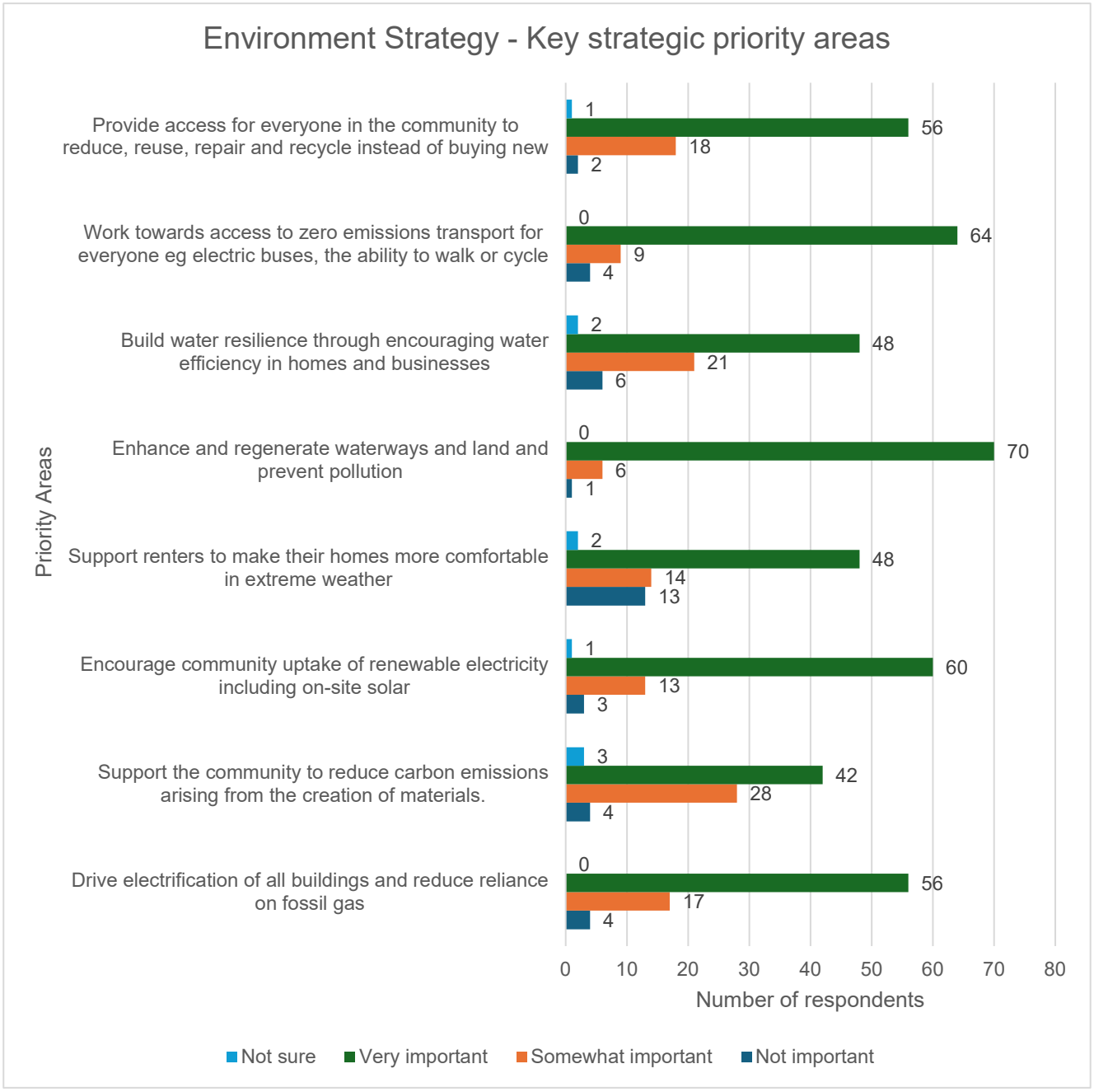
- Providing advice about energy efficiency and sustainable home cooling, including subsidising home energy assessments for both renters and owners
- Advocacy and workshops around reuse and repair projects
- Water conservation in relation to potable water
- Advocay support for renters with other levels of government, strata and landlords
- Promote the health benefits of walking and cycling

Detailed feedback

Key Strategy Priority Areas

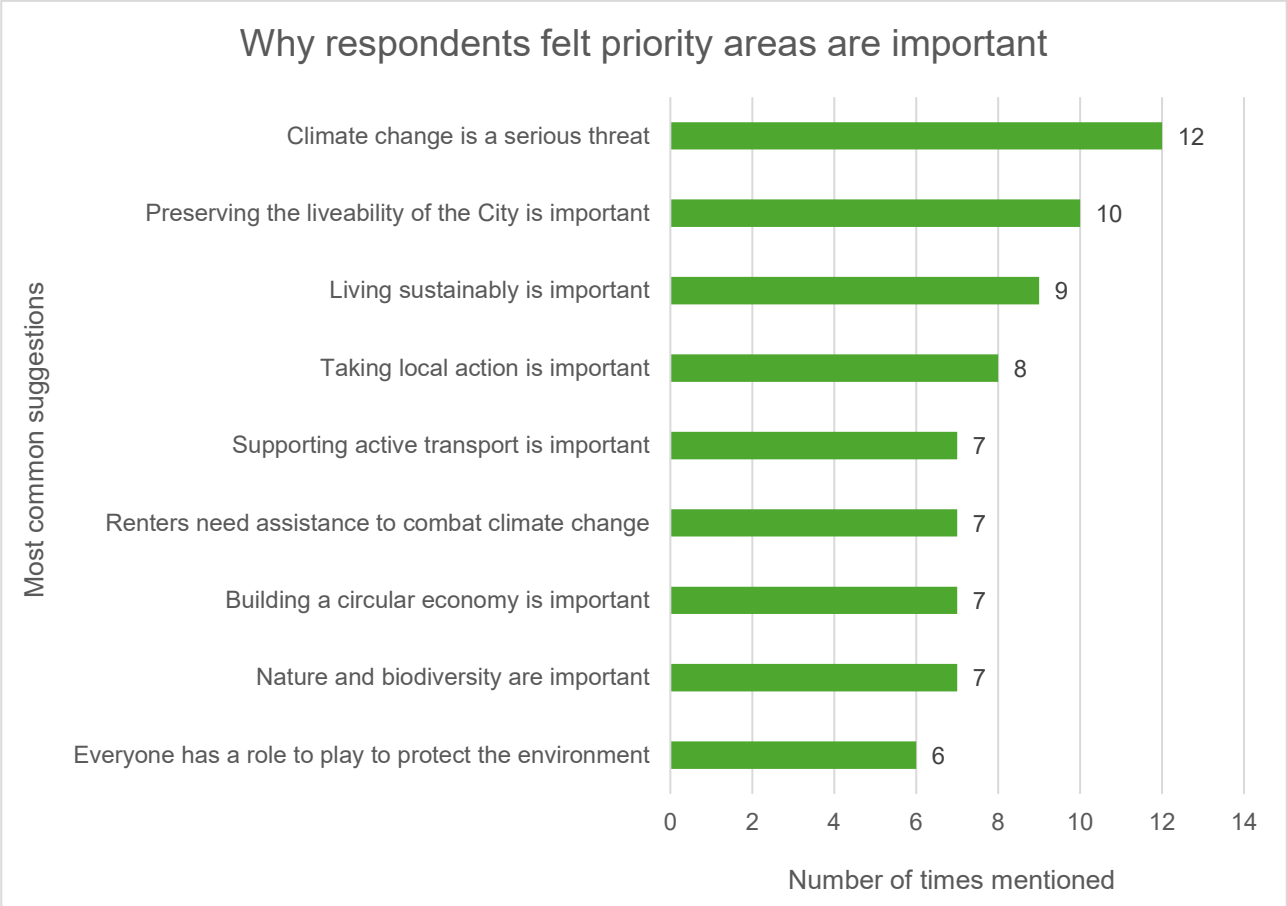
The City of Sydney asked survey respondents how important these key priority areas were to making Sydney a sustainable city.

All the priority areas received strong support as the graph below demonstrates. The strongest support was received for the regeneration of waterways, land and pollution reduction and working towards zero emissions transport.



Why are these priority areas important?

The community was asked why they felt these priority areas were important, the primary reasons provided were because climate change is a serious threat to our future and these priority areas were important ways to support the protection of our environment and the liveability of the City. People felt that taking local action on these matters is important.



Other priorities important to achieve the vision of this strategy

At the end of the survey on the Environmental Strategy 2025-2030 we asked if there were other priorities important to achieve the vision of this strategy.

Suggestions related to support for active travel options, increases in recycling, waste management and water conservation, planning controls, biodiversity, energy efficiencies and light pollution, advocacy projects and education initiatives.

These suggestions were in line with responses to the key questions being explored in other areas of the survey and are reflected throughout the report.

How can the City of Sydney Council support people to be more sustainable?

Sustainability is at the heart of this Environmental Strategy and it needs to support the community to participate in this endeavour.

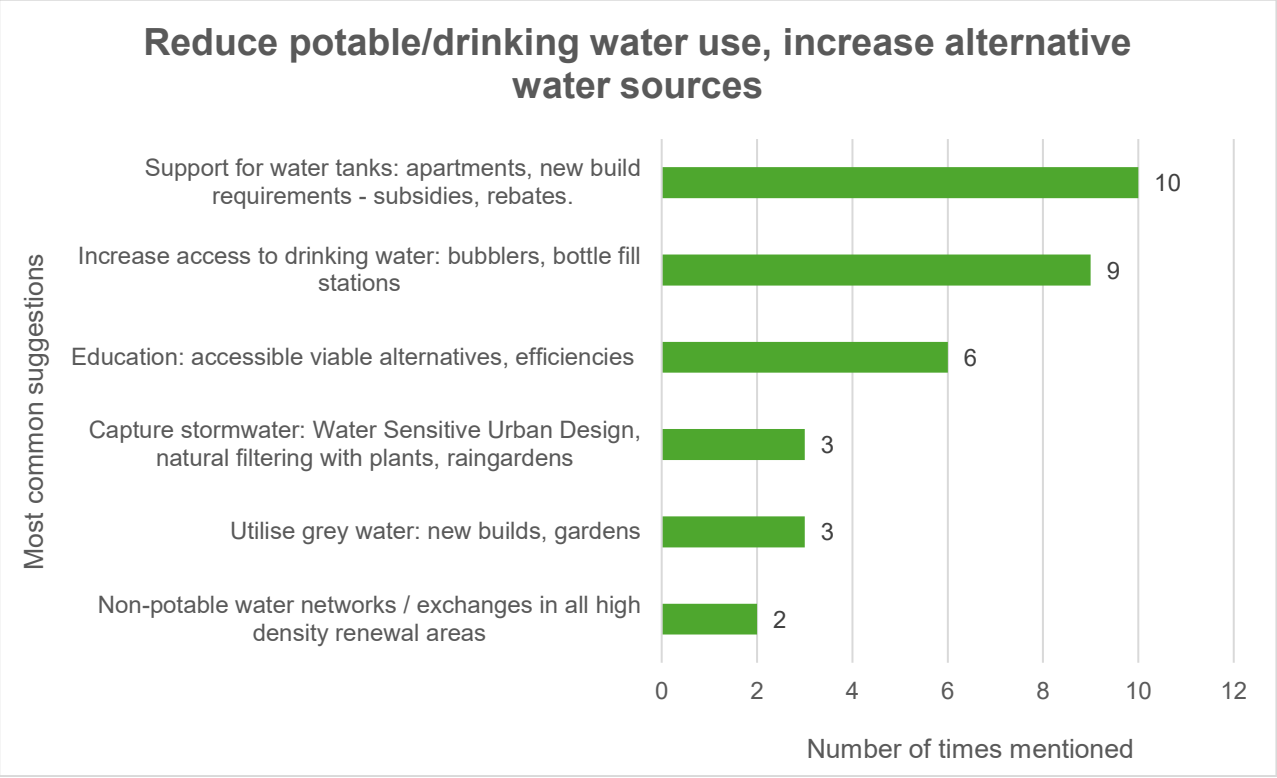
To this end one of the key questions we asked in this consultation was how can the City support the community to be more sustainable. To understand this need we focused on the following areas:

- Reduce potable/drinking water use, increase alternative water sources
- Get access to nature in the City
- Reduce energy use and emissions
- Use renewable energy
- Make your home more comfortable in heatwaves
- Reuse and repair instead of buying new items
- Walk or cycle more

The key results are summerised in the following graphs.

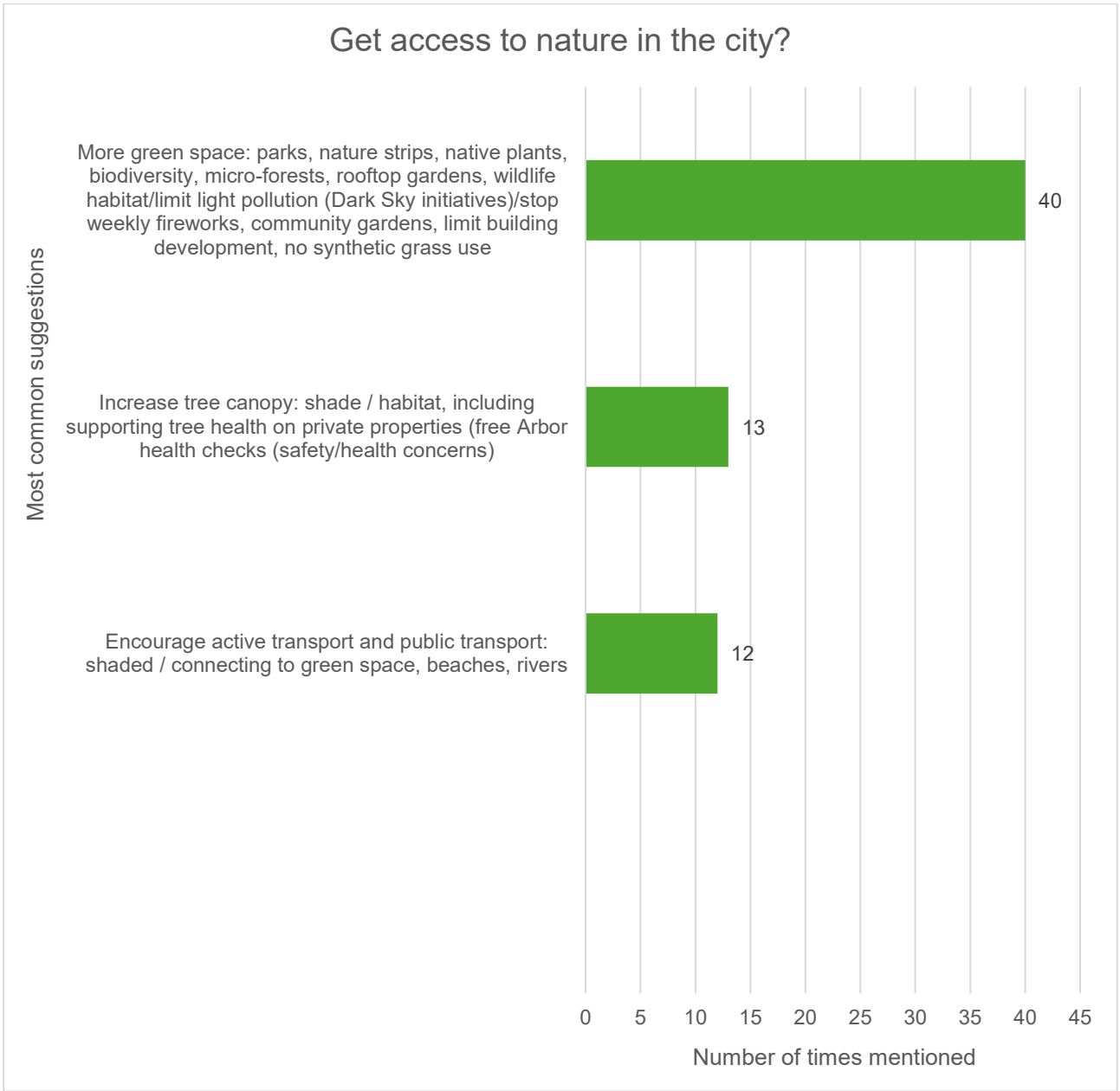
Reduce potable/drinking water use, increase alternative water sources

Respondents felt that the primary ways the City could help them to reduce potable/drinking water use and increase alternative water sources were by providing support for water tanks and increasing access to public drinking water through bubblers and bottle fill stations.



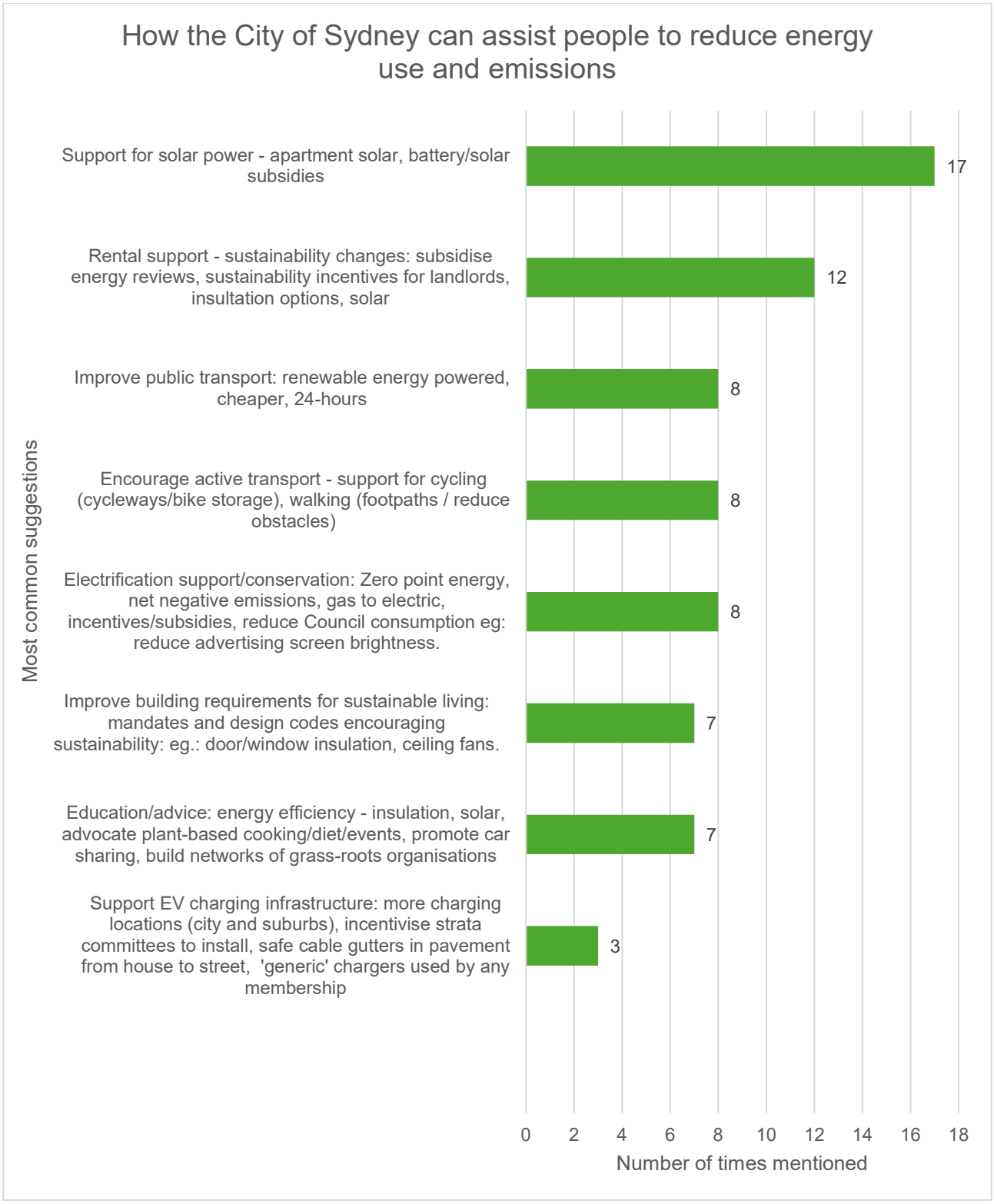
Getting access to nature in the City

Respondents felt that the primary ways the City could help them to get access to nature in the City were by providing more green space through the maintainence and creation of parks, making use of areas such as nature strips for planting, increasing tree canopy, biodiversity and native plantings and by providing habitats for animals.



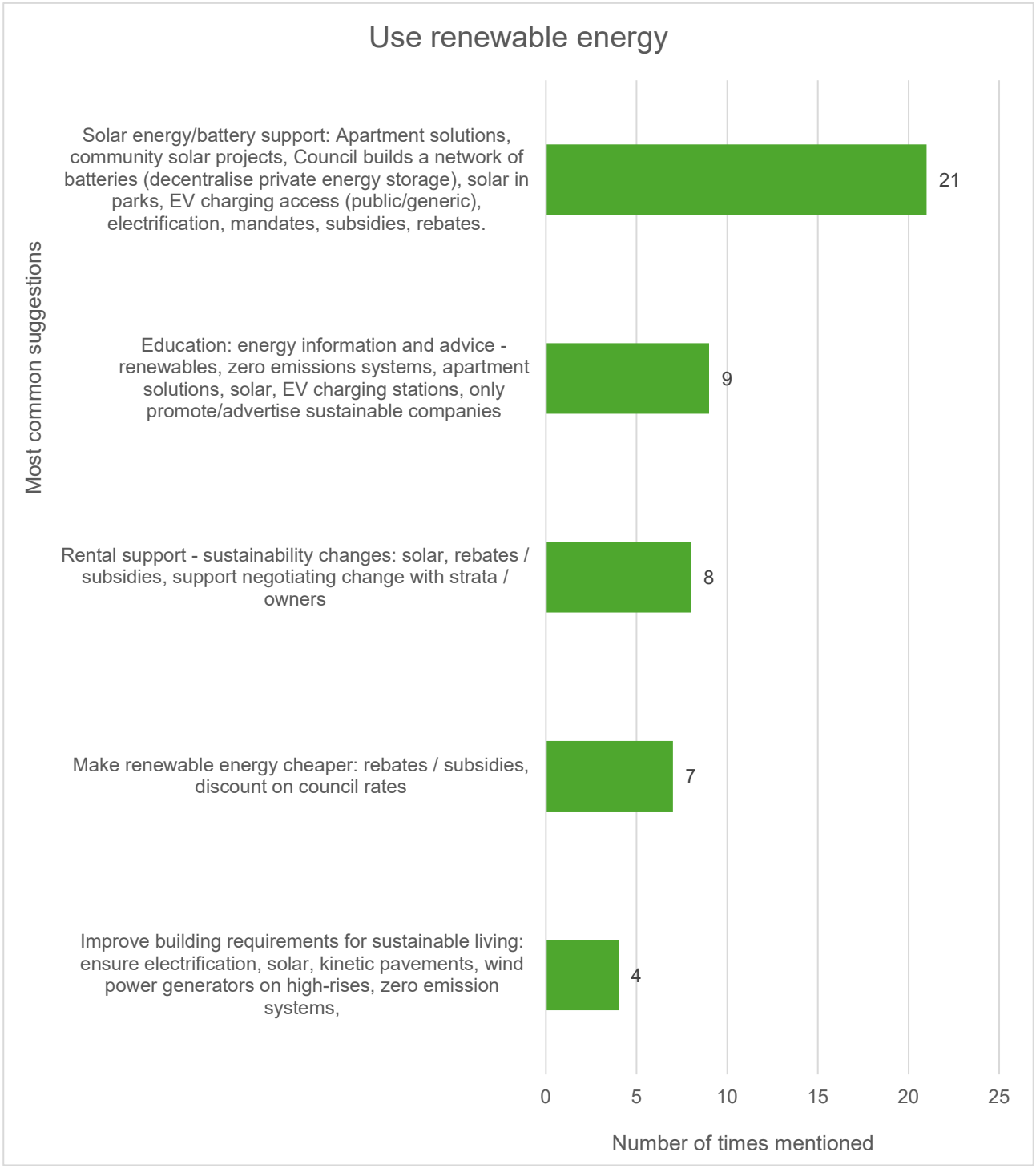
Reducing energy use and emissions

Respondents felt that the primary ways the City could help them to reduce energy use and emissions were by supporting solar adoption, particularly for apartments; supporting renters to make sustainability changes to their apartments through the subsidising of professional energy reviews and assessments and by incentivising landlords to implement or support sustainability changes. Other suggestions included improved renewable energy powered public transport, electrification, and support for Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure.



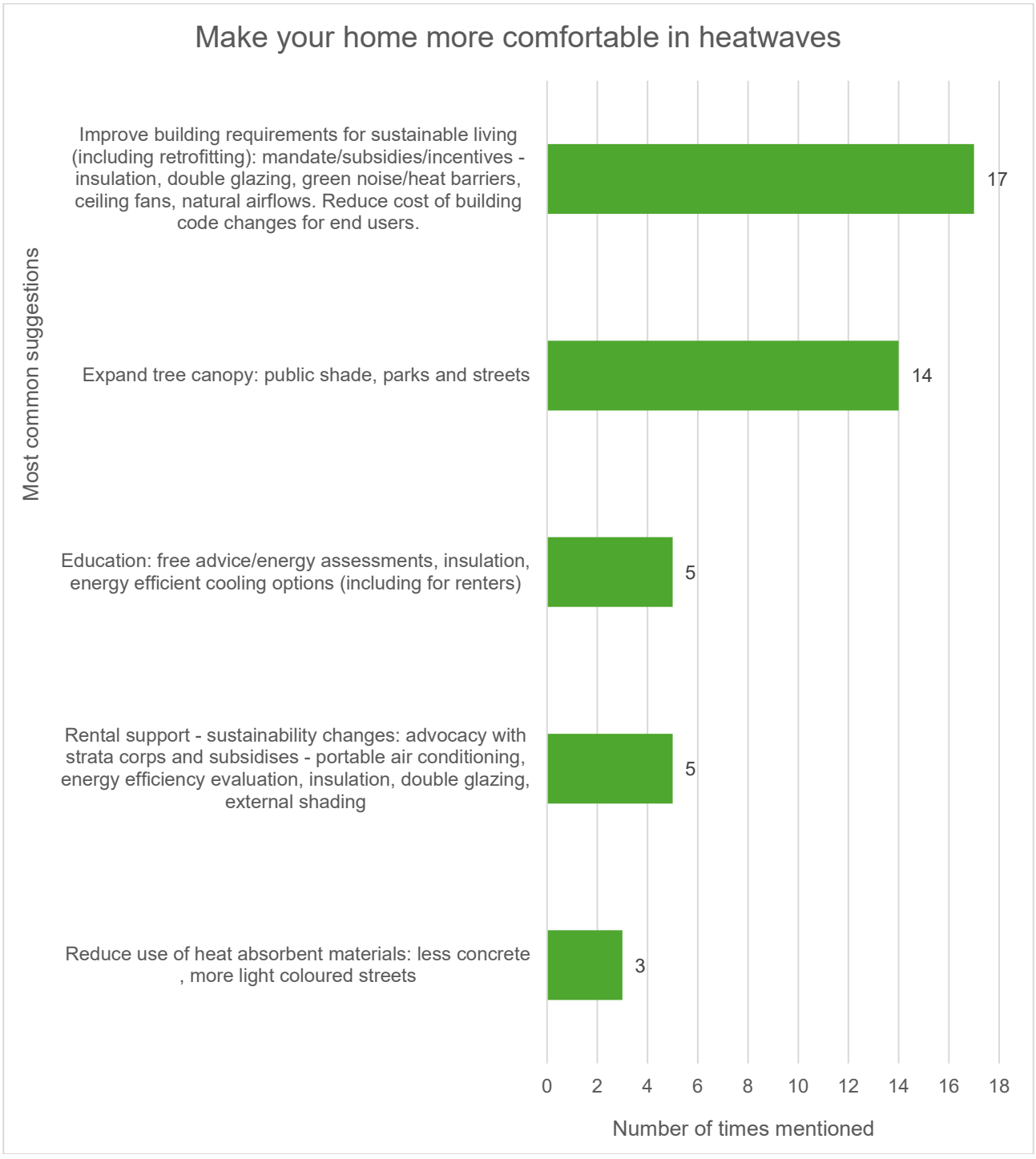
Using renewable energy

Respondents felt that the primary ways the City could help them to use renewable energy were to promote and support solar energy, including providing ways that apartments could use solar panels. Respondents suggested that Council builds and manages a network of solar batteries and provide more EV charging infastructure.



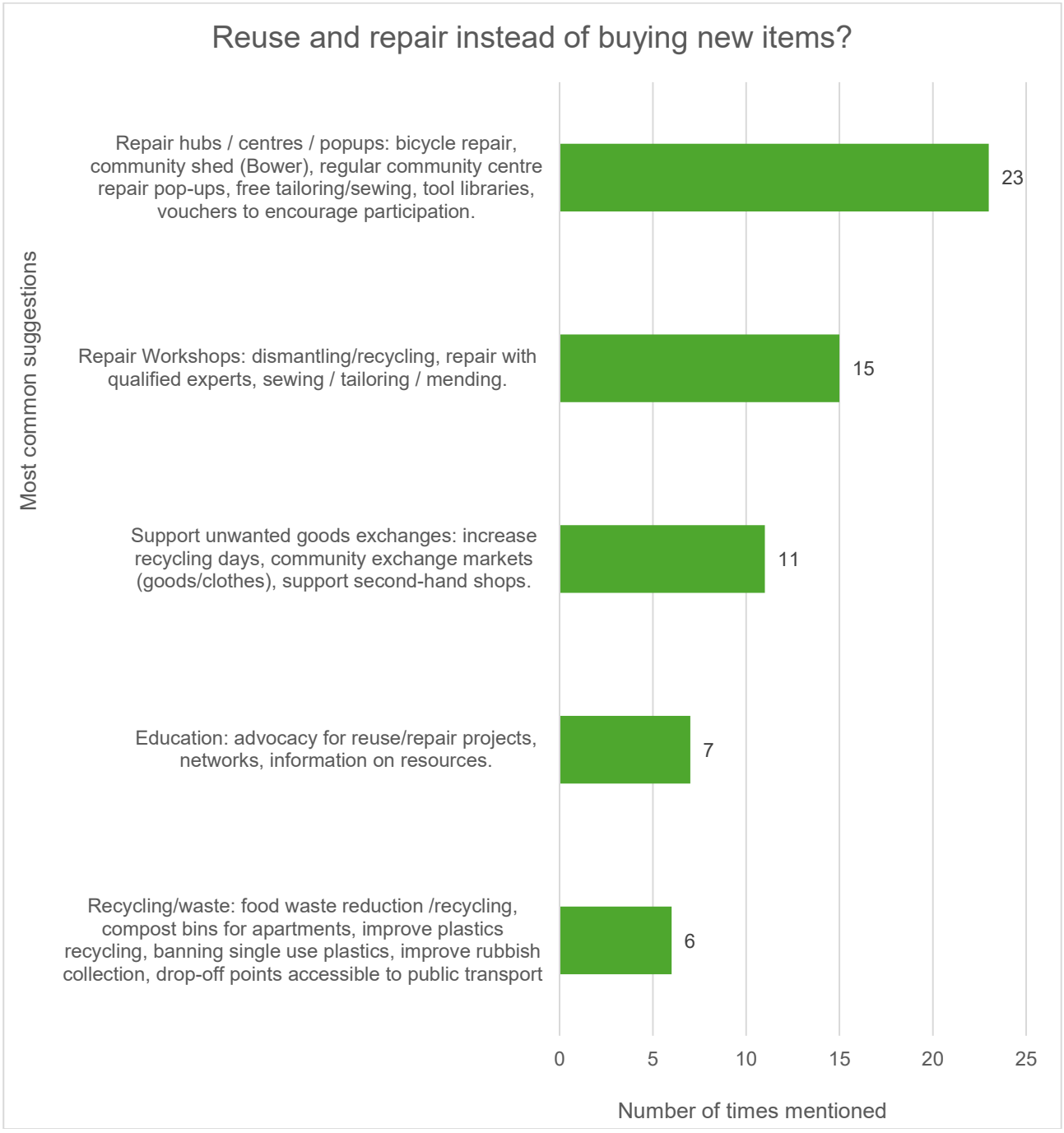
Making homes more comfortable in heatwaves

Respondents felt that the primary ways the City could help them make their homes more comfortable in heat waves was to improve building requirements for sustainable living, including mandates, incentives and subsidies for measures such as insulation, double glazing, noise and heat barriers, ceiling fans and designing buildings with natural airflows. Expanding the tree canopy was also seen as very important in both green spaces and on the streets.



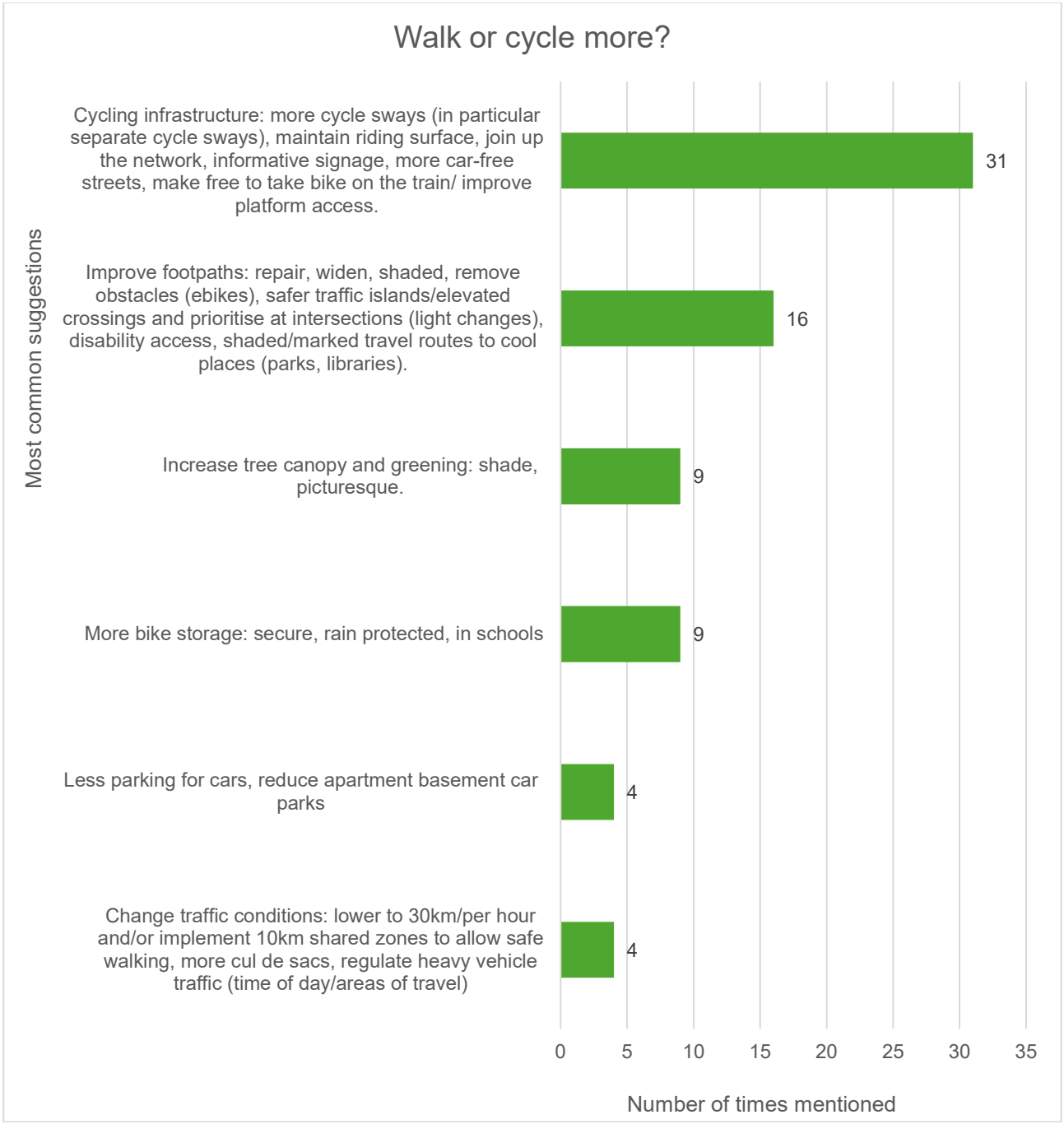
Reuse and repair instead of buying new items

Respondents felt that the primary ways the City could help them to reuse and repair items rather than buying new ones was to create repair hubs in Council facilities like community centres and libraries where people can come with broken items and either have them repaired or do a workshop so they can learn how to repair items themselves. Support for the exchanging of unwanted items and clothes was also mentioned through Council hosting exchange markets and more recycling days.



More walking and cycling

Respondents felt that the primary ways the City could help them to walk and cycle more were to improve the cycling and walking infrastructure within the City. This included more cycle ways, particularly separate cycle ways and the need to integrate the network to increase overall connectivity, including with public transport hubs and the provision of more secure bike storage. Improvements to walking infrastructure was also mentioned, including good quality, wider footpaths that are shaded and free of obstacles (particularly ebikes) that can make walking difficult. Improved pedestrian safety at intersections was also seen as important, as was the need for pedestrians to be prioritised at light changes to reduce waiting times.



How can the City of Sydney help renters be more sustainable?

People renting apartments can sometimes find it difficult to make modifications to the property to increase energy efficiency and / or stay cool in hot weather. We asked the community how the City of Sydney can make this easier for renters.

Respondents felt that the City had a role to play in advocating to state and federal governments for improved habitability, sustainability and energy efficiency standards in buildings and to also foster such changes at a local planning level. Supporting renters to make small material changes to their rental properties to increase sustainability was seen as important, this could involve supporting renters to negotiate with strata organisations or encouraging changes to by-laws. Incentivising landlords to make properties sustainable through rebates, surcharges or measures such as instituting sustainability ratings for private buildings that could impact resale value were also seen as important.

The Community Ideas Board

On our interactive online forum we specifically asked the public the question

"What do you do in your everyday life to live more sustainably?"

People could see each other's comments and vote to agree (up-vote) or disagree (down-vote). The following ideas were published in answer to this question and are grouped into areas of common theme. Comments relevant to the Strategy but not answering this question are reflected in other areas of the report and listed in Appendix D.

Circular economy: recycle, repair, reuse.

The most comments received were in the category of the circular economy, arranged here from most to least up-voted.

Comment	Up Votes	Down Votes
We try and repair things when they break rather than just buy new ones straight away.	56	5
We take unwanted clothes or household items in good condition to charity shops / pass them to friends / sell them online.	51	4
Cleaning plastic food packaging and flattening cardboard before placing them in their respective recycling bins.	47	5
We take items such as light globes and batteries to our local library to be recycled.	42	10
We take unwanted books to street libraries or charity shops.	39	7
We use City bulk collection/e-waste days to take big and difficult to dispose of items to the council collection depot.	36	9
We compost our kitchen food waste and use it on our garden	32	20
We recycle our food scraps using one of the City of Sydney's maroon lid food scrap bins	28	22
We commit to buying mostly pre-loved clothing.	23	21
We collect hard to recycle items, such as bread tags and blister packs, and return them to a private company who can use them (e.g. Banish).	17	20
Do not buy rubbish bin liners - the only purpose for bin-liners is to throw them away.	14	19
We recycle soft plastics via a private operator (e.g. RecycleSmart).	14	25
Encourage phase out of single use plastics in businesses and in the home	4	2

Energy efficiency

Comment	Up Votes	Down Votes
We use energy-efficient light globes in our unit	50	3
We've switched to a renewable electricity plan	31	13
We adjust our air conditioner so that it is closer to the outdoor temperature: 25 degrees in summer and 20 degrees in winter.	29	11
I use energy efficient light globes in my apartment	19	1
We've adopted a plant-based diet	4	12
Pay for 100% green electricity (since I can't afford solar panels, let alone panels and a battery). Not own a car (use car share if I have to, but mostly cycle about the place or walk and/or use PT).	3	3
No gas connection! Only electric.	1	0

Green space, bio-diversity

Comment	Up Votes	Down Votes
We've planted resilient local native plants to help provide food and habitat for local native wildlife	39	12
Garden too small. Need FOGO	15	8
Not use any herbicides or insecticides in the garden to help keep urban wildlife healthy.	0	0

Water efficiency

Comment	Up Votes	Down Votes
We've installed water-efficient shower heads to reduce our water use	40	10
We capture grey water (e.g. bucket in the shower) to use on the garden.	22	22

Active transport

Comment	Up Votes	Down Votes
Riding a bicycle is my first choice of mode of transport whenever possible, followed by public transport.	23	21
I try to use Lime e-bikes to commute whenever I can.	4	1
Choose transport in this order of priority: walking if not then cycling if not then public transport if not then carshare (GoGet).	1	0

Ways City of Sydney can support environmental preservation

On the Community Ideas board a number of people also made suggestions about how Council could assist with environmental preservation. The following ideas were published and are grouped into areas of common theme.

Green space / biodiversity

Comment	Up Votes	Down Votes
Carbon neutral can't be the only consideration when plant trees - eg mitigation of urban heat island, canopy connectivity, biodiversity, aesthetics	51	1
Growing native plants in verges shows visitors our local flora. Bottlebrushes, banksias, and mint bushes, spring to mind!	33	4

Active Transport

Comment	Up Votes	Down Votes
Smooth, good, reliable public transport is the most important	48	0
We should implement a 30km/h speed limit in the city to encourage walking, cycling and outdoor dining	28	9
On street parking should be reduced, and the space should be used for the community	25	17
We should have a congestion tax to reduce the number of vehicles hooning and doing unnecessary trips in the city	25	13

Circular economy: recycle / reuse / repair

Comment	Up Votes	Down Votes
Better recycling especially with high level of apartments with high level of turnover. People leave their rubbish on the road for council pickup (or not) and the council should work out how to recycle most material rather than taking to the tip.	46	2

Energy Efficiency

Comment	Up Votes	Down Votes
Reduce lumens output from street lighting. Even a 20% reduction would provide adequate lighting. (This can be done when replace current globes.)	38	11
All constituents (Council, Business, Private) should consider the effects of light pollution/glare when installing security or other lighting to avoid bleed into the air or where it is not required. This will ensure that wildlife is not impacted by unnecessary light at night.	31	4
Apartment owners need financial support to get their units all-electric ready. This would even the playing field with house owners who don't have all the complex electrification infrastructure overheads to overcome. All residents would still buy appliances.	27	9

Building / planning

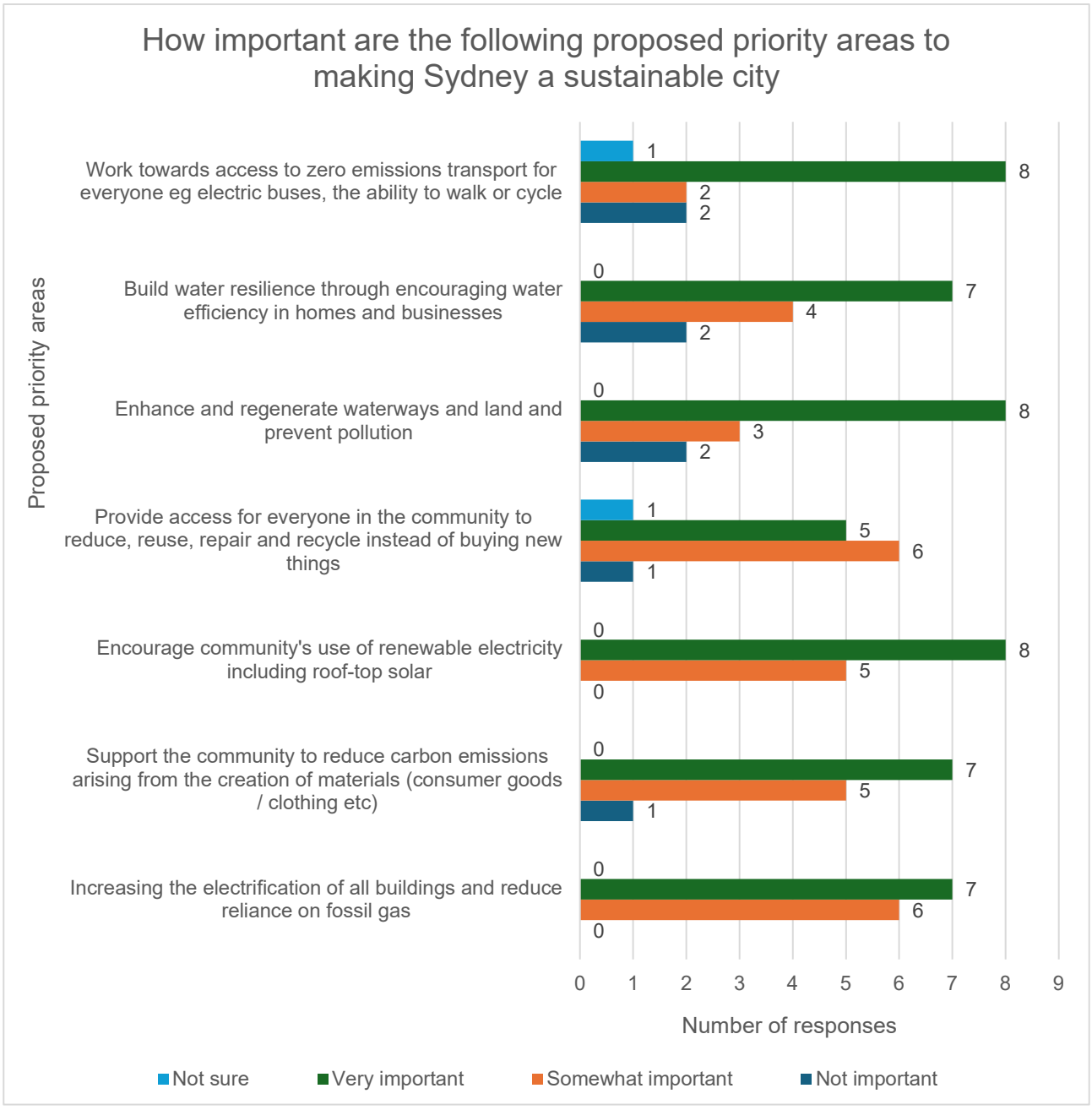
Comment	Up Votes	Down Votes
Council to reduce use of concrete in streetscaping especially median strips involving trees and plants. Concrete is a significant CO2 contributor. A 3 tree median plant area, newly built, requires about 60 yrs for it to become carbon neutral. Use alternatives or visit other councils.	40	4
Revise town planning and residential planning guidelines to have step back approach to building to maximise natural light on the main streets. Involves short buildings near the street front and taller buildings at the back.	38	5

Feedback from young people

It is particularly important to ensure the views of young people are represented when we are consulting on issues of the environment, an environment they will inherit. We reached out to 16 schools inside or bordering our Local Government Area. A range of public and private schools were contacted. Six schools agreed to participate in the consultation but, ultimately only one school submitted results.

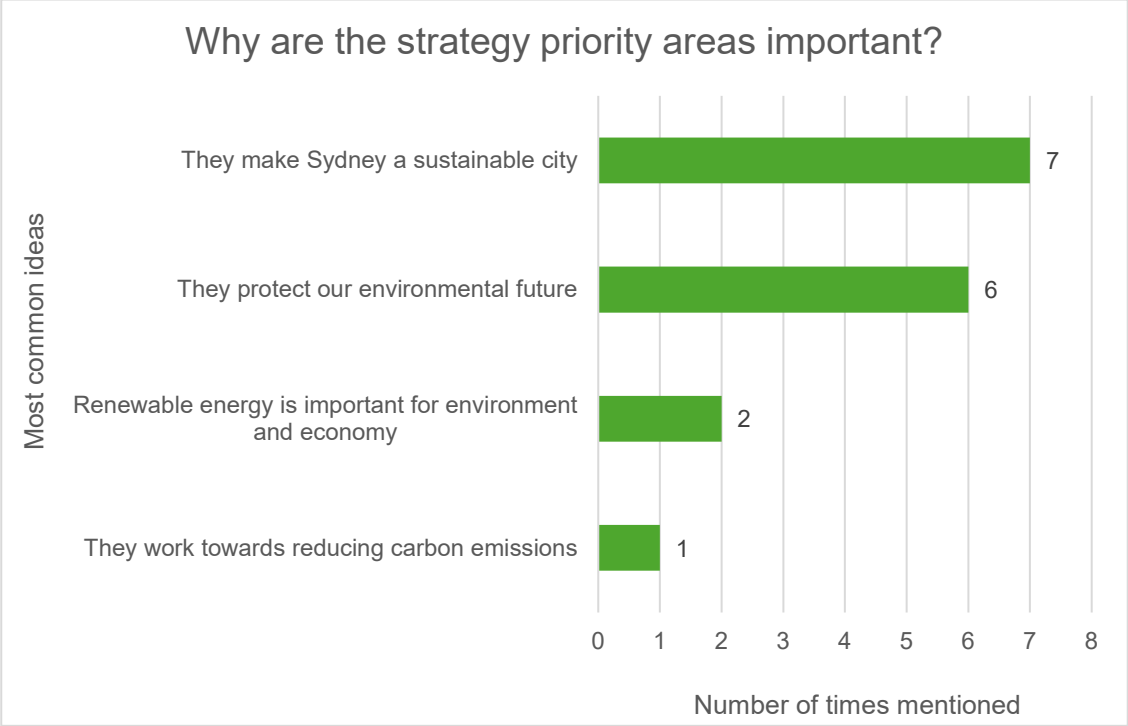
The following feedback is from 13 students aged between the ages of 13-17 years.

As with the results from the general public the priority areas of the Environmental Strategy were strongly supported.



Why are these priority areas important?

Asked why they felt the proposed priority areas of the Environmental Strategy were important, young people suggested that they will help make Sydney a sustainable city and that they will protect the environment for the future.



Carry through with your plans

At the end of the survey young people were asked if there was anything else they would like to say about the Environmental Strategy 2025-2030, the most common responses were simple:

Make an effort and carry through with your plans.

How can the City of Sydney Council support young people to be more sustainable?

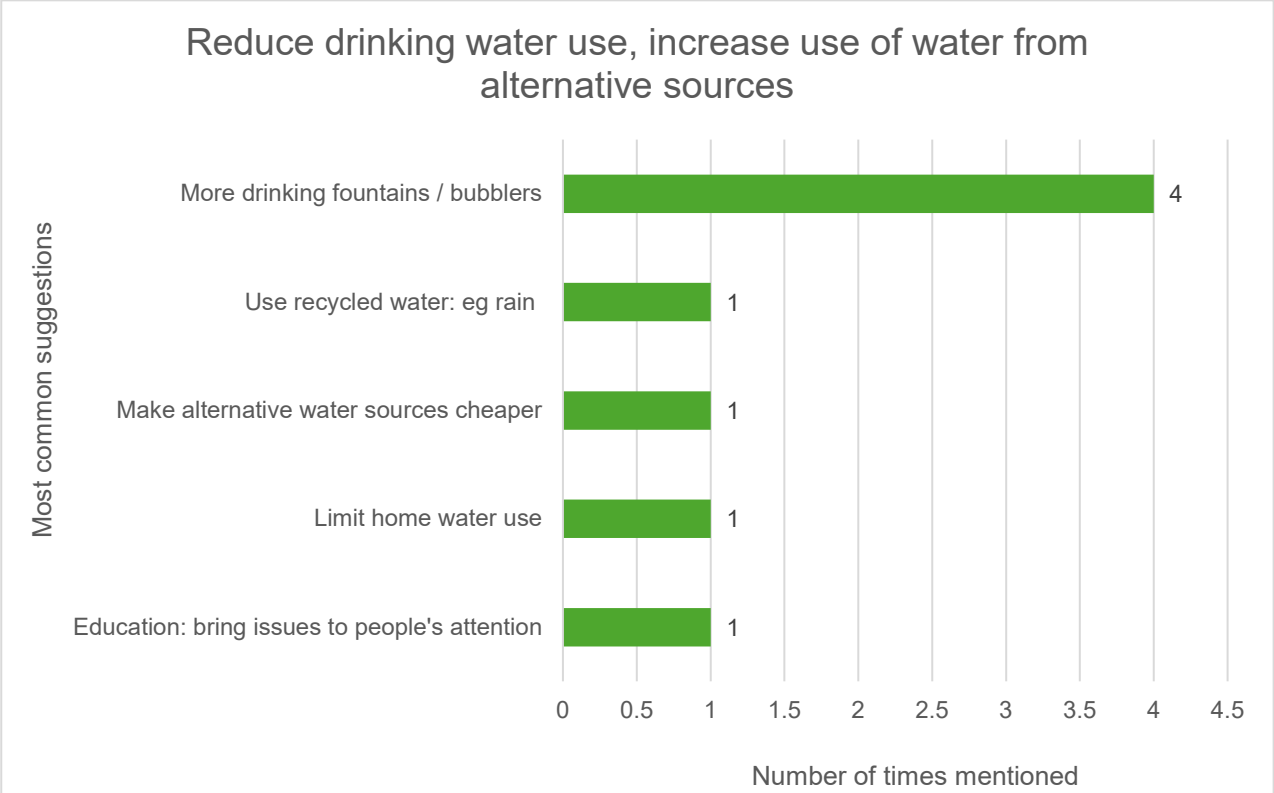
Young people were asked how the City of Sydney can help them to live in a more sustainable way in regards to the following areas:

- Reduce drinking water use, increase alternative water sources?
- Get access to nature in the City?
- Reduce energy use and emissions?
- Use renewable energy?
- Make your home more comfortable in heatwaves?
- Reuse and repair instead of buying new items?
- Walk or cycle more?

The key results are summerised in the following graphs.

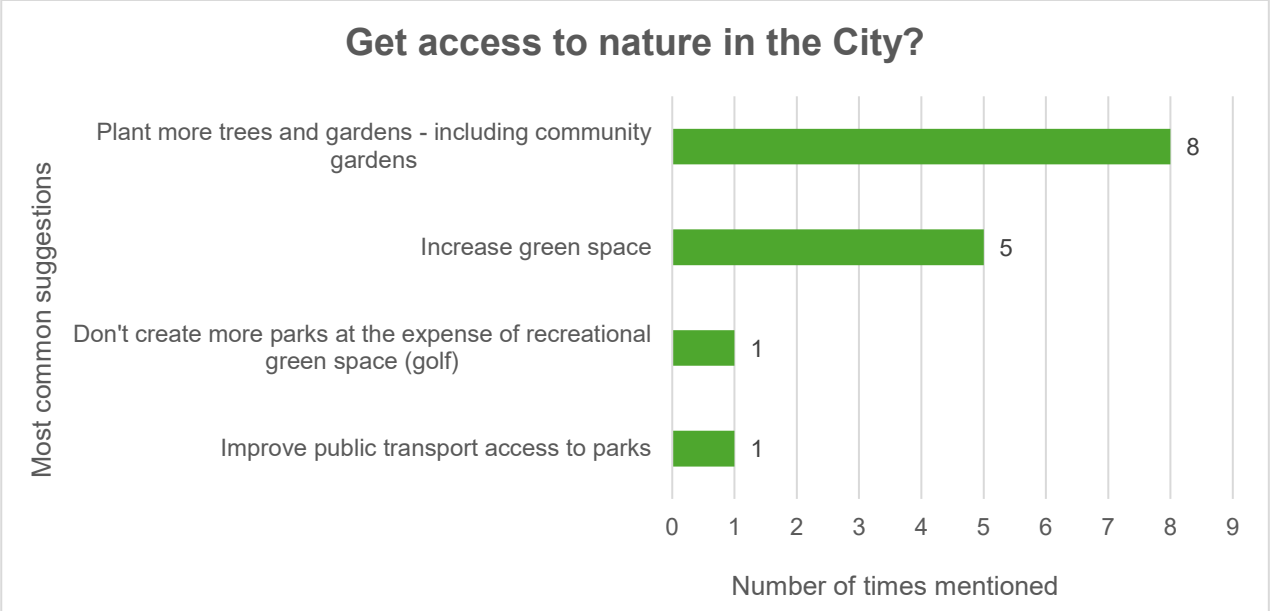
Reduce drinking water use, increase alternative water sources?

Young people felt that the primary ways the City could help them to reduce potable/drinking water use was to provide more drinking fountains and bubblers.



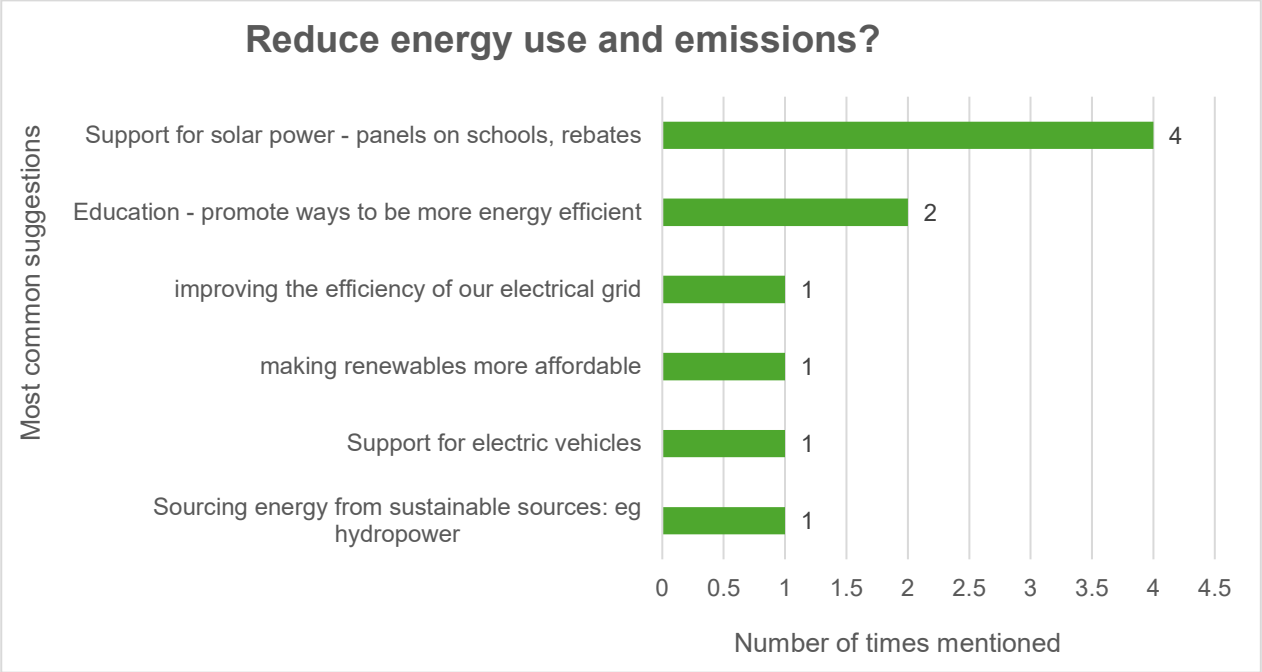
Get access to nature in the City

Young people felt that the primary ways the council could help them to get access to nature in the City was to increase the planting of gardens and increase green space.



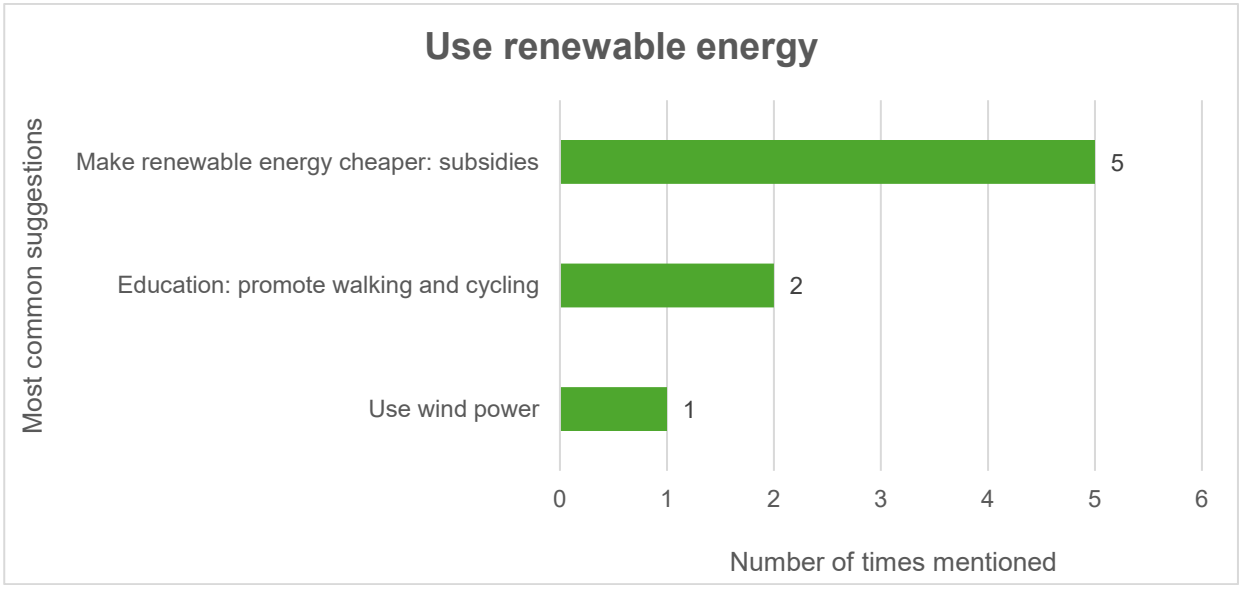
Reduce energy use and emissions

Young people felt that the primary way the City could help them to reduce energy use and emissions was to support solar power, including in schools.



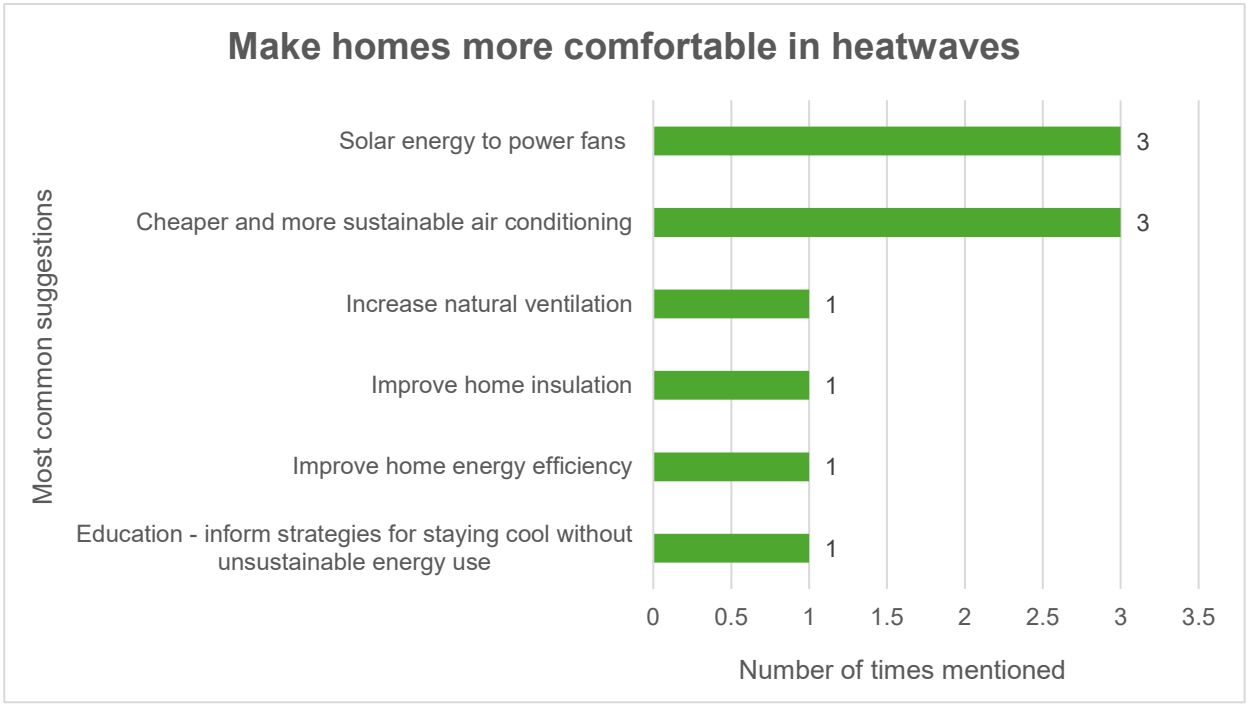
Use renewable energy

Young people felt that the primary ways the City could help them to use more renewable energy would be to make renewable energy cheaper.



Making homes more comfortable in heatwaves

Young people felt that the primary ways the City could help them to make their homes more comfortable in heatwaves would be to use solar power to run cooling devices such as fans and through the use of cheaper, more sustainable air conditioning.

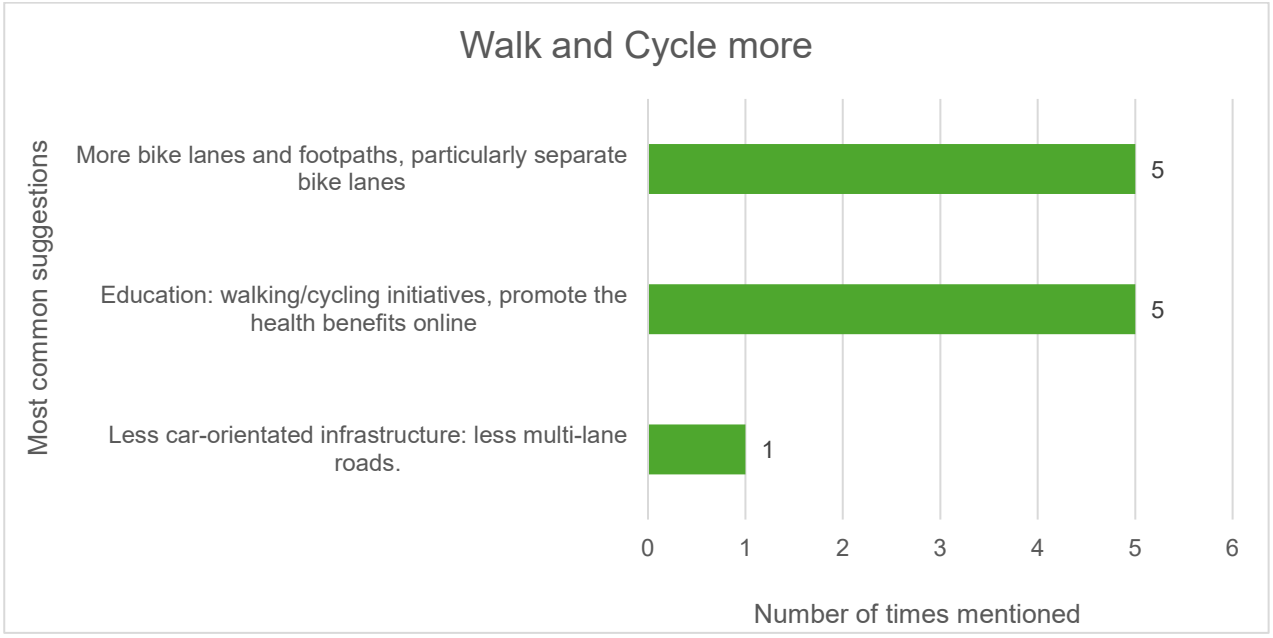


Reuse and repair instead of buying new items

Young people felt that the primary ways the City could help them to reuse and repair items instead of buying new was to make reused items cheaper than new ones, to support unwanted goods exchange and create repair hubs where they could get things fixed or learn how to fix items themselves.

Walk or cycle more

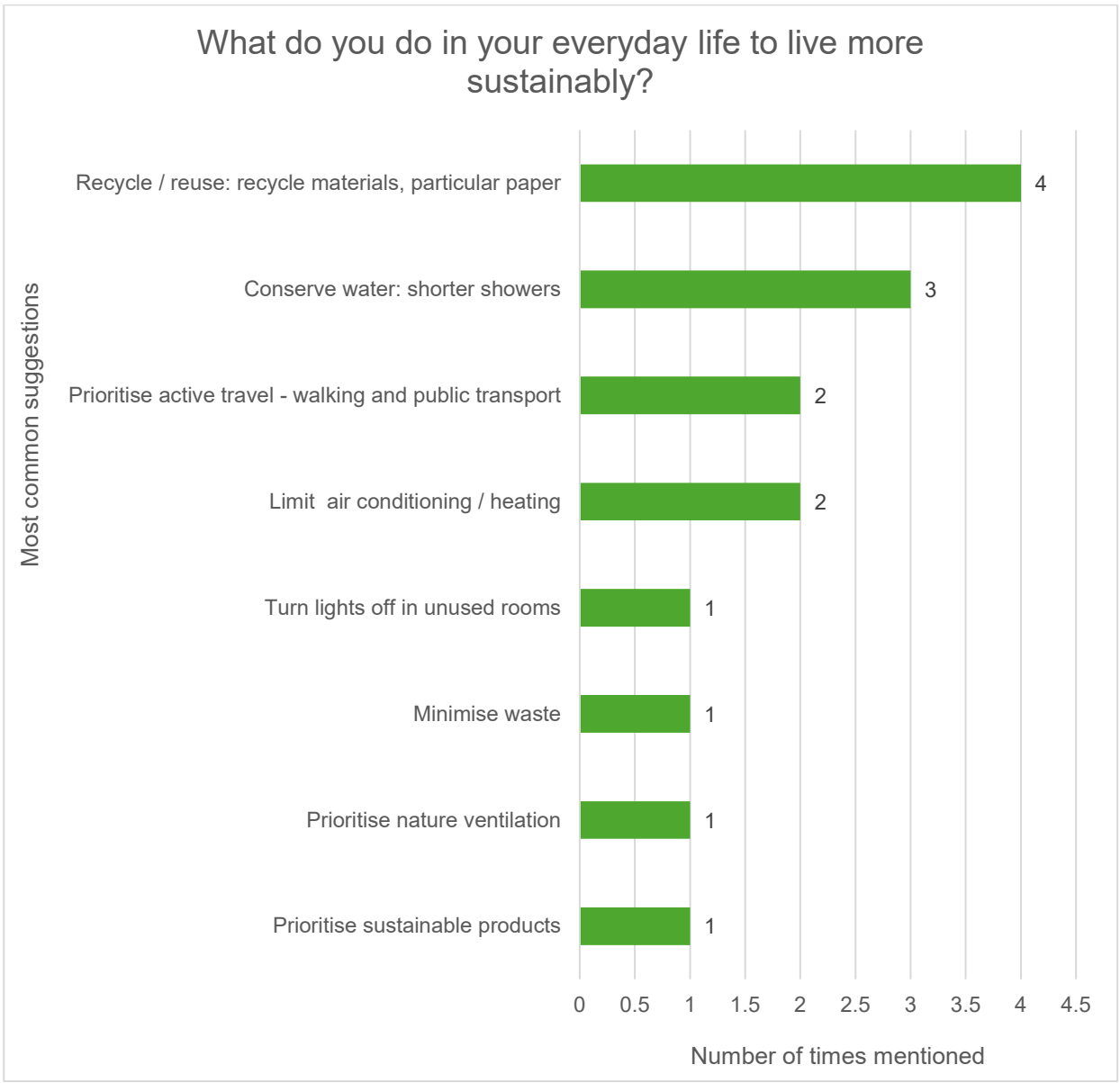
Young people felt that the primary ways the City could help them to walk or cycle more was to improve footpaths and bike lanes (particularly separate lanes) and to educate people on the health benefits of walking and cycling.



What do young people do in their everyday life to live more sustainably.

As a companion question to the one we asked the general public via the Community Ideas Board we asked young people a survey question about what they do in their everyday life to live more sustainably.

Their key comments are summarised in the following graph with recycling, and water conservation being the most common responses.



Written submissions

Overview

We received 6 written submissions (emails) during the consultation:

- 2 Advocacy groups (Action for Public Transport and Millers Point Community Hub Coop)
- 4 individuals

Four submissions included detailed written attachments, these can be found in Appendix D.

Key themes

The key concerns of community members who contributed written submissions were in line with the overall themes found in the survey and community ideas board comments. They can be summarised under the following key themes, the need to Build Sustainably, the importance of Renewable Energy, the Circular Economy, the importance of Greening, biodiversity and Waterways and Noise and Air pollution. For more detail you can read the four documents submitted as attachments in Appendix D.

Building sustainably

- Building climate resilience: efficient building materials and methods, enforce building requirements for climate change, building height in keeping with surrounds
- Good city design for human-scale comfort, including considerations of wind and noise levels
- Building design should be obliged to actually promote health and wellbeing
- Importance of protecting City wildlife through DA demolition, construction, building management plans and Site Environmental Strategy Plans and initiatives like Urban Wildlife Toolbox Talks

Renewable Energy and Efficiency

- For all new development applications, approval only for those that are fully electric and include a renewable solution such as rooftop solar
- Sustainable building design, support for solar power, hydrogen power for heavy industries and commercial enterprises
- Convert the City's street sweeping trucks to electric vehicles
- Install more Electrical Vehicle Charging stations (on every street by 2030)
- Purchasing carbon credits should not be supported
- Could the City use biogas to power streetlamps instead of electrification?

Circular economy: recycle, reuse, repair

- For all new cafes, restaurants, etc, ban takeaway coffee cups. Only approve applications for premises with drink-in cups
- For all events, including music festivals, ban cable ties
- Flexible Food organics and garden organics (FOGO) to all households

- Adopt Curby Soft Plastic recycling program
- Change City of Sydney ‘Doorstep recycling service’ so items can be dropped at community centres rather than collected at each home.
- Install a small library of things in each City library or community centre

Greening, biodiversity and waterways

- Ensure free flowing waterways and proper drainage. Integrate waterways into hydrogen power projects, leverage Sydney City's extensive underground aqueducts for sustainable water management and energy projects
- Support Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)
- Installation of SeaBin at Walsh Bay and Barangaroo
- Accessible open space, allowing for tree planting, water sensitive landscaping, and access to sunshine in public and private spaces
- More deep soil for more trees and cool green spaces
- Promote tree canopy growth to support a diverse ecosystem and ensure greening is distributed equitably across the local area
- Include practice of street tree underplantings
- Australian native fire smart edge plants and fires smart trees for fire protection
- Avoid light pollution to the night sky
- Environmental and health concerns associated with the installation of artificial turf/synthetic ground surface material
- Environmental Strategy should consider the safety of urban wildlife
- Implement bird strike prevention treatments

Noise and Air pollution

- Street calming measures, including closing off streets, reduction of speed limits (30km/h), speed/noise cameras
- Cap on cruise ship size and numbers
- Removal of motorbike parking
- Installing street parking spaces for share bikes

Appendices

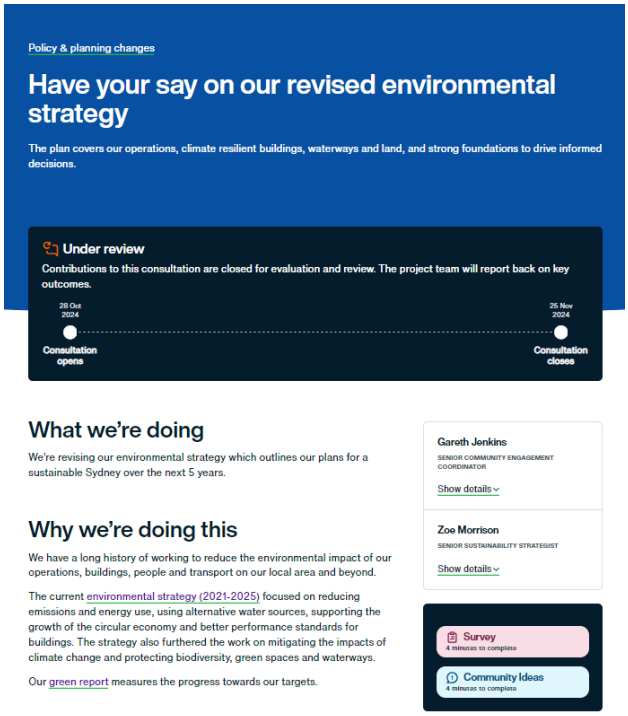
Appendix A: Communications overview

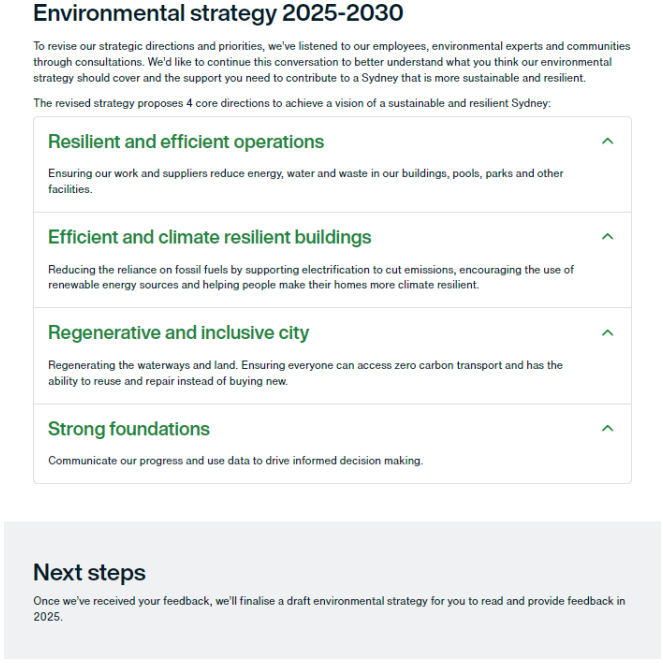
The following is a snapshot of outcomes from marketing and communications activities undertaken to support the consultation. Activities reached a range of audience segments existing through City of Sydney channels.

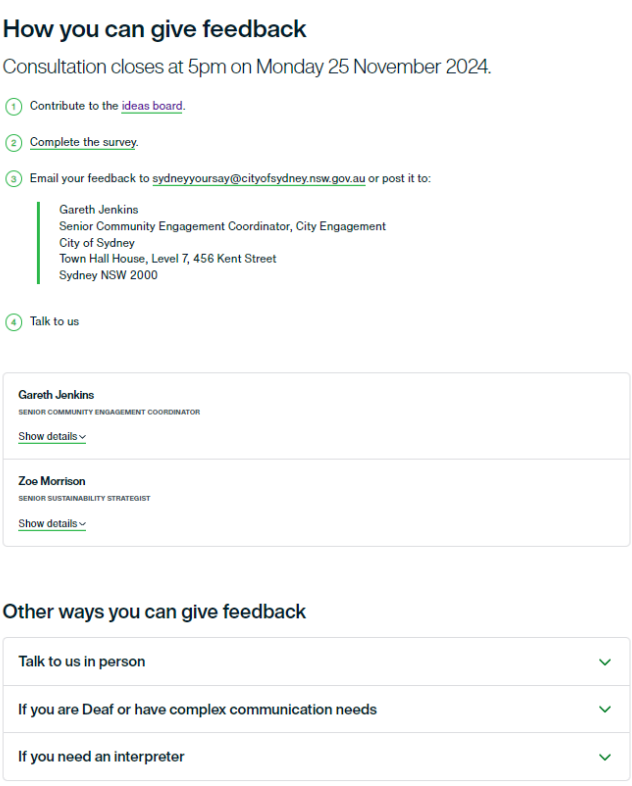
Activity	Outcome
Sydney Your Say webpage	• 3746 views
Social media posts: Facebook / LinkedIn	• Facebook: 2834 click throughs • LinkedIn: 64 click throughs
Notification email to key stakeholders	• To 287 unique recipients on 31 October, 2024
eNewsletters Sydney Your Say November edition	• 5136 subscribers sent on 11 November 2024 – 218 click throughs
CoS News edms (Business / Planning and building / Environmental / Sustainable Apartments / First Nations)	• 161 click throughs

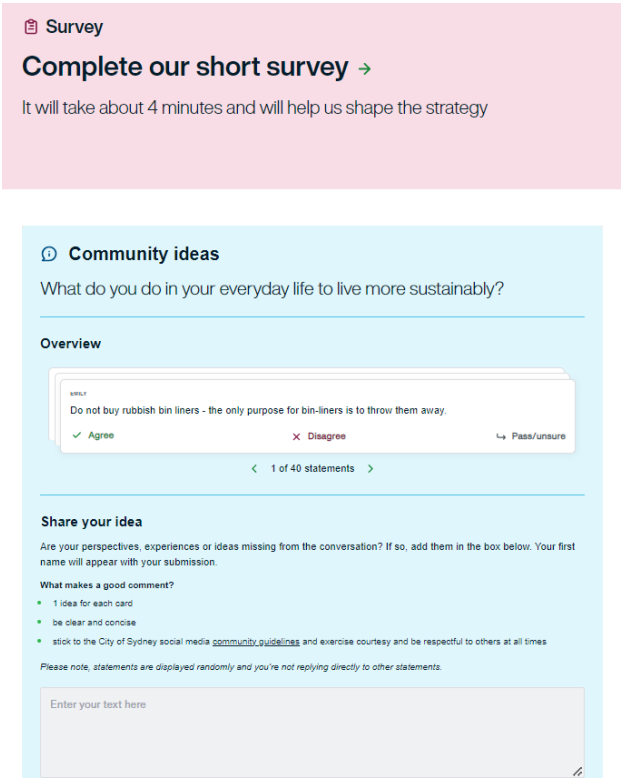
Appendix B: Communications activities

Sydney Your Say web page:









Inclusion in Sydney Your Say eNewsletter on 11th of November:

Image: Katherine Griffiths

Our revised environmental strategy

Our environmental strategy covers our operations, climate resilient buildings, waterways and land, and strong foundations to drive informed decisions over the next 5 years.

Let us know your thoughts for a more sustainable Sydney.

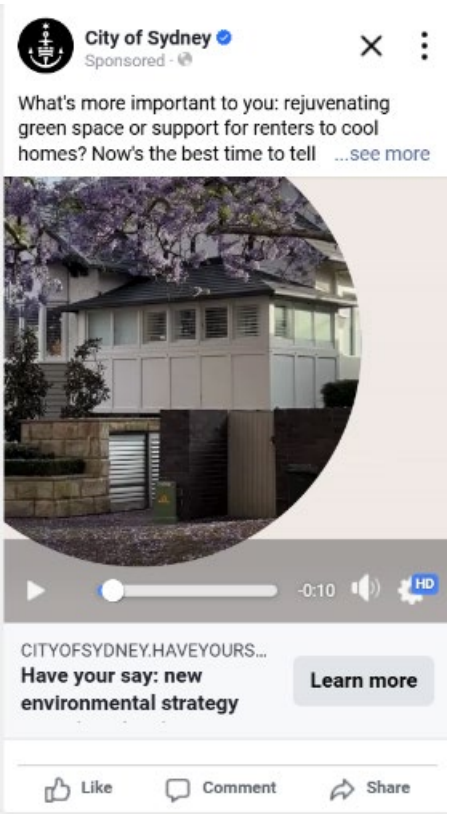
Have your say by Monday 25 November.

Read more

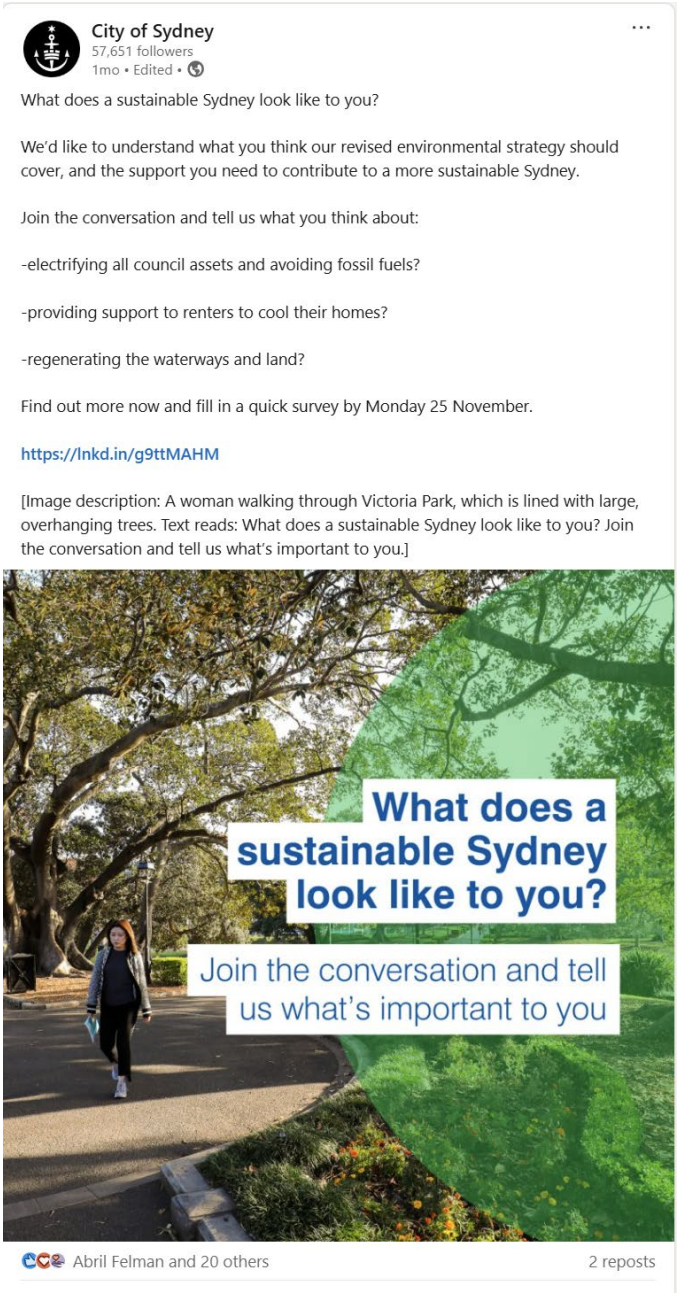
Posters in City of Sydney Libraries and Community Centres:

Social media: The consultation was advertised across the City of Sydney social media platforms of Facebook and LinkedIn.

Facebook posts:



LinkedIn posts



Appendix C: Ideas board comments

Ideas board comments that did not directly address the question being asked but that do have relevance to the Environmental Strategy are included here in full, listed under the headings of most common themes. Ideas in the comments are reflected throughout the report.

Greening / biodiversity
Council must provide support for home owners to protect the trees in private properties. Support such as free Arbor health checks for safety concerns and necessary pruning. Land owners can take the load of regular maintenance cleaning and feeding nutrients.
Planting trees should not be our only climate change remediation strategy.
Build residential buildings back from the street and footpath. People sit in their living rooms breathing in fuel fumes from traffic and noise contributing to mental health problems. Plant many trees and shrubs between roads and buildings
More support for home grown food
Trees pruning strategy by pruning them in winter instead to allow more sun penetration to warm the place up and let the trees grow a canopy to provide shade in the hot summer to cool the place down. Recycle bin should fit in pizza boxes instead of just cans and glass bottles.
Encourage active transport
Request City to review pavements at bus stops - Pitt Street and Broadway (east) as difficult for people (pedestrians) to access buses. Manage obstructions from Lime and Hello bikes though in favour of the principle of e-bike hire.
With better liaison with State government reducing road traffic speed to 30kph would improve the amenity of the City area - less noise, less danger of trauma.
Encourage the City to publicise and support car-sharing to enable people to live car-free. Save money!
It would be great if we could have Council invest in better pavement and marked walking paths (not on main roads) to encourage more active transport.
Use public transport or cycle everywhere. Use carshare when you need a that car for a trip
We should increase the number of separated cycle lanes and reduce the amount of on street parking.
More safe dedicated and connected bike paths all over the city
Circular economy - recycling, repair, reuse
Relocate the quarterly recycling/e-waste drop-offs to be close to public transport. They are currently difficult to access for those who do not drive.
charities today are just interested in money. I no longer support them like many others. The libraries only keep some books and destroy others. Better to put out in a box on the street and let people help themselves
Proper garbage recycling and reporting none is done
Encourage reductions in food waste in the whole food chain from suppliers distributors and consumers

We need to address the huge amount of waste created by takeaway food packaging and the use of single use packaging and utensils.
All council events and wherever the council has influence plant based meals and food are served as this has a significantly lower carbon footprint and water usage plus other amazing benefits
Energy efficiency
Mandate full electrification solar and battery on all new builds
We got a professional energy assessor to recommend energy efficiency improvements for our home. It would be great if there was more Council support towards such assessments and to help financing energy upgrades for both individual houses and apartment units.
Is it possible to have foot paths that are capable of electricity generation when walked on. In heavily pedestrian spots it could be very effective. I believe Japan is using these currently.
Need more financial rent assistance for renters to become energy efficient and reduce waste. Cannot rely on owners and agents to do it. Further more council can request all properties advertised for rent or sale have their energy rating as a mandatory requirement.
Simplify EV charging for apartments
Apartment energy sustainability measures to be mandated. Not at the behest of conservative committees
Regulate brightness of digital advertising screens on the streets in malls and shops. Many are overly bright at night. They waste electricity and hurt my eyes.
We need to reduce density as invariably high rise buildings rely on air conditioning and cause wind tunnels and increase waste. City of Sydney needs to provide financial support for older unit blocks to install solar panels.
Noise pollution
Implementing measures to reduce noise impact on residents located along now heavy traffic corridors affected by highway upgrades. Solutions could include upgrading windows/doors installing green noise barriers like trees or acoustic walls and other soundproofing measures
Implementing measures to address noise and pollution caused by heavy vehicle traffic such as restricting their travel to specific times of day or exploring alternative solutions.

Appendix D: Written Submissions

Written submission 1: Individual

We want to hear from you on how the Sydney City can do even better:

- how should we best reduce our energy use?
- how do we make our buildings climate resilient?
- how can we regenerate our waterways and land?

Here are some strategies that could help:

Reducing Energy Use

1. Embrace better building design that is conducive to maximizing natural sunshine, ventilation, and insulation. This would minimize the reliance on air conditioners and electric fans, resulting in significant energy savings.

2. Generate a green solar energy supply on the streets for streetlights, traffic lights, and public buildings, with a backup emergency plan to ensure consistent power supply.

3. Advocate for density living, encouraging residents to air-dry their washing on their balconies rather than using their clothes dryers, provided they have shutters to screen off their washing.

4. Promote the installation of solar panels on high-rise buildings, either on the roof or integrated into the building's features or cladding, pending approval from the appropriate authorities.

5. Support the use of hydrogen power for heavy industry and commercial enterprises as a cleaner energy alternative.

Building Climate Resilience

1. Focus on architectural renovation that utilizes efficient building materials and methods and ensures minimal defects.

2. Ensure developers and builders meet the qualifications for environmental requirements related to climate change, such as cyclones, flooding, and droughts, and adhere to the relevant building codes.

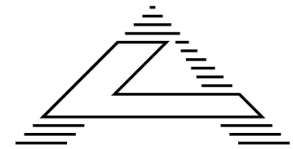
3. The height of new buildings must be appropriate for the surrounding housing, landscape, and view, ensuring they are fit for purpose.

Regenerating Waterways and Land

1. Maintain the waterways from the source to the outlets, ensuring the free flow of water and proper drainage.

2. Integrate waterways into hydrogen power projects, particularly utilizing underground aqueducts.

3. Leverage Sydney City's extensive underground aqueducts, which are as large as the Sydney Harbour, to the City's advantage for sustainable water management and energy projects.



Action for Public Transport (N.S.W.) Inc.

APT NSW

P O Box K606
Haymarket NSW 1240
25 November 2024

Gareth Jenkins
Senior Community Engagement Coordinator, City Engagement
City of Sydney
Town Hall House Level 7
456 Kent St
Sydney 2000
email: sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Dear Gareth Jenkins,

Environmental Strategy

Submission on 2024 revision

Introduction

Action for Public Transport (NSW) Inc. is a transport advocacy group which has been active in Sydney since 1974. We promote the interests of beneficiaries of public transport - passengers and the wider community alike.

This submission relates to the draft revised Strategy at https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/policy-planning-changes/have-your-say-revised-environmental-strategy.

Discussion

We note the strategy's four core directions, namely: Resilient and efficient operations, Efficient and climate resilient buildings, Regenerative and inclusive city & Strong foundations.

We would like to comment on "Regenerative and inclusive city" for which the strategy's caption is:

> *Regenerating the waterways and land.*
> ***Ensuring everyone can access zero carbon transport*** *[our emphasis]*
> *and has the ability to reuse and repair instead of buying new.*

We think that public transport improvements should reasonably be expected to attract more passengers out of more carbon-intensive private cars. Council is well placed to press for improvements such as:

- Building more metro stops in appropriate places. Obviously, the Metro West line should not terminate at Hunter St but rather continue south-east or southwards. The Chatswood-Sydenham line should have been built with more stations e.g. Alexandria.
- Expanding light rail services. There are opportunities to do so without complicating existing services - see remarks below about Green Square.

- Removing wrap advertising from the windows of public transport vehicles. The perforated plastic material prevents passengers from seeing outside the vehicles at night and when wet.
- Making public transport services more frequent, generally reducing waiting time for passengers
- Reducing walking distances to and from public transport services, generally making end-to-end trips faster
- Speeding-up public transport services, again making end-to-end trips faster.
- Making walking safer, perhaps by reducing vehicle speed limits and/or by separating pedestrians from battery-powered personal vehicles such as Deliveroo.
- Improving the availability of public transport running information at bus stops, both printed and real-time.
- Improving sight lines at bus stops so that bus drivers can see waiting passengers and passengers can see bus destinations. Regrettably, there are some bus stops in the City area where advertisements on the footpath block sight lines.

Public transport works best when its stops are close to major trip generators. Unfortunately, that doesn't always happen. Perhaps the clearest example in the City area is the location and design of Barangaroo metro station. Even though the centroid of the trip generators which it seems intended to serve is hundreds of metres south, its sole entrance at present is at its north end. There may be good reasons why the station was designed that way but the extra walking thereby required of patrons merits attention.

An outstanding opportunity for reducing walking distances would be around Railway Square. Despite its name, the Square is not particularly close to passenger rail services. For example, the KFC at the western corner of Railway Square is at least 500 metres' walk from all heavy rail and metro platforms. Connecting Central Walk directly with Henry Deane Plaza would shorten many walks between Central station and the Broadway education precinct. Council has a role to play in convincing T4NSW to make that connection.

The tram trip from Central to the off-road section west of Hay St is about 500 metres long. L1 trams take about 6 minutes to cover that 500 metres. A moderately-fit person could beat that on foot. If traffic signals along Hay St were re-configured, it would be possible to speed those tram trips up. A good start would be altering the signals at the intersection with Darling Drive so that trams don't have to pause while the (non-existent) road traffic has a chance to halt gracefully.

We note that Council advocates for lower road speed limits in the City of Sydney. We support this position.

We refer to Council's support for a light rail service between Green Square and Railway Square. We are concerned that if trams from Green Square were to share Haymarket station with existing L2/L3 trams in Rawson Place, there could be frequent conflicts around the shared track. Council should ensure that proposed new services will not interfere with existing services.

Recommendations

We suggest that the revised Strategy should make very clear that public transport is to be supported in every possible way - see the list above. Tactics supporting that aim could include requirements that any new transport projects or significant developments be assessed for positive support for public transport, especially in the matters mentioned above.

We further suggest that Council prepare a list of worthwhile public transport improvement projects and promote those projects to T4NSW.

Jim Donovan
Secretary
Action for Public Transport (NSW) Inc.
0428-609-208

Written submission 3: Individual

25 November 2024

Email sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

HAVE YOUR SAY ON OUR REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY (POLICY AND PLANNING CHANGES)

Take it as read with attachments:
The plan covers our operations, climate resilient buildings, waterways and land, and strong foundations to drive informed decisions. We have a long history of working to reduce the environmental impact of our operations, buildings, people and transport on our local area and beyond. The current environmental strategy (2021-2025) focused on reducing emissions and energy use, using alternative water sources, supporting the growth of the circular economy and better performance standards for buildings. The strategy also furthered the work on mitigating the impacts of climate change and protecting biodiversity, green spaces and waterways.
Our green report measures the progress towards our targets. Environmental strategy 2025-2030
To revise our strategic directions and priorities, we've listened to our employees, environmental experts and communities through consultations. We'd like to continue this conversation to better understand what you think our environmental strategy should cover and the support you need to contribute to a Sydney that is more sustainable and resilient.

The revised strategy proposes 4 core directions to achieve a vision of a sustainable and resilient Sydney:

- *Resilient and efficient operations*
  - *Ensuring our work and suppliers reduce energy, water and waste in our buildings, pools, parks and other facilities.*
- *Efficient and climate resilient buildings*
  - *Reducing the reliance on fossil fuels by supporting electrification to cut emissions, encouraging the use of renewable energy sources and helping people make their homes more climate resilient.*
- *Regenerative and inclusive city*
  - *Regenerating the waterways and land. Ensuring everyone can access zero carbon transport and has the ability to reuse and repair instead of buying new.*
- *Strong foundations*
  - *Communicate our progress and use data to drive informed decision making.*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide genuine and considered feedback for the Environment I live in, work in, and am a stakeholder (terrace owner) in. We appreciate the City Staff for working with the community for taking into account our concerns and recommendations for the Environmental Strategy as follows:

- **More deep soil for more trees and cool green spaces**
- **More public space for more people – streets and open spaces**
- **Reinforce 'street wall' form of most buildings**
- **Conserve heritage values**
- **Good design (built and landscape design) for wind and noise**
- **Consider views to and from public places (built and landscape design for: privacy, and safety)**
- **Maximise development within constraints - including habitat features and bird strike prevention treatments**
- **The design of buildings, including heights (in storeys) and setbacks views**
- **Public spaces and public access**
- **Safety for pedestrians and cyclists**
- **Landscaping, deep soil, tree retention and canopy coverage**
- **Design excellence**
- **Amenity, including wind and noise.**
- **Green spaces between buildings**

We hope the City of Sydney will massively contribute to vastly many more green open spaces what will provide moments of respite and places for people to connect and escape the summer heat temperatures.

More deep soil for more trees and cool green spaces; protecting and conserving existing large public and private tree canopies. Preserve and increase deep soil planting and additional landscaping.

More public and private green space for more people – streets and open spaces; Accessible open space, allowing for tree planting, water sensitive landscaping, and solar access to public and private space. If too much building (overbuilding) goes on each development application site put before the City of Sydney and people (workers, residents, visitors) cannot see the sky, then the elegance and some of the purpose of new development applications will not be an attractive place to work and a new building or modified building will not be realised. (Reference: Jan Gehl's report commissioned by the City of Sydney).

Of course, more large canopy trees collectively support a diverse ecosystem of pollinating insects (local wild bee hives), native birds, and bats, in numbers that exceeds the human population of Sydney. In residential areas and where commercial meets residential areas, these trees provide numerous health benefits, including; visual stimulation, wildlife watching, light spill mitigation, cooler ground-level temperatures, and pollution filtering, wind protection plus physical and mental health.

Since October 5, 2018, doctors in Shetland, Scotland have been authorised to prescribe nature to their patients. It's thought to be the first program of its kind in the U.K., and seeks to reduce blood pressure, anxiety, and increase happiness for those with diabetes, a mental illness, stress, heart disease, and more. Building on this current Jones Bay Road essential nature green space it is contrary to the values promoted by the State Government and the City of Sydney.

Neglecting urban form and function is a determinant of health outcomes. Our hospitals spend $400 million/year treating heart conditions associated with a lack of physical activity in daily life. Much of the burden of Australia's most costly and devastating diseases could be reduced by better urban planning. Incidences of cardio-vascular diseases associated with physical inactivity, respiratory illnesses linked to car-dependency, and mental conditions associated with social isolation, for example, are tempered by access to public and active transport, quality and plentiful natural open spaces, and neighbourhoods that facilitate regular and convivial interactions with community. (Reference: Festival of Urbanism 2024, In public health prevention is better than cure – So why aren't our cities funded to prevent disease?) The reenvisaged residential and commercials roads green spaces, between buildings will benefit people's health.

We strongly welcome a reorientation of urban design principles that support new buildings to require health spending. Outdoor green spaces will have workers get-up-and-move to a cool Summer outdoor work space, under a green tree canopy, with access to sky view and views plus sounds of fresh water features. Or a Winter sun filled outdoor, sky views, work space, out of the wind. Designing for prevention through better cities is central to human health into the future for our city.

Heatwaves and extreme heat can be better managed effectively and long term by urban tree canopies, with the green space setback and protection for the current City large canopy trees (public and private at a DA point). Making the public open spaces will cooler, healthier, friendlier and safer spaces, plus deliver on the Green Grid connection

The new Environmental Strategy needs to foster exemplars of good design for amenity, for street scale includes wind and noise. With a combination of careful allocation of heights and built forms to passively support the built form's generated wind conditions and impacts at street amenity level, plus safety for active transport (walk, bike, scooter).

Consider views to and from public places, what remaining heritage buildings residential and commercial envelopes we have in the City of Sydney, in particular unused buildings should be sensitively reimagined to celebrate the fabric of the heritage building, ensuring the public can see and understand the buildings language and tales. Always were possible the City of Sydney should push for these buildings original signage to be brought back to live, fresh paint job – (Griffiths Teas) to remain visible from the surrounding streets at a public street level.

We support many more City wall murals – Look at Wollongong Council Animating Wollongong - Public Art Strategy 2022-2032 commissioning new public art works, supporting others who create them, and caring for permanent works in our city's collection. There is a lot of boring and ugly big and small walls in very public view that need public artworks!

Choosing Australian native fire smart edge plants and fires smart trees for fire protection is especially important in Australia, the two main dangers – Radiant heat and Ember attack. Fire retardant plants can act as radiant heat screens and absorb more of the heat of an approaching fire without burning. Fire retardant trees can reduce wind speeds, so trap embers and sparks carried by wind. Fire retardant ground covers can catch burning embers without catching fire themselves and slow the travel of a fire through debris and litter on the ground.

Of note, artificial light technology installation within the building and outdoors is of great concern. We strongly object to night lighting of feature planting or canopy street trees and private trees (DA level). Specialist lighting design should not light up any trees (new or mature) after dark, for bird and bat night habitat and nesting. Plus, external lighting needs to be limited to avoid light pollution to the night sky. Low-level lighting integrated with hard landscaping elements is preferred.

Our generation and future generations need this Environmental Strategy to plan/design a sustainable future. As such please strongly consider the below against installation of artificial turf/synthetic ground surface material for our park and roof tops and streetscapes.

While it is understood there may be significant water savings and low maintenance requirements associated with artificial turf, so it is increasingly promoted as a replacement for natural grass on athletic fields and lawns. However, there remains the question of whether it is an environmentally and ecologically friendly alternative to natural grass.

Installation of artificial grass is a major concern, and stems from the infill material that is typically derived from scrap tires. Tire rubber crumb contains a range of organic contaminants and heavy metals that can volatilise into the air and/or leach into the percolating rainwater, runoff contaminating ocean water, thereby posing potential risk to the environment and human health.

Worth noting, the US and other countries' regulatory agencies still cannot resolve risk levels from crumb rubber hazards. The United States Environment Protection agency is trying to "fill important data and knowledge gaps, characterise constituents for recycled tire crumb and identify ways in which people may be exposed to tire crumb based on their activities on the fields" The Californian Environment Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health Hazards Assessment project is exploring artificial turf surfaces through hazard identification, expose scenario development, sampling an analysis of new and in-field artificial turf both indoor and outdoor surfaces, all ages, varied weather conditions and exposures possible due to ingestion and inhalation as well as skin absorption across ages, expo

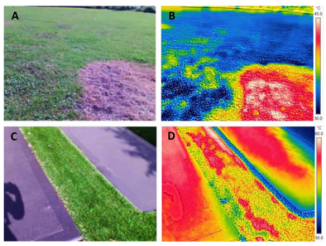
The NIH and PubMed Central scientific literature database article on Artificial Turf: Contested Terrains for Precautionary Public Health with Particular Reference to Europe? States: The European Chemicals Agency review on crumb rubber used on artificial pitches highlighted recommending players using synthetic pitches to take basic hygiene measure after playing on artificial turf containing recycled rubber granules. Key FIFA guidance states 'the manufacturer should be asked to supply to the purchaser an assurance that the sports surface together with its supporting layers, does not contain in its finished state any substance which is known to be toxic. mutagenic, teratogenic or carcinogenic And the Dutch Government has called for further restrictions on PAHs in crumb rubber used as synthetic turf infills.

Columbia University, Centre for Climate Systems Research has shown using thermal satellite images and geographic information systems, that several of the hottest spots in the city were in fact synthetic turf fields. And direct temperature measurements conducted during site visits showed that synthetic turf fields can get up to 15 .5 degrees Celsius hotter than grass on summer days. NASA's Landsat satellite has also shown surface temperatures of synthetic turf areas creating high temperatures like those on a large black roof in upper Manhattan. And cool spots almost always correspond to urban vegetation, such as parks, street trees, and water bodies.

ABC News article: "The environmental impacts of artificial turf worth considering before rolling it out in your backyard" Synthetic turf not only makes the microclimate around your home warmer, but also contributes to warming your suburb. You may think it's only me having a bit of synthetic turf but it's now 20 other neighbours and then of course, when you add this, it has a collective impact on your suburb microclimate where it gets warmer. Collectively the whole suburb will be warmer which has impacts on night-time temperatures, but also on the environment where certain critters just need certain temperatures and certain plants need certain evolutions of day-night temperatures.

CHOICE article "Should you get artificial grass? The grass is definitely greener, but is it better than the real deal? states: Surface temperatures According to Pfautsch, the surface of artificial grass can become dangerously hot in direct sunlight, posing a significant burn risk, particularly to young children. "Surface temperatures of unshaded artificial turf can reach up to 100°C on a hot day," he says. "This can easily cause surface burns, especially for toddlers and young children." Pfautsch says just a few seconds of direct contact with hot artificial grass can be enough to cause burns. In fact, in 2020, three toddlers sustained second-degree burns after walking barefoot over artificial turf at their childcare centre.

Western Sydney University paper, "Synthetic Turf in Public Places. Systematic Assessment of surface temperatures and associated environmental impacts" shows in figure 3 shows an example of a large lawn in a public park in Jordan Springs (Sydney, NSW). The images were taken at 16:40 on 1 March 2021, when the maximum ambient air temperature was 36°C. On that day, the sunlit green turf reached surface temperatures of 34°C, 8°C cooler than dry turf and 19°C lower than synthetic turf and black concrete in a nearby front yard (Fig. 3). These measurements highlight the essential role of moisture in maintaining low surface temperatures, something that natural dry and artificial turf lack.



Generally, we are aligned with DA planning proposals that adhere to a high standard and punch the glass ceiling on giving more than the bare minimum on; open green space network objectives, with detailed open green space environmentally and ergonomically sustainably urban design reports that; Protect, conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity, and connected urban ecologies to increase greening of the urban environments and connect people to nature. More quality green corridors will benefit our blue (H2O) environments and ecologies also!

We are genuinely thrilled and strong supporters of the City's intension to exhibit an update, to its general planning controls, that includes an update to urban ecology requirements, including habitat features and bird strike prevention treatments. We whole heartedly endorse the Environmental Strategy also include DA requirements to including habitat features and bird strike prevention treatments

In strong support; Bird strikes are very upsetting for residents and visitors alike. No one wants to walk around a City seeing dead/dying birds on the pavements. March 3 2024, SMH article 'Outcry over bird deaths at modern glass bridge'. Where the glass bridge owned by Marrickville Metro shopping centre that connects the two parts of the shopping centre came under fire for not protecting urban wildlife. The design followed the modern architectural trend for glass panels, particularly reflective glass, which leads to the death of millions of birds worldwide. The bridge glass is now being retrofitted with coloured glass and lasers and decals are installed to cover some panels with more modifications needing to be made as rainbow lorikeets continue to fly into the bridge. The bridge is invisible to the lorikeets. The Inner West Councillor Mathew Howard was to raise the issue at the council meeting as the number of birds 'striking's' has been distressing for residents and shoppers. And hopes this sparks a bigger conversation about how our built environment can better support local wildlife and architecture be more friendly towards native birds.

The proposed Environmental Strategy planning controls for urban ecology requirements at a DA design phase of a building needs to positively and directly impact A City for Walking Strategy and Action Plan.

Birds cannot recognise daylight reflections and glass does not appear to them to be solid. If it is clear they see it as the image beyond the glass. They can also be caught in building cul-de-sac courtyards – open spaces with closed ends are traps. At night, the problem is light from buildings, it may disorientate birds. Birds are drawn to lights at night. Glass walls then simply act as targets.

Buildings with large amounts of glazing, buildings where you can see through, or mirrored facades are understood to be responsible for huge numbers of bird deaths each year globally, with one billion killed in the US and an estimated 100 million bird collisions in the UK.

A Zen curtain developed in Brisbane has worked at the University of Queensland. This approach uses an open curtain of ropes strung on the side of buildings. These flutter in the breeze, making patterns and shadows on glass, which birds don't like.
In 2019 the US House of Representatives passed a bill to reduce the amount of glass used for federal buildings in a bid to protect birds from death by collision, while in 2022 a bill was filed in Washington DC calling for the city's new buildings to use bird-friendly glass. Architects can easily prevent billions of bird deaths a year caused by collisions with glazed glazing windows.

New York City passed a bird-friendly law – Building Design & Construction Requirements Guidance Document, Local Law 15 of 2020 Version 1.0, requiring all new buildings and building alterations (at least under 23 metres tall, where most fly) be designed so birds can recognise glass. Windows must be "fitted" using applied labels, dots, stripes and so on.

The impact that glazed buildings have on birds made headlines September 2021 when Melissa Breyer from New York City wildlife charity NYC Audobon collected the corpses of nearly 300 birds killed at the World Trade Center sidewalk in a single day.

The majority of these deaths can be prevented by the City of Sydney having clear Environmental strategy planning controls, showing architects how to specify or amend their designs to protect birds at DA stage. The City of Sydney, developers and architects can easily be instructed to specify films, ultraviolet patterns, and other innovative designs added to glass windows.

More common, and best adopted at DA and design phase of a building, is to mark window glass so birds can see it. Just as we etch images on glass doors to alert people, we can apply a label or decal to a window as a warning to birds. Even using interior blinds semi-open will deter birds.

We strongly echo that growing public interest is forcing architects to amend designs and switch plain glass for "bird friendly glass". The City of Sydney at Environmental Strategy planning control, then an Urban Ecology Design phase requirement, and DA specification stage, needs to mandate bird friendly glass for a City for Walking. As people are becoming increasingly aware of this issue, and as councils and architects learn that it's important to the public, more and more buildings will need to be constructed with design elements that help keep birds safe.

Birds make cities friendlier as part of the shared environment. The City of Sydney, Architects and Designers plus NSW Government have a responsibility to provide safe flying and security from the effects of human habitation and construction.

Ecosystems and Habitat; State, City wide and literally around Pyrmont, we are losing large branched trees at an alarming rate on public and private land. And the wildlife that live in them are competing for rapidly diminishing trees that are left. Once the wildlife is gone, they won't return. Australian magpies declined by 31 per cent in the East Coast region — including Sydney and Brisbane — between 1998 and 2013. Kookaburras are declining faster.

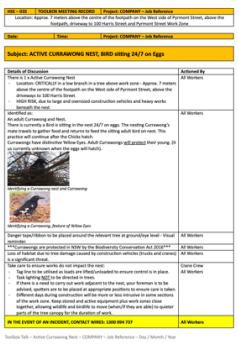
Biodiversity protection and management are necessary for these publicly identifiable nests and birds. Pending the season, arborists should not remove or do hard pruning of large trees. Active birds' nests should not be removed or the adult birds scared off. One adult bird could be sitting on eggs, while the other adult bird gathers and returns with food. Or feeding young. A full assessment of the trees in/close to DA's. work zones, haulage routes and park land impacted by construction vehicles and storage areas should be carried out with a representative from WIRES. The City should work with its many suburbs of the WIRES volunteers and ensure DA applications mandate the completing of a thorough examination (dawn and dusk) of all the trees (all sizes) for skeleton and in use birds' nests.

The very same large canopy street trees that keep temperatures lower and provide people with shade to live and walk about, are the dwellings of the City's Australian Native Urban Wildlife (Currawongs, Magpies, Ravens, Rainbow Lorikeets, Kookaburras and Butcherbirds). And the City of Sydney is ''losing'' large (thick branched) canopy trees at an alarming rate (look at the surrounding Metro stations, street trees, and the front of the Goldsbrough Mort, Pyrmont. Etc.)

Consequently, we passionately want to see this revised Environmental Strategy take responsibility for the safety of urban wildlife. We need to see (paper to action) our City is planning ahead and prioritises Urban Infrastructure Toolbox Talks for known Wildlife surrounding DA's work zones, and haulage routes with all State Significant site in the future of the City of Sydney, plus Local DA's of all sizes impacting canopy trees (on private and public land).

Urban Wildlife Toolbox Talks, means advising the all workers connected to site (land and water), construction contractors and landscape contractors with stakeholders to also commit and implement Toolbox Talks for known Wildlife in the DA area. As biodiversity protection and management is necessary for the survival of nesting wildlife.

For your information, a number of large key tenants in Pyrmont and their construction companies, plus underground network contracting companies for over a decade (here in Pyrmont) have successfully used a customed to the area Toolbox Talk for Native Birds residing in the street trees surrounding construction sites, and the associated Pyrmont local roads used for sites haulage routes. Feedback from these companies has been very positive and welcoming of new-to-them information on Native Birds needs, and practical, inexpensive methods to action minimizing wildlife harm. Plus who to contact for assistance should it be needed. The recent Currawong Toolbox Meeting document for one of the Pyrmont locations for a current utility provider working on roads around Pyrmont example template.



Magpies, Kookaburra's and Currawong to name some are excellent gatekeepers of our environment, keep pests like mice and rats under control. Ultimo, Glebe, Blackwattle Bay, Ultimo and Pyrmont, Haymarket and so many more suburbs in the City, have had ongoing issues with mice and rats for decades. Without these large birds we will upset the balance. Wildlife and trees are proven to improve mental health and that of children in their formation years.

The impacts of nature connectedness on children's well-being. A systematic literature review analysed how the impacts of children's nature connectedness on their well-being have been conceptualized, operationalized, explored, and measured in the scientific articles published during the last two decades. All analysed studies showed the positive effects of nature connectedness on well-being.

City Habitat Features, we also strongly support Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) within the public and private realm to include fresh water features for Urban wildlife to access fresh water (habitat features). Minimising the negative health impacts of intensifying weather disasters. We support both green spaces being of high quality, durable materials, native water sensitive planting, with fresh water features, for the wellbeing of residents and workers alike. A gentle and accomplished design is Swellstone in Fig Land Park, 320 -334 Jones Street Ultimo. And request the City of Sydney requires the Environmental Strategy planning controls, to include more Swellstone like urban ecology fresh water access in DA's on mass to save urban wildlife life.

A city without urban wildlife is what happens in other places, Sydney is very much loved by tourists that can hear native birds singing loud and proud all about our City at large. I am told many other countries large cities are void of tree canopies and urban wildlife. So, we strongly support the City of Sydney's A City Walking – Strategy and Action Plan to plant many many many more large canopy trees in groups and corridors to support the safe flight paths of a diverse ecosystem of pollinating insects, birds, and bats in Sydney.

Increasing biodiversity / green spaces with tree canopy's supports better mental health. - Rising temperatures in cities have documented the links between heat exhaustion and mental health impacts. - Trees make it cool to walk, run or ride, and sit beneath, all of which are good for mental health. - Feeling restored and alert. As the vibrant colours, natural shapes and textures, fresh aromas, and rustling of leaves in the breeze all provide you with effortless distraction and relief from whatever it was you might have been thinking about, or even stressing over. - Studies back this up, demonstrating walks through green space have been shown to reduce blood pressure, improve mental acuity, boost memory recall, and reduce feelings of anxiety. The Japanese have a name for this type of experience, shinrin-yoku. - 'Tracking restoration in natural and urban field settings'

Safety and Comfort for Walking; We support The City major project Sustainable Sydney 2030–2050 – Green Avenue projects. And by progressing the actions set out in the supporting Greening Sydney Strategy and Urban Forest Strategy to ensure greening is distributed equitably across the local area. We acknowledge large canopy street trees are positive for mental, physical, nature and urban wildlife health, more large canopy trees are better to make as increased valuable difference to air temperatures and protect people's safety (traffic calming) and exposure to dangerous UV light. Effect of urban street trees on pedestrian safety: A micro-level pedestrian casualty model using multivariate Bayesian spatial approach.

Natural Ventilation; Building design should be obliged to actually promote health and wellbeing with natural ventilation, when significant sources of noise and air pollution are a stone-through-away from heavy vehicle used roads and further State Significant (demolition, excavation & build) sites in uncomfortable wind environments, overbuilding and overshadowing. The City of Sydney together with the Dept of Planning, Industry & Environment needs to look at Cairo's new administrative capital area which shows exemplary planning, is future smart, focuses funds devoted to trees and plants as they will ensure air to be cleaner around the vertical forest, the buildings will provide their own energy and greenery will add insulating features. The Egyptian property developer MISR Italia Properties has previously designed building forests in Albania, the Netherlands and conceptual models for Mars. Cairo's new administrative capital area:

Safety by Trees for a Station, as the Proposed Planning Controls across the City, together with the revised Environmental Strategy and many Metro stations and State Significant sites are being/will be, built. Note, urban green spaces have been shown to benefit residents physical and mental health as well as strengthen social ties. Some studies have found that presence of vegetation also might reduce crime.

We understand the NSW Government is committed in increasing safety for women and their children, with significant investment in efforts to address and prevent domestic, family and sexual violence. For your consideration, academics from the Institute of Environmental Sustainability, Chicago and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Chicago, examined the association between tree canopy, parks and crime in Chicago, researched whether an association exists between two forms of green space, (1) tree canopy and (2) public parks, and crime rates in the city of Chicago. Using publicly available data, they calculated percent tree canopy, percent acreage parks, and crime rate for assault, battery, burglary, homicide, narcotics, and robbery between years 2009–2013 for each of Chicago's 801 census tracts. 'Results showed 'An inverse association was found between percent tree canopy and crime rates for assault, battery, robbery, and narcotics. Which highlights, a 10% increase percent tree canopy was associated with 10.3% decrease in battery rate. And 10% more tree canopy was associated with 11.3% less assault, robbery, narcotics.' https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0169204617301743

Further, more Metro stations, State Significant Sites, Major Developments in the City of Sydney, smaller DA's and the eventual revitalisation of the city's buildings that are currently vacant will disturb a lot of rodents above and below ground levels (soooo many levels). We strongly ask this Revised Environmental Strategy to seriously ensure Best Practice Environmentally, for the sake of the large number of Ravens, Currawongs, Magpies and Kookaburras that concurrently live in the immediate proximity to these sites and/or these sites are visited daily dawn and dusk and/or are on (lessening) green belts for parent birds to teach the season's juveniles to: Feed, find food, and fresh water, plus learn their flight paths and song.

In addition, more and more City of Sydney residents and workers are walking their pets to parks and dropping of their dogs to All Dog Day Care & Grooming and these establishments staff are walking our pets on local roads and in our parks. All DA site rodent management needs to stay strictly on site.

We strongly request All City of Sydney DA demolition, construction, building management plan and Site Environmental Strategy Plans includes, rodents on site are to be handled in a catch and trap manner (fast poison, die inside a container). Not a bait process, where the rodent eats poison, then moves to areas off site where our native urban wildlife and pets, will easily catch poisoned rodents, eat them and die.

Internationally City's that are updating and endorsing their Environmental Strategy plans to include urban ecology requirements, with habitat features (access to fresh water) and bird strike prevention treatments are fast becoming Internationally leaders.

We want Sydney to showcase, environmental sustainability and Life between buildings; Public spaces and Public life; Revitalise and Create New Green Spaces Between Buildings. Plus, Step Back or Set Back Street wall buildings (commercial and residential) for street trees and human scale comfort on a public street level (wind) not all concrete, road and glass…but trees and seasons.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Pyrmont Local

Written submission 4

Millers Point Community Hub Coop Ltd (MPCOOP)

Issues that the Millers Point Community would like addressed by the next Environmental Strategy:

- **FOGO** - Fogo should be available to all households but we would like flexibility on how households can participate. That might look like allowing a terrace row to share a FOGO bin or allowing a group of residents to install a suppod or wormfarm in a pocket park or garden bed. We don't really want to see yet another rubbish truck on the street either.

- **Street Greening** - We are in desperate need (and desire) of underplantings of our street trees. One section of Lower Fort Street has been done and looks fabulous, it's the envy of the rest of the neighbourhood.

- **Soft Plastic Recycling**- We would like to see Curby rolled out in the area. We have a well trained population due to us having continued soft plastics recycling through MPCOOP. Some residents have a secondary residence on the central coast and therefore are familiar with Curby and feel it is by far the most superior soft plastic recycling service. Doorstep recycling is not very convenient for houses (or buildings without concierge) as it requires you to be home or to leave rubbish on the street which is unsightly.

- **Clothing and styrofoam recycling** - We would like to see every community centre with a clothing bin that can be collected weekly by Doorstep recycling as opposed to needing to have them come to the door of each house

- Electric Vehicle Charging- We would like to see this increased. Since the installation of 3 chargers in Millers Point/Dawes Point we have seen a large uptake in electric vehicle use in our area. The chargers are well utilised by residents and workers, particularly Uber drivers and sales reps. We would like to encourage this growth and ask the City to commit to installing another 2-4 chargers over the next 18 months. We'd like to see every street with charging capacity by 2030. We cannot achieve charging in our older strata buildings as they do not have access to enough power in this part of the city. Street charging is a must and sends a strong, visual signal to the community and the public that the city supports the shift to electric transport.

- **Noise and Air Pollution** - We suffer greatly from both in this area and would like both to be addressed by the environmental strategy. Sources of noise pollution are cars and trucks rat-running through residential streets after the partial closure of George St. Hooning cars and motorbikes cause noise, stress and loss of sleep. Air pollution from cars, trucks and cruise ships is detrimental to human health. We support street calming measures and closing off of rat runs. We support installation of speed and noise cameras. We would like to see a cap on cruise ship size and number at the OPT. Some things other cities are doing are removing

motorbike parking (we have lots of it and it should go), charging motorbikes to park, charging more for larger vehicles to park (fat trucks), installing street parking spaces for share bikes. The majority of residents support 30km/hr

- Water Pollution- We support SeaBin being installed at Walsh Bay and Barangaroo to deal with pollution of the harbour and would like the city to work with the State government to advocate for its installation.

- Carbon Credits- We do not support the purchase of carbon credits. This money should instead be invested by the city to purchase trees, undertake underplantings, and to support environmental innovation within the city. Purchasing credits is kind of cheating and there is no auditing process to ensure the same credits are not sold multiple times.

- Gas - Residents have mixed feelings about the phasing out of gas. The main motivating factor of removing gas has been to achieve cleaner internal air quality. MPCOOP admires the swedish model of using biogas from food scraps to power transport. Could the city use biogas to power street lamps? Millers Point was the first area of sydney to be hooked up to gas and we used to have many beautiful gas lamps that have been allowed to deteriorate and fall into disrepair.

- Library of things - We have our own library of things but we feel strongly that all communities should have access to one. We would be happy to work with the city to come up with a way to install a small library of things in each city library or community centre. It cuts down on waste, connects the community and really assists those in lower socioeconomic households. A small room or cupboard is all that is needed to get started.