

Our Inner West 2041



**The Inner West Community
Strategic Plan**

Endorsed June 2025





Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statement

We the residents of the Inner West acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First peoples of this land.

We greet the living members of the oldest living continuous culture on earth and celebrate their wisdom and special connections to the lands, sky, and waterways.

We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia, especially the Gadigal and Wangal peoples of the Sydney Basin who are the Traditional Custodians of the lands in which the Inner West Council is situated.

Contents

1. Introduction

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander statement	2
Mayor's message	4
Inner West Councillors	5
Uluru Statement from the Heart	6
About this plan	8
Our community vision	10
How to read this plan	11
Plan on a page	12

2. Our community

About the Inner West	15
Inner West community profile	16
What makes Inner West?	18
Why we love the Inner West	20

3. Our Community Strategic Plan 2041

Strategic directions	22
• Outcomes	
• Strategies	
• Role	
• Indicators	
• Council's supporting strategies	

4. Developing our community strategic plan

Guiding principles	42
Community engagement	43

5. Alignment with state and district plans 50

6. Resilient Sydney 52



Mayor's Message

In this term our team will be building on the success of the previous three years with an expanded progressive policy agenda to deliver.

Through strong financial management we have been delivering a huge amount over the last three years. Expanding food recycling to every home, converting 7 Town Halls to free arts and cultural venues, opening the State's first Pride Centre, and nearing completion of the Cooks River to Iron Cove Greenway were all important achievements for the Inner West community.

Now, this new Council will go even further. We have a vision of the Inner West as the engine room of progressive policies in Australia and we have a new program of ground-breaking reforms and world-class facilities to deliver.

Priorities for your new Council will include:

- Continuing strong financial management including no special rate rises for the next 4 years
- Delivering our Fairer Future for the Inner West Plan to address the housing affordability and supply crisis, allowing more people to continue to call the Inner West home while preserving what we love about this place
- Renovating iconic Leichhardt Oval to improve facilities for fans and athletes and transforming it into a hub for women's sport
- Upgrading and rebuilding Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre
- Creating a state-of-the-art Indoor Sports Centre at Tempe
- Building on the success of the Enmore Road Special Entertainment Precinct by opening new Special Entertainment Precincts throughout the main streets of the Inner West
- Making White Bay Power Station a permanent, world class arts and cultural venue

I look forward to working with my fellow Councillors to support your goals and ensure that Council's programs and resources are focused on your priorities.

Darcy Byrne
Inner West Mayor

Inner West Councillors

Balmain Ward
Baludarri (Leather jacket)



Mayor
Darcy Byrne



Cllr Ismet Tastan



Cllr Kerrie
Fergusson

Stanmore Ward
Damun (Port Jackson Fig)



Cllr Chloe Smith



Cllr Liz Atkins



Cllr Vicki Clay

Ashfield Ward
Djarrawunang (Magpie)



Cllr Jessica D'Arienzo



Cllr Izabella Antoniou



Cllr Jo Carlisle

Leichhardt Ward
Gulgadya (Grass Tree)



Cllr Philippa Scott



Cllr Andrew Blake



Cllr Vittoria Raciti

Marrickville Ward
Midjuburi (Lillypilly)



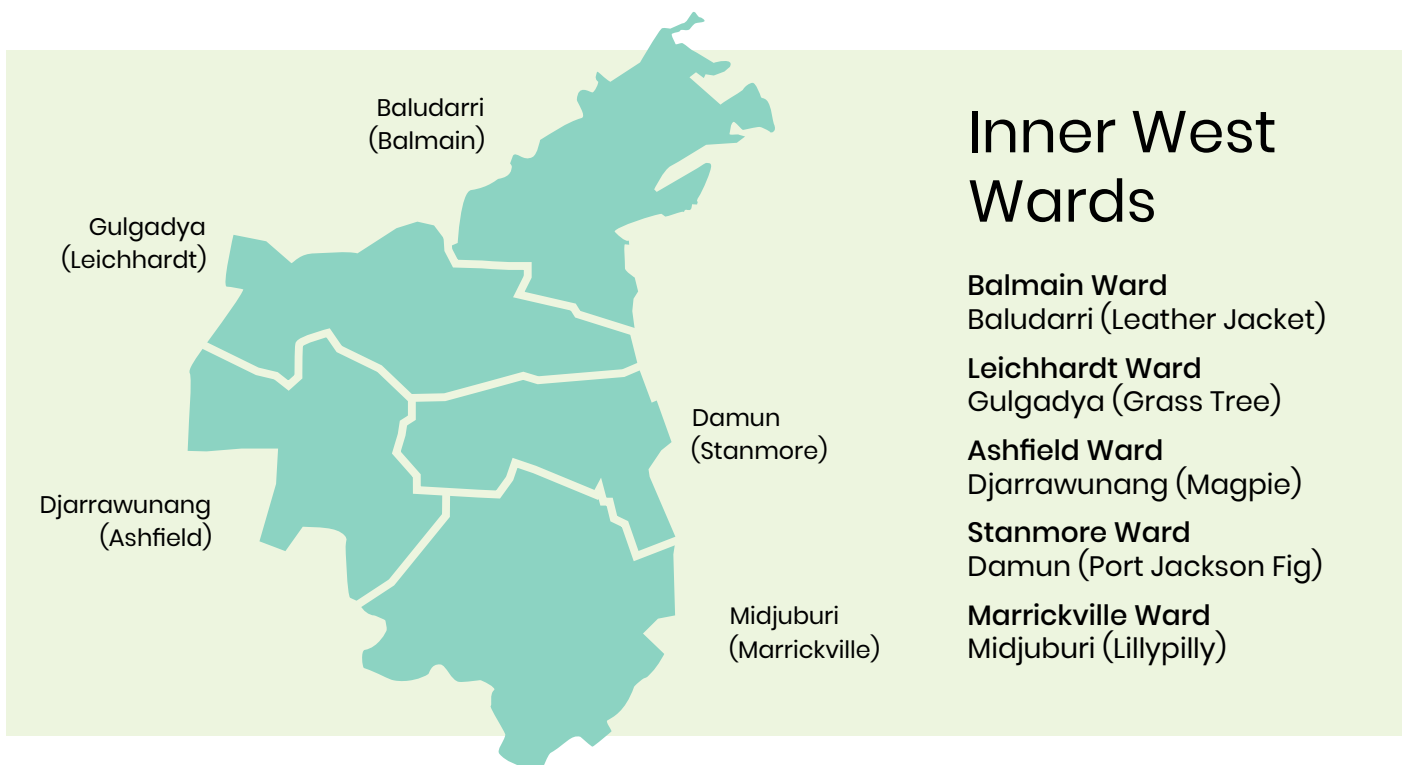
Deputy Mayor
Mat Howard



Cllr Olivia Barlow



Cllr Victor Macri



The Uluru Statement from the Heart

“We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.”

Extract from the Uluru Statement
UluruStatement.org

Our commitment to Reconciliation

Inner West Council has endorsed the Uluru Statement from the Heart. The principles of the Statement from the Heart are reflected in Council's strategies and Reconciliation Action Plan.

Our vision for Reconciliation is an Inner West where Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples are valued and recognised as the First Peoples of this land. Where full respect and understanding is extended to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by all within our community.

Reconciliation is core to community development for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We will work together to enhance the Inner West as

a place where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples help guide us to an inclusive society celebrating unity in diversity.

Council's approach to reconciliation is centred in inclusive strategies developed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This inclusion is critical to achieving the sustainable, liveable, and connected community identified in Council's Community Strategic Plan.



About this Plan

The Inner West Community Strategic Plan (CSP), **Our Inner West 2041**, is a plan developed with and on behalf of the community. It sets out the community's vision and aspirations for the next 10+ years and guides all of Council's work.

While Council is the custodian of the plan, it is a whole-of-community responsibility – many partners work together to accomplish the desired results. Partners include residents, ratepayers, local community organisations, businesses and industry groups, Council, State and Federal Governments.

This CSP fulfils Council's obligation under the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework by:

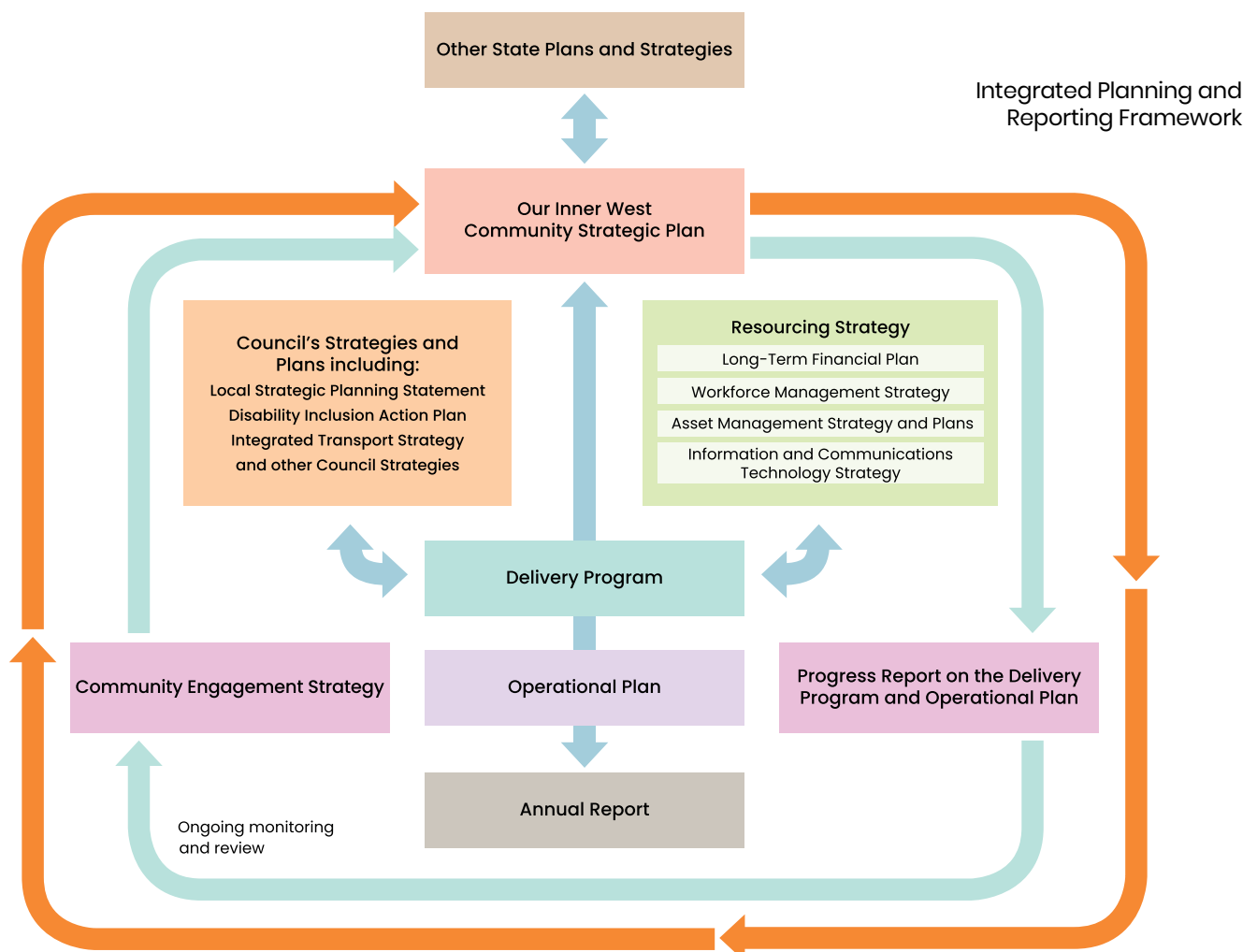
- Taking a long-term outlook covering a minimum of 10 years

- Establishing strategic outcomes and strategies to achieve them
- Addressing social, environmental, economic and civic leadership issues
- Is based on the social justice principles of equity, access, participation and rights
- Considering other relevant state and regional plans

Our strategic framework

Under the NSW Local Government Act 1993, councils are required to develop a hierarchy of plans known as the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework.

The IP&R Framework begins with the **CSP**, and from this high-level strategy, a cascading suite of integrated



plans sets out Council's vision, goals and strategies for achieving them. The CSP identifies the community's vision for the future, long-term outcomes, and strategies to get there and how Council will measure progress.

The **Delivery Program** is a four year plan which outlines Council's commitment to achieving the outcomes and strategies of the CSP. It sets out the principal activities that Council will undertake during its term of office.

From this, the one year **Operational Plan** sits within the Delivery Program and contains detailed actions.

These plans are supported by the Resourcing Strategy which consists of the following components:

- Long Term Financial Plan
- Asset Management Strategy and Plans
- Workforce Management Strategy

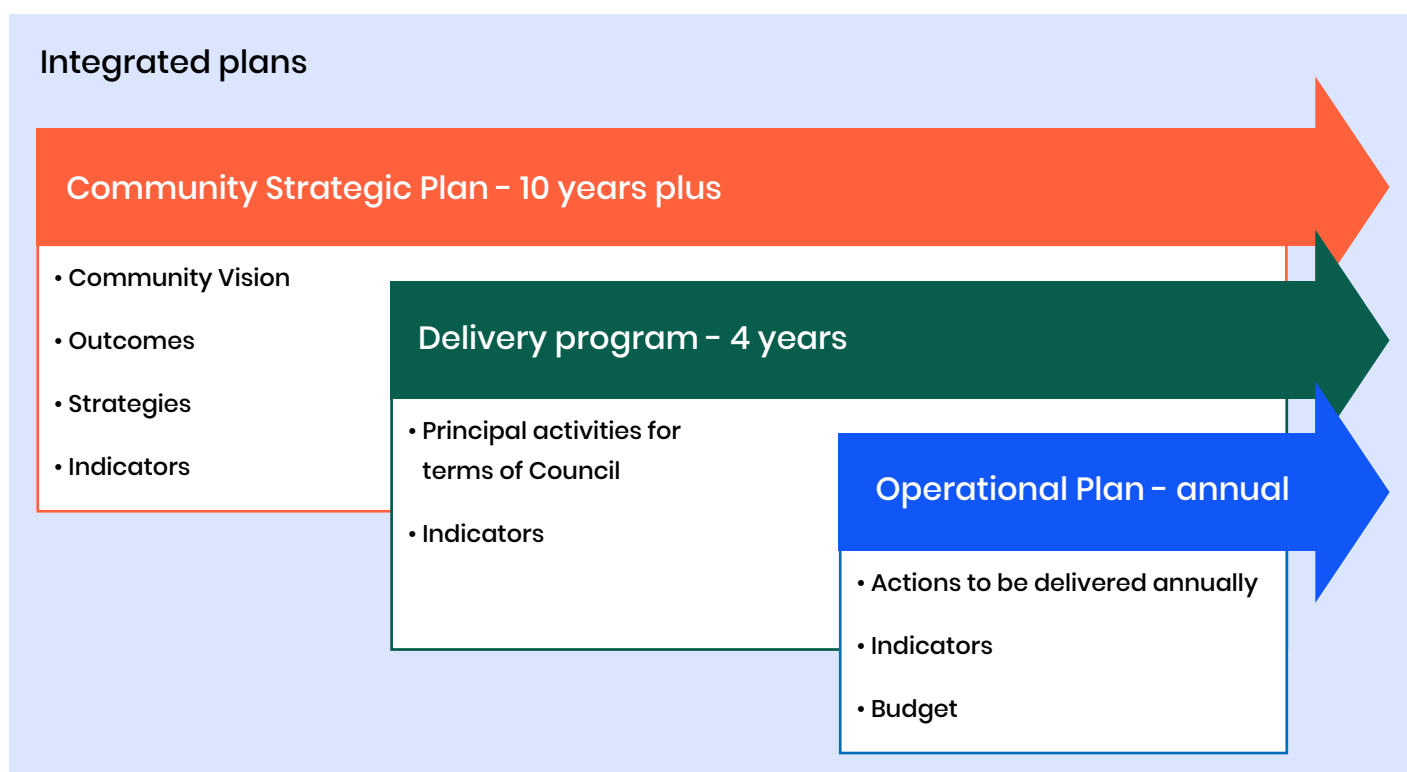
The IP&R Framework has a reporting structure to effectively communicate progress to Council and the community as well as a structured timeline for review, ensuring that the goals and actions remain relevant.

The IP&R Framework is designed to give Council and the community a clear picture of:

1. Where are we now?
2. Where do we want to be?
3. How will we get there?
4. How will we know when we've arrived?

Monitoring progress

A set of progress indicators has been developed to monitor our progress over time. At the end of each Council term, a report -State of the Inner West- is prepared to show progress of implementation of the CSP. The report is used to inform the review of the CSP which occurs after every local government election.



Our community vision

Vibrant, sustainable, creative

Connecting an inclusive community of vibrant neighbourhoods where creativity flourishes and our environment is sustained.



How to read this plan

Our strategic directions represent the key themes arising from our community priorities. They are:

1. An ecologically sustainable Inner West
2. Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport
3. Creative communities and a strong economy
4. Healthy, resilient and caring communities
5. Progressive, responsive and effective leadership

Our Inner West 2041 has:

- ▶ **18 Outcomes**
 - these are what we want to achieve by 2041
- ▶ **45 Strategies**
 - these are high level actions to achieve the outcomes
- ▶ **89 Indicators**
 - these measures to help monitor progress over time
- ▶ **35 Supporting strategies**
 - these are Council's strategies that support the CSP outcomes

Council's role

Many partners work together to achieve the community's vision. Council's role is listed under each strategy as:

- **Deliver** – Council is wholly responsible
- **Facilitate / partner** – Council will work with partners to deliver
- **Advocate / educate** – Council will champion community priorities to other levels of Government and inform the community

Where Council is not wholly responsible in delivering on the community's vision, partner organisations are listed:

- **NSW** – NSW Government state agencies
- **Federal** – Federal Government
- **Business and Industry** – local business, chambers of commerce, industry groups
- **NFP** – Not for profit organisations
- **NGO** – non-government organisations
- **Community groups** – local community groups in the Inner West

Our Inner West 2041 – plan on a page



SD1 – An ecologically sustainable Inner West

1. Sustainable leadership

- Connect and share information, knowledge and tools to live sustainably

2. Resilient biodiversity

- Maintain, manage and improve vegetation and tree canopy
- Protect threatened species, connect and enhance natural areas, biodiversity corridors and sensitive habitats

3. Healthy waterways

- Implement water-sensitive policies, plans and projects
- Expand river swimming sites

4. Zero emissions

- Implement strategies to reduce and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions
- Build local resilience and adapt to climate change

- Prioritise active transport infrastructure as a key climate action strategy

5. Zero waste

- Reduce residential waste and increase recycling
- Increase recovery of household organic material



SD2 – Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport

1. Housing for all

- Encourage greater housing diversity through development
- Increase social, community, affordable and liveable housing

2. Sustainable development

- Integrate planning and urban design for public and private spaces
- Monitor local development for legislative compliance
- Retain heritage and character of local neighbourhoods

3. Integrated transport

- Prioritise active transport and manage and/or deliver transport infrastructure
- Improve public transport and related infrastructure
- Manage road network

4. Safe, clean and accessible public places

- Ensure private spaces and developments contribute positively to public spaces
- Improve air quality, water and noise pollution through education and regulation
- Manage public spaces and community safety



SD3 – Creative communities and a strong economy

1. A vibrant cultural and creative destination

- Provide opportunities to participate in arts and culture
- Celebrate and promote innovation for creative industries by providing local programs, including young and emerging talent

2. A diverse and strong economy

- Implement strategies to assist business growth, innovation and new enterprises
- Manage and plan for future industrial and employment lands and activities



SD4 – Healthy, resilient and caring communities

1. Welcoming, connected and inclusive

- Celebrate, value and respect diversity
- Build inclusivity, resilience and participation in community life
- Prioritise and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander needs and culture in policies, initiatives and strategies

2. Healthy and active

- Provide facilities, spaces and programs for participation in active recreation
- Provide parks, playgrounds and open spaces
- Provide and support community services and centres
- Encourage and facilitate active transportation use to improve community health outcomes

3. Lifelong learning

- Provide quality children's education and care services
- Provide libraries and technology



SD5 – Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

1. Responsive customer service

- Provide responsive and innovative customer services
- Continuously improve our performance to meet community needs

2. Responsible, transparent management and future planning

- Plan to meet community needs and aspirations
- Provide responsible, sustainable, ethical and open local government

- Deliver financial sustainability to manage public resources responsibly

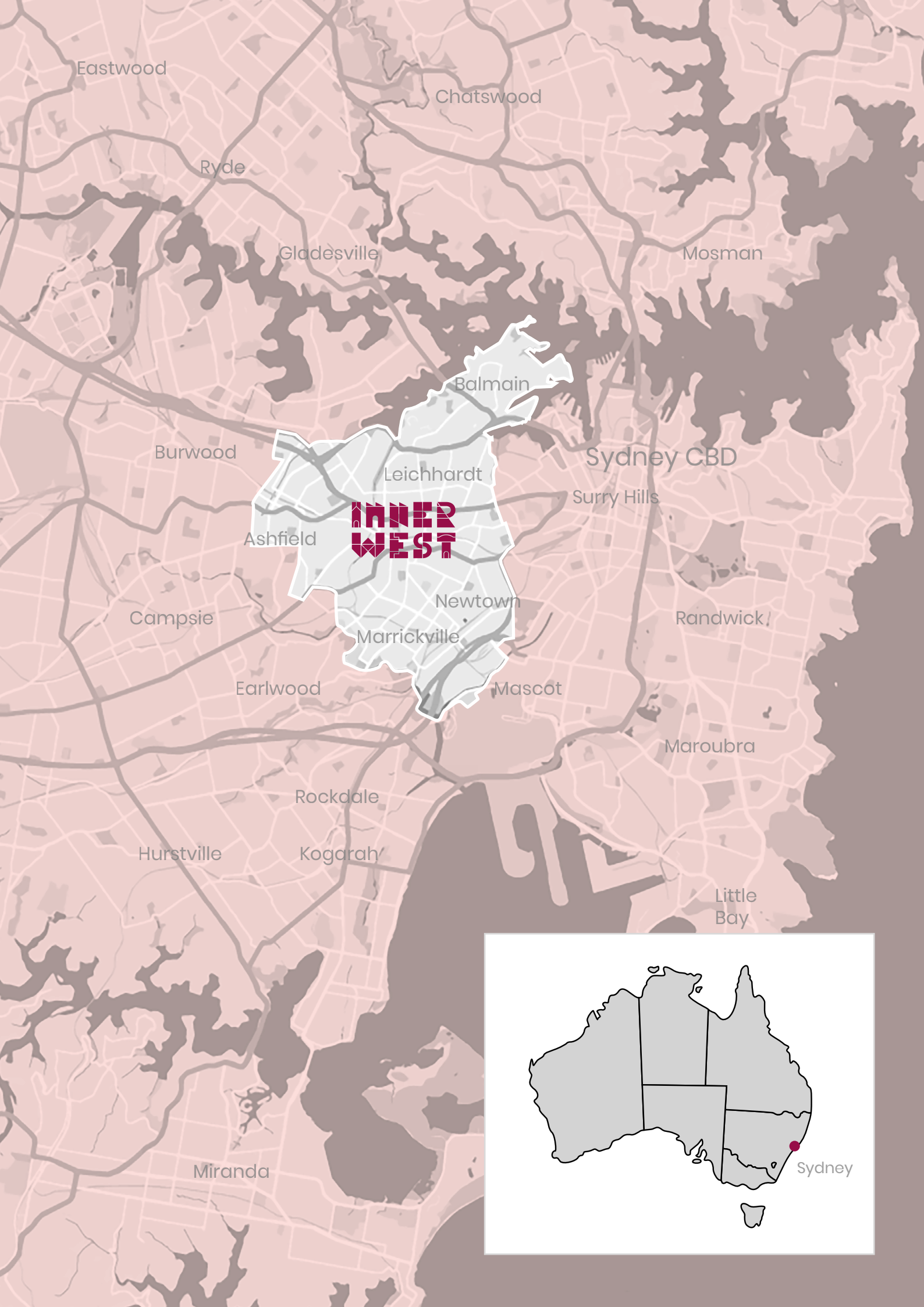
3. Engaged and informed community

- Inform our community using multi-channel communications
- Support local democracy through inclusive participatory community engagement
- Deliver evidence-based Council decision-making

4. Collaboration and valued partnerships

- Advocate on emerging community issues
- Build resilience and capacity of local leaders, groups and communities
- Deliver positive outcomes for the community, economy and environment through strategic and innovative supply solutions





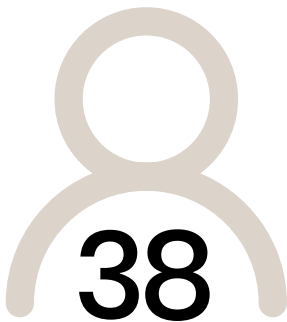
About the Inner West

Inner West local government area (LGA) has an estimated resident population of nearly 190,000 people and spans 36km² from the banks of the Parramatta River at Birchgrove in the north east, to the Cooks River at Dulwich Hill in the south west. The Gadigal and Wangal Peoples of the Eora Nation are the traditional custodians of the Inner West LGA. It is a unique area with a special beauty that comes from natural and built environments, and a rich cultural heritage. The people of the Inner West take great pride in their community and have a strong Inner West identity.

Inner West Council was formed in 2016 by the NSW Government which amalgamated Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils. Today, the Inner West LGA includes the suburbs of Annandale, Ashfield, Balmain (including Balmain East), Birchgrove, Dulwich Hill, Enmore, Haberfield, Leichhardt, Lewisham, Lilyfield, Marrickville, Petersham, Rozelle, Stanmore, St Peters, Summer Hill, Sydenham, Tempe and parts of Ashbury, Camperdown, Croydon, Croydon Park, Hurlstone Park and Newtown



Inner West community profile

**38**

Median age
of residents

**2,162
(1.2%)**

Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander population
(133 up from 2016)



Population
density

5,222

Persons per km²

26%

Language
other than
English spoken
at home

**33%**

Born overseas

**2.7**
People

Average
household
size

**29%**

Lone households

Rent vs own**52%**

Home ownership

42.6%

Rental

5.4%

Other

188,325
Total
population
(2023)

Forecast population
in 2041: 247,881

2.2%

Same sex couples
(compared to
Greater Sydney
0.6%)

**8.8%**

Creative and performing
arts industry workers
(compared to Greater
Sydney 6%)



Volunteers

14.8%
compared to
11.6% in Greater
Sydney

Disability



of the Australian
population have disability

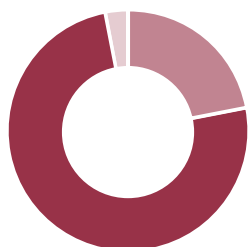
(Source: 2018 ABS Survey of
Disability, Ageing and Carers)



48.2%
Tertiary
educated



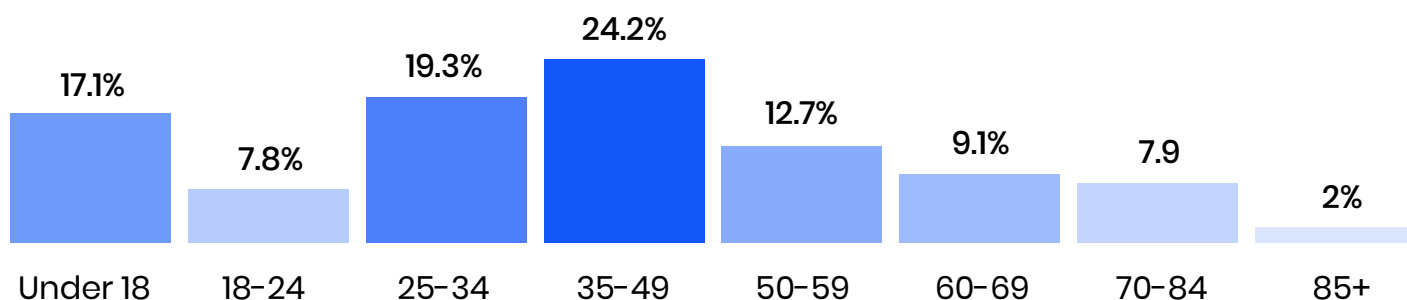
Inner West
has over
20,000
local businesses
providing over
76,000
local jobs



Employment location:

- Work and live in the Inner West 22%
- Work outside the Inner West 75% (41.1% in City of Sydney)
- No fixed place of work 3%

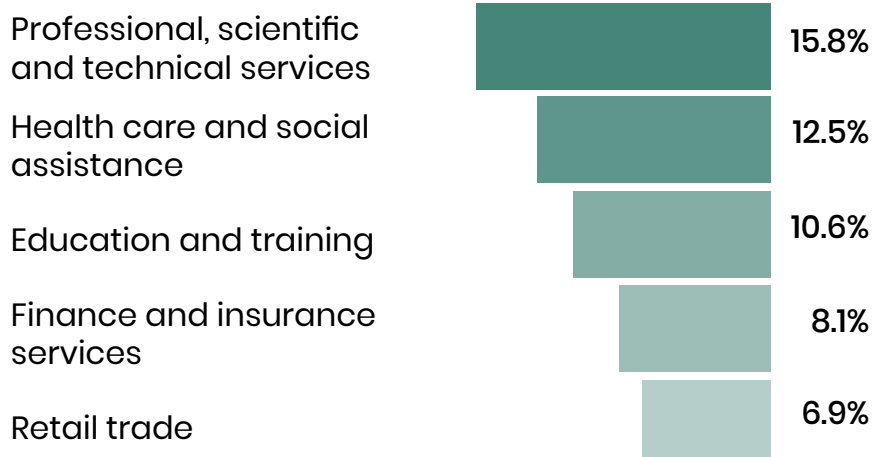
Age groups:



Top languages other than English spoken:

Mandarin	3.3%
Greek	2.7%
Italian	2.2%
Vietnamese	2%
Cantonese	1.9%
Spanish	1.5%
Arabic	1.2%
Nepali	1.1%
Portuguese	1.1%
Filipino/Tagalog	0.8%

Top industries



What makes Inner West?

Strong sense of community identity and pride

Cool artspaces

It has a special place in Australian history and will continue to do so

Character


Diversity and authentic community

Progressive

Alternative vibes

Heritage, character, streetscapes





Having the
courage to
support people
from all walks
of life

Beautiful
waterways

Being a part of
the multicultural
community

Diverse
communities

Murals

Connecting
PEOPLE, PLACE
and CULTURE
= LOVE

An inclusive
community
loved by all

Its commitment to
climate action

A safe, inclusive
and vibrant
community

Foreshore
location

Direct community
quotes gathered from
community engagement

Why we love the Inner West

43%

of residents mentioned diversity or multiculturalism

"The diversity of different backgrounds"

"The diversity between the different suburbs, each individual area has a different culture"

"The diversity and the range of lifestyle opportunities and communities that make up the Inner West"

"There is general respect for diversity in the area, and it has a history of multicultural interactions"

34%

of residents mentioned community spirit or inclusivity

"Friendly and inclusive and non-judgemental community"

"Community engagement through having to park on narrow streets, people tend to talk to each other as they get into their cars"

"Community has progressive people who are positive and want to see social progress"

"It's got a strong community of good people"

28%

of residents mentioned proximity to the city, work or services

"Close proximity to cafes and restaurants"

"Close proximity to city while also maintaining a good community environment"

"Close to the city and amenities: shopping restaurants, cafes, movie theatres and parks"

"Convenient to amenities, transport, shopping centres etc."



The Buuja Buuja dancers perform at the launch of Creative Town Halls at Petersham Town Hall

Strategic Directions





Strategic Direction 1: An ecologically sustainable Inner West

Where do we want to be?

We need to continue to protect our environment and adapt to climate change. Council plans to expand electric vehicle infrastructure, including charging stations, and progress the Fleet Transition Plan to reduce emissions. Sustainability will be supported by embedding food recycling, sustainability education, and the Inner West Sustainability Hub. The Inner West community's keen desire for more river swimming will see focus on sites at Callan Park and Mort Bay. Our community also wants to protect biodiversity and preserve the tree canopy.

A significant challenge is adapting to the changing climate and achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. The precise nature and timing of climatic changes, particularly at regional and local scales, and societal, economic, and technological changes that may influence global emissions over time are uncertain. Development pressures from increased housing supply and major infrastructure projects create challenges for biodiversity and tree canopy. The transition away from gas and towards renewable energy, and fostering a circular economy to reduce waste will require further community support. Addressing these long-term challenges is vital for ensuring a sustainable future.

Our community voices

more
community
green spaces

more trees
(more street trees
to keep us cool!)

more flowering
plants, more
flowers





How we plan to achieve the community's vision through our plan's outcomes, strategies and roles

CSP Outcome	CSP Strategy	Role
1. Sustainable leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect and share information, knowledge and tools to live sustainably 	Deliver, Facilitate/Partner
2. Resilient biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain, manage and improve vegetation and tree canopy • Protect threatened species, connect and enhance natural areas, biodiversity corridors and sensitive habitats 	Deliver, Facilitate/Partner
3. Healthy waterways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement water-sensitive policies, plans and projects • Expand river swimming sites 	Deliver, Facilitate/Partner
4. Zero emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement strategies to reduce and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions • Build local resilience and adapt to climate change • Prioritise active transport infrastructure as a key climate action strategy 	Deliver, Facilitate/Partner
5. Zero waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce residential waste and increase recycling • Increase recovery of household organic material 	Deliver, Advocate/Educate

Partners

Non Government organisations, Not for profit organisations,
NSW Government agencies, Industry groups, Community groups

Measuring our progress

Indicator	Trend
Tree canopy coverage (18.55% in 2022, SEED NSW)	Increase
Annual residential waste to landfill per resident (162.16kg/resident, IWC Annual Report 2023/24)	Decrease
Annual grid-derived residential energy consumption (1.89 MWh per resident, Ausgrid, 2022)	Decrease
Residential gas consumption per capita (2022 baseline of 5,131 MJ per resident, Jemena Gas 2022)	Decrease
Hectares of natural areas that Council protects and restores (22 hectares, Inner West Council, 2024)	Maintain
Inner West Council is carbon neutral and 100% renewable for electricity (IWC Annual Report 2023/24)	Maintain
River swimming sites in the Inner West (Baseline = 1 Dawn Fraser Baths, Inner West Council)	Increase
Community satisfaction with Council services (mean out of 5, Community Satisfaction Survey, 2024) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental education programs and initiatives (3.4) • Encouraging recycling (3.7) • Flood management (3.14) • Household garbage collection (3.37) • Protecting the natural environment e.g. Bushcare (3.48) • Removal of illegally dumped rubbish (3.27) 	Maintain or increase
Amount of diverted organic waste from landfill (71.6 Kg/ per resident in 2023/24)	Increase
Air Quality rating (NSW Office of Environment and Heritage Regional Air Quality Data, Rozelle Station) Air quality concentration data Air Quality NSW	Increase
Percentage of Inner West homes that have a solar panel installed (Australian PV institute, Clean Energy Regulator)	Increase

Council's supporting strategies

- Inner West Biodiversity Strategy
- Blue-Green Grid Strategy
- Climate and Renewables Strategy
- Electric Vehicle Encouragement Strategy and Action Plan
- Sustainable Fleet Transition Plan
- Zero Waste Strategy



Strategic Direction 2: Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport

Where do we want to be?

We need housing and infrastructure for the growing population, more sustainable active and public transport and less reliance on private motor vehicle use. Council is investigating the impact of State Government housing reforms and planning future developments in key transport hubs. The goal is to meet the target of 7,800 new dwellings by 2029 while improving cycling and pedestrian infrastructure. Initiatives like the Cooks to Cove GreenWay, the Pyrmont Bridge Road Cycleway, and the Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan will deliver improved active transportation options while Integrated Transport and Parking Strategies will address current and future mobility needs.

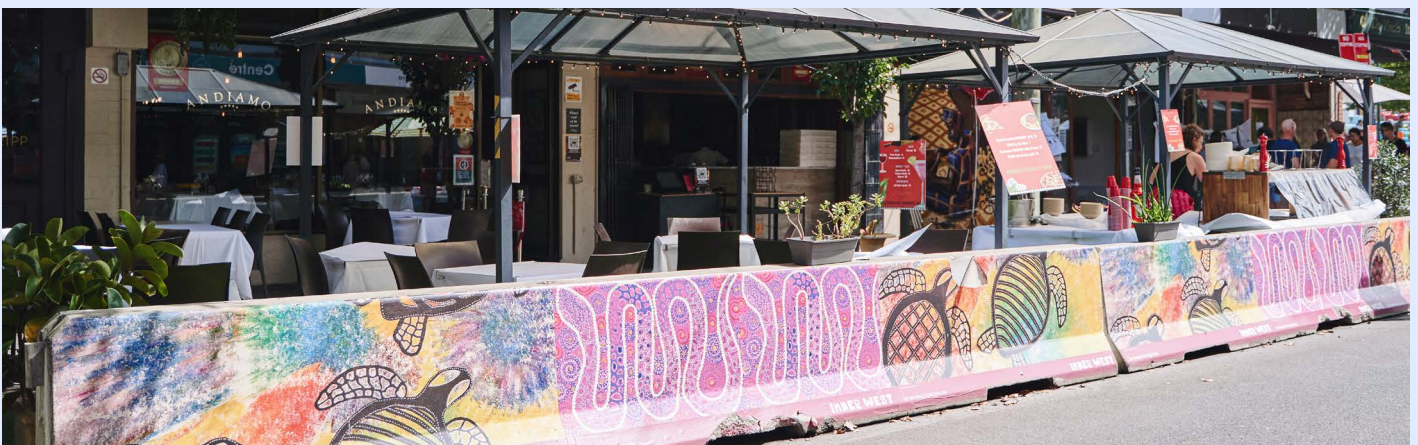
Meeting the demand for new housing and infrastructure in a densely populated area presents significant challenges. Finding appropriate locations for housing without impacting local character, heritage, environment, trees, biodiversity and safety is complex. The affordability of housing, especially for essential workers and low-income households, is another critical concern. Transport issues, including disruptions caused by metro station rollouts and M4 tunnel locations at Balmain and Rozelle, further complicate the planning and integration of new infrastructure with existing networks.

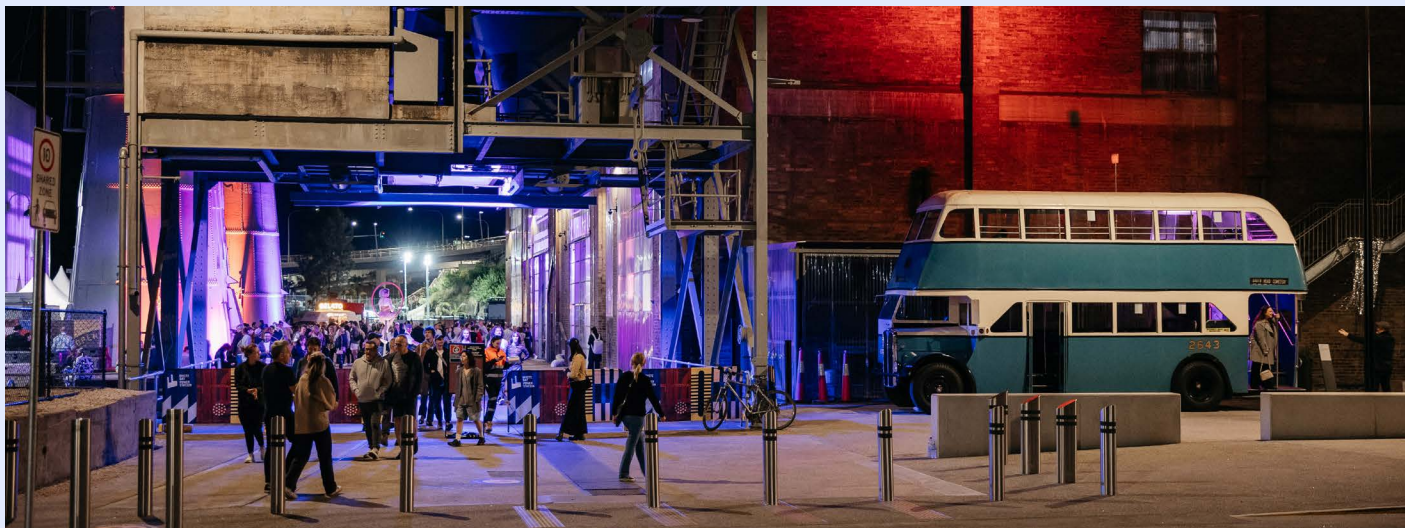
Our community voices

more street lights
for when people
come home late

affordable
housing

more changes
for people to
live here





How we plan to achieve the community's vision through our plan's outcomes, strategies and roles

CSP Outcome	CSP Strategy	Role
1. Housing for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage greater housing diversity through development • Increase social, community, affordable and liveable housing 	Deliver, Facilitate/Partner
2. Sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate planning and urban design for public and private spaces • Monitor local development for legislative compliance • Retain heritage, accessibility and character of local neighbourhoods 	Deliver, Facilitate/Partner
3. Integrated transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise active transport and manage and/or deliver transport infrastructure • Work with agencies to improve public transport and related infrastructure • Manage road network 	Facilitate/Partner, Advocate/Educate
4. Safe, clean and accessible public places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure private spaces and developments contribute positively to public spaces • Improve air quality and noise pollution through regulation and education • Manage public spaces and community safety 	Facilitate/Partner

Partners

NSW agencies, Federal, Non Government organisations, Developers,
Not for profit organisations, Community groups

Measuring our progress

Indicator	Trend
Open space per resident (16.5 sqm/person 2024, Inner West Council)	Increase
People who travel to work by public transport (7%, ABS Census 2021)	Increase
People who travel to work by car, as driver (20.6%, ABS Census 2021)	Decrease
People walking or cycling to work (4.5% ABS Census 2021)	Increase
Car ownership (22.5% of households have access to two or more motor vehicles, ABS Census 2021)	Decrease
Road fatalities in the Inner West (6, 2022 NSW Centre for Road Safety)	Decrease
Serious injuries in the Inner West (77, 2022 NSW Centre for Road Safety)	Decrease
Incidents of crime in the Inner West (BOSCAR 2024, Two-year trends rate map stable)	Decrease
Affordable dwellings managed by Council or Community Housing Providers in the Inner West (98 as at 30 June 2025, Inner West Council)	Increase
<p>Living in the Inner West - Level of agreement with statements: (Community Satisfaction Survey, 2024)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Inner West area is a good place to live (95% agree) • Housing in the area is affordable (4% agree) • I feel safe during the day (98% agree) • I feel safe after dark (80% agree) 	Maintain or increase
<p>Community satisfaction with Council services (mean score out of 5, Community Satisfaction Survey 2024)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to public transport (3.8) • Appearance of your local area (3.6) • Building heights in town centres (3.13) • Cycleways (3.01) • Graffiti removal (3.14) • Long term planning for Council area (3.11) • Maintaining footpaths (3.18) • Maintaining local roads excluding major routes (2.91) • Maintenance and cleaning of town centres (3.57) • Management of parking (2.7) • Managing development in the area (2.83) • Protection of heritage buildings and items (3.55) • Protection of low-rise residential areas (3.2) • Safe public spaces (3.6) • Stormwater management and flood mitigation (3.151) • Traffic management and road safety (3.2) 	Maintain or increase

Indicator	Trend
Medium and high-density housing in the Inner West was 71% in 2021, down 2.5% in 2016. (ABS Census 2021)	Increase or maintain
Households renting – 43%, up 2.5% from 2016 (ABS Census 2021)	Maintain
Lone person households – 29% – up 3.7% since 2016 (ABS Census 2021)	Maintain
Households that have no car – 17% (ABS Census 2021)	Increase

Council's supporting strategies

- Going Places Integrated Transport Strategy
- Electric Vehicle Encouragement Strategy
- Local Strategic Planning Statement
- Main Streets Strategy
- Our Inner West Housing Strategy
- Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy (NSW Government)
- Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan
- Cycling Strategy and Cycling Action Plan





Strategic Direction 3: Creative communities and a strong economy

Where do we want to be?

Population growth will drive the local economy with increasing need for local services, entertainment and hospitality, but also put pressure on spaces for economic and cultural activity. We will nurture our vibrant local economy and creative scene, embracing new opportunities and community collaborations to co-design and strengthen our cultural offerings. Initiatives include opening our town halls to creative uses, the Perfect Match street art program, Young Creatives awards program, and new creative commissions.

New special entertainment precincts along with public art programs and events, will celebrate the Inner West's diversity and rich Aboriginal culture. Town centre improvements, along with partnerships between government, business and industry will enhance economic development and create a thriving local scene for residents and visitors.

Striking the right balance between growth, vibrancy and neighbourhood amenity is a key challenge. Retention of industrial land and affordable spaces for creative industries and emerging businesses is a challenge as pressure on development for new housing, land costs and infrastructure demands escalate. Additionally, the changing global economy, rising costs, and supply chain disruptions create challenges for the Inner West.

Our community voices

promote live music scene, live venues / theatres, art and music grants

more community murals, I think there should be more street art

love creative trails, halls and festivals



How we plan to achieve the community's vision through our plan's outcomes, strategies and roles

CSP Outcome	CSP Strategy	Role
1. A vibrant cultural and creative destination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities to participate in arts and culture • Celebrate and promote innovation for creative industries by providing local programs, including young and emerging talent 	Deliver, Facilitate/Partner
2. A diverse and strong economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement strategies to assist business growth, innovation and new enterprises • Manage and plan for future industrial and employment lands and activities 	Deliver, Facilitate/ Partner

Partners

NSW agencies, Artists, Creative businesses and industries, Community groups

Measuring our progress

Indicator	Trend
<p>Living in the Inner West – Level of agreement with statements: (Community Satisfaction Survey, 2024)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local town centres are vibrant and economically healthy (52% agree) I have enough opportunities to participate in arts and cultural activities (54% agree) 	Increase
<p>Community satisfaction with Council services (mean out of 5, Community Satisfaction Survey, 2024)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Festival and events programs (3.58) Supporting local artists and creative industries (3.4) Supporting local jobs and business (3.28) 	Increase or maintain
Gross Regional Product – \$12.62 billion (NIEIR, Economic Profile, 2023)	Increase
Local Employment data – 76,530 local jobs (NIEIR, Economic profile, 2023)	Increase
20,403 Local Businesses (ABS, 2023)	Increase
Health Care and Social Assistance Largest industry – 15.8% of employment (ABS, 2021)	Maintain
Creative and Cultural sector – \$1,156M (12.1% of total) Gross Value Added, 12.5% of total jobs, 19,724 employed residents, and 4,299 local businesses (Profile ID, 2022/23)	Maintain

Council's supporting strategies

- Arts and Music Recovery Plan
- Cultural Strategy
- Employment and Retail Lands Strategy

Legs On The Wall perform as Part
of EDGE Inner West at White Bay
Power Station





Strategic Direction 4: Healthy, resilient and caring communities

Where do we want to be?

We need recreational opportunities and inclusive services for active and healthy lifestyles and community wellbeing. Significant projects include the upgrade of Leichhardt Park and Oval and the completion of the Cooks to Cove GreenWay. Social inclusion will be enhanced, with initiatives such as the Anti-Racism Strategy, the Inner West Pride Centre, and the creation of the Aboriginal Community Hub. Additionally, delivering accessible, high-quality library and early childhood services and programs will support the diverse and growing population.

Responding to and resourcing the evolving social, recreational and health needs of the community are the key challenges for the future. Addressing social issues like racism and inequality, supporting social cohesion and working on Reconciliation and greater justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and ensuring participation and access to services for all, are key to future resilience.

Ensuring equitable and balanced access to passive and active recreational spaces is a challenge as the population increases, in an increasingly dense urban environment.

Our community voices

focus on
multicultural
community
and events

free activities for
young people to keep
them busy, better
facilities for teenagers,
more free activities
for senior citizens in
Marrickville

more community
gardens,
community vege



How we plan to achieve the community's vision through our plan's outcomes, strategies and roles

CSP Outcome	CSP Strategy	Role
1. Welcoming, connected and inclusive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrate, value and respect diversity • Build inclusivity, resilience and participation in community life • Prioritise and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander needs and culture in policies, initiatives and strategies 	Deliver, Facilitate/ Partner
2. Healthy and active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide facilities, spaces and programs for participation in active recreation • Provide parks, playgrounds and open spaces • Provide and support community services and centres • Encourage and facilitate active transportation use to improve community health outcomes 	Deliver, Facilitate/ Partner
3. Lifelong learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide quality children's education and care services • Provide libraries and technology 	Deliver, Facilitate/ Partner

Partners

NSW agencies, Not for profit organisations, Non Government organisations, Business and Industry, Community groups

Measuring our progress

Indicator	Trend
Areas of the Inner West within a 400m walkable catchment of a sizeable public park (Inner West Council)	Maintain
Percentage of children who are developmentally vulnerable (6.8%, Early Childhood Development Census, 2021)	Decrease
<p>Living in the Inner West – Level of agreement with statements: (Community Satisfaction Survey, 2024)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inner West is a harmonious, respectful and inclusive community – (77% agree) • I feel part of my local community – (69% agree) • I have enough opportunities to participate in sporting or recreational activities – (63% agree) 	Maintain or increase
<p>Community satisfaction with Council services (mean out of 5, Community Satisfaction Survey, 2024)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of sporting ovals, grounds and facilities (3.82) • Community centres and facilities (3.67) • Community education programs e.g. English classes, author talks, cycling (3.42) • Council's childcare service and programs (3.35) • Library services (4.14) • Maintenance of local parks, playgrounds and sporting fields (3.77) • Programs and support for newly arrived and migrant communities (3.16) • Promoting pride in the community (3.63) • Provision of services for older residents (3.35) • Support for people with a disability (3.22) • Swimming pools and aquatic centres (4.11) • Youth programs and activities (3.26) 	Maintain or increase
Homeless persons – 2545 people, up 330 from 2016 (ABS Census, 2021)	Decrease
Language at home other than English, 26% of the population, down 2.5% from 2016 (ABS Census, 2021)	Maintain
Volunteering – 14.8% of the population reported doing some form of voluntary work in 2021 down 4.1% from 2016 (ABS Census, 2021)	Increase

Council's supporting strategies

- Anti-Racism Strategy
- Disability Inclusion Action Plan
- Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan
- Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre Master Plan
- Public Toilet Strategy
- Recreation Strategy and Action Plan





Strategic Direction 5: Progressive, responsive, and effective civic leadership

Where do we want to be?

Council is dedicated to improving civic leadership through strong governance, effective customer service, and financial sustainability. Council will communicate effectively and provide opportunities for transparent community engagement. Ongoing improvements in customer experience will streamline digital transactions while maintaining face-to-face services. Council will also focus on better financial and asset management, long-term strategic planning, and leveraging technology to improve services. These initiatives will result in efficient, high-quality services that respond to the evolving needs of the community.

Citizens expect seamless digital experiences and easy transactions enabled by technological advances. The future will require Council to navigate challenges such as adopting new technologies, including AI, while addressing cybersecurity risks. Financial sustainability will be crucial, particularly in an environment of rising costs and budget constraints. Meeting increasing community expectations for services will require innovative solutions and a focus on efficiency. Building community resilience to environmental and social challenges—such as climate-related events, rising living costs, and social inequities—will require strong partnerships with other levels of government and community stakeholders to address these complex issues effectively.

Our community voices

fix the website
please, make it
user friendly

more
community
consultation

More volunteer
opportunities in the
community





How we plan to achieve the community's vision through our plan's outcomes, strategies and roles

CSP Outcome	CSP Strategy	Role
1. Responsive customer service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide responsive and innovative customer services • Continuously improve our performance to meet community needs 	Deliver
2. Responsible, transparent management and future planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan to meet community needs and aspirations • Provide responsible, sustainable, ethical and open local government • Deliver financial sustainability to manage public resources responsibly 	Deliver
3. Engaged and informed community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform our community using multi-channel communications • Support local democracy through inclusive participatory community engagement • Deliver evidence-based Council decision-making 	Deliver/Partner
4. Collaboration and valued partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate on emerging community issues • Build resilience and capacity of local leaders, groups and communities • Deliver positive outcomes for the community, economy and environment through strategic and innovative supply solutions 	Deliver, Partner/Advocate/Educate/Facilitate

Partners

NSW agencies, non-government organisations, Industry groups, community groups

Measuring our progress

Indicator	Trend
Overall Community satisfaction with Council – (87% in 2024 / Mean 3.43 out of 5, Community satisfaction survey 2024)	Maintain or increase
Community rating of Council's community engagement – (65% in 2024 / Mean 3.75 out of 5, Community satisfaction survey 2024)	Maintain or increase
Community satisfaction with Council's integrity and decision-making – (76% in 2024 / Mean 3.10 out of 5, Community satisfaction survey 2024)	Maintain or increase
Community satisfaction with Council contact – (81% in 2024 / Mean 3.75 out of 5, Community satisfaction survey 2024)	Increase
<p>Living in the Inner West – Level of agreement with statements: (Community Satisfaction Survey, 2024)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have enough opportunities to participate in Council's community consultation (41% agree) • Council offers good value for money (26% agree) • Council manages its finances well (20% agree) 	Increase
<p>Community satisfaction with Council services (mean out of 5, Community Satisfaction Survey, 2024)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community's ability to influence Council's decision making (2.82) • Provision of Council information to the community (3.4) • Support and programs for volunteers and community groups (3.51) 	Maintain or increase

Council's supporting strategies

- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Procurement Strategy
- Asset Management Strategy
- Community Engagement Strategy
- Customer Experience Strategy
- Information and Communications Technology Strategy
- Land and Property Strategy
- Long Term Accommodation Strategy
- Long Term Financial Plan
- Parks Plans of Management and Masterplans (270+ plans)
- Procurement Strategy
- Work Health and Safety Strategy
- Workforce Management Strategy



The Buuja Buuja dancers perform at the launch of Creative Town Halls at Petersham Town Hall

Developing the Community Strategic Plan

Our Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles underpin the CSP and all decision-making processes.

Sustainability now and for the future

We support and champion social, environmental, economic and civic leadership outcomes and work in a way that does not compromise the needs and ecological sustainability of present and future generations.



Bound by social justice

We consider the four key components of social justice principles:

Equity – fairness in decision-making, prioritising and allocation of resources particularly for those in need.

Access – fair access to services, resources and opportunities to improve quality of life.

Participation – the maximum opportunity to genuinely participate in decision making.

Rights – equal rights established and promoted for people from diverse linguistic, cultural and religious backgrounds to participate in community life.



Engaging the community

'Our Inner West 2041' has been shaped, reviewed and refined by a large and diverse range of people, across all age groups, geographic areas, cultures and languages. The first CSP (endorsed in June 2018) was developed with input from over 7,000 people over 18 months to determine the vision and strategic directions. In 2021 (for the CSP endorsed in June 2022), Councillors, staff and the community were consulted to ensure the plan continued to reflect the community's priorities and concerns for the future of our area.

Key topics discussed during the engagement included:

- our strategic directions
- community vision statement
- issues and challenges for the inner west
- community's top priorities and values
- what makes Inner West unique

Key stakeholders, partners and the community guided the changes to the CSP 2041.

Summary of engagement activities



November
2023

Leaders Day

Type of engagement:
Workshop

Leaders Day

Type of engagement:
Workshop



May
2024



May
2024

Local Democracy Groups (LDG)

Type of engagement:
Workshop

Community Satisfaction Survey

Type of engagement:
Online survey (722) and face to face intercepts (28)



June
2024



August
2024

Community Forum

Type of engagement:
Deliberative Forum

Dulwich Hill Festival

Type of engagement:
Engagement Stall



October
2024

Marrickville Music Festival

Type of engagement:
Engagement Stall



October
2024

Norton St Festa

Type of engagement:
Engagement Stall



October
2024

2044 Street Takeover

Type of engagement:
Engagement Stall



November
2024

Stanmore Music Festival

Type of engagement:
Engagement Stall



November
2024

Whole community and key stakeholders

Type of engagement:
Information distribution and opportunities for feedback for
all Inner West residents, businesses, community groups and
government stakeholders



April - May
2025



Inner West Deliberative Forum

Council hosted a Deliberative Forum based on the principles of a Citizens' Jury in August 2024. The 99 participants were randomly recruited by a market research company to broadly match the Inner West demographic profile and were remunerated for their participation. The process was independently designed and facilitated.

The Deliberative Forum participants:

- Provided input into the review of our CSP including identifying community values, refreshing the community vision statement, and determining key challenges and priority areas for action
- Provided input into the review of our Community Engagement Strategy including what motivates people to participate, preferred ways and barriers to participation, how people like to be informed about outcomes, and suggestions for future engagement

Using a range of small group discussions and fun digital methods, participants provided input which directly influenced the CSP and will inform Council's community engagement during the current term.

Overall, there was 94% satisfaction with the Deliberative Forum.

These results are shown in the word cloud below.



Community satisfaction survey

Another measure of the community's satisfaction with the future of the Inner West is the independently facilitated July 2024 community survey. In this, over 750 community members provided valuable insights into Council's performance and community engagement.

Key results were:

- Overall satisfaction with Council's performance was high at 87%.
- Most residents surveyed were highly satisfied (81%) with their contact with Council and the way their inquiries were managed.



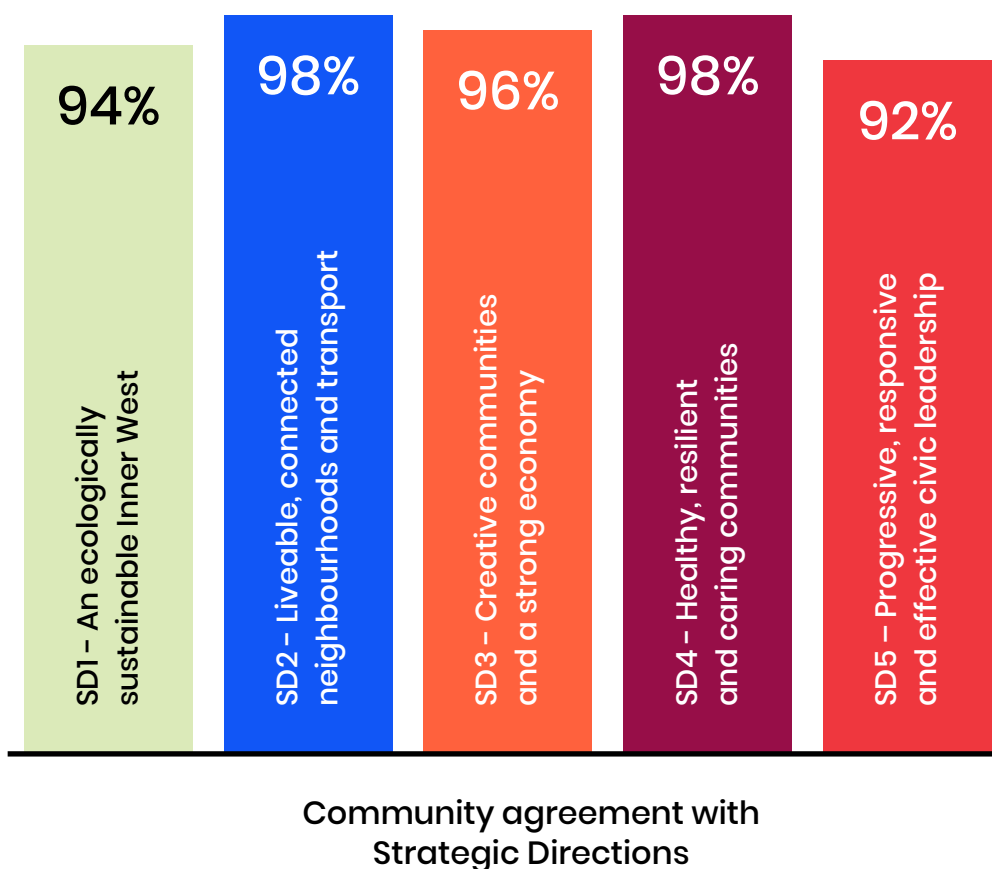
Unique characteristics of the Inner West:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity and multiculturalism • Community spirit and inclusiveness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to the city, work, and services
Key challenges for the next 10 years to be addressed through our CSP outcomes and strategies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing development • Housing affordability and availability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental protection • Traffic management
Safety and Liveability:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95% agree the Inner West is a good place to live. • 83% disagree that housing in the area is affordable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 98% feel safe alone in the Inner West during the day; • 80% feel safe after
Top-Rated Services:	<p>High Importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to public transport: 94% • Household garbage collection: 94% • Safe public spaces: 91% 	<p>High Satisfaction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library services: 95% • Swimming pools and aquatic centres: 95% • Maintenance of parks, playgrounds, and sporting fields: 93%

Satisfaction with future directions

The community survey also asked residents about their level of agreement with the five strategic directions in the CSP. It showed overwhelmingly positive feedback and support from over 90% of residents on all directions. The level of agreement is shown in the graph below.

The highest agreement levels were recorded for 'Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport' (98%) and 'Healthy, resilient and caring communities' (98%), indicating alignment with community interests and the need to continue supporting these priorities over the next decade.

The survey reflects strong community satisfaction across key services and strategic directions, with services such as public transport, waste collection, and safety highly valued. The Inner West is celebrated for its diversity, inclusiveness, and connectivity, although challenges like housing affordability and traffic require continued focus.



Alignment with State and District plans

Source: NSW State Budget 2024/25

	Community strategic plan – Strategic Directions				
	An ecologically sustainable Inner West	Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport	Creative communities and a strong economy	Healthy, resilient and caring communities	Progressive, responsive, and effective civic leadership
State Priorities					
Housing and planning		✓		✓	
More homes near better infrastructure		✓		✓	
A better planning system		✓		✓	✓
Targets and incentives		✓		✓	✓
Building homes for NSW		✓		✓	
More homes, better rights		✓		✓	
Buildings up to 30,000 new homes		✓		✓	
A major step to help those escaping from family and domestic violence				✓	
Key worker rental housing				✓	
Addressing homelessness				✓	
Better system for renters				✓	✓
Building Parramatta Light Rail 2		✓			
Sydney Metro		✓			
Building the future of transport		✓			
Better Technology, better journeys		✓			
Better buses, better services		✓			
Better roads for Sydney		✓			
Road safety funding		✓			
Better health services			✓	✓	
Education			✓		
Better protection for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence			✓		
Community support			✓		
Better energy, water infrastructure	✓				
Supporting businesses and consumers				✓	✓
Better communities, first nations, night time economy				✓	
Protecting our environment	✓				
Cost of living support measures	✓	✓			
Championing arts and culture			✓		
Disaster relief and recovery	✓				✓

	Community strategic plan – Strategic Directions				
	An ecologically sustainable Inner West	Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport	Creative communities and a strong economy	Healthy, resilient and caring communities	Progressive, responsive, and effective civic leadership
Other Strategies					
Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy 2022–2025				✓	
Active Transport Strategy, Transport for NSW	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy, Office of Environment and Heritage	✓				
Climate Change Adaptation Strategy	✓				
Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023	✓				
Digital Strategy, 2024					✓
Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap	✓				
Electricity Strategy	✓				
Electric Vehicle Strategy	✓				
Future Transport Strategy, Transport for NSW		✓			
Greater Sydney Services and Infrastructure Plan, Department of Planning, Industry		✓	✓		
Net Zero Plan State 1: 2020–2030	✓				
NSW Ageing Strategy, Dept of Family and Community Services				✓	
NSW Blue Carbon Strategy 2022–2027 Department of Environment	✓				
NSW Climate and Energy Action	✓				
NSW Electric Vehicle Strategy Department of Environment ,2022–29		✓	✓		
NSW Healthy Eating and Active Living Strategy NSW Health				✓	
NSW Homelessness Strategy 2018–2023				✓	
NSW Healthy Eating and Active Living Strategy NSW Health				✓	
NSW Renewable Energy Action Plan NSW Energy				✓	
State Disaster Mitigation Plan	✓	✓			✓
State Infrastructure Strategy		✓			✓
Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041	✓				

Resilient Sydney

What is city resilience?

City resilience is the capacity of individuals, communities, businesses and systems in a place to survive, adapt and thrive no matter what shocks and stresses they experience.

Shocks are sudden events that disrupt a city. Shocks include natural hazards such as heatwaves and floods, international crises such as economic crisis or disease pandemic, and critical infrastructure failures. When planning for city resilience, it is important to consider the cumulative effects from multiple shock events.

Stresses are ongoing challenges. They include unaffordable housing and cost of living pressures that weaken the ability of the city and communities to respond to and recover from shock events. It is important to consider how stresses increase the vulnerability of people, places and economies to shock events.

(Resilient Sydney Strategy 2025–2030)

The City Resilience Framework

The city resilience framework is an internationally recognised way to understand how cities are changing and how we can strengthen their resilience. Resilience can be strengthened across 4 dimensions:

- health and wellbeing
- natural and built environments
- economy and society
- local governance and planning



Potential shocks and stresses in the Inner West

Inner West is vulnerable to shocks and stresses.
Potential shocks and stresses in the Inner West are:

Inner West’s major acute shocks	Inner West’s chronic stresses
Infrastructure or transport failure	Housing affordability
Digital network failure	Increased extreme heat days
Major power outages	More severe storm events
Extreme heat	Sea-level rising
Severe storms	Seasonal rainfall
Flooding	Transport connectivity
	Living sustainably

What is Inner West Council doing to contribute to local resilience?

Inner West Council is committed to working with its community, partners, and stakeholders to improve our community's resilience. The following table shows alignment of Council's strategies with the five Resilient Sydney's directions:

Resilient Sydney Direction	Inner West Strategic Direction	Inner West Supporting Strategies / Plans
01 – Care for the environment – focuses on how we reframe our relationship with the natural environment to value and protect it and use resources sustainably	SD1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity Strategy • Blue Green Grid Strategy • Climate Adaptation Plan • Electric Vehicle Encourage Strategy • Urban Forest Strategy • Zero Waste Strategy
02 – People centred city – considers how we make this place safe and equitable, now and in the future, for all the people who live here	SD2, SD4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Strategy • Cycling Strategy • Main Streets Strategy • Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy • Going Places Integrated Transport Strategy
03 – Connect for strength – proposes actions to build strong social connections and communities where we care for each other	SD3, SD4, SD5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Strategy • Economic Development Plan
04 – Be Ready – responds to the urgency for us to be collectively prepared for shock events by harnessing stronger relationships and empowering communities	SD4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety Action Plan • Children and Youth Strategy – draft • Healthy Ageing Strategy • Recreation Strategy
05 – One City – addresses the governance challenges facing Sydney in a way that enables the goals of directions 1, 2, 3 and 4 to be realised	SD5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset Management Strategy • Long Term Financial Plan • Land and Property Strategy • Internal and External Communications Strategy



Document	Inner West Community Strategic Plan Our Inner West 2041		
Custodian	Corporate Strategy and Engagement Manager	Version #	Version 2
Adopted By	Endorsed 17 June 2025	ECM Document #	38976500
Next Review Date	June 2029		

Community Languages

Talk free with an interpreter call 131 450

Chinese Simplified	我们说普通话。如需免费传译服务，请致电131 450，然后请传译员致电02 9392 5000 接通 Inner West市政府。
Traditional Chinese	我們能說您的語言。如需免費傳譯服務，請致電131 450，然後請傳譯員致電02 9392 5000 接通 Inner West市政府。
Greek	Μιλάμε τη γλώσσα σας. Για να μιλήσετε δωρεάν σε διερμηνέα καλέστε το 131 450. Ζητήστε τους να καλέσουν το Δήμο Inner West Council στο 02 9392 5000.
Italian	Parliamo la vostra lingua. Per parlare gratuitamente con un interprete chiamate il numero 131 450. Chiedetegli di chiamare il Comune di Inner West al numero 02 9392 5000.
Vietnamese	Chúng tôi nói ngôn ngữ của quý vị. Muốn nói chuyện có thông dịch viên miễn phí, hãy gọi số 131 450. Yêu cầu họ gọi cho Hội đồng Thành phố Inner West qua số 02 9392 5000.