



Environment Strategic Reference Group Meeting

August 3

7.00-8.30pm

Function Room, Level 3

Petersham Administration Building

2-14 Fisher Street

Petersham

Chairperson: Justine Langford

Minutes: TBC

NB: WestConnex and major development briefing at 6pm prior to the meeting

Agenda

- a. **Welcome and Housekeeping**
- b. **Apologies**
- c. **Environment Strategic Reference Group CSP submission**
- d. **Climate Council Cities Power Partnership**
- e. **General Business**
- f. **Close**

ATTACHMENT:

Environment Strategic Reference Group Submission to the Community Strategic Plan
July 18

Environment Strategic Reference Group

Submission to Draft Community Strategic Plan

18 July 2017



BACKGROUND

Via a series of workshops*, the Environment Strategic Reference Group (the group) prepared visioning and strategy statements to be considered for inclusion in the Community Strategic Plan (CSP).

The objectives of the workshops were:

1. To develop a shared understanding regarding the purpose of the CSP
2. To maximise the opportunity to influence the CSP on issues relating to the environment
3. To develop informed statements in relation to a future vision and strategic direction for the Inner West

The vision statements developed in our first workshop were used in each subsequent workshop to generate strategies under three topics:

1. Resource Recovery
2. Urban Ecology
3. Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Under these three topics we answered the following questions, which are expanded on the following pages:

1. **Where are we now?** (What do we like/not like?)
2. **Where do we want to be?** (vision ideas about our ideal future Inner West)
3. **How will we get there?** (strategies to work towards the vision)
4. **How will we know we've arrived?** (indicators and targets)

* Workshop 1: Vision for a Sustainable and Liveable Inner West (30 March)

Workshop 2: Resource Recovery (11 May)

Workshop 3: Urban Ecology (1 June)

Workshop 4: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation (29 June)

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Community and culture

In the Inner West we value:

- Its thriving, vibrant and creative atmosphere; the food, music, arts, and interesting places
- Its friendly, caring, open-minded, accepting, progressive and engaged community
- The sense of belonging
- Its diversity—generational, cultural, socio-economic, LGBTQI community
- A safe community

The challenges raised include:

- *Housing affordability*
- *High turn-over/transience threatens the diversity of our community*
- *The cost of living and busy schedules mean less time is available to contribute to and be part of the community*

Proximity and mobility

In the Inner West we value:

- The connected, walkable neighbourhoods
- That we are close to everything we need: local farmers markets, independent businesses, healthy food, entertainment, breweries, travel, services, greenspace, recreation, schools

The challenges raised include:

- *Reducing traffic and revitalising Parramatta Road*
- *Traffic congestion, vehicle pollution, noise, cars taking up too much of the road space, transitioning to streets for people rather than just cars*

Built environment

In the Inner West we value:

- Diverse neighbourhoods
- The history and heritage
- The mix of industrial buildings, houses and interesting architecture

The challenges raised include:

- *The scale of development*
- *Increasing pressure for high rise development*
- *Increased hard surface area*
- *State government priorities and development projects*

Natural environment

In the Inner West we value:

- The natural environment
- Community gardens
- Native flora and fauna
- The parklands, leash free spaces and the GreenWay
- The harbour, Parramatta and Cooks Rivers, the foreshore public spaces and clean water

The challenges raised include:

- *Development*
- *Erosion*
- *The small size of natural areas*
- *Pressure to remove trees*
- *Stormwater and flooding*
- *Pollution from many sources impacting on our amenity and local ecology (air, water, litter, noise, soils)*

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?

Vision ideas for the inner west community (covers all priority areas)

- The Inner West is connected, walkable, safe and well-served by affordable public transport. Places are designed for people and nature. People feel safe walking and cycling, including children who walk and ride to school. Moving about the Inner West is quick, relaxed, convenient, enjoyable and healthy.
- The Inner West community is friendly, diverse, caring, inclusive and highly engaged. Residents, workers and visitors feel a strong sense of belonging. The community values and celebrates its diversity. The place has a thriving, vibrant and creative atmosphere and people are able to enjoy its food, music, arts, entertainment and interesting places.
- People can be who they are in the Inner West.
- The Inner West has a range of housing and work opportunities catering for a diverse and creative community.
- People are connected to their food.
- Places are designed for many purposes and cater for multiple needs.
- Green spaces are connected.
- There is space in the density of the Inner West.
- The Inner West has rich biodiversity with connected habitats for flora and fauna. Our waterways are clean, swimmable and brimming with wildlife.
- There is zero waste and a vibrant sharing economy. The environment, including waterways, is free of plastics and litter.
- Inner West is a zero-emissions community generating and owning its energy which is clean and 100% renewable.

These vision ideas were used to develop strategy ideas under the three categories: Resource Recovery, Urban Ecology, and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation.

RESOURCE RECOVERY

Where do we want to be?

- There is zero waste and a vibrant sharing economy. The environment, including waterways, is free of plastics and litter.

How will we get there?

1. Empower the community to embrace avoidance, reuse, repair and recycling.
2. Lead by example in Council's own operation, adapting to new technologies and approaches to reuse, recycling and recovery of resources.
3. Provide facilities, services and opportunities to drive the reuse, repair and share culture.
4. Divert organic material from landfill.
5. Advocate for comprehensive extended producer responsibility.

How will we know we've arrived?

- Reduction in the volume of waste collected (tonnes)
- Reduction in waste produced per household / person / business

URBAN ECOLOGY

Where do we want to be?

- The Inner West community is friendly, diverse, caring, inclusive and highly engaged. Residents, workers and visitors feel a strong sense of belonging. The community values and celebrates its diversity. The place has a thriving, vibrant and creative atmosphere and people are able to enjoy its food, music, arts, entertainment and interesting places.
- Places are designed for many purposes and cater for multiple needs.
- Green spaces are connected.
- There is space in the density of the Inner West.
- The Inner West has rich biodiversity with connected habitats for flora and fauna. Our waterways are clean, swimmable and brimming with wildlife.
- People can be who they are in the Inner West.
- People are connected to their food.

How will we get there?

1. Improve the resilience of priority habitats and create and expand linkages between them.
2. Become a water sensitive and pollution free community and city that:
 - Supplies water from the Inner West catchment
 - Provides green infrastructure to support ecosystem services
 - Collaborates to make plans, designs and decisions that are water sensitive
3. Connect the community with nature.
4. Develop and advocate for robust planning controls that increase urban ecology and encourage community engagement.
5. Implement food-sensitive planning and urban design principles in local planning instruments and community programs.

How will we know we've arrived?

- Ratio of green space to grey space
- Number of people involved in volunteer activities (citizen science, bushcare)
- Increasing no. and diversity of a suite of indicator species, plants and animals
- Mains water consumption is decreasing
- Reduced air pollution
- Reduced effective impervious area
- Improved soil and water quality
- People swim in the rivers
- Increased contiguous riparian vegetation
- Use of deliberative democracy / citizen jury tools
- Number of alternative partners (e.g. researchers, community groups) and value of ecological work produced
- Liveability index
- Increasingly people say they are connected to their food and its source
- More people are growing their own food, at home or in a communal garden
- Increasing existence of participation in alternative food networks
- Increasing youth connected to food
- Decreasing childhood obesity

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION

Where do we want to be?

- The Inner West community is friendly, diverse, caring, inclusive and highly engaged. Residents, workers and visitors feel a strong sense of belonging. The community values and celebrates its diversity. The place has a thriving, vibrant and creative atmosphere and people are able to enjoy its food, music, arts, entertainment and interesting places.
- The Inner West is connected, walkable, safe and well-serviced by affordable public transport. Places are designed for people and nature. People feel safe walking and cycling, including children who walk and ride to school. Moving about the Inner West is quick, relaxed, convenient, enjoyable and healthy.
- Inner West is a zero-emissions community generating and owning its energy which is clean and 100% renewable.
- The Inner West is a leader in adapting to climate change.

How will we get there?

1. Develop and pursue initiatives and partnerships through a Climate Change Plan that aims for 100% renewable energy for Council and community.
2. Create a culture of active travel through provision of increased amenity and facilities.
3. Transition to clean and renewable energy for all transport options.
4. Prepare a Climate Adaptation / Green Infrastructure Plan that has environmental justice principles at its core.
5. Engage, include and empower citizen action and decision making.

How will we know we've arrived?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percent of energy that is sourced from renewables• Increasing number of new and renovated buildings are net zero emissions• Develop integrated strategies for offsite PPAs, energy providers, community energy projects, etc.• Increase in / resurgence of local shops and services• Number of kids walking / riding / bussing to school• Fewer cars registered in LGA and increased car share spaces and memberships• Increased use of public transport• Increased electric cars registered in LGA | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase in number of people walking as a mode of transport• Percent of Council vehicles powered by clean and renewable energy• Improved air quality• Increased km of bike paths delivered• Reducing deaths / hospital admissions from heat stress• Increased proportion of low income households with renewables, reduced power bills, reduced water bills• Proportion of green canopy cover• Number of green walls approved / installed• Increase in natural shorelines to combat storm surges, etc. |
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