

Attachment B

**Draft Environmental Strategy Engagement
Report from Sydney Your Say**

Engagement report – Environmental Strategy



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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

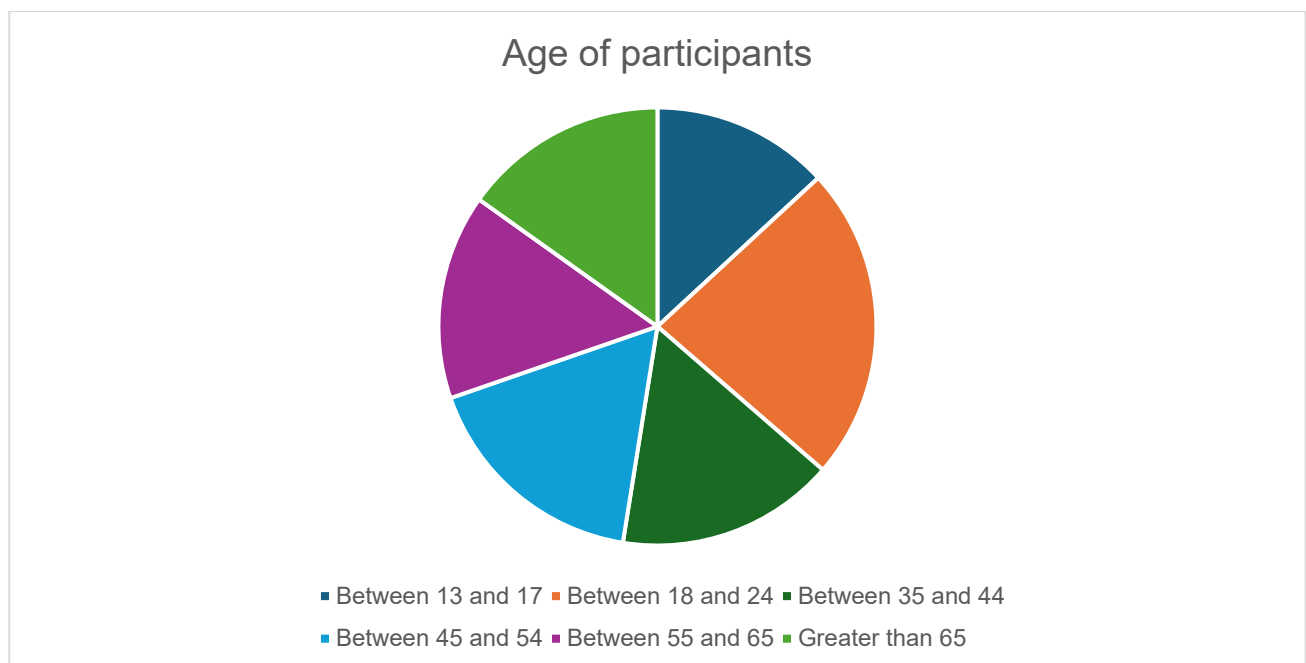
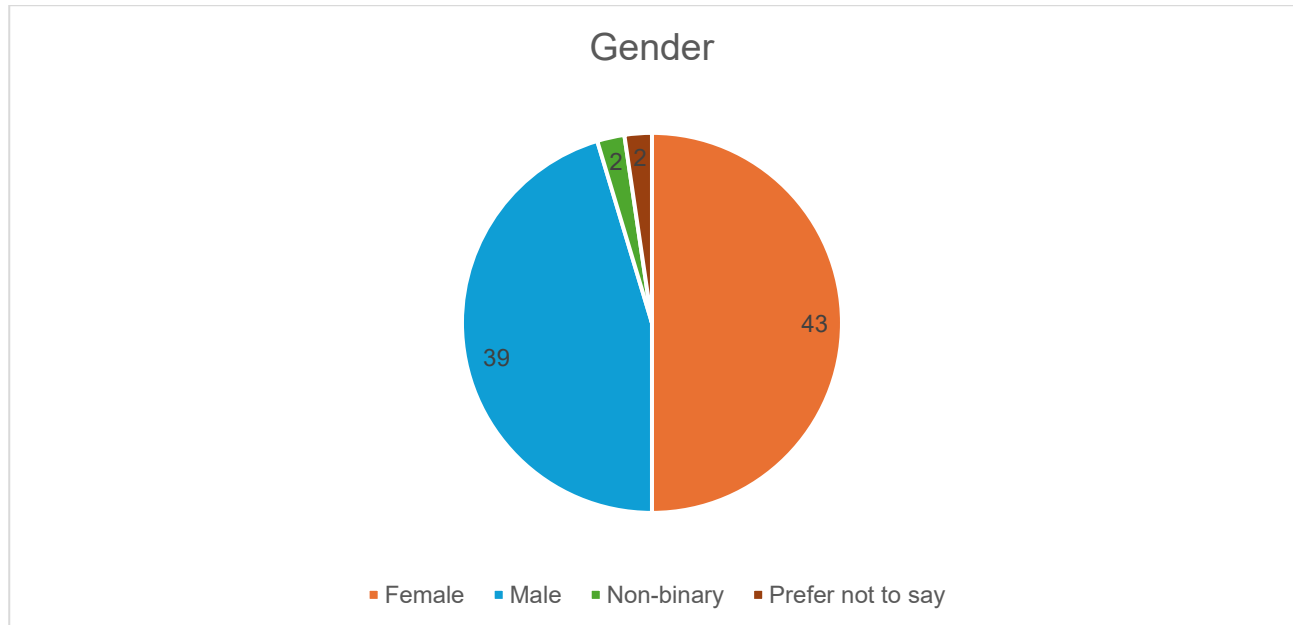
The following is a snapshot of the engagement submissions.

Submissions received during October 28-November 25, 2024

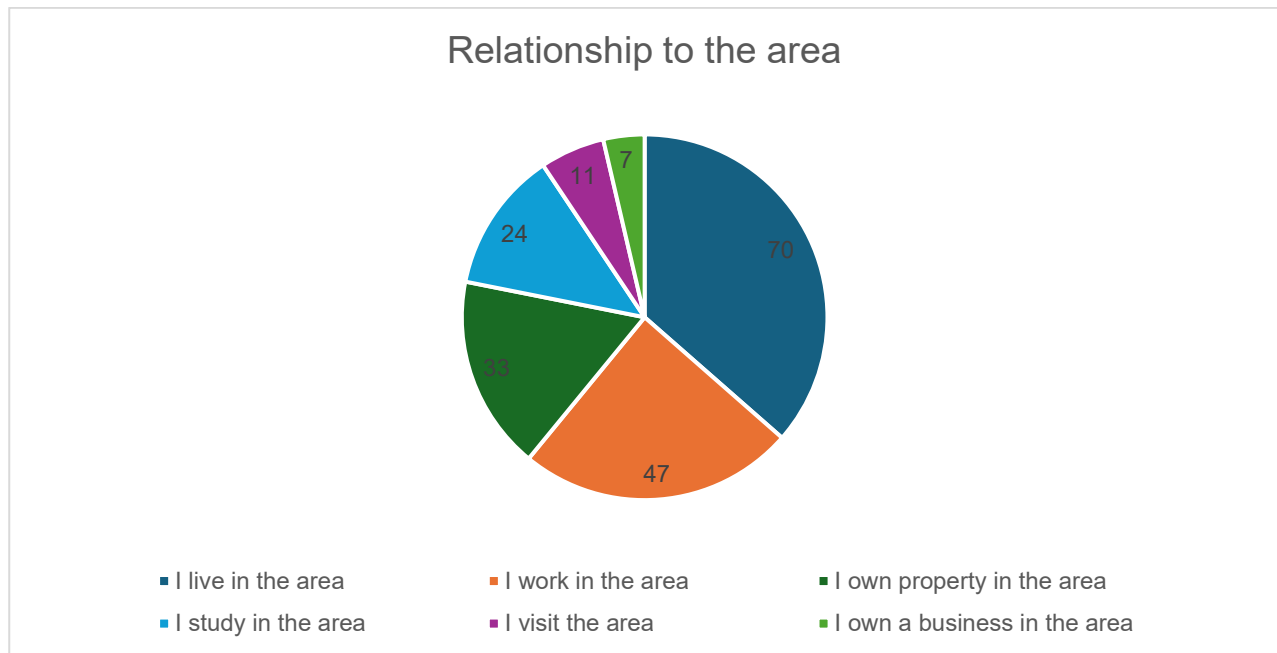
Quantity	Description of activity
164	Total submissions received
77	Survey submissions general public
13	Survey submissions high school students
68	Comments were submitted to the Community Ideas Board
1834	Votes were cast by 79 people
6	Written submissions received via email
3746	Sydney Your Say webpage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

Demographic data

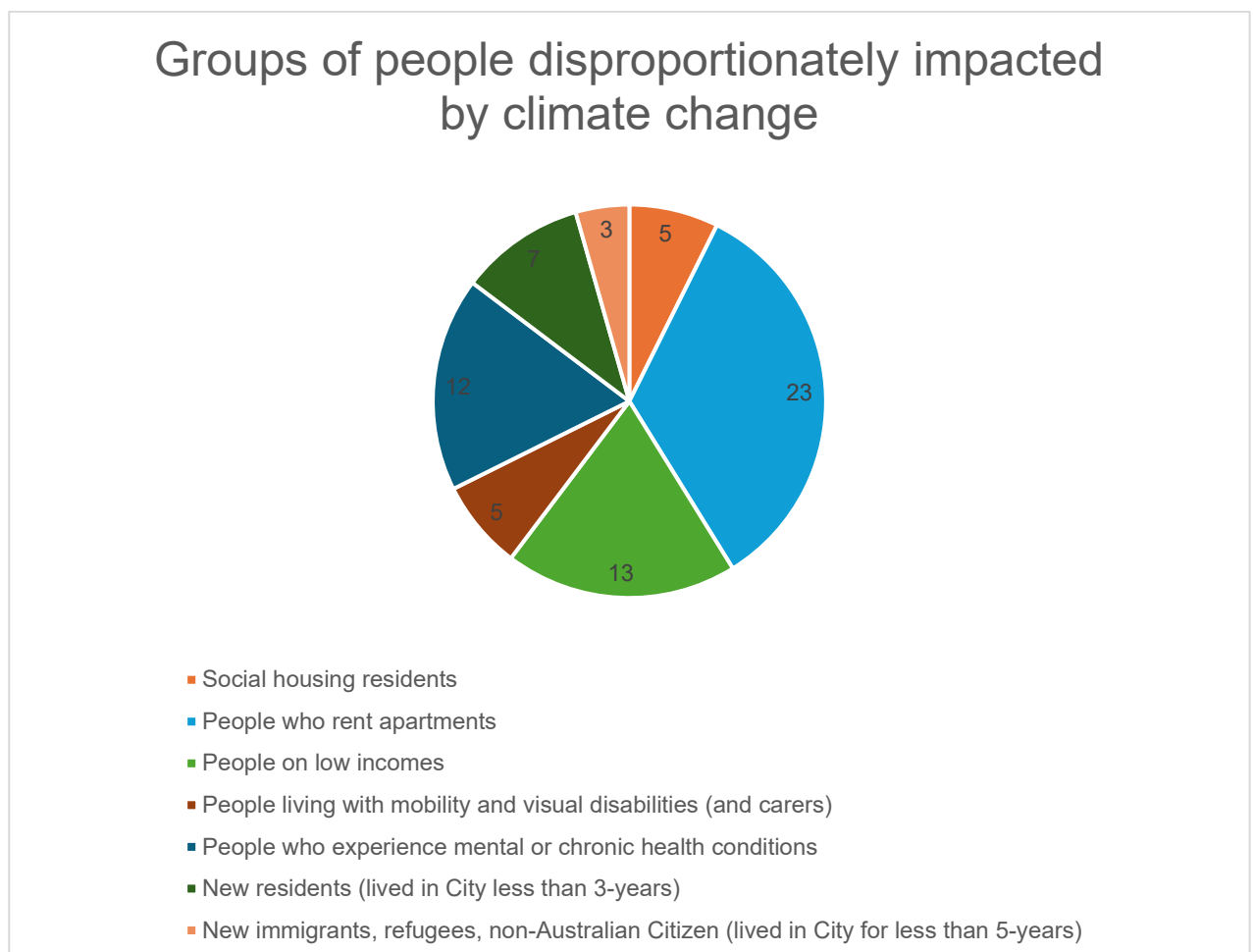
The consultation reached a relatively even number of males and females and people aged from 13 to over 65 with a relatively even distribution across age groupings.



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 pollution, 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 infrastructure: separate cycleways, complete cycle network, improve pavements, prioritise 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:

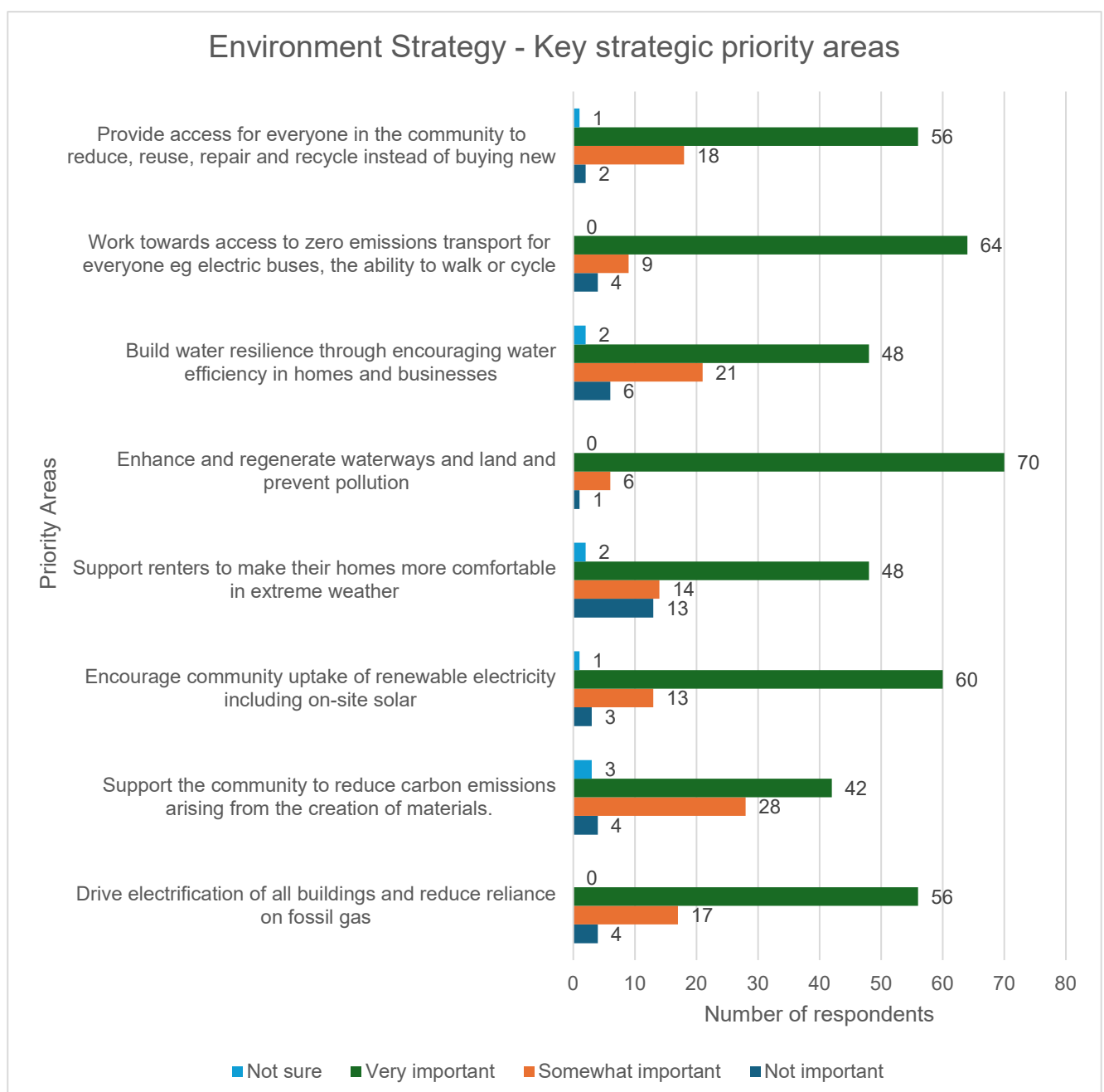
- Providing advice about energy efficiency and sustainable home cooling, including subsidising home energy assessments for both renters and owners
- Advocacy and workshops around reuse and repair projects
- Water conservation in relation to potable water
- Advocacy support for renters with other levels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

Detailed feedback

Key Strategy Priority Areas

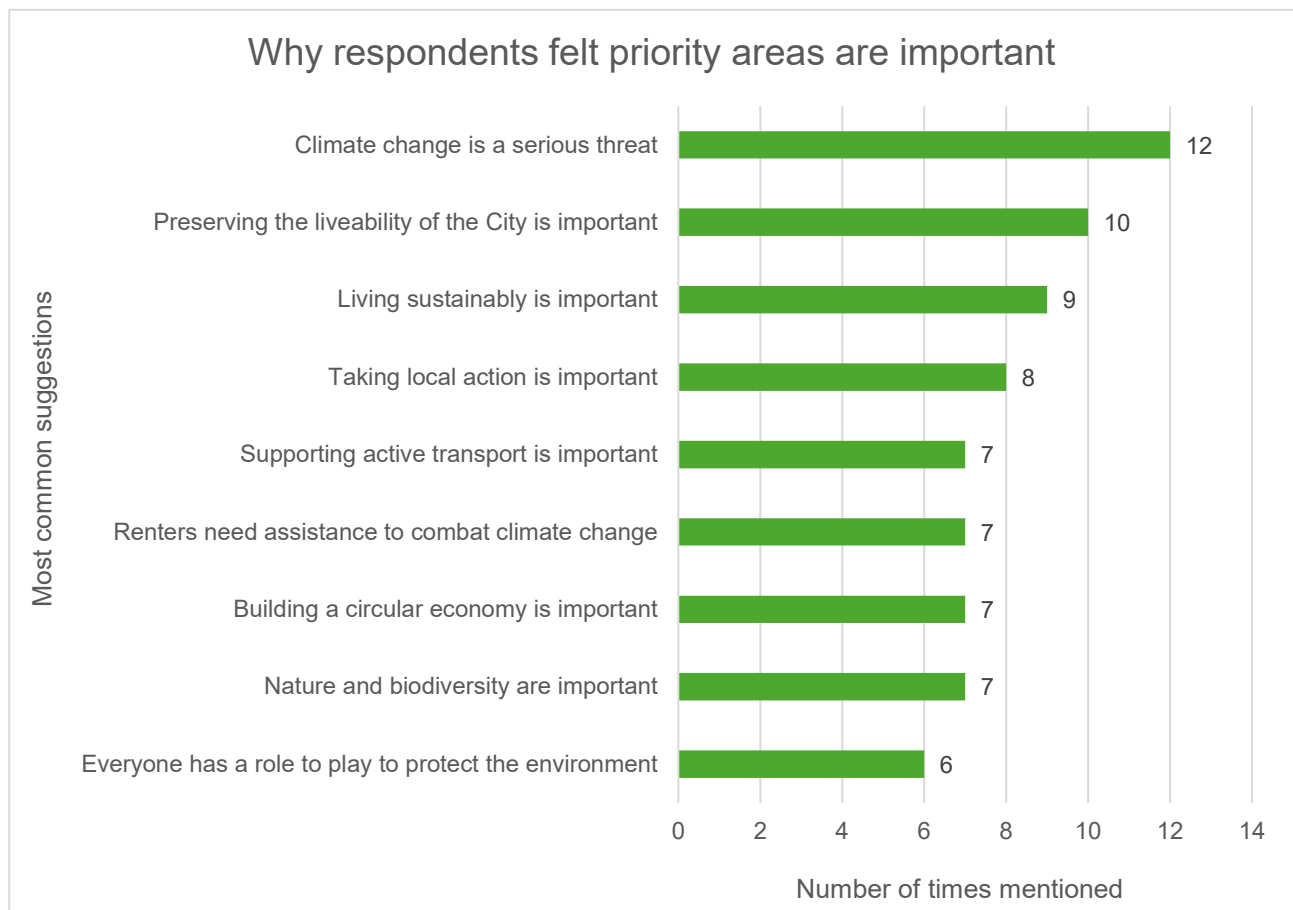
The City of Sydney asked survey respondents how important these key priority areas were to making Sydney a sustainable city.

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.

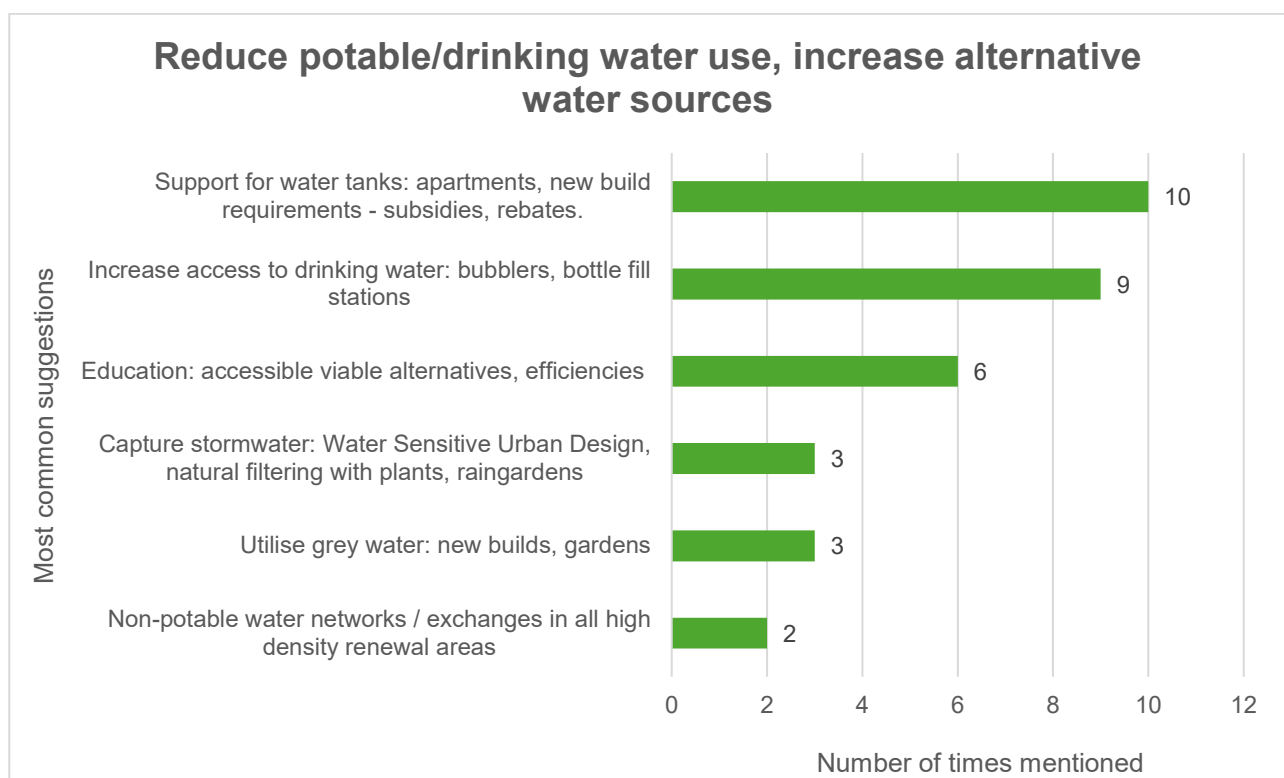
To this end one of the key questions we asked in this consultation was how can the City support the community to be more sustainable. To understand this need we focused on the following areas:

- 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 summarised in the following graphs.

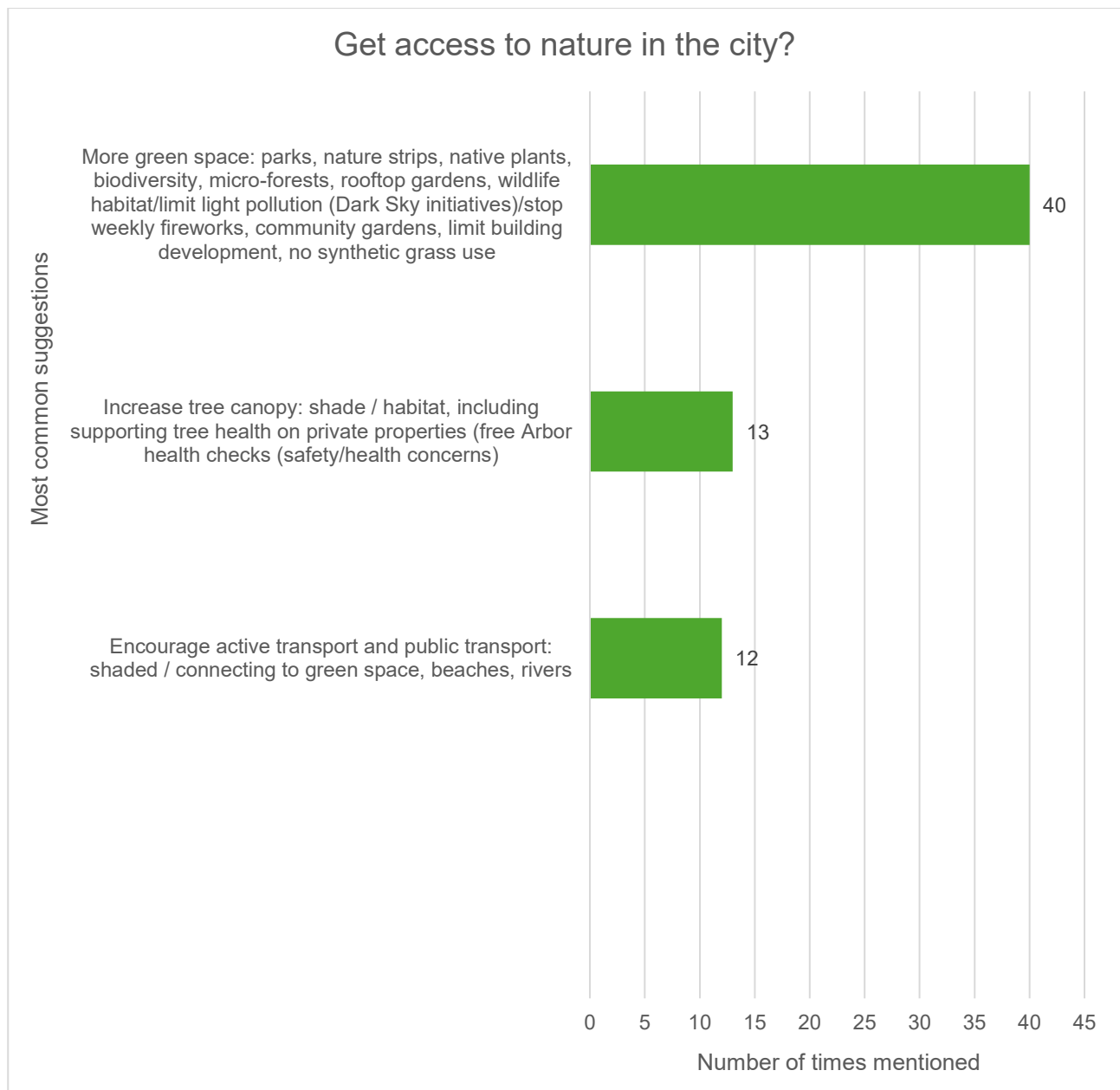
Reduce potable/drinking water use, increase alternative water sources

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.



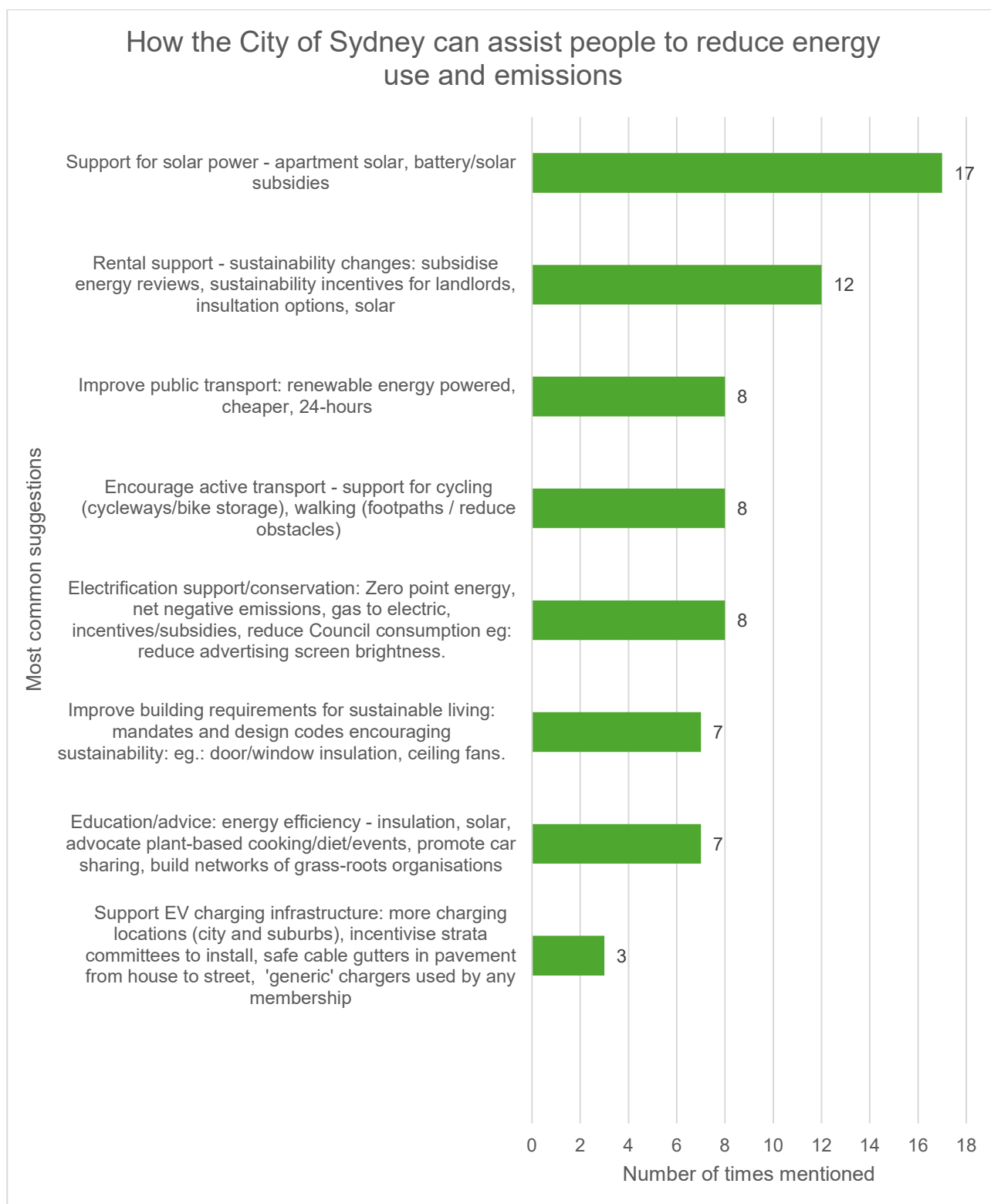
Getting access to nature in the City

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 maintenance 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.



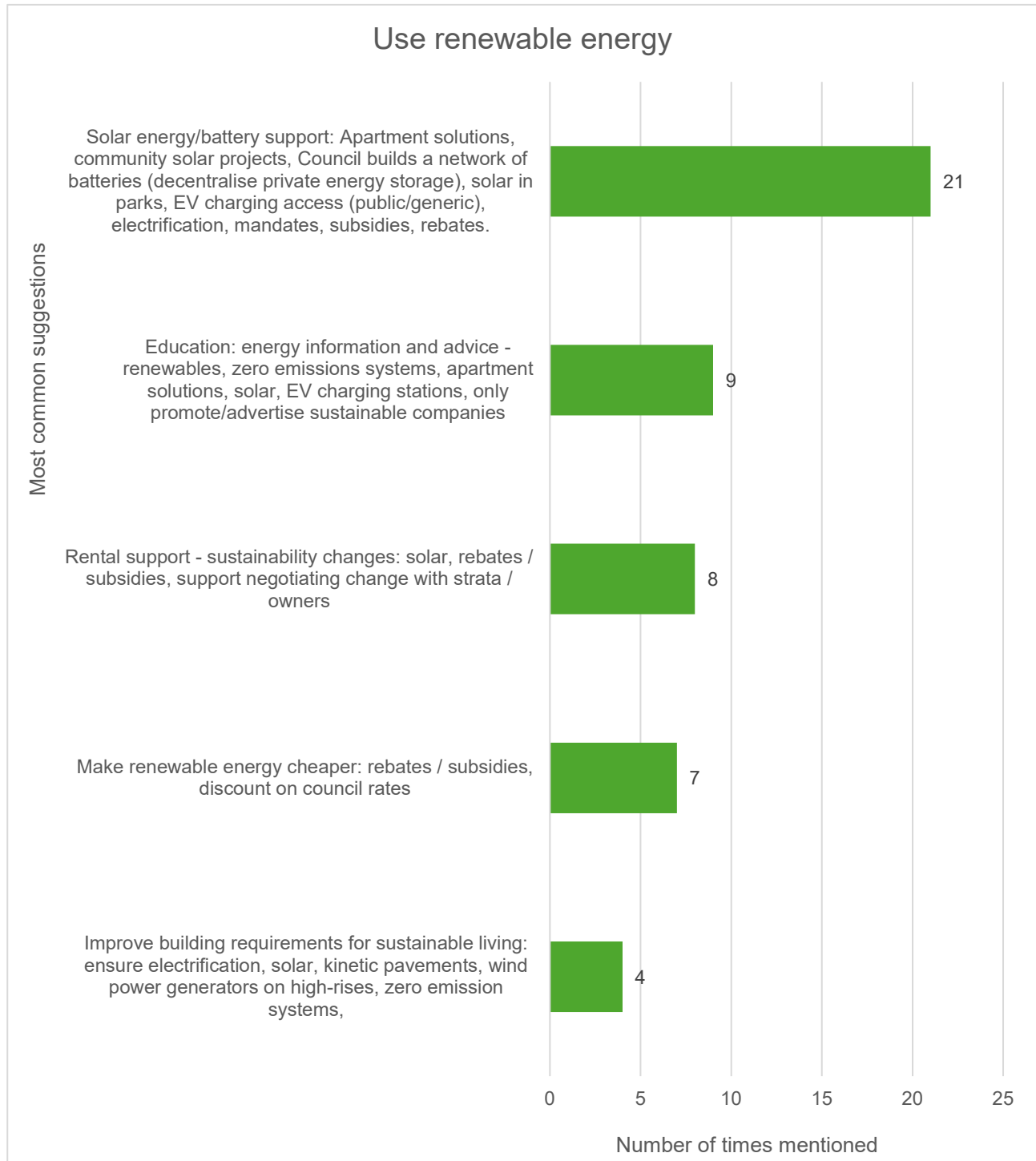
Reducing energy use and emissions

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.



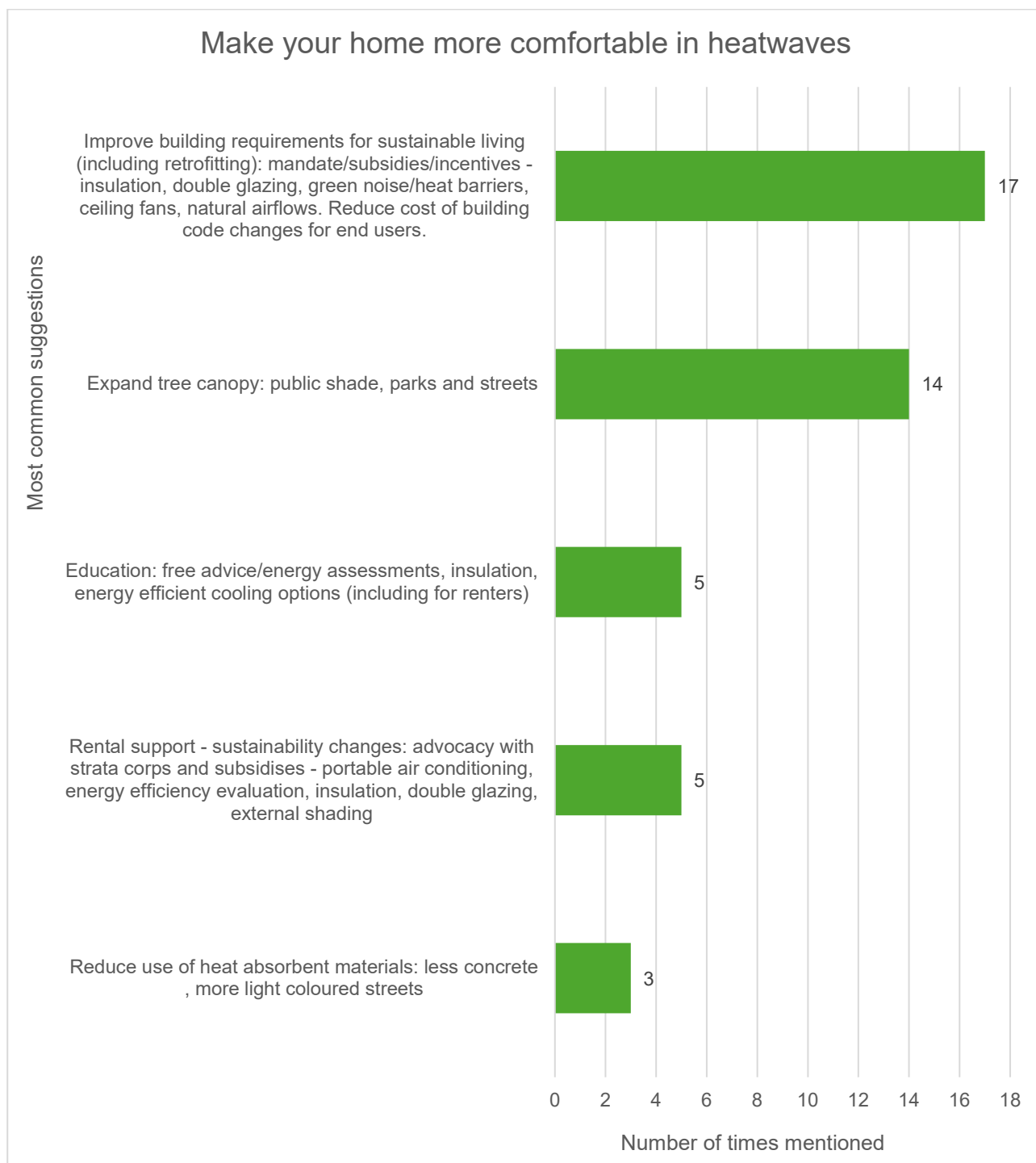
Using renewable energy

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 infrastructure.



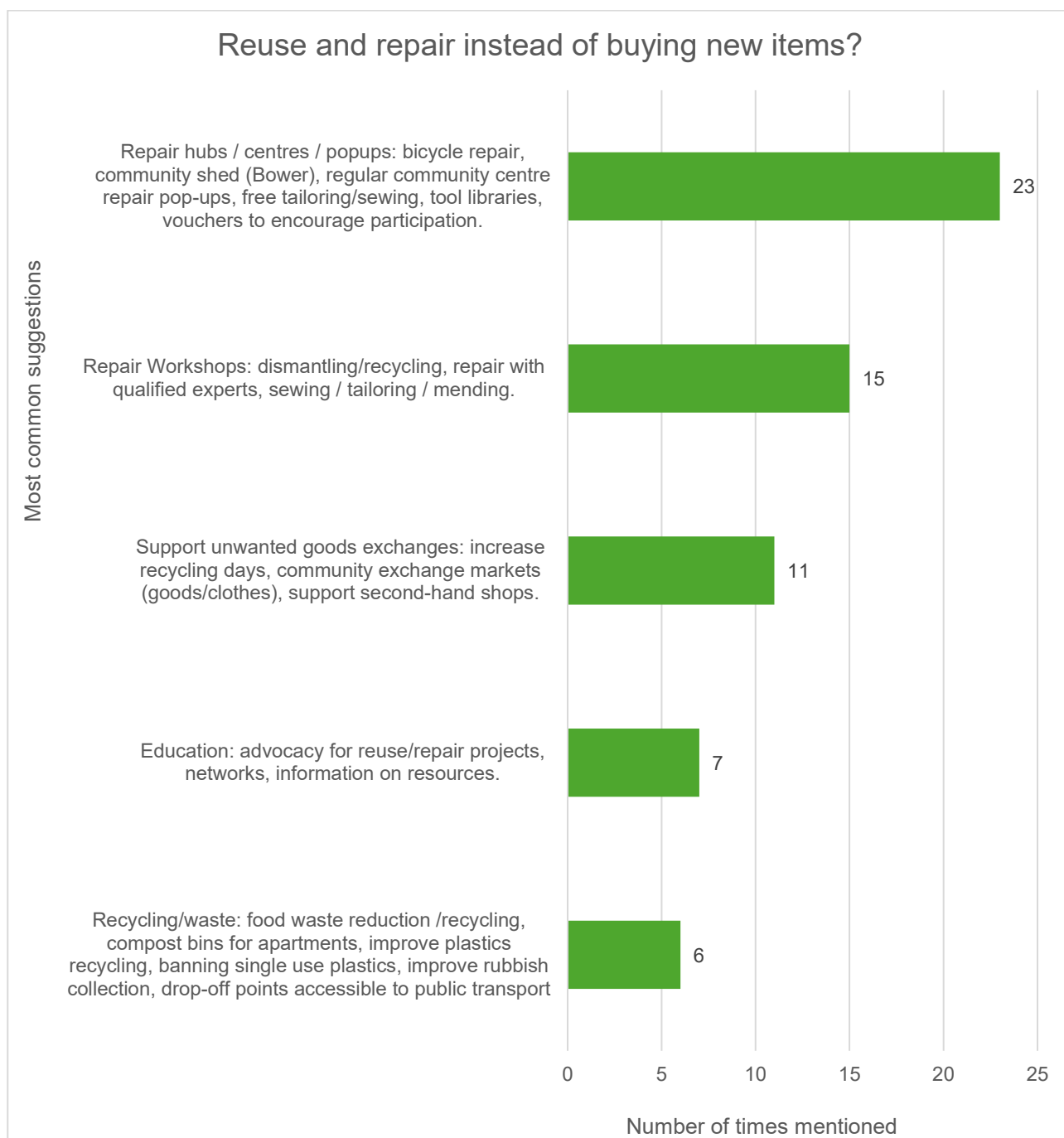
Making homes more comfortable in heatwaves

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.



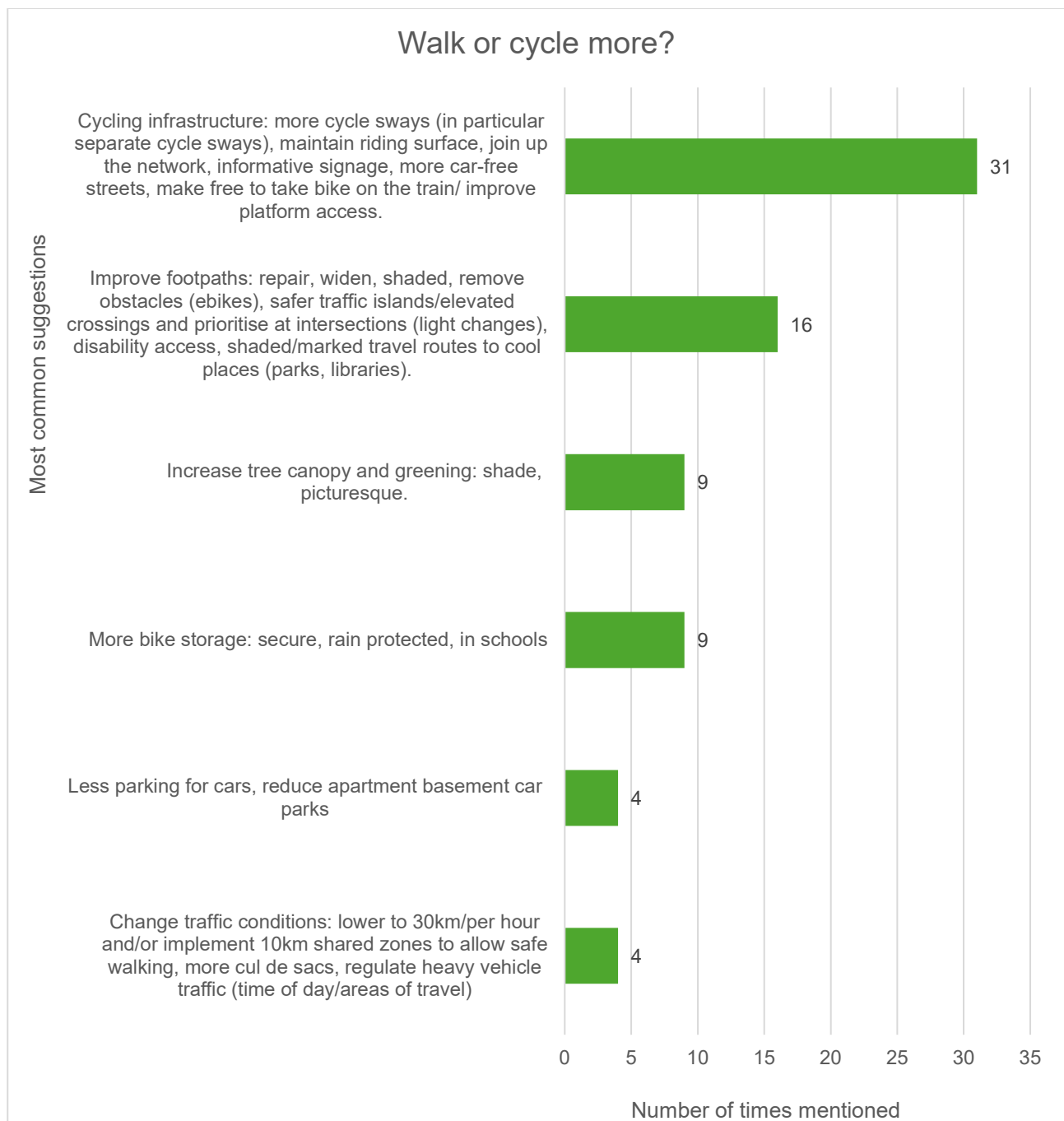
Reuse and repair instead of buying new items

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

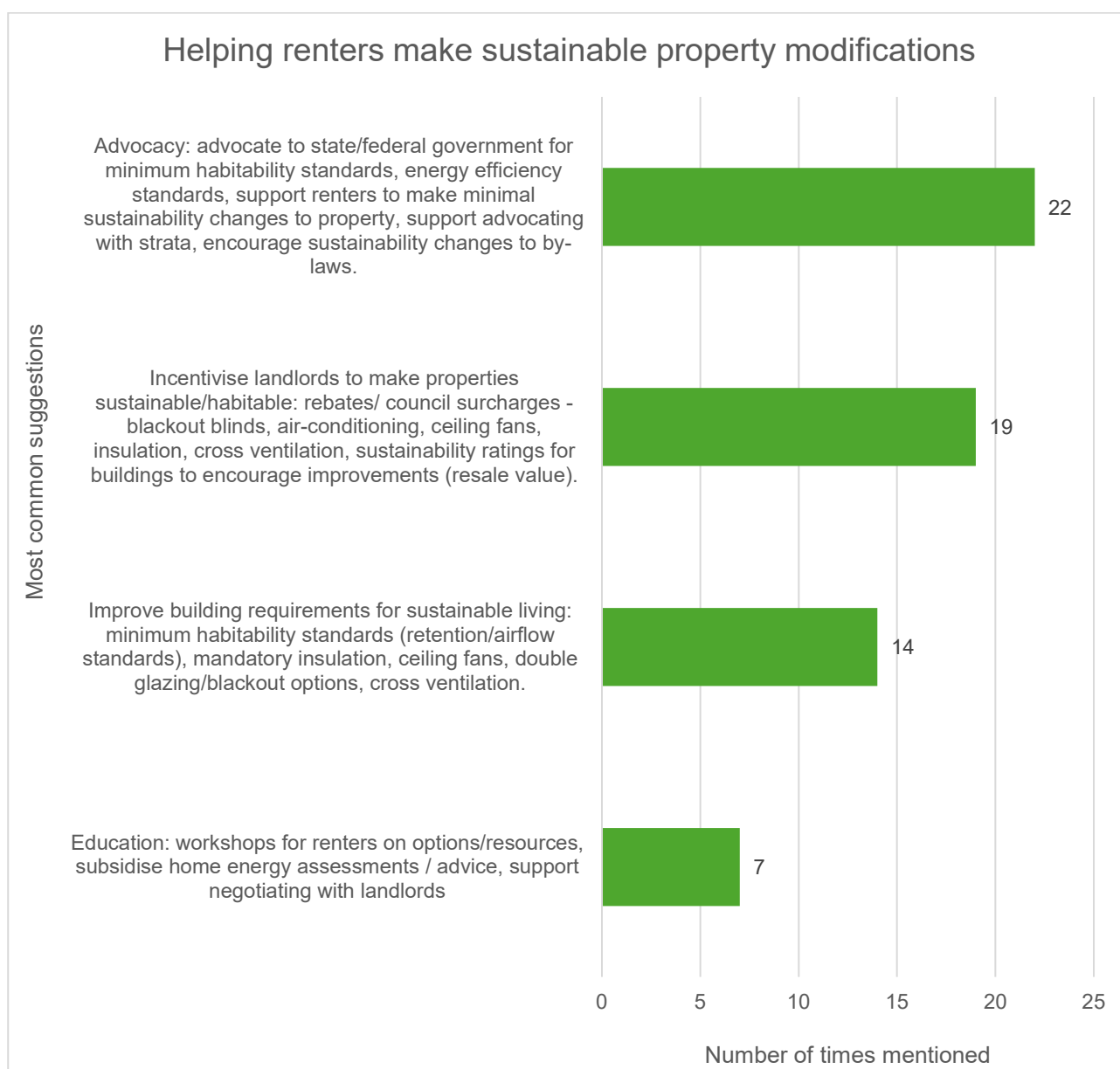
Respondents felt that the primary ways the City could help them to walk and cycle more were to improve the cycling and walking infrastructure within the City. This included more cycle ways, particularly separate cycle ways and the need to integrate the network to increase overall connectivity, including 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

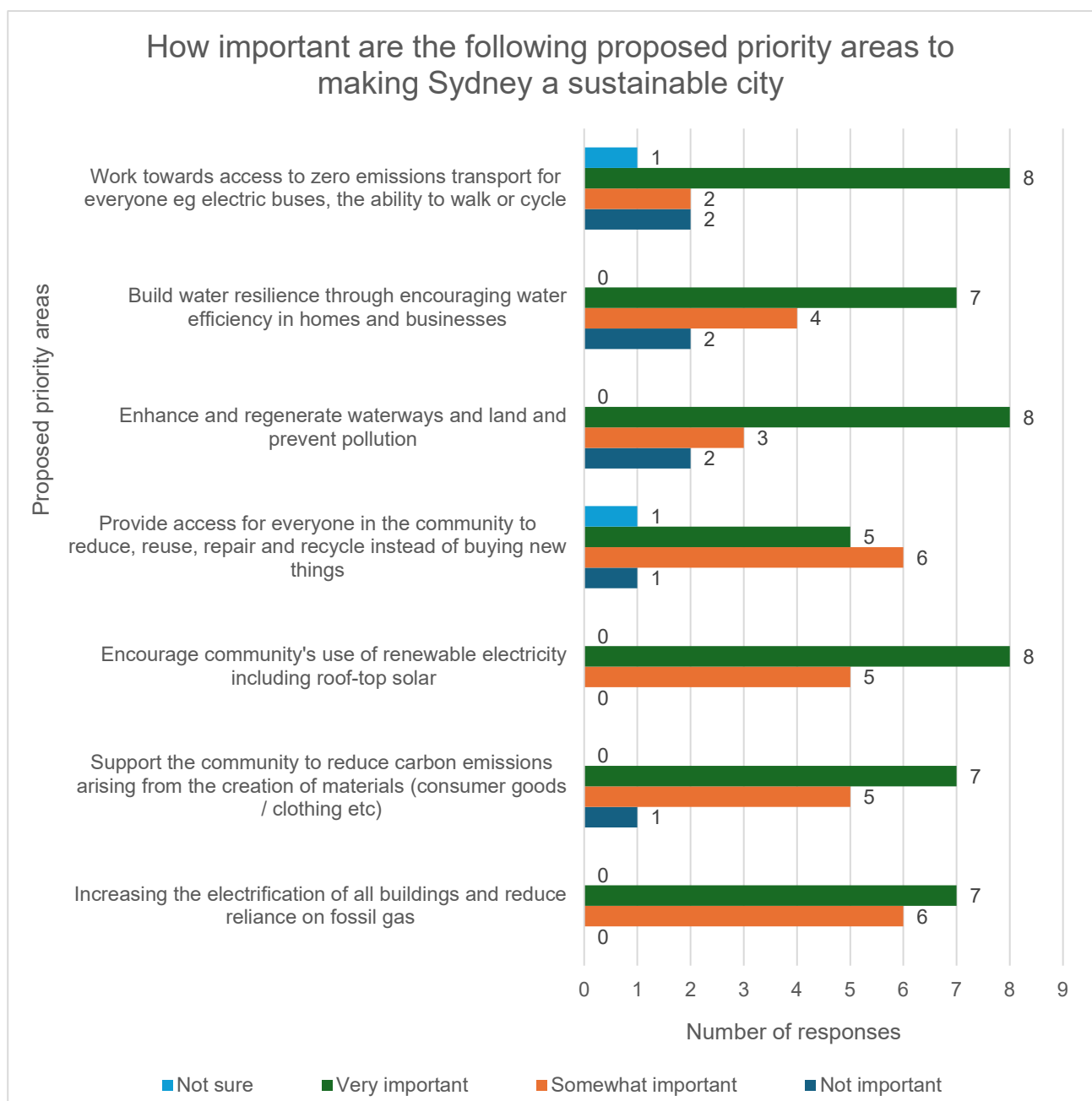
Comment	Up Votes	Down Votes
Council to reduce use of concrete in streetscaping especially median strips involving trees and plants. Concrete is a significant CO2 contributor. A 3 tree median plant area, newly built, requires about 60 yrs for it to become carbon neutral. Use alternatives or visit other 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.

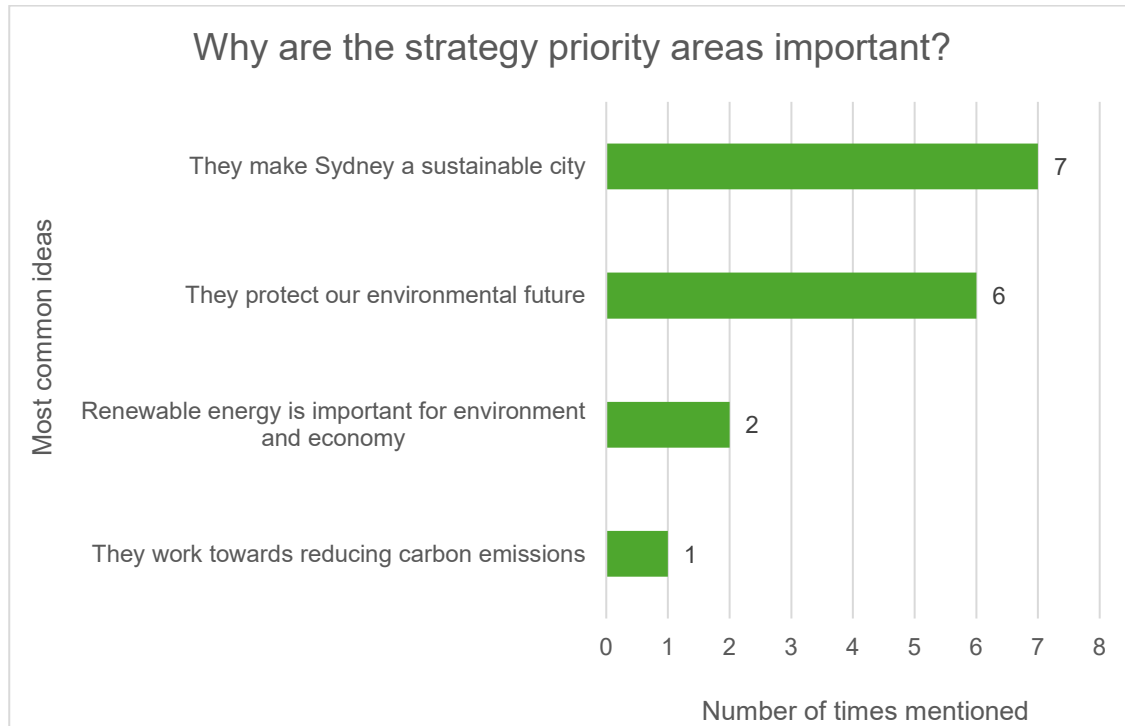
The following feedback is from 13 students aged between the ages of 13-17 years.

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?

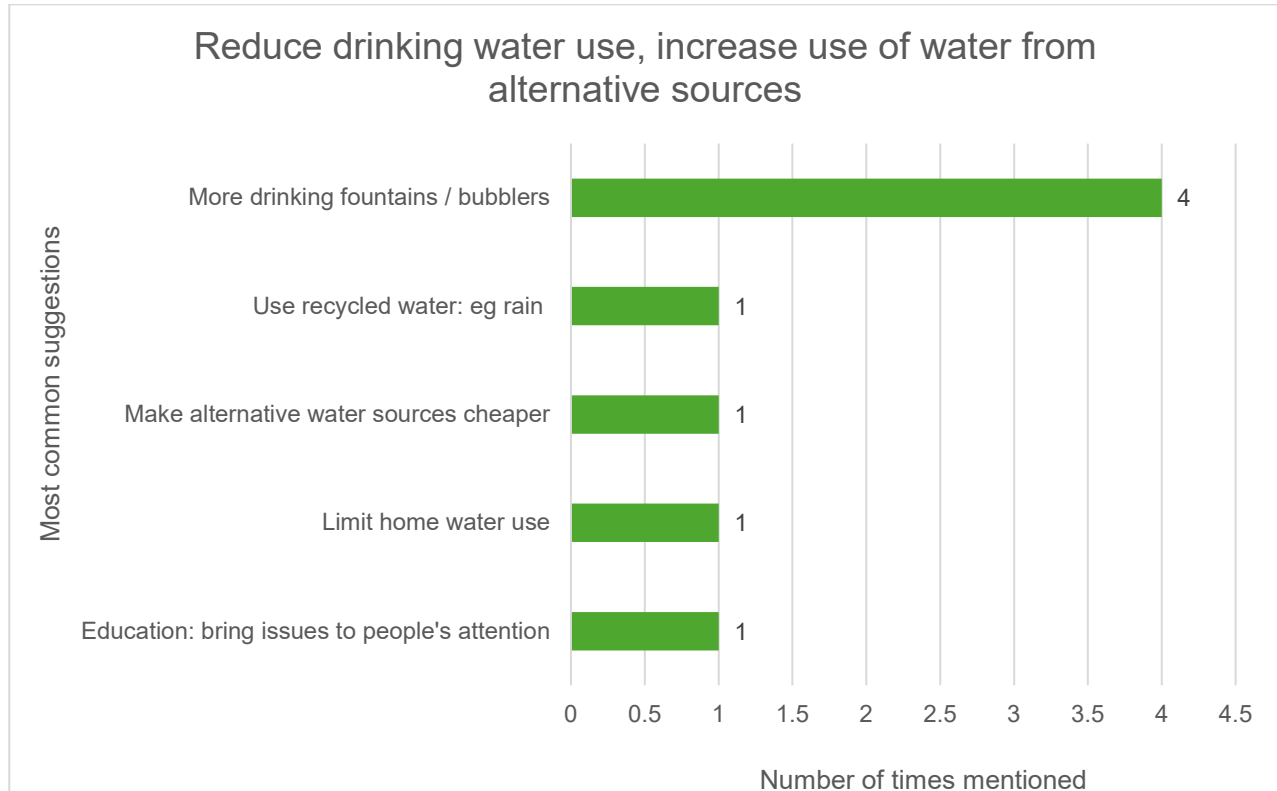
Young people were asked how the City of Sydney can help them to live in a more sustainable way in regards to the following areas:

- 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 summarised in the following graphs.

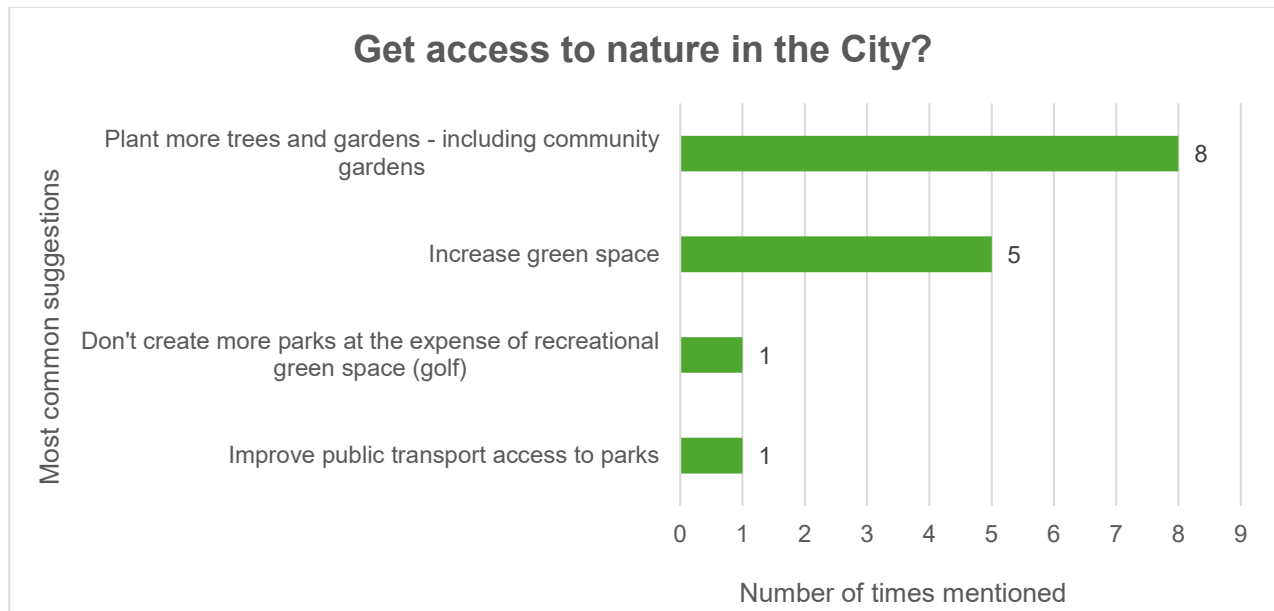
Reduce drinking water use, increase alternative water sources?

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.



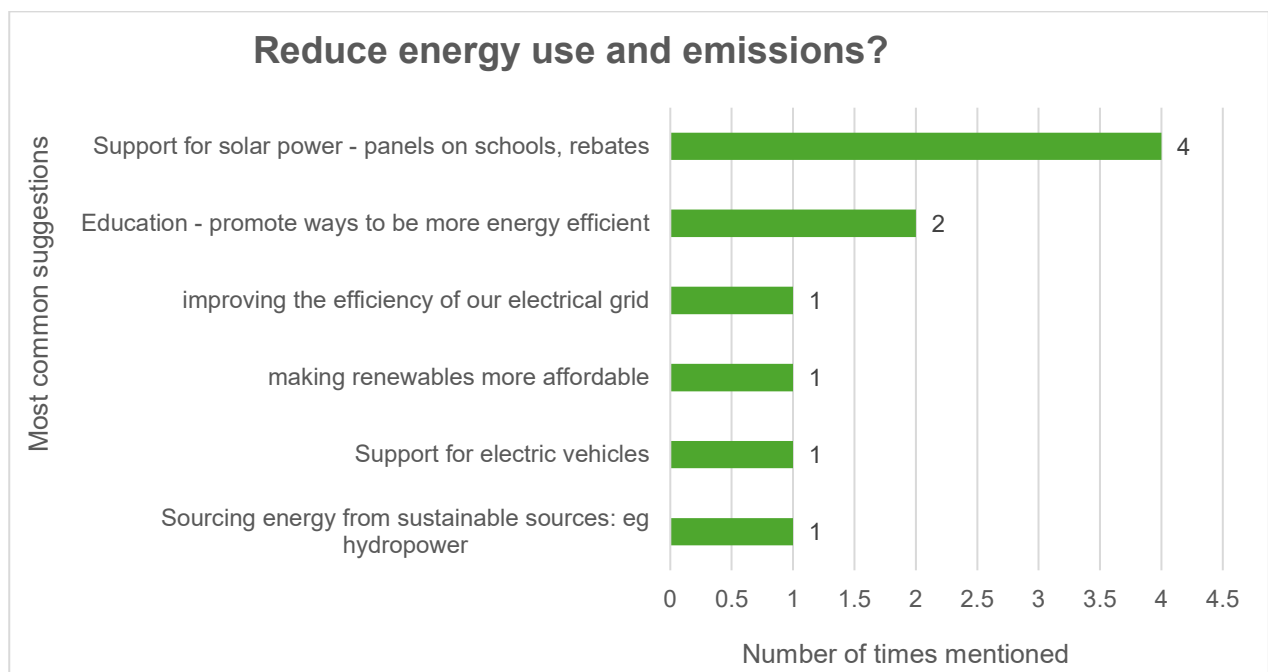
Get access to nature in the City

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.



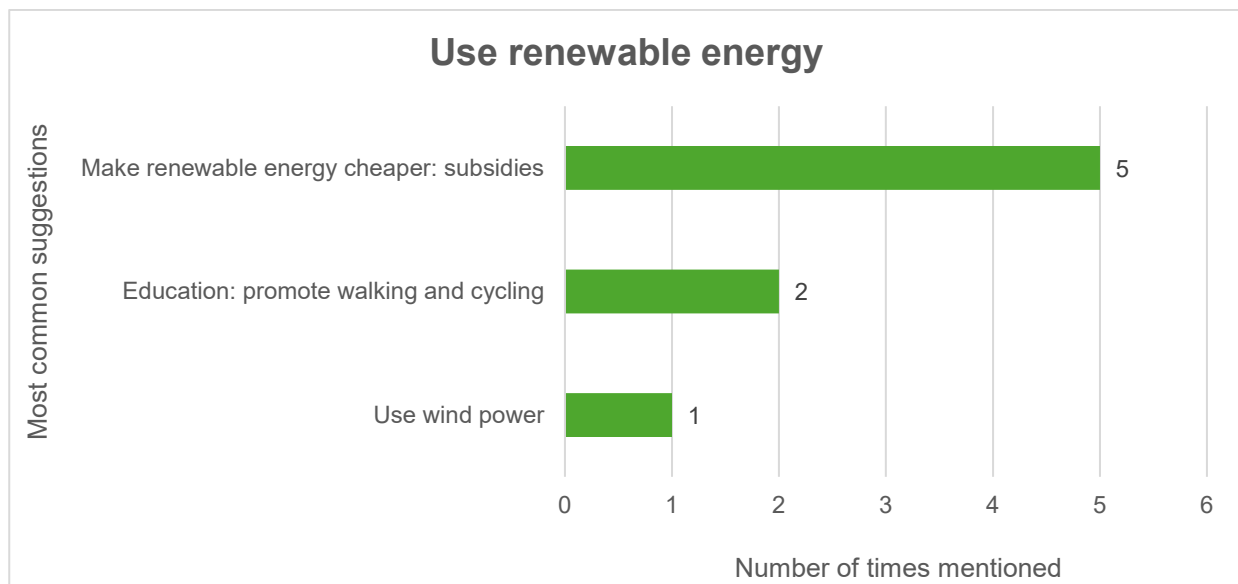
Reduce energy use and emissions

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.



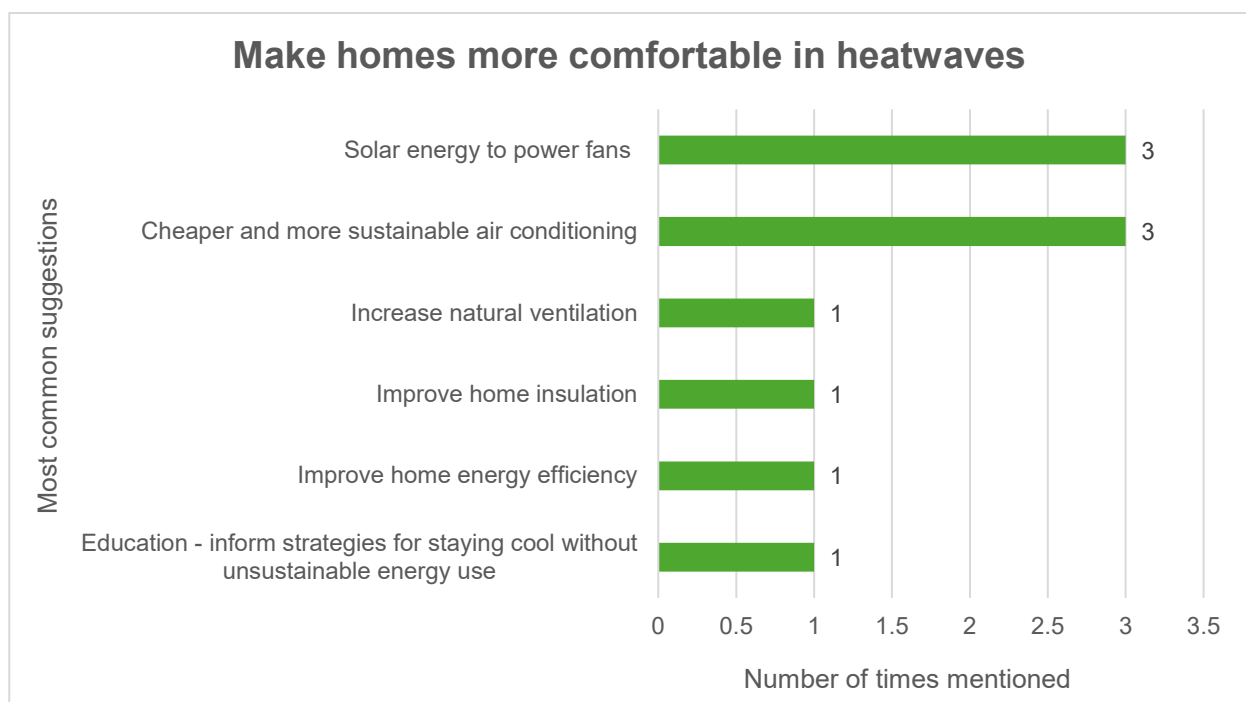
Use renewable energy

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.



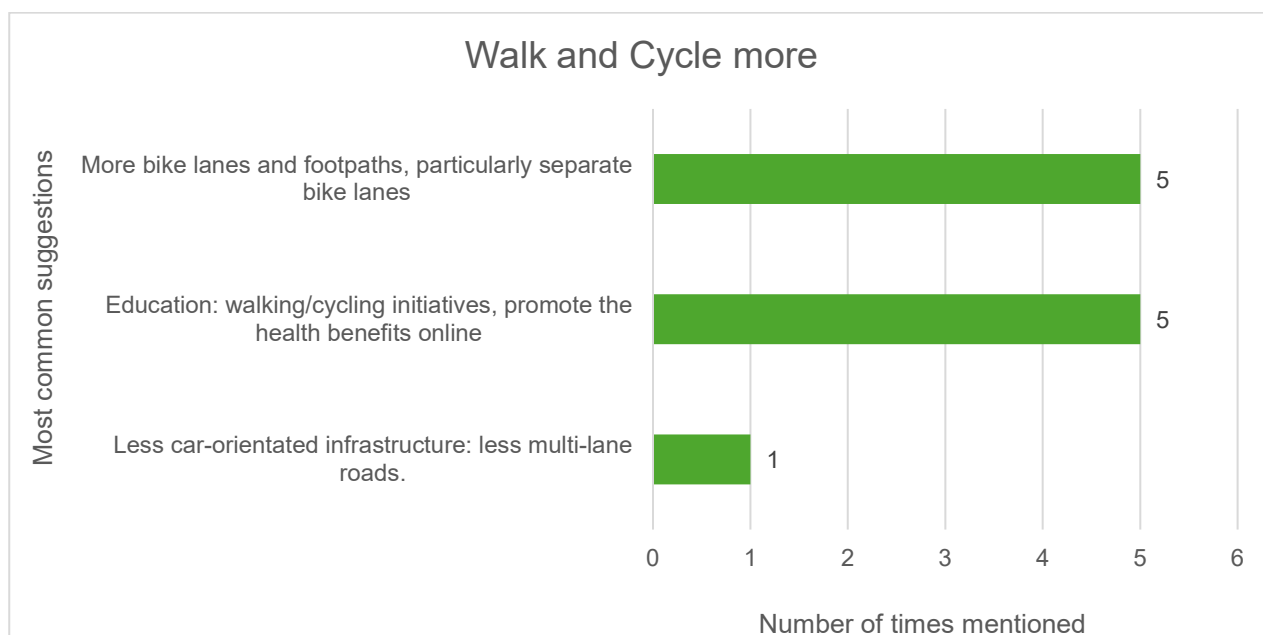
Reuse and repair instead of buying new items

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

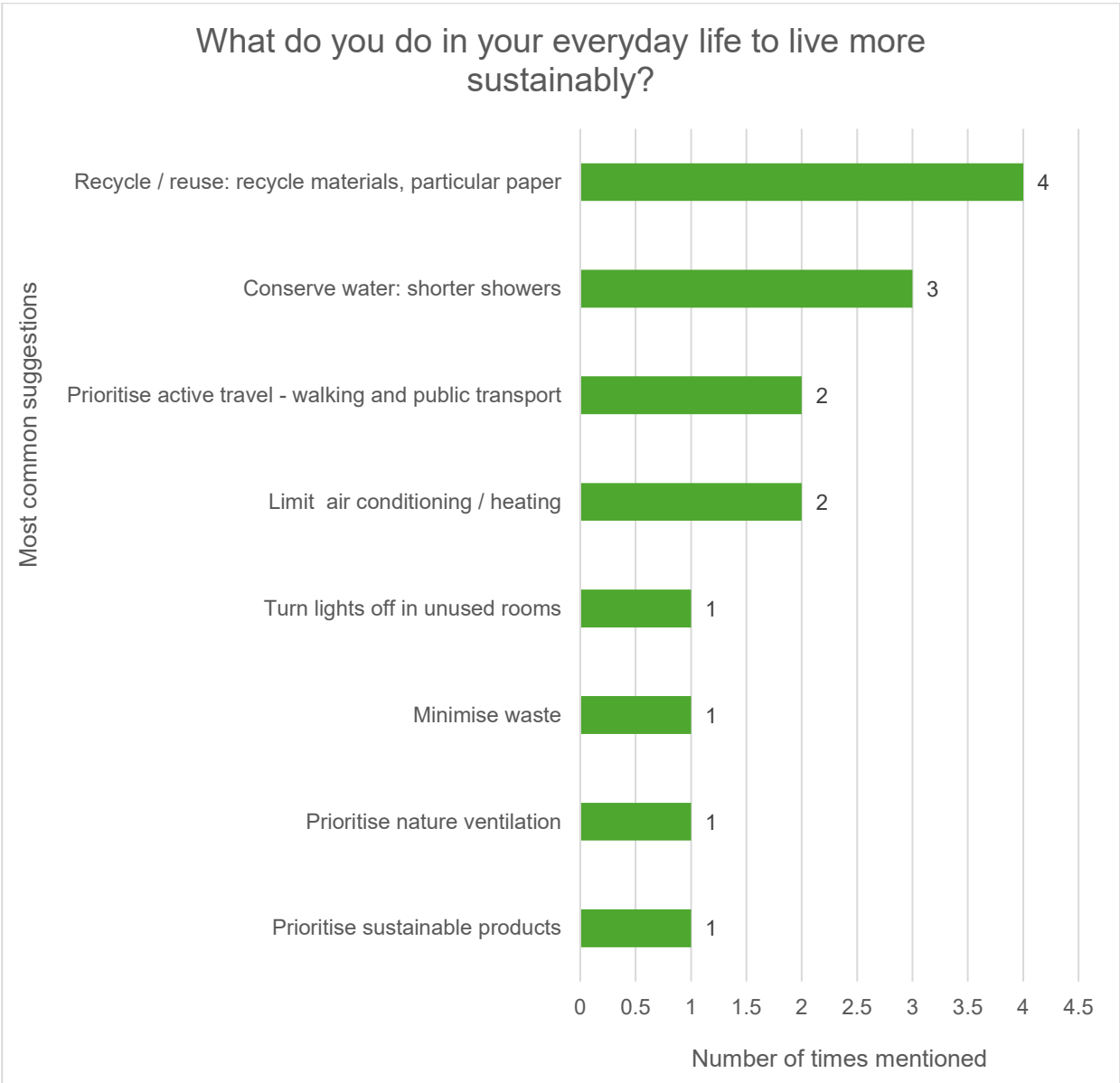
Young people felt that the primary ways the City could help them to walk or cycle more was to improve footpaths and bike lanes (particularly separate lanes) and to educate people on the health benefits of walking and cycling.



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:

Policy & planning changes

Have your say on our revised environmental strategy

The plan covers our operations, climate resilient buildings, waterways and land, and strong foundations to drive informed decisions.

Under review

Contributions to this consultation are closed for evaluation and review. The project team will report back on key outcomes.

28 Oct 2024

25 Nov 2024

Consultation opens

Consultation closes

What we're doing

We're revising our environmental strategy which outlines our plans for a sustainable Sydney over the next 5 years.

Why we're doing this

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.

Garoth Jenkins
SENIOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR
[Show details](#)

Zoe Morrison
SENIOR SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIST
[Show details](#)

Survey
4 minutes to complete

Community Ideas
4 minutes to complete

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.

Next steps

Once we've received your feedback, we'll finalise a draft environmental strategy for you to read and provide feedback in 2025.

How you can give feedback

Consultation closes at 5pm on Monday 25 November 2024.

- Contribute to the [ideas board](#).
- Complete the survey.
- Email your feedback to sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au or post it to:

Garoth Jenkins
Senior Community Engagement Coordinator, City Engagement
City of Sydney
Town Hall House, Level 7, 456 Kent Street
Sydney NSW 2000

- Talk to us

Garoth Jenkins
SENIOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR
[Show details](#)

Zoe Morrison
SENIOR SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIST
[Show details](#)

Other ways you can give feedback

Talk to us in person

If you are Deaf or have complex communication needs

If you need an interpreter

Survey

Complete our short survey →

It will take about 4 minutes and will help us shape the strategy

Community ideas

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

Overview

Do not buy rubbish bin liners - the only purpose for bin-liners is to throw them away.

✓ Agree ✗ Disagree ↗ Pass/unsure

< 1 of 40 statements >

Share your idea

Are your perspectives, experiences or ideas missing from the conversation? If so, add them in the box below. Your first name will appear with your submission.

What makes a good comment?

- 1 idea for each card
- be clear and concise
- stick to the City of Sydney social media [community guidelines](#) and exercise courtesy and be respectful to others at all times

Please note, statements are displayed randomly and you're not replying directly to other statements.

Enter your text here

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:

CITY OF SYDNEY 

Have your say

on the Environmental Strategy
We're revising our environmental strategy.
It outlines our plans for a sustainable Sydney over
the next 5 years.

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

Share your thoughts for a more
sustainable Sydney.



How to give feedback
You can give feedback at
cityofsydney/enviro-strategy
or use the QR code.

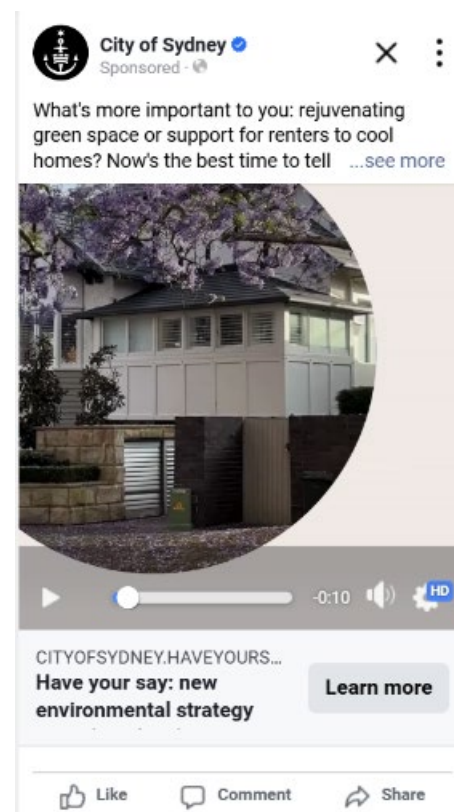
Consultation closes at:
5pm Monday 25 November 2025.

For more information, contact Gareth Jenkins,
Community Engagement
02 9265 9333
sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

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

Facebook posts:



LinkedIn posts

**City of Sydney**
57,651 followers
1mo • Edited • 

...

What does a sustainable Sydney look like to you?

We'd like to understand what you think our revised environmental strategy should cover, and the support you need to contribute to a more sustainable Sydney.

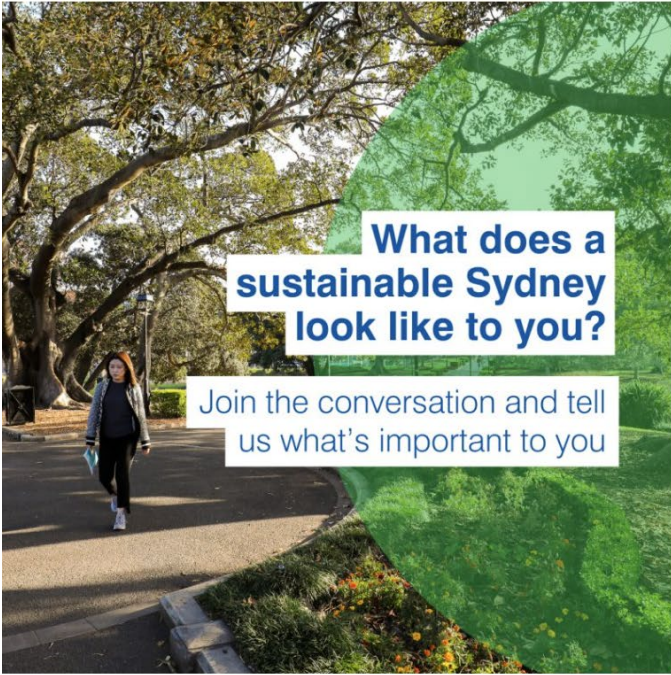
Join the conversation and tell us what you think about:

- electrifying all council assets and avoiding fossil fuels?
- providing support to renters to cool their homes?
- regenerating the waterways and land?

Find out more now and fill in a quick survey by Monday 25 November.

<https://lnkd.in/g9ttMAHM>

[Image description: A woman walking through Victoria Park, which is lined with large, overhanging trees. Text reads: What does a sustainable Sydney look like to you? Join the conversation and tell us what's important to you.]



 Abril Felman and 20 others

2 reposts

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.

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 reenvisioned residential and commercial 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 reimaged 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 fire 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](#)

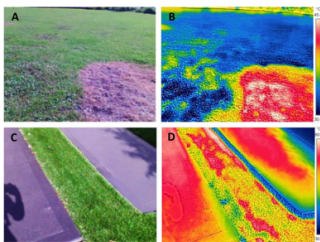
The NIH and PubMed Central scientific literature database article on [Artificial Turf: Contested Terrains for Precautionary Public Health with Particular Reference to Europe?](#) States: The European Chemicals Agency review on crumb rubber used on artificial pitches highlighted recommending players using 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 Pymont, 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.

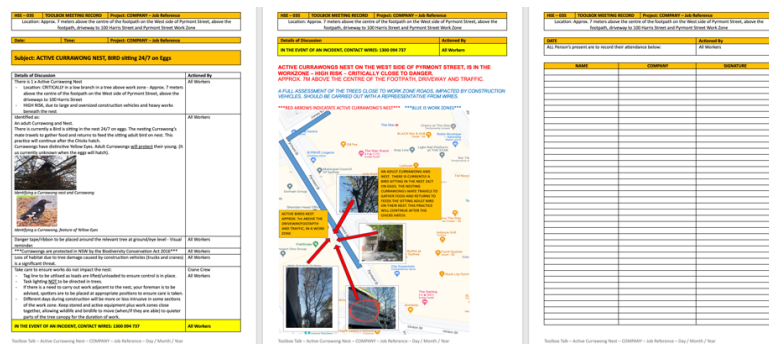
Biodiversity protection and management are necessary for these publicly identifiable nests and birds. Pending the season, arborists should not remove or do hard pruning of large trees. Active birds' nests should not be removed or the adult birds scared off. One adult bird could be sitting on eggs, while 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 customised 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.

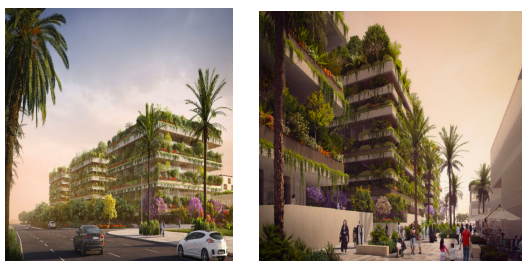
City Habitat Features, we also strongly support Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) within the public and private realm to include fresh water features for Urban wildlife to access fresh water (habitat features). Minimising the negative health impacts of intensifying weather disasters. We support both 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 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 (sooooo 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,
Pymont 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.

