

**Greater Sydney  
Commission**

# Draft District Plans

Report on initial phase of community  
and stakeholder engagement

November 2016





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# Introduction



# 1.1 The Greater Sydney Commission



The Greater Sydney Commission (the Commission) leads metropolitan planning for Greater Sydney. The Commission is integrating decision making across different levels of government, giving Greater Sydney a clear path to plan for new housing, great new places and spaces, our economic productivity and a resilient city for the future.

The Commission is creating draft District Plans that are a first step to connect local planning with the longer term metropolitan planning for Greater Sydney – a big picture approach to better coordinate state and local government planning.

Engagement on the Commission's planning for Greater Sydney is a continuing dialogue. This year, the Greater Sydney Commission is preparing six draft District Plans for Greater Sydney that have drawn from a broad evidence base. This includes a range of technical studies and an initial phase of engagement with Greater Sydney's diverse communities. We will continue to engage with these communities while the draft District Plans are on exhibition from late November 2016 until March 2017.

Next year we will draw on this work to review the Greater Sydney Region Plan – *A Plan for Growing Sydney*. The timing and approach for the revised plan will align with reviews of *The Long-Term Transport Masterplan 2012* and *Rebuilding NSW – State Infrastructure Strategy 2014*.

The Commission is providing an opportunity for community members, interest groups and others to provide comments. To ensure all the plans work together, we are aiming for the District and Greater Sydney plans to be finalised concurrently at the end of 2017. This process is important to ensure we hear from as many people as possible. It also gives Councillors, who will be elected to newly formed Councils in September 2017, the opportunity to review plans before they are made.



# 1.2 This report

This report provides a summary of the feedback we received during the **initial phase** of community and stakeholder engagement to support development of the draft District Plans. It includes:

- A summary of community and stakeholder feedback on Greater Sydney and each of its six Districts (sections 2 and 3)
- Details of the engagement activities undertaken to date (section 4)
- An overview of the next steps in the District planning process including ongoing opportunities to have your say (section 5).

Discussions with the community and stakeholders in the **initial phase** of engagement focused on each of the following themes:



Vision, values and aspirations for Greater Sydney and each of its six Districts



Jobs and transport



Housing



Great places



Environment

These themes align with the three themes identified in the draft District Plans:



A productive Sydney



A liveable Sydney



A sustainable Sydney



# 1.3 Our approach to engagement

## Commitment to engagement

Engagement on the Commission's planning for Greater Sydney is a continuing dialogue. The Commission is committed to innovation and excellence in the way we engage with you. Four key objectives have underpinned the **initial phase** of our engagement:

1. To explain the role of the Greater Sydney Commission, as a new independent organisation, and how to participate/engage with us
2. To understand the issues, needs and priorities of the six Districts and Greater Sydney as a whole
3. To explore innovative, effective and practical ways to address these issues, ideas and priorities for the six Districts and Greater Sydney as a whole
4. To report back on what we heard from the community and how we will use this to develop the draft District Plans.

As part of developing the draft District Plans the Commission has sought to engage widely, using an attitude of constant questioning, to have a genuine conversation with citizens about the kind of Greater Sydney people want.

Effective collaboration and meaningful engagement are at the heart of the Greater Sydney Commission's long-term planning for our Districts and Greater Sydney.

Our Statement of Priorities charges the Commission with increasing the opportunities for public involvement in our work and demonstrating innovation in the way we engage with our stakeholders.

Since our establishment in January 2016, we have been listening and learning from people with a vast range of expertise and interests. We have been actively engaging with members of the community, community groups, businesses, state and federal agencies and local councils. Our approach is to form strong, constructive relationships based on an understanding of people's values, vision and aspirations for the future of Greater Sydney.

Our Engagement Strategy (July 2016), which is available at [www.greater.sydney](http://www.greater.sydney), outlines our approach. We have reviewed the policies and charters of other organisations including IAP2 and Involve (UK) and have developed a set of best practice principles. These principles are that our engagement must:

- Commence early, before decisions are made
- Be genuine, with a commitment to act on what is heard
- Be open, with no attempt to shape or promote a favoured approach
- Be timely, by providing participants with enough time to consider and participate
- Provide feedback on what was said and the difference it did or did not make
- Enable as many people as possible to provide feedback and share their ideas.

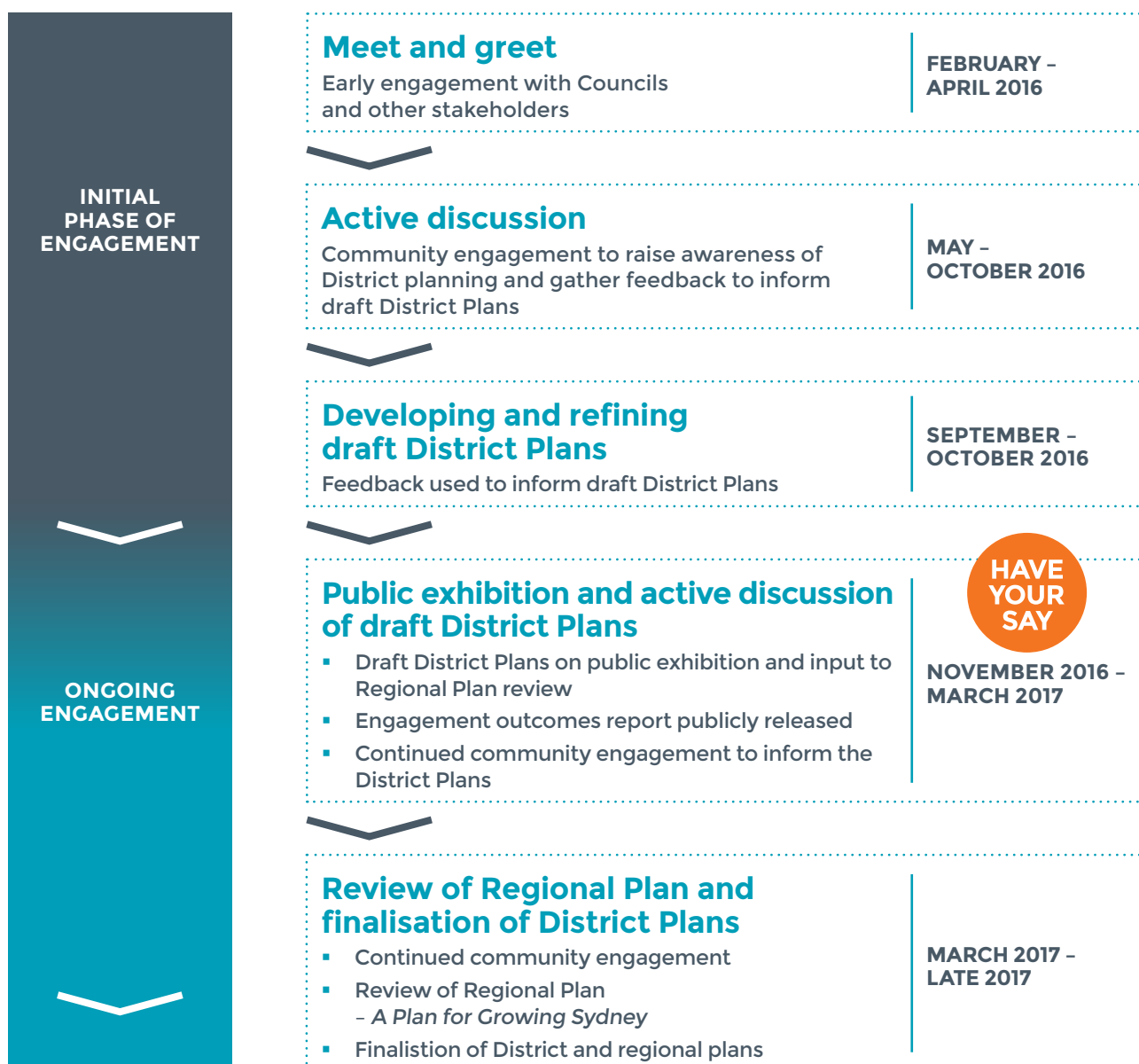


# Initial phase of engagement

There are 4.6 million voices in Greater Sydney. This is the start of the Commission's endeavour to listen, learn and discuss Greater Sydney with them.

Between May and October 2016 the Greater Sydney Commission conducted initial community engagement activities to provide citizens with an opportunity for early input into development of the draft District Plans (prior to their release in November 2016). We asked the community what they value about their District and Greater Sydney as a whole, and what they would like to see change over the next 20 years as Greater Sydney continues to grow.

Engagement will continue in 2017, as shown here.



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## How we have engaged

Citizens have shared their comments and ideas about Greater Sydney and its Districts through a wide range of engagement activities events, and online platforms.

We have had face-to-face conversations with more than 2,200 people about planning for Greater Sydney's future, complemented by online engagement. Diverse members of the community have shared their comments and ideas for the Greater Sydney Region, including residents, school students, community groups, businesses, and peak groups.

Opportunities for the community to get involved in the early stages of the draft District Plan process included:

- Talk Bus visits and information stalls in seventeen locations, including community events and festivals – our travelling Talk Bus involved conversations and other feedback opportunities, through which people were invited to share their ideas for the future of Greater Sydney
- Engagement with students from eight high schools across Greater Sydney
- Fifty-seven meetings and briefings with local community groups (including resident, environmental, multicultural, and sporting groups, chambers of commerce, and others)
- Seventeen round table meetings with peak groups who are active on social, economic and environmental issues across Greater Sydney – approximately fifteen peak groups per sector have provided guidance and advice on how the draft District Plans can enable a vibrant, inclusive, healthy, sustainable and prosperous Greater Sydney; these groups have also assisted us to reach their networks through a series of round tables and workshops
- Three social advisory panel meetings – co-convened by our Social Commissioner and NSW Council of Social Services with membership of peak bodies across the social, cultural and health sectors
- Three environment advisory panel meetings – co-convened by our Environment Commissioner and the Total Environment Centre with representatives from peak environment bodies, community groups and academic organisations)
- The panels also ran four workshops with more than 155 local community groups, to ensure that their advice to the Commission reflected local needs and views
- Fifty-six meetings and briefings with Members for Parliament and Councils
- Technical Working Groups – twenty-seven workshops were held across Greater Sydney with senior Council planners and staff of every Council to help shape the draft plans
- Map It online engagement, allowing people to make location based comments on an online map and an online discussion forum – attracting more than 550 comments
- Information and discussion questions on our social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter)
- A photo competition, to identify what people value about their District
- Email and 1800 hotline.

For a full list of all engagement activities undertaken in the initial phase see Appendix A.



# WHO WE SPOKE TO

ENGAGEMENT WITH  
**2,200+** MEMBERS OF  
THE GENERAL PUBLIC



**142,000** likes, comments, shares and clicks

INCLUDING

ENGAGEMENT WITH

**400**

STUDENTS  
WHO WOULD LIKE:

“More places  
to hang out  
after  
school”



## TECHNICAL ADVICE AND CONSULTATIONS

**400+**



SENIOR COUNCIL AND  
GOVERNMENT PROFESSIONALS



**150**

PEAK  
INTEREST GROUPS



The above figures indicate total numbers for the Greater Sydney Region.

## WHAT YOU HAVE TOLD US GREATER SYDNEY NEEDS



### Jobs

- More opportunities to work close to home, to support local economies and quality of life
- Greater job diversity across a range of fields including science and technology



### Transport

- More frequent and improved public transport to create a truly connected city
- Improved bicycle and walking connections to support 'active' communities



### Housing

- Greater housing affordability for current and future generations
- More diverse housing options
- Quality new housing in liveable centres



### Great Places

- Neighbourhoods that retain their unique appeal as Sydney grows
- Better infrastructure including schools, hospitals and childcare
- More vibrant centres, and more opportunities to celebrate cultural diversity



### Environment

- More local parks, open spaces and landscaping
- Active promotion of sustainability initiatives and education
- New development that is environmentally sustainable









2

# What we heard across Greater Sydney



# 2.1 Feedback on Greater Sydney

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## Overview

This section provides an overview of the feedback and ideas we received from members of the community through engagement activities held between May and October 2016. The engagement activities were designed to raise awareness of the District planning process, understand community members' values, needs and aspirations, and contribute to a vision for the District. This section discusses feedback relating to Greater Sydney. It covers feedback on the themes of jobs and transport, housing, great places and the environment (to support a productive economy, a liveable city, and a sustainable city).

## Community feedback on key themes

Community feedback on the key themes received via the online discussion forum, Map It, meetings with Members of Parliament, Councils and community organisations, Greater Sydney Commission mail box, engagement phone line and email showed that transport and infrastructure received the greatest amount of feedback overall, followed by great places. Feedback was also received on housing, jobs, the environment, and other issues, in that order.

The order of priority in which the five themes were raised in community feedback overall, was generally consistent across each of the six Districts. However, the following differences are noted:

- In the South District, there was a greater focus on the environment than on economic development
- In the South West District, great places was the most commonly raised theme, ahead of transport and infrastructure (which was the most commonly raised theme in all other Districts).

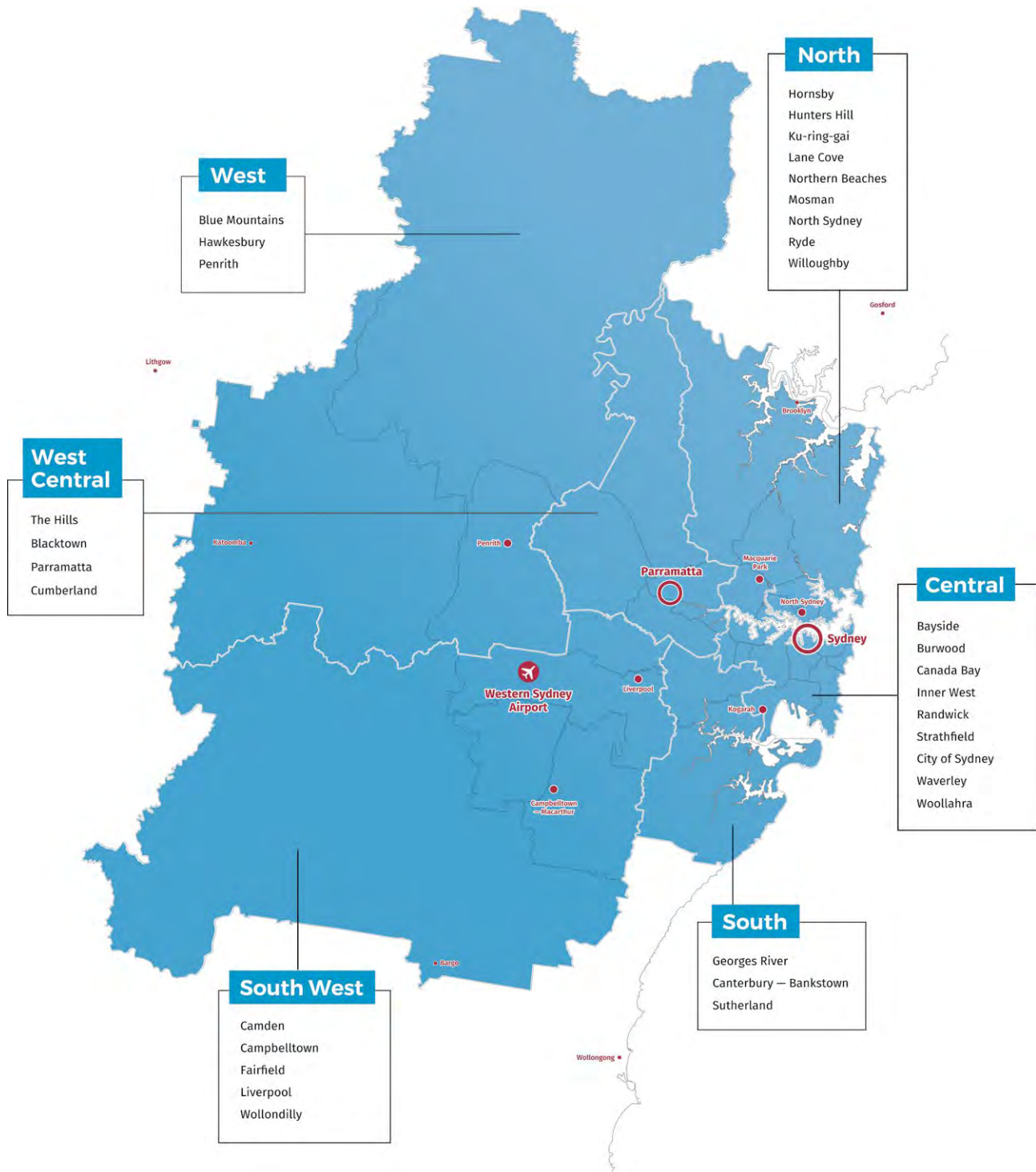
District specific feedback is discussed further in Section 3.

## Stakeholder feedback from meetings and briefings

District Commissioners engaged with numerous and diverse stakeholder groups over the course of the initial phase of engagement. This included meetings with community organisations, Councillors and Members of Parliament. Outcomes from the social and environmental advisory panels and economic round table discussions involving peak bodies, community groups and academic organisations are also included in this report.

Sections 2.2, 2.3, and 2.4 provide an overview of the key recurring issues raised in relation to each theme (a productive economy, a liveable city, and a sustainable city).

**Local Government Areas** by the 6 Districts of Greater Sydney





## 2.2 A productive economy

### Jobs

Feedback focused on the need for more jobs close to home and for greater job diversity within the Districts – creating more opportunities beyond Sydney City and Parramatta City. A greater number of skilled jobs were sought in the knowledge economy, across fields such as health, science, technology and engineering. People also told us they want local jobs across a range of sectors including government, professional services, customer service, creative industries and trades.

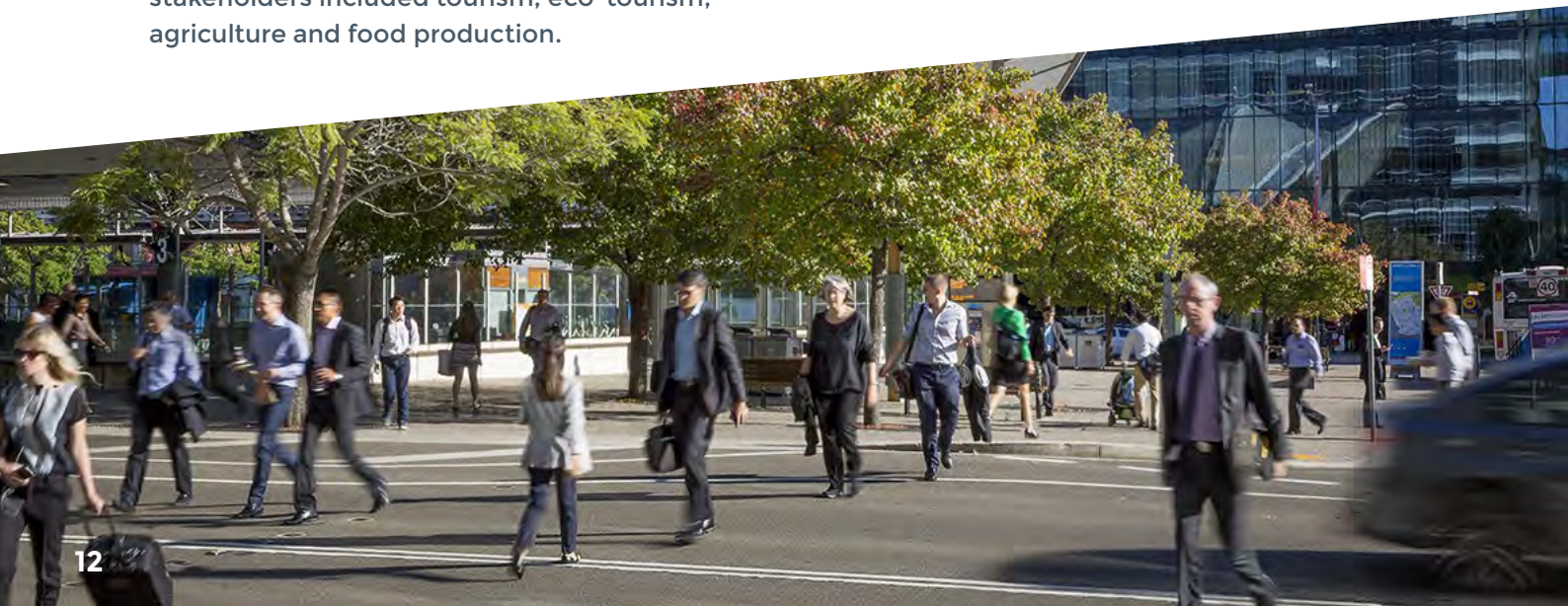
Key priorities were the promotion of local economic development in each of the Districts (through support for new and existing businesses and sectors); and opportunities for science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) education, training and industry support.

Support was expressed for more jobs to be created in and around: established employment centres; health and education precincts; Western Sydney Airport; and Greater Sydney's ports. Importantly, employment areas should have good access to public transport and supporting infrastructure such as childcare, cafes and entertainment options. Further opportunities to grow our economy and jobs that were identified by the community and stakeholders included tourism, eco-tourism, agriculture and food production.

Better access to employment was identified as being particularly important for young people and job seekers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. People wanted to see education and training opportunities promoted in each of Greater Sydney's Districts (for example through universities and TAFE). Youth employment and improved pathways from education and training were identified as a priority.

Feedback also highlighted that:

- Employment and urban services land should be retained to support jobs and economic growth
- Greater housing choice and diversity is required, to retain and attract talent and promote local economic development
- A pipeline of planned infrastructure and related funding is required, to support jobs and economic growth; this includes transport infrastructure to service employment centres / residential communities
- A greater focus on the commercialisation of Australian research is required (for example medical research)
- A coordinated approach is required to support strategic land use planning and minimise potential conflicts as Greater Sydney grows (for example proposed expansion of the freight rail network within close proximity to residential development).



Jobs was the fourth most frequently raised theme in community feedback received during the initial phase of engagement.

## Transport and infrastructure

Feedback focused on the need for more frequent and improved public transport to create a truly connected Greater Sydney. The community identified traffic congestion and parking provision as important issues to be addressed to support improved access within their Districts and across Greater Sydney. An improved public transport system and strategies for reducing car ownership were widely identified as important to effectively address congestion. Road network upgrades were also proposed.

People were looking for public transport to provide better, more frequent and faster connections within their District and to jobs, education and other activities in Greater Sydney. Suggestions for improving public transport included:

- Faster and more frequent bus and train services, particularly at peak times, on weekends and at night

- Better connected public transport services across all modes, including bus, train, ferry and light rail
- More affordable public transport
- Expansion of light rail and bus networks
- Improved walking and cycle paths and extended networks
- More commuter car parking near public transport hubs.

More opportunities for walking and cycling, and improved walking and cycling connections, were seen as a priority to support active communities throughout Greater Sydney. People commonly identified good transport and movement networks as critical for great places.

Transport and infrastructure was the theme most commonly raised in community feedback during the initial phase of engagement.





## 2.3 A liveable city

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### Housing

Feedback focused on the importance of improving housing affordability across Greater Sydney, to meet the needs of current and future generations. The community and stakeholders highlighted the need for broader housing choice and diversity to meet the needs of our growing population. People commented on the high cost of living in Sydney and the need for more housing options, to support quality of life.

Affordability issues were identified as impacting social diversity, and particularly affecting lower income households including first home buyers, young people and essential service workers. Lack of affordability was an issue for both those looking to purchase a home as well as renters.

Government leadership in social and affordable housing was seen as central to protecting vulnerable people and ensuring social equity across Greater Sydney. The availability of affordable, accessible, healthy and diverse housing options that meet the needs of people throughout their lives was seen as fundamental to the liveability of Greater Sydney.

People wanted to see quality new housing in liveable centres. In particular, comments focused on the importance of planning and delivery of increased urban density that is 'done well'. Heritage protection, design excellence, and minimising impacts on surrounding neighbourhoods were identified as key factors for the successful delivery of higher density housing.

Access to open space was identified as a key consideration for new residential development. Universal design and minimum standards for acoustic and visual privacy should apply for new residential development.

Feedback also highlighted the need for improved support services (such as access to housing and employment) for culturally and linguistically diverse communities, including people who are newly arrived.

Housing was the third most commonly raised theme in community feedback during the initial phase of engagement.

### Great places

Inclusiveness, equity and diversity were identified as underpinning many aspects of creating great places. This was said to extend across housing, transport, healthy living and quality urban design, education, training and employment, the arts, culture and entertainment.

People who talked about great places commonly focused on the importance of strong local neighbourhoods supported by improved community infrastructure such as schools, health facilities, childcare, community and recreational facilities, parks and public spaces, and other amenities such as shops and cafes. People wanted to see local neighbourhoods retain their unique appeal as Greater Sydney continues to grow. They highlighted the importance of maintaining the sense of community that exists in many local areas.



While levels of density across Greater Sydney are mixed, it was commented that liveability should be a constant; each District should accommodate its share of higher density development, and the amenity of local areas should be maintained and enhanced. Feedback commonly focused on the importance of protecting the unique heritage of local areas and building on their character.

Feedback highlighted the importance of improved and equitable access to social, cultural and health infrastructure to support strong, inclusive communities – across all ages, abilities, cultures and sexual identities.

More public places and spaces for families and young people, and opportunities for residents to be healthy and active were suggested. Green space was seen as very important. For many people it was either the thing they liked most about their suburb or wanted to see more of.

Cultural and sporting activities and events, and other community building initiatives were considered important to support liveability across Greater Sydney's neighbourhoods, beyond inner city areas.

Quality streetscapes and more vibrant centres were commonly raised in community feedback. People identified opportunities to revitalise places within their Districts to create attractive destinations for locals and visitors. Suggestions focused on creating more appealing places for people to socialise such as village centres and public places, as well as more community and cultural activities and events.

There was also demand for more cultural and creative activity and a more vibrant night life in the Districts and across Greater Sydney. Arts and culture were described as encompassing an ecology of communities and institutions; and representing an important contributor to the economy, and to the identity, liveability and social diversity within Districts. Planning for new arts and cultural institutions and facilities was said to be required across the Districts, to ensure that all members of the community (including people in Western Sydney) have equitable access to our cultural landscape.

Feedback identified the need for more opportunities to recognise and celebrate the cultural diversity of Greater Sydney. The community highlighted the importance of celebrating Aboriginal culture, as a living culture; and undertaking mapping and planning of cultural facilities at a District level. We heard that planning for public places and spaces should be underpinned by an understanding of diverse cultural perspectives.

Robust community engagement was identified as an important priority to support planning and development, including as part of major infrastructure projects such as WestConnex. It was said that community engagement should be wide reaching and offer opportunities for meaningful participation.

Great places received a similar amount of community feedback to transport and infrastructure during the initial engagement period.

## 2.4 A sustainable city

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### Environment

Feedback highlighted the importance of protecting the natural environment including mature trees, green spaces, bushland, flora and fauna and waterways. People told us that Greater Sydney's natural heritage should be protected in their District and to support healthy lifestyles as Greater Sydney continues to grow.

Members of the community wanted to see more local parks, open spaces and landscaping, active promotion of sustainability initiatives and education, new development that is environmentally sustainable (including water and electricity saving homes and green walls), and management of the challenges associated with climate change.

Provision of quality open space was highlighted as a key priority to support liveable neighbourhoods and healthy lifestyles. Comments highlighted the importance of protecting open space from development and ensuring that the amount provided responds to the needs of our growing population. New standards for open space provision were identified as being needed. A network of connected open spaces across Greater Sydney was suggested, to support health, recreation and biodiversity.

Sustainable development was a key priority. People commented on the opportunity for government and the community to work together to bring about change for the better. People talked about protecting our built and natural heritage through initiatives such as: greater incentives for maintaining heritage; a stronger role for the Heritage Office; stricter heritage controls; and improved processes

for assessment of heritage, environment and community values to inform State Infrastructure projects.

We heard that new development across Greater Sydney should be sympathetic to local areas. Suggestions included: greater adherence to Local Environment Plans / Development Control Plans and respect for community values (particularly relating to building height and density); and identifying local character and community values in District plans, to ensure these are not overridden by developers.

Feedback highlighted the importance of protecting and managing our urban canopy and individual trees through initiatives such as: review of 10/50 legislation (which allowed people within 350 metres of high risk bushland to cut down trees within ten metres of their property without a permit); a register for significant trees on public and private land; adequate provision of setbacks and deep planting zones; appropriate species selection for new plantings; and appropriate methods for tree trimming.

People wanted to see improved public access to and connectivity between Greater Sydney's coastal and harbour foreshore areas. It was commented that District plans should identify areas of foreshore land to be protected from development.

Healthy urban waterways should be supported by a range of initiatives including: remediation, restoration and rehabilitation; more marine reserve areas; measures to support improved stormwater quality; and public awareness / community education programs.

Resilience and adaptation were identified as being critical for Greater Sydney including management of emergencies, the heat island effect, our water supply, food security, and

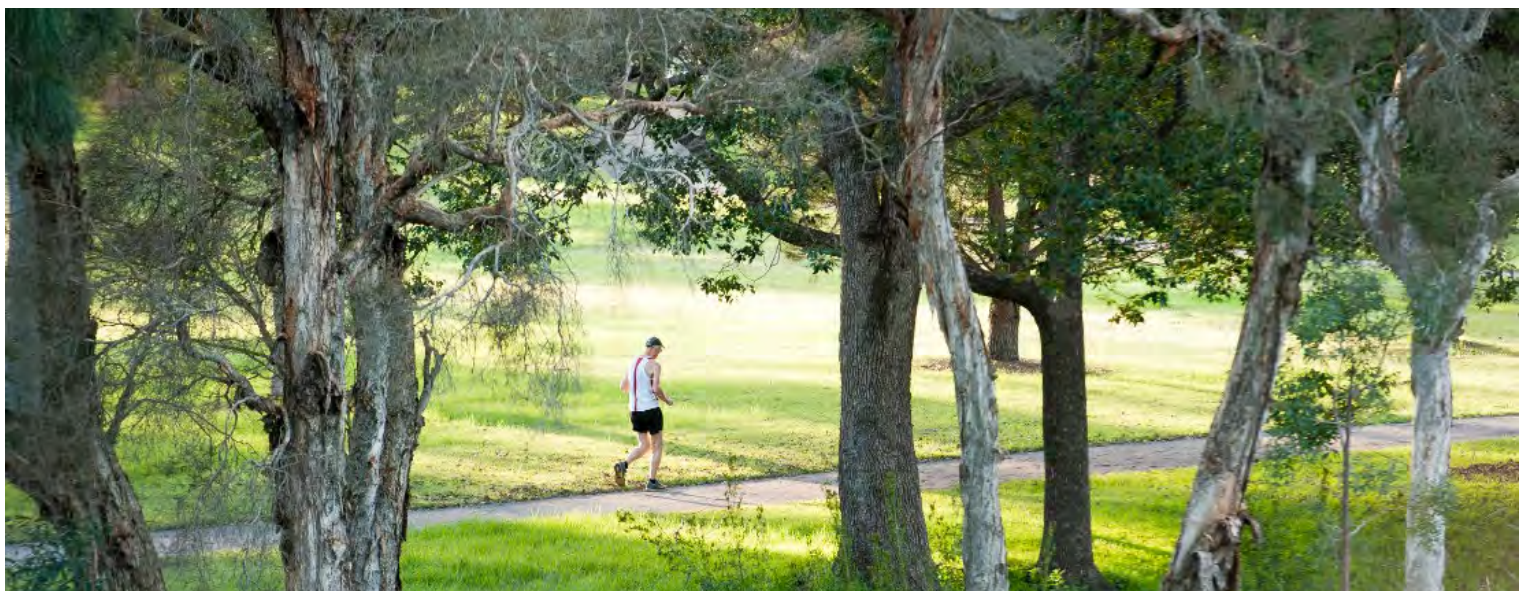
climate change impacts. It was suggested that Greater Sydney should be a zero carbon city by 2050.

Clean air was identified as a key priority for Greater Sydney and its communities, particularly as our city continues to grow; a shift towards public and active transport is required; more greening of Greater Sydney is required; opportunities to reduce car dependency and parking requirements should be considered as part of development.

Protection of agricultural land and food production was also identified as a priority for Greater Sydney.

Other issues for consideration to support a sustainable city include improved governance processes, development of a population policy, more green engineering and infrastructure, and greater prioritisation of environmental issues.

The environment was the fifth most commonly raised theme in community feedback during the initial engagement period.







Our Sydney,  
*your home*

Our Sydney,  
*your home*





3

# What we heard in each District



# 3.1 Feedback on the Districts

## Overview

This section provides an overview of the feedback and ideas we received from members of the community through engagement activities held between May and October 2016 by District. The engagement activities were designed to raise awareness of the District planning process, understand community members' values, needs and aspirations for their respective District, and contribute to a vision for the District. This section covers:

- An overview of the engagement program in each District
- Feedback on the draft vision for each District
- Feedback on the themes of jobs and transport, housing, great places and the environment specific to each District (to support a productive economy, a liveable city, and a sustainable city).





## 3.2 Feedback on the Central District

COMMUNITY  
FEEDBACK

### Our vision for the Central District

Home to a globally competitive Sydney City and liveable neighbourhoods, the Central District comprises natural attractions and iconic built places including Sydney Harbour, the east coast beaches, parks and rivers. Its cosmopolitan and vibrant urban communities range from the highest density suburbs in Australia to some quintessential historic neighbourhoods.



**Image:** Winter sunshine in St Peters, winning entry for Central District, #Greater Sydney photo competition.



### Towards the vision for the Central District

Members of the community have provided valuable feedback on what they enjoy about the Central District and what they would like to see changed. These conversations have been instrumental to the development of the draft vision for the Central District (summary above).

People in the Central District told us that they place great value on the area's natural heritage, parks and open spaces. They wanted to ensure these features were protected, as the population grows and changes. The community also told us that they have a strong connection to the District's character, its cultural attractions and local centres.

We heard that many people were seeking greater housing affordability in the area. However, there were mixed views on how to achieve this. Some believed that higher density housing close to transport and services was part of the solution. Others told us that they were opposed to increased housing density, due to impacts on local character and congestion.

People had mixed views on public transport services in the District and a number of suggestions were made for how these could be improved. People told us they want a more integrated transport network, more frequent services, transport connected to employment areas, and more opportunities for cycling and walking.



## Who we have engaged in the Central District

Opportunities for the community to get involved in the early stages of the draft Central District Plan process included:

- Talk Bus visit to Moore Park Produce Market (our travelling Talk Bus involved conversations and other feedback opportunities, through which people were invited to share their ideas for the future of Greater Sydney)
- Talk Bus visit to the NSW Grommet State Titles at Maroubra Beach
- Round table meetings with peak groups who are active on social, economic and environmental issues across Greater Sydney
- Meetings and briefings with local community groups
- An online discussion forum
- Map It online engagement, allowing people to make location based comments on an online map
- Information and discussion questions on our social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter)
- A photo competition, to identify what people value about their District
- Email and 1800 hotline.



Map It feedback on the Central District came from home owners (**54%**), renters (**37%**) and purchasers (**9%**)



**24%** of all feedback focused on the Central District\*

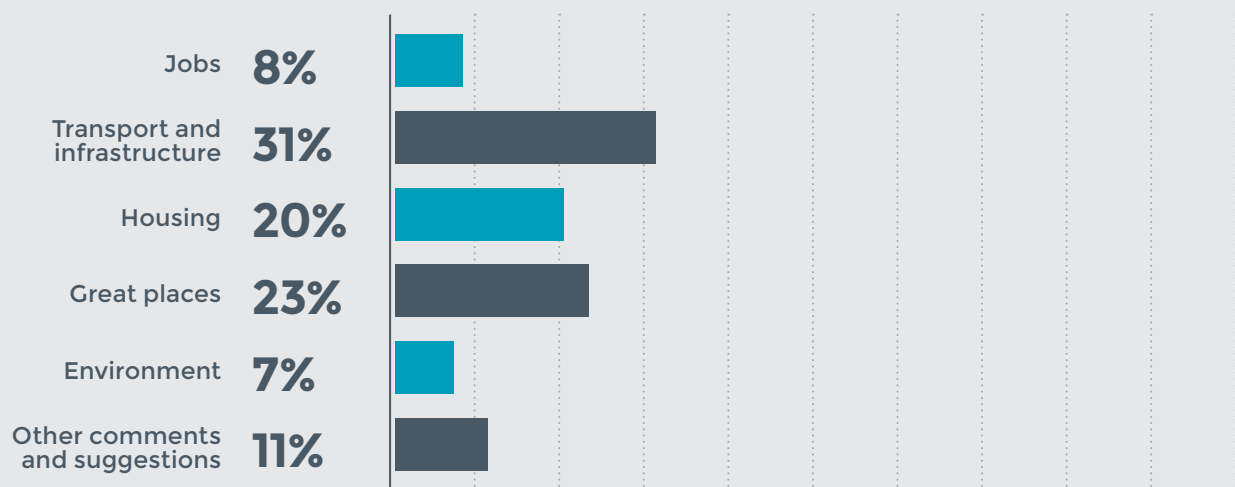
\* Responses received via online discussion forum, Map It, meetings with Members of Parliament, Councils and community organisations, GSC mail box, 1800 line and engagement email (including GSC website enquiry).



## What we have heard about the Central District

This figure provides an overview of community feedback on the key themes of jobs and transport, housing, great places, and the environment. A summary of feedback on each of these themes is provided below.

### Feedback on key themes



**Total responses for Central District equals 238.** This graph shows the % of issues raised in responses. Responses received via online discussion forum, Map It, meetings with Members of Parliament, Councils and community organisations, GSC mail box, 1800 line and engagement email (including GSC website enquiry).



### Jobs and transport

Many people in the Central District live close to work, as well as other daily needs like schools, shops, cafes, medical facilities and recreation. However, some people wanted to see more diverse employment opportunities in the District, such as more jobs in the knowledge economy. Some commented on the need for more holistic planning for infrastructure and employment, which would see more jobs provided close to transport and more jobs in regional centres.

“...Would like my area [to be] known for research and development jobs and knowledge production...” (Map It comment)

“[We] need a city-wide plan for infrastructure – not local pockets. Building job opportunities near transport infrastructure and new infrastructure [is important]...” (Map It comment)

“...Jobs [in the] service, entertainment, technology, leisure/sports [sectors]...More jobs in vibrant regional areas would make life [in those areas] more attractive.” (Map It comment)

“...Jobs are in Sydney, but I can’t afford to own a house [here]...” (Map It comment)

The community identified traffic congestion and parking provision as important issues to be addressed. While many believed that public transport and reduced car ownership would be effective in managing traffic congestion, it was noted that some people may need to travel by car (such as people with limited mobility).



There were mixed views on the existing public transport system. Some commented that public transport services are working well for people in the Central District, while other people sought improvements. Many who wanted improvements called for a better integrated public transport system for Greater Sydney – such as the London Underground network – to support the needs of Greater Sydney now and as it grows.

Suggestions for improving public transport included:

- More frequent bus and train services, particularly at peak times, on weekends and at night
- Better connected public transport services across all modes, including bus, train, ferry and light rail
- More affordable public transport
- Expansion of the light rail network
- Improved bicycle paths / networks
- More commuter car parking

“There is room for improvement with public transport from the Eastern Suburbs. Light rail should help.” (Online Discussion Forum comment)

“...many families could not operate if they didn't have access to a car at least part of the commute (for example to drop off children at childcare, continue onto work, shop on the way home). Providing reasonable access to work as well as services for disabled and mobility restricted people means that cars are a major part of the mix...” (Online Discussion Forum comment)

“...Trains are cleaner and on time compared to four to five years ago. [I am] concerned about the cost and community impacts of the Sydney Metro. Provide commuter car parking [at train stations]...” (Map It comment)

“More transport choices and reduced parking provisions in LEPs are needed in the Central District. People in the Central District live close to their daily needs like work locations, medical facilities, shops, cafes, education, recreational facilities, and these shorter trips can be taken by bicycle and walking. Ferries need to be used more and [in] smarter [ways].” (Online Discussion Forum comment)

“...Build uninterrupted bicycle highways. Take advantage of existing easements such as the power grid, canals, gas lines and rail corridors.” (Online Discussion Forum comment)



## Housing

While the Central District is well served by jobs, a number of people commented on the high cost of living. People told us that more affordable housing is required to support quality of life, and to meet the needs of the District's diverse communities.

The community had mixed views on the appropriate level of housing density for new development in the District. Some people wanted to see less high density housing, due to concerns about impacts on local character and congestion. Others thought the pace of new medium and higher density housing development should be slowed, to enable sufficient infrastructure, such as transport and schools, to be delivered. While others believed that higher density housing would help to increase affordability and meet the needs of the population as it changes and grows.

Importantly, the community wanted new development to be complementary to local character, and to respect environmental and built form heritage. They identified design excellence and minimising impacts on surrounding neighbourhoods as key factors for the successful delivery of higher density housing.

“...Less units – congestion is too great...”  
(Map It comment)

“...Stop higher density – medium [density] is okay. How much more transport / infrastructure is required to match the high density [housing]?...” (Map It comment)

“Transport is easy for me, as I go to the city for work. Housing in my area is unaffordable. People have huge mortgages. There's a nice mix of people from around the world – bringing diverse culture and food.” (Map It comment)

“...Retain existing character, diversity and scale of the suburbs. New developments are already destroying this and impacting on amenity and liveability of the suburbs.” (Map It comment)

“...Follow the traditions of old European cities. Improve design...Affordable housing for families MUST include three bedders.” (Map It comment)

“...High property prices. Our ageing population will be renting; more affordable housing [is] needed...Need more multi-generational housing.” (Map It comment)

“The primary obstacle for developing sensible housing options in Sydney, options that can improve the environment and living conditions of all citizens, is the attitude of Government that private enterprise can deliver...I am a believer in a denser city but not 'high' density buildings in the context of Sydney (for example the suburb of Paddington...has a population density of ~60/ha...Low and mid-rise is cheaper and more environmentally affordable)...”  
(Online Discussion Forum comment)

## Great places

People talked about the places they love in the District, commenting on their local culture, the cafes and restaurants, proximity to parks, and the diversity of residents. They identified opportunities to revitalise places within the Central District to create attractive destinations for locals and visitors, such as William Street in East Sydney, Oxford Street in Paddington and Norton Street in Leichhardt. Other suggestions included:

- More public places and spaces, such as accessible public foreshore areas around Sydney Harbour and the District's beaches
- Revitalisation of the Bays Precinct, to create more public space, employment and recreation opportunities
- More community and cultural activities and events, and a more vibrant night life in the District.

Many people sought improved community infrastructure for the District, including community and recreational facilities, shops, and walking and cycling paths (particularly to link with Sydney City). A number of community members wanted more schools and childcare services to support the growing population in the District.

“.....We have scores of parents in the East looking for access to a new public high school...”  
(Discussion forum comment)

“Kids would like to see the Maroubra Beach Skate Park expanded – idea to make a separate skate park for kids under ten years to ensure safety.” (Talk Bus Feedback)



“More public areas on the foreshore allowing pedestrian/cycle access to the CBD... Development of the [White Bay] power station and adjacent areas into a vibrant area including public space, employment and leisure activities (cinema, bowling, etc)...” (Map It comment)

“[Ideas included] all night trains and a night time mayor...[to] look at the night time economy.” (Map It comment)



## Environment

The community told us that parks, open spaces and greening were vital to the District’s health and wellbeing. Many commented on the importance of retaining existing parks and open spaces, and creating more of these areas as the population grows. People made a number of suggestions about how to improve public areas in the District, including more trees and landscaping, community gardens and converting racetracks and golf courses into open space.

People also told us that they wanted more initiatives to actively promote environmental sustainability in their areas. Suggestions included:

- A greater focus on renewable energy
- Water sensitive urban design measures
- Local food production to support greater self-sufficiency and reduce ‘food miles’
- Community education on the value of smaller scale actions by individuals and households.

“...Green space is disappearing...”  
(Map It comment)

“More parks and playing fields per capita, particularly in high residential areas.”  
(Map It comment)

“Locally growing quality fruit and vegetables. Sustainable and balanced development.”  
(Discussion forum comment)

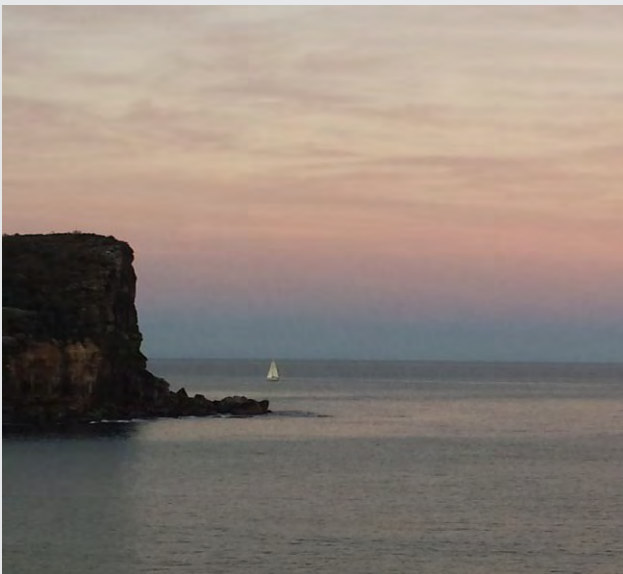
“Small things can make a big difference when it comes to sustainability, such as recycling, switching off lights, energy efficient electronics.”  
(Talk Bus comment)

## 3.3 Feedback on the North District

COMMUNITY  
FEEDBACK

### Our vision for the North District

The North District comprises geographically diverse, economically strong and environmentally aware communities who value and embrace progress, the local landscape and a great quality of life.



**Image:** North Avalon headland at sunset, winning entry for North District, #GreaterSydney photo competition.



### Towards the vision for the North District

Our conversations with the community have provided valuable insights into what members of the community value about the North District and what you want to see changed. These conversations have been central to the development of the draft vision for the North District (summary above).

The community told us that beaches, bushland, green spaces and cycle ways are fundamental to the character of the North District, connecting residents to nature and adding to their quality of life. While people valued local village hubs, farmers markets and events, many people wanted more social and cultural activities in the District.

While the District has a comparatively high proportion of people who both live and work locally, people told us they want a greater diversity of local jobs. When commuting to other parts of Greater Sydney or across the District, they wanted to see improved public transport options, less traffic, and better cycling and walking connections.

Community members wanted the District to offer more diverse and affordable housing options to support people in different stages of their life, including first home buyers, families and retirees. While there were mixed views on whether higher density housing is appropriate for the District, there was agreement that any new development needs to be sensitive to the area's local character.



## Who we have engaged in the North District

Opportunities for the community to get involved in the early stages of the draft North District Plan process included:

- Talk Bus visits to the Hornsby Mall and Narrabeen Sports High School (our travelling Talk Bus involved conversations and other feedback opportunities, through which people were invited to share their ideas for the future of Greater Sydney)
- Engagement with students at Narrabeen Sports High School and Ryde Secondary College
- Round table meetings with peak groups who are active on social, economic and environmental issues across Greater Sydney
- Meetings and briefings with local community groups
- An online discussion forum
- Map It online engagement, allowing people to make location based comments on an online map
- Information and discussion questions on our social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter)
- A photo competition, to identify what people value about their District
- Email and 1800 hotline.



**20%** of all Map It feedback on the North District came from people under 25 years of age



**18%** of all feedback focused on the North District\*

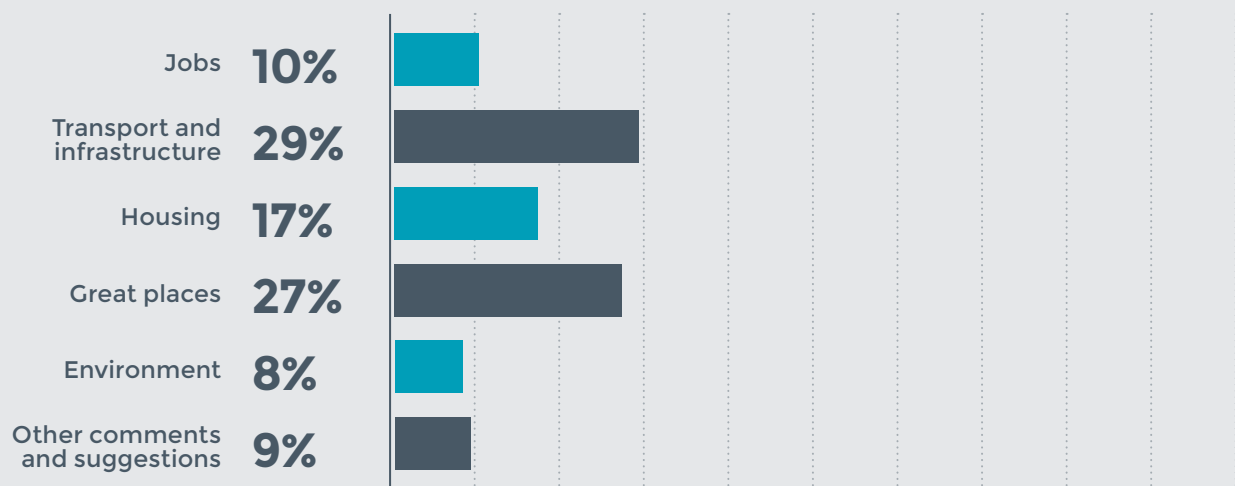
\* Responses received via online discussion forum, Map It, meetings with Members of Parliament, Councils and community organisations, GSC mail box, 1800 line and engagement email (including GSC website enquiry).



## What we have heard about the North District

This figure provides an overview of community feedback on the key themes of jobs and transport, housing, great places, and the environment. A summary of feedback on each of these themes is provided below.

### Feedback on key themes



**Total responses for North District equals 179.** This graph shows the % of issues raised in responses. Responses received via online discussion forum, Map It, meetings with Members of Parliament, Councils and community organisations, GSC mail box, 1800 line and engagement email (including GSC website enquiry).

### Jobs and transport

We heard that the community would like to see an even higher proportion of people living and working within the North District. People told us they want greater choice of local jobs across a range of industries including customer service, the public sector, engineering, technology, and creative industries. They also want to see more opportunities for people seeking flexible work arrangements, such as young people, older people and parents.

“I want a green city filled with job opportunities – technical jobs would be fabulous, even more in the future. Want jobs within 30km and no more than one hour from home. We need more work that fits within school hours so mothers can care for their children before and after school...”  
(MapIt comment)

“...If you cull your creative class...it will not bode well for the current addiction to technology and future ‘real jobs’ like engineering, electronics, environmental design, gaming, animation and more. They all require creativity, originality and visualisation... Invigorate dead real estate in the city by temporarily filling up empty shops and warehouses with artists and musicians.”  
(Discussion forum comment)

People are looking for public transport to provide better, more frequent and faster connections across the District and other parts of Greater Sydney. They also want traffic congestion to be addressed, particularly around major roadways and connections such as the M1 Motorway and Sydney Harbour Bridge. However, there were mixed views on whether increasing the capacity of the road network or improving public transport would be more effective in reducing traffic congestion in the District.



Suggestions for improving transport connections in the District included:

- Improving transport connections between Greater Sydney's northern and western suburbs
- High speed rail linking Newcastle and Sydney
- Faster and more frequent train services along existing rail lines
- More frequent bus services across the District, including Metro buses beyond Mosman
- More 'park and ride' facilities at transport hubs and interchanges
- Opportunities to extend and improve the District's walking and cycle network.

"One of the worst environmental offenders in Sydney is the over-reliance of individuals upon their motor vehicles. ...It is critical for the future of Sydney's environment and thereby this Commission, that it creates a paradigm mental shift - via education, motivation and facilitation - to get Sydney's people out of their cars, and into active transportation options..."  
(Discussion forum comment)

"...New road capacity will only increase congestion and have negative impacts on place making, liveability and productivity..."  
(Discussion forum comment)

"Hornsby is already gaining an excellent reputation as a bicycle-friendly area. I can see [it] becoming a prime tourism and recreational mecca for Sydney..." (Map It comment)

"We should build more roads/paths like Riverside Drive [Lane Cove National Park] through our National Parks...for active transport like walking, cycling and running..."  
(MapIt comment)

## Housing

People told us the District needs a greater variety of housing supported by transport and open space, which caters for people at different stages of life, including:

- More affordable housing for first home buyers and key workers (such as nurses, teachers and emergency service personnel) in the District
- Intergenerational housing for older people that is located within the broader community, as an alternative to retirement villages or aged care facilities.

There were mixed views on what kinds of housing are appropriate for the District. Some people expressed a desire for quality medium and high density homes, which could increase the diversity of housing and support more social and economic diversity in the District. Others called for less 'high density' housing, noting concerns about building heights and congestion.

Suggested locations for new, higher density housing within the North District included:

- Government-owned sites
- Large sites in single ownership
- Sites that don't negatively impact the character and heritage of local areas
- Sites located close to transport.

"I'm concerned about population increase with a lot of apartments being built on the Pacific Highway and the impact on traffic and local schools. The unique character of Ku-ring-gai needs to be maintained as the apartments are built. There is a need for parklands and playgrounds to be maintained and community hubs to be vibrant." (Map It comment)

"Houses are very costly. We want a house not a unit - we can live in small houses."  
(MapIt comment)

“... I would like to see across Sydney, housing specifically for government employees in Health, Education, Police (essential service housing) mixed into the general area (as were the disability group homes). I would also like to [see] communities which are not mono-cultures – more like a forest: different ages, stages, immigration backgrounds, incomes and needs. I like the feel that a place like Dee Why has had, with its sense of variety. For Terrey Hills this could mean some more blocks of smaller townhouses, mixed into the neighbourhood....”  
(Discussion forum comment)

## Great places

We heard that people want better community infrastructure in the District, including new and upgraded community and recreational facilities, walking and cycling paths, and more places to shop. Children and young people suggested the District would benefit from more recreational facilities such as skate and bike parks.

People also said they wanted more appealing places where they could socialise in the District, such as village centres and public places. There was also demand for more cultural and creative activity in the District, including greater recognition of Aboriginal cultural heritage, cultural and entertainment events for families, and more nightlife attractions for young people.





“A designated outdoor space for regular fresh food markets available on the weekend. A natural place where people can gather to shop for produce, congregate for coffee, chat with friends, bring their dogs and children...I would also like to see a proper beach area designated for walking our dogs...I would also like to see more outdoor art places – sculpture gardens etc. A place for people to practice their art and craft and share ideas...” (Discussion forum comment)

“Build a trampoline park at Narrabeen Sports High.” (Map It comment)

“We want to be able to walk to more pubs and night clubs for better social interactions. Similar to the inner west night life.” (Map It comment)

“More Aboriginal cultural offerings and the Aboriginal flag on Sydney Harbour Bridge 24/7 and around Sydney... More kids’ cultural offerings. Vivid [Festival] is fantastic. More theatres. Funding for arts in schools.” (Map It comment)

“Encourage people to come together in communal spaces, like community halls, to share cultures – food, music and stories.” (Map It comment)

“...Build a local business centre, but keep a village feel. I enjoy the Council market and cultural days. [The weekly] farmers markets are great.” (Map It comment)



## Environment

Feedback showed that members of the community place great value on the District’s open space, bushland and beaches. They told us that natural heritage needs to be protected to maintain the District’s character, and to support healthy lifestyles as it continues to grow. Young people identified a number of environmental issues that need to be addressed, including littering, flooding, stormwater pollution, coastal erosion and reliance on car travel. The community also made a number of suggestions for creating more accessible, family-friendly and dog-friendly parks and open space areas in their District.

Environment and community groups in the District raised a number of questions about future planning protections for natural heritage and open space, particularly in relation to new developments. These groups wanted more clarity about how the draft District Plans were being developed and how the Greater Sydney Commission will work with other government bodies, such as the Department of Planning and Environment.

“Make sure facilities such as parks are suitable for families who have no private outdoor garden and [are] accessible near the developments. Dog parks should be more prevalent as the strata laws have changed and more people have dogs kept in units. There should be green spaces suitable for the aged where the paths are easily accessed with a walker or walking stick and seating near community gardens...” (Discussion forum comment)

“Play areas, green spaces and parks [that are] easily accessible. With cafes and water feature cycle ways and pedestrian walkways...” (Map It comment)

## 3.4 Feedback on the West Central District

### Our vision for the West Central District

The West Central District is one of the most dynamic and rapidly growing regions in Australia. This District plays a pivotal role in Greater Sydney's future as an economic and employment powerhouse, a core hub for transport and services and the home of vibrant and diverse centres and communities. It will be at the core of Greater Sydney's 'Central City'.



Image: Talk Bus participants at Bankstown Bites

### Towards the vision for the West Central District

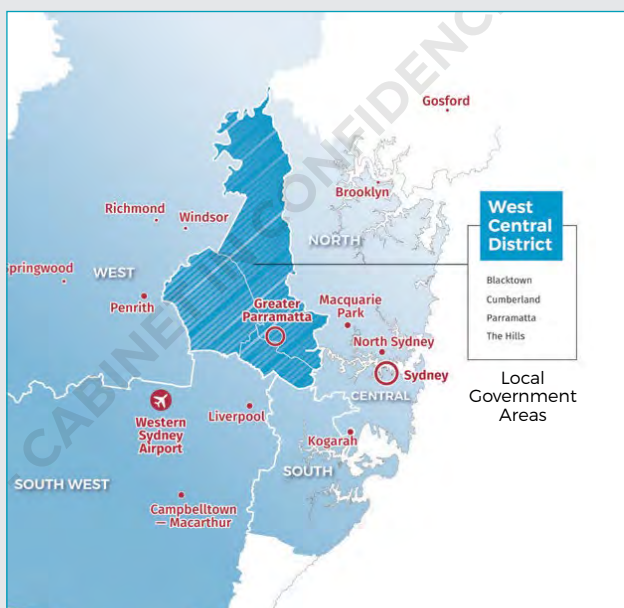
Members of the community have provided valuable feedback on what they enjoy about the West Central District and what they would like to see changed. These conversations have been instrumental in developing the draft vision for the West Central District (summary above).

People told us that they enjoy many aspects of the District – including Parramatta City, larger centres, and local villages. They value the strong sense of community that exists throughout the West Central District, and want to maintain these local bonds as Sydney continues to grow.

Cultural diversity was identified as one of the District's greatest assets, to be built on as a foundation for economic growth. People highlighted the importance of social inclusion and more opportunities to promote cultural diversity.

Many wanted a greater number and diversity of local job opportunities across manufacturing, trades, and professional sectors.

Feedback indicated a high demand for more affordable housing in the District. People told us that new housing should be well designed, sensitive to the local area, and connected to transport. To ensure their District meets the challenges of population growth, the community called for better infrastructure, parks and green space.





## Who we have engaged in the West Central District

Opportunities for the community to get involved in the early stages of the draft West Central District Plan process included:

- Talk Bus visit to AFL Multicultural Festival at Sydney Olympic Park (our travelling Talk Bus involved conversations and other feedback opportunities, through which people were invited to share their ideas for the future of Greater Sydney)
- Engagement with students at Auburn Girls High School and Parramatta High School
- Round table meetings with peak groups who are active on social, economic and environmental issues across Greater Sydney
- Meetings and briefings with local community groups
- An online discussion forum
- Map It online engagement, allowing people to make location based comments on an online map
- Information and discussion questions on our social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter)
- A photo competition, to identify what people value about their District
- Email and 1800 hotline.



Feedback on the West Central District included comments from **569** Talk Bus and information stall participants



**24%** of all feedback focused on the West Central District\*

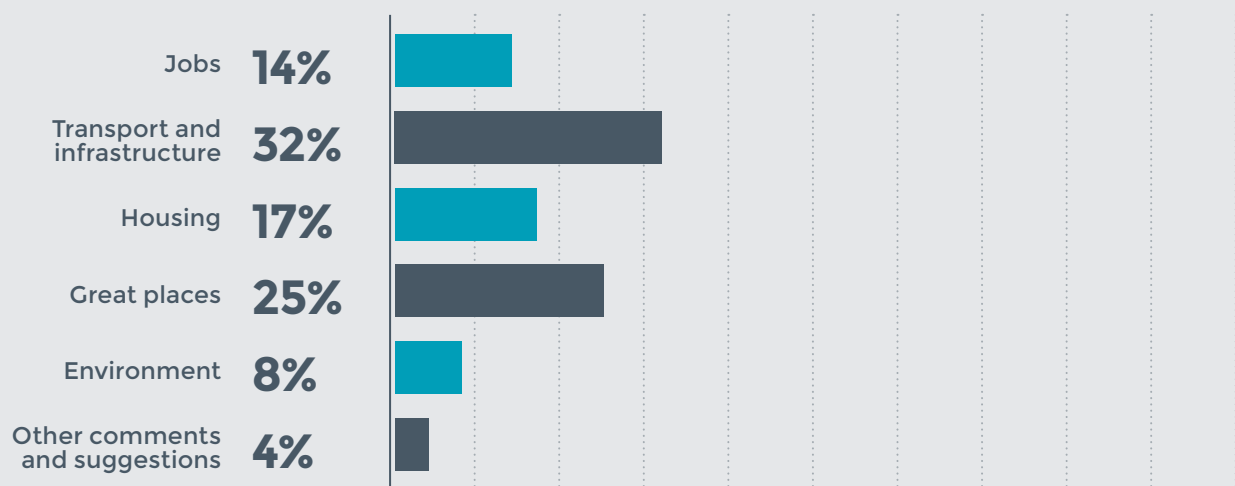
\* Responses received via online discussion forum, Map It, meetings with Members of Parliament, Councils and community organisations, GSC mail box, 1800 line and engagement email (including GSC website enquiry).



## What we have heard about the West Central District

This figure provides an overview of community feedback on the key themes of jobs and transport, Housing, great places, and the Environment. A summary of feedback on each of these themes is provided below.

### Feedback on key themes



**Total responses for West Central District equals 230.** This graph shows the % of issues raised in responses. Responses received via online discussion forum, Map It, meetings with Members of Parliament, Councils and community organisations, GSC mail box, 1800 line and engagement email (including GSC website enquiry).



### Jobs and transport

People expressed a desire for more opportunities to work close to home, and for greater job diversity in the District. Some commented on the importance of more skilled jobs in fields such as health, science, technology, IT and engineering, supported by appropriate infrastructure. Others highlighted the need for greater recognition of migrant qualifications and more assistance for job seekers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Support was expressed for manufacturing jobs to be retained in the District, and for more jobs to be created in established employment centres such as Sydney Olympic Park.

“...Australians are good at manufacturing, particularly in food...Our poor structural transport makes us weak. Our capital investment on property needs to be abated, so money can flow into good, value-added industries... Start tax incentives for risk-taking secondary and tertiary industries (particularly if they have little environmental impact). For example, software engineering. This is a simple distributed industry provided we have good IT infrastructure.” (Discussion forum comment)

“...I'd like my area to be known for providing jobs in medical, computing and engineering...” (Map It comment)

“...I'm a chemical engineer and would like more labs in Blacktown. There's medical labs, but no biotech or chemical labs. I'm skilled, but there are no jobs...” (Map It comment)



“There needs to be more recognition of qualifications and experience for people from countries outside of Australia. This will help migrants to find employment when coming to Australia. Currently it is very difficult to find employment.” (Map It comment)

“More job opportunities, study opportunities and pathways from study to long term jobs.”

Members of the community identified traffic congestion and a lack of parking as important issues to be addressed. Many people told us they wanted alternatives to car travel, including better public transport and more opportunities for cycling. Suggestions for improving the transport network included:

- More frequent bus and train services
- Smaller buses
- More affordable public transport
- More accessible and affordable airport train
- Improved bicycle paths and bicycle-friendly spaces.

“...get people out of their cars. Provide rapid and frequent public transport...” (Facebook comment)

“...there is a deeply concerning anti-cycling culture here in Sydney...alienating cyclists from other road users, whilst creating an environment of bullying and fear for a perceived non-conformist group [This] is now a formidable barrier to experiencing life in our city from a bicycle...If the powers that be are at all serious about improving public transport in Sydney, encourage cycling in every way possible!...” (Discussion forum comment)

“More bike paths are needed in Bankstown, particularly to and from the train station and shopping centres.”

## Housing

Many people wanted greater housing affordability in the District, for existing residents and to enable future generations to continue living in the area. A number of people also told us that more social housing was needed to support people in need. Lack of affordability was an issue for both those looking to purchase a home, as well as renters.

We heard mixed views on the appropriate density for new housing in the Central West. Some people wanted more low density housing, while others were looking for apartments.

Feedback focused on the importance of quality housing as part of liveable local centres. People commented that new development should be located close to public transport, and accompanied by adequate supporting infrastructure, such as schools, shops and roads. They wanted new development to be sensitive to local character, and to respect environmental and built form heritage.

“We need cheaper housing for kids.” (Map It comment)

“...it's very hard for young people to buy; it's not affordable for tradies/average people. They have to move to Penrith, which is too far from family and friends.” (Map It comment)

“Parramatta should become a hub for good living and quality of life – less traffic, more jobs and affordable housing options.” (Map It comment)

“...We need cheaper housing. I'd love to live in a house, but am limited to something smaller... We need more social and affordable housing for older people...” (Map It comment)

"I would like more tall buildings - [to create a] modern city and give more housing..." (Map It comment)

"I would like more high density buildings with shops on lower levels and housing on top..." (Map It comment)

"Stop building cheap high rise apartments. Keep heights to four storeys with gardens between and around. The high rise [buildings] are ugly and there are too many in the Inner West already." (Facebook comment)

"Housing density needs to increase. Quality is important - construction quality is not as good as the price [of homes might suggest]. Housing affordability is a major issue. The Government needs to support people to buy homes (negative gearing policy)." (Map It comment)



## Great places

Many people commented on the strong sense of community in their local area, saying that sport, neighbourhood programs, and community gardens could help to 'bring people together from across the District'. As their District grows, people said it was important to maintain this sense of community, and to support communities with better infrastructure, including more schools, hospitals and childcare services.

We heard that cultural diversity is one of the District's greatest assets. People want to see their communities go from strength to strength, with a more welcoming and supportive approach to new arrivals, and further opportunities to celebrate cultural diversity within the community.

Green space was seen as very important. For many people, it was either the thing they liked most about their suburb, or what they wanted more of. Some parts of the West Central District were described as offering good quality of life - with easy access to cafes, shopping, facilities and open space. However, others said their local centres could be better serviced and more vibrant. Some were seeking a greater sense of safety and amenity in their local area.

Suggestions for improving the West Central District included:

- Provide more local parks and green space
- Develop creative places and spaces, such as museums, galleries, community gathering spaces, and arthouse cinemas
- Revitalise local centres and main streets while maintaining local character
- Increase the amount of mixed use development
- Provide more children's play areas, facilities and activities
- Extend late night trading, such as night markets and moonlight cinema
- Promote the arts and culture, including community festivals
- Provide more dog parks and off-leash areas.

"...I'm in one of the fastest growing areas of Sydney (Newington/Wentworth Point) and the early childhood nurse is in Auburn, which had the highest birth rate in NSW. We need better access for new mums..." (Discussion forum comment)



“Sydney needs to continue to be a welcoming place. Maintaining peace and respect, not a divide...We need neighbourhood programs to bring people together.” (Map It comment)

“There is a discrepancy between inner and west hospitals. Royal Prince Alfred Hospital has more services than western Sydney hospitals. Move the resources that are in inner hospitals.” (Map It comment)

“Need more parks; need more choice of good schools. Love the new library and playgroup that operates from it.” (Map It comment)

“We need safe, clean parks, religious safety, inclusion and freedom of expression.” (Map It comment)

“We need better infrastructure, especially around apartments. [Opportunities to] reconnect with your neighbourhood – through community building / getting to know your neighbours. We need greenspace.” (Map It comment)

“I like that my suburb is multicultural...We need to change the stereotypes about our area...” (Map It comment)

“...More art spaces like Casula Powerhouse...” (Map It comment)



## Environment

We heard that the community in the West Central District places great value on open and green spaces, which will be increasingly important as the area's population grows. Well maintained streets and public places were also important to people across the District.

They made a number of suggestions for improving the environmental sustainability of the area, including:

- Reducing energy consumption and increasing the use of renewable energy
- Providing community education on issues such as energy recycling and waste minimisation
- Ensuring new development is environmentally sustainable.

“I'd like to see more green spaces, cycling space, more free car parks and more pollution-free vehicles on the roads...I think re homes, we need better planning, utilisation of available space and less disruption to natural resources. Re the environment, we should be using LED light bulbs, separating waste properly and using public transport more often.” (Map It comment)

“Stop selling off green space to developers...” (Map It comment)

“...We do need to grow more trees, preserve the environment and reduce the use of plastics and of course save energy...” (Map It comment)

“...keeping natural vegetation areas that kids can play and learn in, like at the Field of Mars Reserve, East Ryde; I like the access to areas along the Parramatta River foreshore that I could explore during the 1960s!” (Facebook comment)

## 3.5 Feedback on the West District

COMMUNITY  
FEEDBACK

### Our vision for the West District

The West District's unique and rich tapestry of urban, rural and natural environments, combined with access to jobs, quality health care, education, recreation, cultural and natural experiences creates a great quality of life for its communities.

In 2036, the West District will continue to be a place where its people are its strength. All backgrounds and cultures will be respected and valued, with people sharing a determination to realise the District's potential while cherishing its unique environment and heritage.



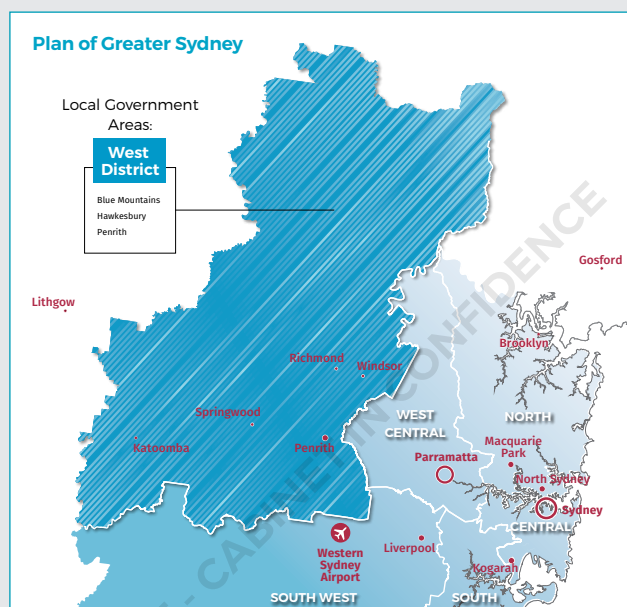
**Image:** The Blue Mountains on a sparkling day, winning entry for West District, #GreaterSydney photo competition.

### Towards the vision for the West District

Our conversations with the community provided valuable insights into what members of the community value about the West District and what you want to see changed. These conversations have been central to the development of the draft vision for the West District (summary above).

The feedback highlighted transport as the key to unlocking the District's potential. There was strong support for more public transport options and better roads to connect to jobs, services and leisure activities both within the District and across Greater Sydney.

People want to retain the District's character, which is defined by its open space and natural heritage, particularly the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. At the same time, they are looking for infrastructure and development that will support more local jobs, housing choices, and entertainment and cultural activities.





## Who we have engaged in the West District

Opportunities for the community to get involved in the early stages of the draft West District Plan process included:

- Talk Bus visit to West Winmalee High School (our travelling Talk Bus involved conversations and other feedback opportunities, through which people were invited to share their ideas for the future of Greater Sydney)
- Talk Bus visit to Penrith Panthers game at Penrith Stadium
- Round table meetings with peak groups who are active across social, economic and environmental issues across Greater Sydney
- An online discussion forum
- Map It online engagement, allowing people to make location based comments on an online map
- Social media
- A photo competition, to identify what people value about their District
- Email and 1800 hotline.



**27%** of all Map It feedback on the West District came from people under 25 years of age



**9%** of all feedback focused on the West District\*

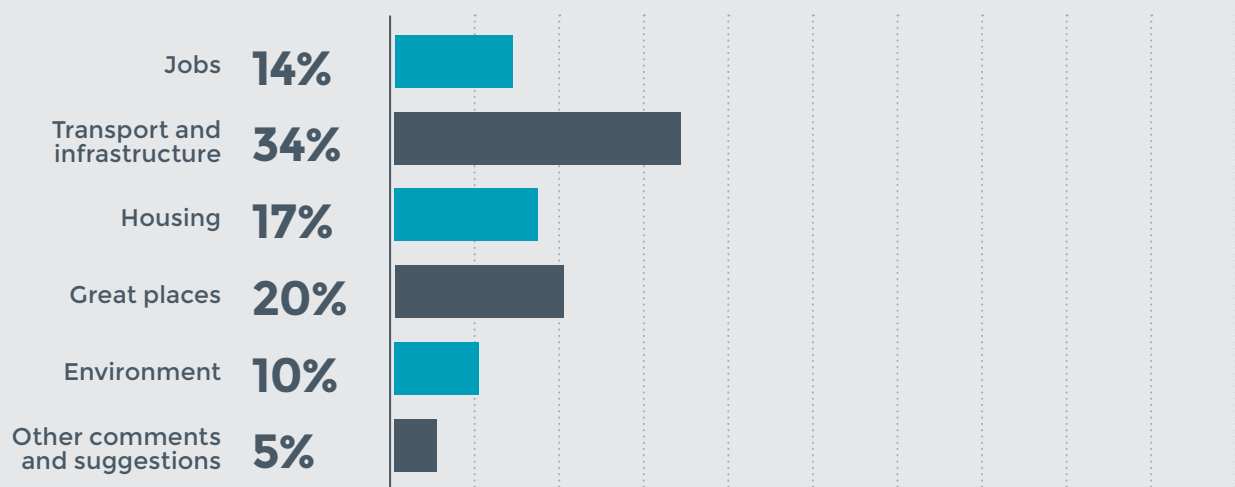
\* Responses received via online discussion forum, Map It, meetings with Members of Parliament, Councils and community organisations, GSC mail box, 1800 line and engagement email (including GSC website enquiry).



## What we have heard about the West District

This figure provides an overview of community feedback on the key themes of Jobs and transport, Housing, Great places, and the Environment. A summary of feedback on each of these themes is provided below.

### Feedback on key themes



**Total responses for West District equals 89.** This graph shows the % of issues raised in responses. Responses received via online discussion forum, Map It, meetings with Members of Parliament, Councils and community organisations, GSC mail box, 1800 line and engagement email (including GSC website enquiry).



### Jobs and transport

The feedback showed that people want strategic thinking that will facilitate long term, sustainable economic development for the West District. This was suggested to bring more jobs closer to home across a range of sectors – including tourism and new industries.

Young people, in particular, told us they are looking for a greater variety of local employment opportunities, including more professional jobs. Suggestions to attract and retain young people in the area included:

- Establishing a university campus in the Blue Mountains
- More apprenticeship opportunities
- Greater access to high speed broadband
- Free WiFi in major centres.

Feedback showed there was support for a rail link and road upgrades related to the proposed Western Sydney Airport at Badgerys Creek. Ideas for realising the public benefits associated with the proposed airport included: a focus on health, research and new industries; more housing in the area; and further upgrades to the broader road network.

“Would like our area [to be] known for tourism.”  
(Map It comment)

“More apprenticeships to encourage kids. Don’t get enough money on apprentice wage.”  
(Map It comment)



Across many areas of Sydney local jobs just don't exist and we don't encourage people to actively transport themselves to those jobs where they do exist. We haven't invested in a polycentric city with many places of employment in many different areas each with their own local communities and services..." (Discussion forum comment)

"...we can forward plan for the education, skills and qualifications that will be required in the regions..." (Discussion forum comment)

"...[Western Sydney] Airport will create many opportunities. Manufacturing is difficult to develop in Australia. Focus on health, research and other development in new future industries." (Map It comment)

Many comments highlighted the need for transport improvements, with traffic congestion highlighted as a key concern particularly around major roads such as the M4 Motorway. Feedback focused on the need for improved public transport services and facilities. Suggestions included:

- Improved north-south transport connections
- Faster and more frequent trains to locations such as Lithgow, Sydney City and Hornsby
- More frequent train and bus services, including more services at night
- Better coordination between bus and train timetables
- More weekend public transport options
- Improved shelter at bus stops.

"Public transport needs to be faster than driving." (Map It comment)

"I would like buses to work with trains. Buses to train stations and increased frequency of services." (Map It comment)

"The M4 into the city has too much traffic. It's too hard to get into the city. Being a tradie, I need to take a car – public transport is just not an option."



## Housing

People told us that more housing is needed to meet the needs of the community in the West District, including first home buyers. People had mixed views on the level of housing density, with some expressing a desire for stand alone houses, and others looking for medium density homes such as townhouses. Housing suggestions included:

- More affordable housing
- New greenfield development to support population growth
- New housing located close to jobs, transport, open space and other infrastructure.

"...Housing affordability is a must. It is a big country with a lot of space." (Map It comment)

"New greenfield sites in our region need to be considered to assist first home buyers. Development in greenfield areas is lacking and subdivisions in the area are finishing at Glenmore Park and Jordan Springs." (Map It comment)

"Springwood needs more residential village townhouses to make it a more active and lively place, accompanied by relevant support services. The town square could be extended to the south to provide great views and a real community hub for all those new residents who will be within walking distance." (Map It comment)



## Great places

We heard that people want improved community infrastructure in the West District, including new and upgraded community and recreational facilities, and public amenities. People commented that new and improved schools are needed to support the District's growing population.

People also expressed a desire for more cultural events, entertainment, restaurants, and a more vibrant night life closer to where they live.

"...Need more safe open areas – would like shade over skate park." (Map It comment)

"We have Lawson and Glenbrook skate parks, but nothing in between the two. My mates and I always have to travel on trains. Buttonshaw Park would be a good spot we think." (Map It comment)

"...Our existing netball courts could be easily modified with goals at each end to allow [multipurpose use for Futsal]..." (Map It comment)

"...More entertainment facilities in the west – concert halls, stadiums." (Map It comment)



## Environment

There is a desire for the District's highly valued open space areas and bushland to be protected and retained. Quality open space areas should be provided to support active and passive recreation as the population of the West District continues to grow into the future. Suggestions included more child friendly parks and open space areas to accommodate the growing residential population in the West District. Pollution and human health were also discussed.

Young people identified rubbish along the highway, bushfire risk, global warming and over-development as the most important environmental issues and challenges for the West District. They suggested a number of sustainability initiatives that could be promoted through traditional and social media, including: 'building up not outwards', fire safety assessments for householders, recycling, reducing household energy use and waste, and encouraging active transport.

"...more child-friendly parks with fences." (Map It comment)

"...Sydney needs to...maintain the beauty which it is known for. We are built in a basin. Foreseen problems will be.... pollution, the chocking of our waterways, the pollution of the Sydney's water supply and the health of all our residents. These should all be a priority." (Email comment)

"Building up, not outwards – build smart to allow for space." (Schools engagement comment)

"Gamify the process of being sustainable and resourceful, like Pokemon Go." (Schools engagement comment)

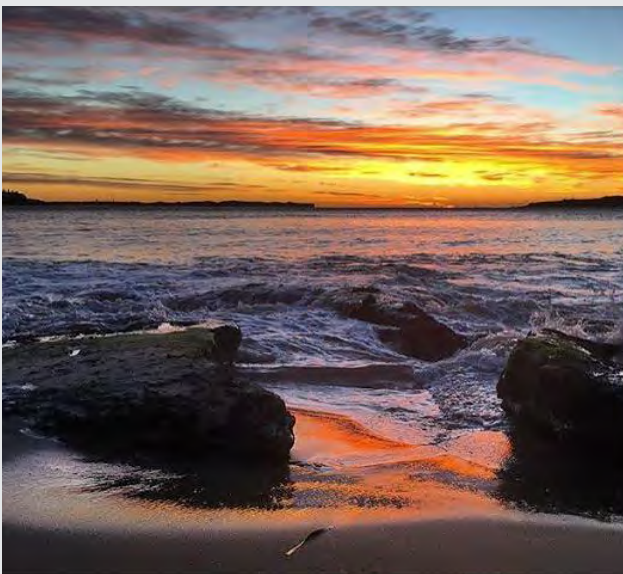


## 3.6 Feedback on the South District

COMMUNITY  
FEEDBACK

### Our vision for the South District

The South District is a place of great natural beauty and diverse communities, where jobs are easy to get to, nature is close at hand, and a variety of housing forms and affordability levels support a diverse community.



**Image:** Another morning in paradise, winning entry overall and for South District, #GreaterSydney photo competition.



### Towards the vision for the South District

Members of the community provided valuable feedback on what they enjoy about the South District and what they would like to see changed. These conversations have been instrumental to development of the draft vision for the South District (summary above).

People said they enjoyed the District's rich natural features, including parks, open spaces, waterways and beaches. Green spaces were described as being increasingly important to support the District's growing population.

The community raised housing affordability as a key concern. Some people told us that well designed higher density housing, integrated with greenspace and good public transport, could be part of the solution. Others had a strong preference for low density housing in the District.

A number of people expressed a desire for more local jobs and better public transport, to reduce the need to commute in and out of Sydney's CBD. We also heard that people were seeking a wider range of local cultural and entertainment options, together with more inviting local centres and public places, for socialising and recreation.

## Who we have engaged in the South District

Opportunities for the community to get involved in the early stages of the draft South District Plan process included:

- Talk Bus visit to Canterbury Foodies and Farmers Market and Bankstown Bites (our travelling Talk Bus involved conversations and other feedback opportunities, through which people were invited to share their ideas for the future of Greater Sydney)
- Talk Bus visit to Elderslie High School
- Round table meetings with peak groups who are active on social, economic and environmental issues across Greater Sydney
- Meetings and briefings with local community groups
- An online discussion forum
- Map It online engagement, allowing people to make location based comments on an online map
- Information and discussion questions on our social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter)
- A photo competition, to identify what people value about their District
- Email and 1800 hotline.



**20%** of all Map It feedback on the South District came from people under 25 years of age



**12%** of all feedback focused on the South District\*

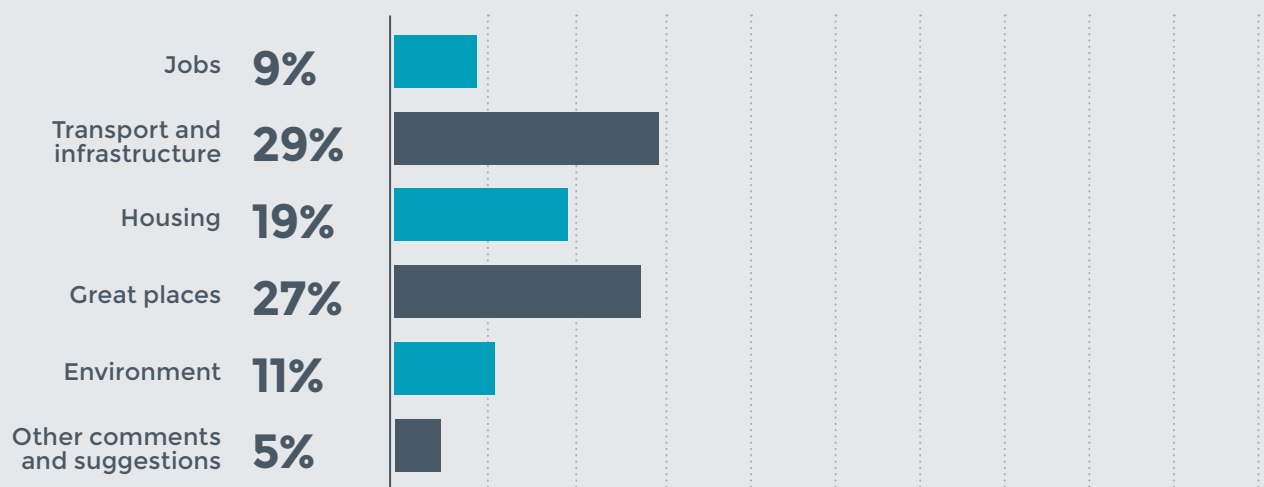
\* Responses received via online discussion forum, Map It, meetings with Members of Parliament, Councils and community organisations, GSC mail box, 1800 line and engagement email (including GSC website enquiry).



## What we have heard about the South District

This figure provides an overview of community feedback on the key themes of jobs and transport, housing, great places, and the environment. A summary of feedback on each of these themes is provided below.

### Feedback on key themes



**Total responses for South District equals 115.** This graph shows the % of issues raised in responses. Responses received via online discussion forum, Map It, meetings with Members of Parliament, Councils and community organisations, GSC mail box, 1800 line and engagement email (including GSC website enquiry).



### Jobs and transport

Some people were concerned about the impact of commute times on their work-life balance, saying that more local job opportunities would improve quality of life in the District. We heard that people were looking for more jobs in the South District across a range of sectors, including customer service, nursing, teaching and government. It was suggested that more jobs could also be created by expanding the District's night time economy, for instance to include more bars and restaurants.

We heard from young people that a university campus in the South District would help more locals gain the qualifications needed for higher paying jobs. Suggested locations were Engadine, Kogarah and Hurstville. They wanted

to see more jobs in technology and other professional sectors, and better pathways from school to employment.

"More government jobs in the area would be good." (Map It comment)

"...jobs please. The South District seems to have been forgotten in 'A Plan for Growing Sydney'. Apart from the Kogarah Health precinct there's not much on offer..." (Facebook comment)

Members of the community identified traffic congestion, particularly during peak times and around hotspots such as Sydney Airport, as a priority issue to be resolved. They also said the District needed better connections between its local centres, and to link people with places, such as hospitals and universities.



Many said that better public transport was the key to improving travel times for the District's residents, while others said improvements to the road network were a priority. Young people proposed more train stations, light rail, and a car ferry linking Bundeena to Cronulla, to help people to move around the District more easily.

Others suggestions for improving the District's transport network included:

- More frequent bus and train services, including priority bus lanes
- Expansion of the light rail network and Sydney Metro into the South District
- More accessible train stations
- More parking at train stations
- High speed rail connecting sites across Greater Sydney
- Improved pedestrian and bicycle paths.

"Public transport in this area needs priority. It is heavily delayed due to cars going to and from the airport, and there is no priority for buses in the area." (Map It comment)

"South East Sydney requires better public transport links. It's dreadful!! Especially the bus system..." (Map It comment)

"I would like central metropolitan Sydney to have a truly urban public transport system connecting harbour to bay, ocean to Westmead, and North Sydney to Kogarah. Connecting us to major hospitals and universities, would connect us to each other. Provide a matrix of stops and lines and exchanges. [We should be able to] walk 300-400m to a station which has a service every three to five minutes... Public transit network = city life." (Map It comment)

"A train line along King Georges Road would connect four different train lines without having to go into the CBD. This could change where people work and live. It would change the way the city develops. It would open up Sydney in terms of being able to get around via public transport." (Map It comment)

"We need far more local buses; weekend track work is hard; there is no lift at Punchbowl Station which is terrible for older people." (Map It comment)

"...more bike friendly areas. [The] Cooks River cycle path is good. [There would be] less congestion if people got out of their cars - promote bikes, electric bikes, motorbikes." (Map It comment)



## Housing

Many people in the District raised concerns about housing affordability. People called for more affordable housing in their area to provide for the needs of existing communities and for future growth. Feedback highlighted mixed views on the appropriate density for new housing. Some people wanted to see more low density housing, while others supported the development of new apartments.

Young people were looking for a mix of housing types - including houses, duplexes and apartments. They told us that more apartments in the District, close to transport, parks and shops, was the best way to meet the needs of young people leaving home.

Many comments focused on the importance of quality housing to make local centres inviting places to live. People in the South wanted new development to be sensitive to local character, the environment and heritage.

"More affordable housing of any type." (Map It comment)

"I'm worried about higher density housing, but understand the problem with population growth and affordable housing..." (Map It comment)

"...I want to make sure we still have historic houses..." (Map It comment)

"Hurlstone Park needs redevelopment around the shops - low density housing...Turn it into a village with restaurants, cafes and shops..." (Map It comment)

"There are plenty of units being built around the Canterbury area. Why can't the government build studio or one bedroom units for homelessness services, with a spacious, open floor plan? It would be appreciated..." (Facebook comment)

"Retain the character of the area - low-rise, single dwelling with gardens. Stop any development beyond three to four storeys in Canterbury. DO NOT fill Canterbury with high-rise. It is unfair to be facing the loss of my home as the street is planned to become five to seven storey, medium density. What we already have going along Canterbury Road and Canterbury Station is enough..." (Map It comment)



## Great places

Many people called for better infrastructure for the South District to support its growing population, including more schools, hospitals, childcare and aged care services. People also wanted to see a wider range of recreational and leisure activities in the area, including more parks and public spaces, cafes, community events, and places to socialise.

People told us that cultural diversity was an important part of the District's character, with some commenting that they wanted more initiatives to support greater interaction across cultural groups.

Young people were looking for more things to do in their local areas. Suggestions included a skate park in Miranda, more sporting facilities, an entertainment centre, and more restaurants. They commented that public places and community facilities, such as Hurstville Library, could be upgraded to better meet the needs of local communities.

Other suggestions made by the community included:

- More children's playgrounds, facilities and activities
- Spaces designed to meet the needs of people as they age
- More places for people to meet and get together
- More promotion of the arts and culture, including community festivals (for example Vivid Festival, food and wine festival)
- More dog parks and off leash areas.

"...Keep parks and green spaces. They must be safe, well lit and well maintained. More funding for public schools. More community stuff on weekends and evenings, such as markets and events." (Map It comment)

“[We need a] better variety of shops to represent the changing demographic and business and bars – more cosmopolitan, more like the Inner West. It’s nice here to have open space and parks, and a swimming pool, which are all great.” (Map It comment)

“Great community places like libraries. Keep green spaces and more off-leash friendly places for dogs (not many in Canterbury area presently). Planning for schools (primary and high schools) for the increased population. Schools need to have access to green spaces, not just more demountables on already small playgrounds. Hospital and aged care facilities [are needed] to meet increased and ageing population...” (Map It comment)

“There’s always something happening; multicultural [activities and events]. We need better infrastructure including more public schools.” (Map It comment)

“We have a good lifestyle with markets, community, family and [Sydney] harbour. It’s a shame there is so little late night trading...” (Map It comment)

“Belmore is becoming more cosmopolitan which is good...” (Map It comment)

“[It is a] changing area and there is not much interaction between cultures. I want the future to be more harmonious where people work together for Sydney... Punchbowl town centre has just been done up but looks dirty. There is no lift at the station. We need better playgrounds for children. Children, families and older people need to have safe, clean parks. We need places for people to meet and get together.” (Map It comment)

“[The increase in] small bars and entertainment has been a good initiative. The multicultural element in Bankstown has helped liven up the area.” (Map It comment)



## Environment

We heard that open and green space are very important to the community in the South District, with many people telling us that more of these spaces were needed to support the growing population.

Young people identified pollution and climate change as the most important environmental challenges for the South District. They also emphasised the importance of preserving the natural environment as Greater Sydney grows.

Suggested initiatives included:

- Community gardens and local food production
- A greater focus on renewable energy
- Making public spaces and waterways cleaner
- Community education
- Planning and development that is sustainable (including green roofs and walls).

“...Clean and remediate the Cooks River – from Hurlstone Park to Strathfield (it’s very toxic and there are lots of waste/bottles going into the river). We need solar lighting by the Cooks River; we need lighting at night to enjoy the river...” (Map It comment)

“A place to learn, grow, share and connect. A community garden and open learning space. To continue the legacy of Myles and Milo Dunphy, former Oatley residents who were passionate about the environment. It should be accessible by public transport for all of Sydney to enjoy.” (Map It comment)

“...Development [of new buildings] needs to be better quality. We have poor buildings with no access to sunlight; there is no consideration of cumulative impact of apartments all together. We need better planning of centres and design...” (Map It comment)



# 3.7 Feedback on the South West District

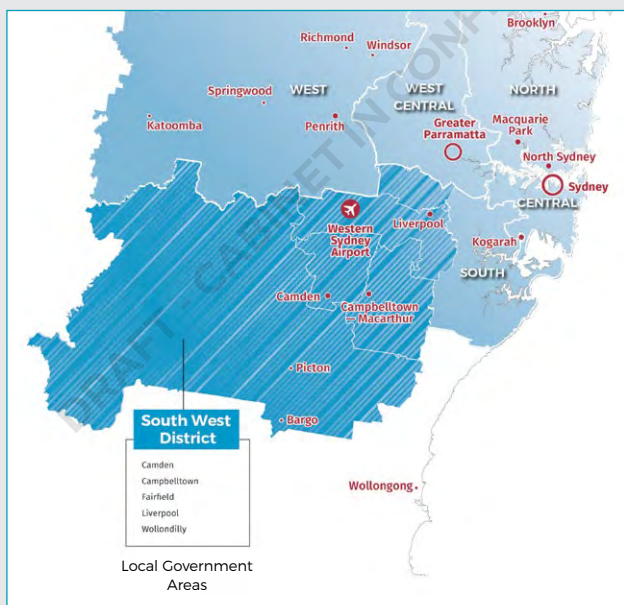
COMMUNITY  
FEEDBACK

## Our vision for the South West District

South West Sydney is a place where opportunity, success and prosperity are forged from humble beginnings, where innovation thrives, smart jobs are created, international business connections are established and global investment is supported. Local people form the basis of a highly skilled and educated workforce that continues to grow and invest in itself and its future.



**Image:** Menangle, where kids can still be kids, winning entry for South West District, #GreaterSydney photo competition.



## Towards the vision for the South West District

Our conversations with the community provided important insights into what people value most about the South West District and what they would like to see change. These conversations have been central to development of the draft vision for the District (summary above).

The South West District is home to diverse local communities, each with its own distinctive character and identity – from the rural townships of Camden and Wollondilly, to the vibrant and culturally diverse suburb of Fairfield and major urban centres of Liverpool and Campbelltown. Residents across the District told us they valued the area's parks, open spaces and cultural diversity.

Many people in the South West wanted better access to jobs, infrastructure and recreational activities.

We heard that the community wants to see improvements to transport services to support population growth, reduce commute times, and improve people's access to recreation and leisure activities.

Community members wanted to see more diverse and affordable housing options within the District, including a mix of low, medium and high density housing. They wanted future development to be well designed, sensitive to the heritage and character of existing centres, and environmentally sustainable.

## Who we have engaged in the South West District

Opportunities for the community to get involved in the early stages of the draft South West District Plan process included:

- Talk Bus visits to the Multicultural Eid Festival at Fairfield Showground and Camden High School (our travelling Talk Bus involved conversations and other feedback opportunities, through which people were invited to share their ideas for the future of Greater Sydney)
- Engagement with students from Camden High School, Campbelltown Performing Arts High School, and Elderslie High School
- Round table meetings with peak groups who are active on social, economic and environmental issues across Greater Sydney
- Meetings and briefings with local community groups
- An online discussion forum
- Map It online engagement, allowing people to make location based comments on an online map
- Information and discussion questions on our social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter)
- A photo competition, to identify what people value about their District
- Email and 1800 hotline.



**38%** of all Map It feedback on the South West District came from people under 25 years of age



**13%** of all feedback focused on the South West District\*

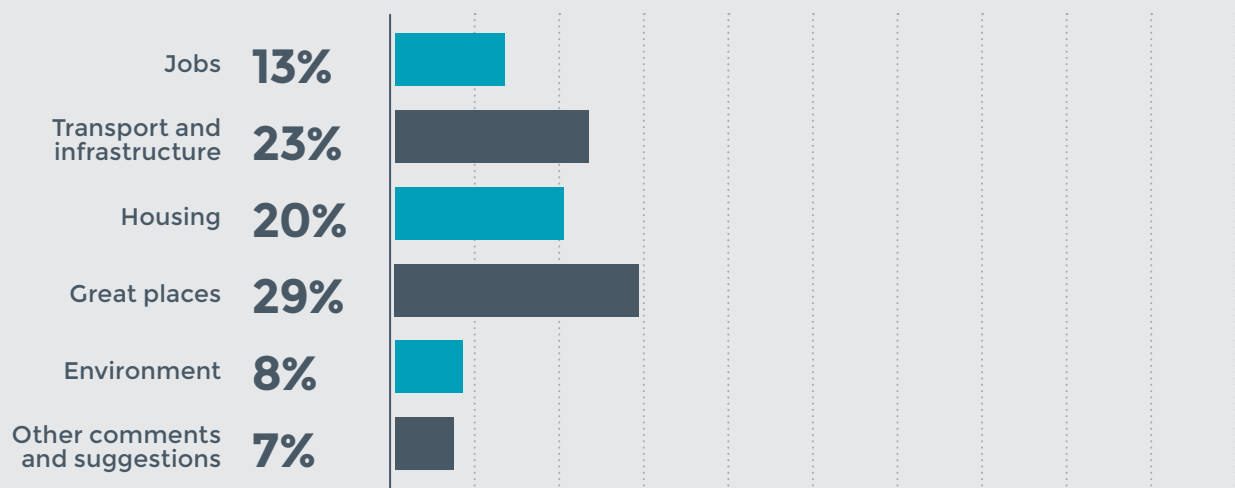
\* Responses received via online discussion forum, Map It, meetings with Members of Parliament, Councils and community organisations, GSC mail box, 1800 line and engagement email (including GSC website enquiry).



## What we have heard about the South West District

This figure provides an overview of community feedback on the key themes of jobs and transport, housing, great places, and the environment. A summary of feedback on each of these themes is provided below.

### Feedback on key themes



**Total responses for South West District equals 122.** This graph shows the % of issues raised in responses. Responses received via online discussion forum, Map It, meetings with Members of Parliament, Councils and community organisations, GSC mail box, 1800 line and engagement email (including GSC website enquiry).



### Jobs and transport

People wanted to see more jobs closer to home in the South West District. Young people told us they were seeking a greater variety of local employment opportunities including office jobs, roles in the arts and trades.

Suggestions for improving employment opportunities in the South West District included:

- More jobs in the technology, tourism, hospitality and professional services sectors
- Aviation-related education and jobs in Liverpool
- More support for multicultural small to medium size businesses
- Retaining employment land to support jobs for the future in key centres such as Liverpool.

Some people thought the proposed Western Sydney Airport would bring economic benefits to the District by creating jobs. Others expressed a preference for the site to be used for housing and other types of employment.

“...Second airport will be good to create jobs.”  
(Map It comment)

“Want more diverse jobs – less dependence on going to the CBD for work.” (Map It comment)

“Would like the Cabramatta area to be known for tourism jobs, restaurants...” (Map It comment)

“Please amend the planning controls around the Liverpool CBD to ensure that all possible employment land isn't consumed by residential development. Jobs are critical, and not just blue collar jobs in the surrounding industrial areas, but professional and service industry employment opportunities within the CBD. Our



children have no option other than to travel a distance from home for anything other than retail or blue collar work...” (Map It comment)

“The area set aside to build an airport should be used as a greenfield site to develop anything but an airport. The site has the potential to be a major growth centre for environmentally-responsible residential, light industrial and job growing industries.” (Map It comment)

“Growth in Fairfield is great – [such as] Stockland, parks, restaurants. I love the regional park and industrial area – [which means] more jobs for me. I want more jobs closer to home...” (Map It comment)

People told us they wanted better public transport in the District to improve travel times, and to reduce road congestion and car dependency. Suggestions for improving transport services included:

- Expanded rail and bus networks
- Better connected public transport services
- Better connections to key centres both within and beyond the District
- More affordable public transport options
- Upgrades to train stations (such as Macquarie Fields train station)
- More late night transport options.

We also heard that people wanted better cycling and walking connections in the District, to provide an alternative to cars for shorter trips. Suggestions included more walking paths, bicycle lanes to key destinations within the District, and the creation of a green corridor linking with Greater Sydney’s other Districts.

People told us they wanted improvements to the road network to address traffic congestion, to make it easier to get around, and to improve driver and pedestrian safety. Suggestions included: road upgrades, improved signage, more ‘road calming’ measures, more car parking at hospitals and shopping centres, and more motorcycle parking.

“We need more trains, including a train to Narellan and Camden, and a green corridor around Sydney.” (Map It comment)

“...I have been amazed at the lack of public transport to industrial areas such as Wetherill Park. Just make the buses meet the trains. I get the fast train, [only] to find the connecting bus I need left five minutes earlier.” (Facebook comment)

“I need to get to Hoxton Park from Cowpasture Road and there is no transport. [I] need to catch a bus towards Stockland then another and walk 30 minutes, and I only need to go to Hoxton Park Road...” (Facebook comment)

“...Need affordable public transport. It's currently too pricey. Bicycle lanes! Increased motorcycle parking...Better parking in and around hospitals...” (Map It comment)

“Not enough direct transport links from Camden to university and TAFE campuses...” (Schools engagement comment)

“More buses connecting Oran Park, Campbelltown, Narellan, Camden South and Camden town centres.” (Schools engagement comment)

## Housing

We heard that many people wanted more affordable housing to address both the current lack of housing affordability in the South West and to enable future generations to live in the area. People expressed a mix of views about the level of housing density they thought was appropriate for new development within the South West District. Heritage, design excellence and access to transport and social infrastructure were identified as important considerations for future housing development.

Young people commented that the District needs a wider range of housing options and that they are unlikely to be able to afford a house when they leave home. The future development of affordable student accommodation near university and TAFE campuses was popular among the young people who provided feedback.

“Housing is expensive. Our three kids can't afford to buy, but rent locally, because we have a good life here.” (Map It comment)

“I'd like Sydney to be cheaper. Housing – bills – electricity.” (Map It comment)

“Higher density affordable housing...” (Map It comment)

“When I finish schooling I'd like to ideally live in an apartment, but eventually have a house with a family.” (Schools engagement comment)

“[There are] not enough apartments – it's hard to move out and stay in the area.” (Schools engagement comment)

## Great places

People told us that more schools and better health facilities are needed to support the District's growing population. We also heard that improved community infrastructure is required, including community and recreational facilities, parks and open space areas, childcare centres, and walking and cycle paths.

Many comments focused on the need to improve centres and public places, and to create more local recreational options, including free or low cost activities. Suggestions included:

- BBQ facilities at parks and open space areas
- Kids play equipment
- Exercise stations
- Pet friendly zones
- Free WiFi in central areas
- Night time attractions for young people, such as restaurants and cinemas, festivals and events.

We heard that the ‘social aspects’ of life in the South West District are important, and that Greater Sydney needs to be more welcoming and inclusive, to ensure that all members of the community feel safe and respected. Suggestions included: more support for multicultural businesses, encouragement of multicultural events, and safe public transport options at night.

Young people told us they would like more opportunities to study closer to home, such as a university or TAFE campus in the Oran Park or Camden areas.

“We want great schools in the west. Parks need upgrading with kids facilities and exercise facilities. Macquarie Fields train station needs a lift.” (Map It comment)

“A cinema at Macarthur would be good. I visit Eastgardens for the parking, shops and entertainment.” (Map It comment)

“...Social aspects are important – council [is] doing a good job to support them.” (Map It comment)



## Environment

People in the South West told us that protection of the natural environment and greening of the District are critical for the future of the area. Comments focused on the importance of a clean environment that supports healthy lifestyles. Young people identified management of urbanisation, flooding and bushfires, as well as car dependency and pollution, as some of the most important environmental issues and challenges for the South West District.

People suggested a wide range of sustainability initiatives to support the local environment including:

- Water quality improvements
- Waste management improvements
- Protection of flora and fauna
- Pollution reduction
- Energy efficiency initiatives
- Local food production
- Development of more compact neighbourhoods with better access to public transport
- More public recycling facilities and community education.

“Flying cars, tall buildings, lots of units, lots of trees that are good to climb. Keep the existing environment and let it grow. Have lots of animals (for example birds) in the neighbourhood. Power cars by water or some sustainable fuel – like Tesla...Less pollution. Locate parks in cool places.” (Map It comment)

“Cabramatta is the best place in the world to live, and it's improving! I think it's important that we protect our waterways and environment. We are limited with infrastructure provision because retrospectively putting it in causes a lot of problems. [I'm] delighted [that the] Greater Sydney Commission is talking to the real people. There is a greater awareness of the environment these days...” (Map It comment)



**Image:** Members of the community share their thoughts with Chief Executive of the Greater Sydney Commission, Sarah Hill, at the Fairfield Talk Bus event









# 4 Engagement methodology



# 4.1 Our approach to engagement

## Overview

This section discusses the process for collecting and analysing the community feedback presented in this report.

## How we reached the community

The range of techniques used to reach Greater Sydney's diverse communities during the initial phase of engagement (May to October 2016) is shown opposite. A list of these events and activities is provided in Appendix A.

## Interpreting the feedback

All feedback provided to the Greater Sydney Commission was examined individually, and where possible, views and suggestions were used to inform a detailed understanding of the issues, needs and priorities for the six Districts and Greater Sydney as a whole.

Comments were categorised into key themes. The themes used for coding are based on the key areas of investigation for the draft District Plans. These themes are:

- A productive economy (jobs and transport & infrastructure)
- A liveable city (housing and great places)
- A sustainable city (environment).





Engagement Technique	Description	Objective
Intercept and pop-up activities		
Talk Bus and Information stalls	Visits to 17 community events, festivals and local centres around Greater Sydney to talk to citizens and hear their ideas in person  We spoke to more than 1,500 people across Greater Sydney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ To explain the role of the Greater Sydney Commission, as a new government organisation, and how to participate/ engage with us</li><li>▪ To understand the issues, needs and priorities of the six Districts and Greater Sydney as a whole</li><li>▪ To explore innovative, effective and practical solutions, ideas and strategies for Greater Sydney</li></ul>
Schools engagement	Visits to high schools throughout Greater Sydney to introduce ourselves to young people and to hear their ideas  We spoke to more than 423 young people	
Presentations and briefings		
District Commissioner meetings with Members of Parliament, councils and community organisations	90 briefings by District Commissioners to District level government agencies, Members of Parliament, local councils and community organisations	
Meetings and workshops		
Peak body panel meetings and workshops	17 meetings with peak groups – approximately 15 peak groups across each of the environment, economic and social sectors have provided guidance and advice on how the draft District Plans can enable a vibrant, inclusive, healthy, sustainable and prosperous Greater Sydney. These groups have also assisted us to reach their networks through a series of roundtables and local workshops.	
District round table discussions	8 round table discussions between District Commissioners and key community organisations	

Engagement Technique	Description	Objective
<b>Digital tools</b>		
<b>Engagement website</b>	<p>Online platform through which project information including news, publications, and public consultation dates could be accessed</p> <p>Website also provided opportunities for people to provide preliminary ideas and feedback by making location based comments on an interactive map ("Map It") and by contributing to the discussion forum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To explain the role of the Greater Sydney Commission, as a new government organisation, and how to participate/ engage with us</li> <li>▪ To understand the issues, needs and priorities of the six Districts and Greater Sydney as a whole</li> </ul>
<b>Social media</b> <b>(Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn)</b>	<p>Social media used to share updates with the general public, promote awareness of the engagement activities, and engage online around the key themes</p> <p>Social media provided opportunities to stay in touch with community members throughout the Phase One engagement period</p>	
<b>Engagement inbox and 1800 phone line</b>	Email and phone contacts provided direct avenues for communication between community members and stakeholders, and the Greater Sydney Commission team	









An aerial photograph of a city area, likely an industrial or commercial district, taken during the "golden hour" of sunset. The scene is characterized by numerous large, rectangular industrial buildings with flat roofs, interspersed with smaller residential structures and patches of trees. A prominent road or railway line runs diagonally through the lower half of the image. The sky is a deep orange and yellow, with the sun's glow creating a hazy, atmospheric effect over the entire scene. In the top right corner, there is a solid orange triangular graphic element.

# 5

# Next steps

# 5.1 Next phase of engagement

## Your feedback

There are 4.6 million voices in Greater Sydney. This is the start of the Commission's endeavour to listen, learn and discuss Greater Sydney with them.

The Commission has consulted to inform the first draft of the draft District Plans as part of the initial phase of engagement and will continue to do so. This will help to ensure the District planning process is informed by an understanding of the city's aspirations for the future.

Engagement with the community and stakeholders is continuing with release of the draft District Plans. Members of the community can get involved in planning for the future of Greater Sydney by reading the draft District Plans, making a formal submission, or sharing your ideas and suggestions.

The Commission is now seeking **your feedback** on the draft District Plans and the specific themes and elements which they include.

## Next steps

The next steps of the engagement process are shown here.



### Public exhibition and active discussion of draft District Plans

- Draft District Plans on public exhibition and input to Regional Plan review
- Engagement outcomes report publicly released
- Continued community engagement to inform the District Plans

**HAVE  
YOUR  
SAY**

**NOVEMBER 2016 –  
MARCH 2017**

### Review of Regional Plan and finalisation of District Plans

- Continued community engagement
- Review of Regional Plan  
– *A Plan for Growing Sydney*
- Finalisation of District and regional plans

**MARCH 2017 –  
LATE 2017**



## Engaging during public exhibition of the draft District Plans (November 2016–March 2017)

Carrying on this commitment to genuine, open and broad engagement, the draft District Plans will be placed on an extended period of public exhibition from late 2016 to the end of March 2017. A detailed engagement strategy to support the exhibition period is being developed in collaboration with partner agencies, Transport for NSW (TfNSW), and Infrastructure NSW, Councils and key stakeholder groups.

The engagement program will comprise two periods of activity as outlined below.

- **Late November 2016–December 2017: briefings and initial dialogue**
- **February–March 2017: active dialogue and feedback.**

## Planning for Greater Sydney

Engagement on the Commission's planning for Greater Sydney is a continuing dialogue. This year, the Greater Sydney Commission is preparing draft District Plans for discussion.

Next year it will draw on this work to review the Greater Sydney Region Plan – *A Plan for Growing Sydney* – which will be released by the end of 2017. The timing and approach on the revised plan will align with reviews of *The Long-Term Transport Masterplan 2012* and *Rebuilding NSW – State Infrastructure Strategy 2014*.

The Commission is providing an opportunity for community members, interest groups and others to provide extended input. To ensure all the plans work together the District and Greater Sydney plans will be finalised concurrently at the end of 2017. This process is important to ensure the Commission hears from as many people as possible. It also gives Councillors, who will be elected to newly formed Councils in September 2017, the opportunity to review plans before they are made.

# Greater Sydney Commission

[greater\\_sydney\\_commission.nsw.gov.au](http://greater_sydney_commission.nsw.gov.au)