

Stronger Communities Fund Engagement Report

November 2016



Overview

Inner West Council engaged the community during September and October 2016 in deciding how to spend the \$14M Stronger Communities – Major Projects funding provided by the NSW Government.

The community was asked to select one of three options – 'Transport Infrastructure'; 'Community Facilities' or 'Recreation and Sustainability'. Council decided that the option with the highest community support would be endorsed and the Stronger Communities Fund Assessment Panel would allocate individual projects and funds accordingly.

The option with the highest support was 'Recreation and Sustainability' which was chosen by more than half of the 650+ people who participated.

Engagement program

Engagement was undertaken from 05/0916–30/10/2016.

The engagement program consisted of:

- Community forum
- Community festivals
- Your Say Inner West



Promotion

The engagement program was promoted by:

- Media releases
- Social media
- Posters
- Flyer to all businesses and residences in the local government area
- E-newsletters
- I-Pads at Council's Aquatic Centres
- Emails to stakeholder groups

Engagement material provided to the community included examples of project options, FAQs and a presentation by expert speakers at the community forum to explain the context for each of the three options.

See appendix 1 for a complete list of promotion and engagement material.

Community Forum

A community forum was held on 12/10/16 at Leichhardt Oval, attended by 43 members of the community, Inner West Council Administrator Richard Pearson, staff and two Local Representation Advisory Committee members.

Participants heard from a panel of speakers about the three options and had the opportunity to ask questions.





Surveys completed – 36

Festivals

Face-to-face surveys were undertaken at four Council festivals throughout October:

- Ashfield Taste of Asia 07/10/16
- Summer Hill Neighbourhood Feast 09/10/16
- Marrickville Festival 23/10/16
- Norton Street Festa (Leichhardt) 30/10/16

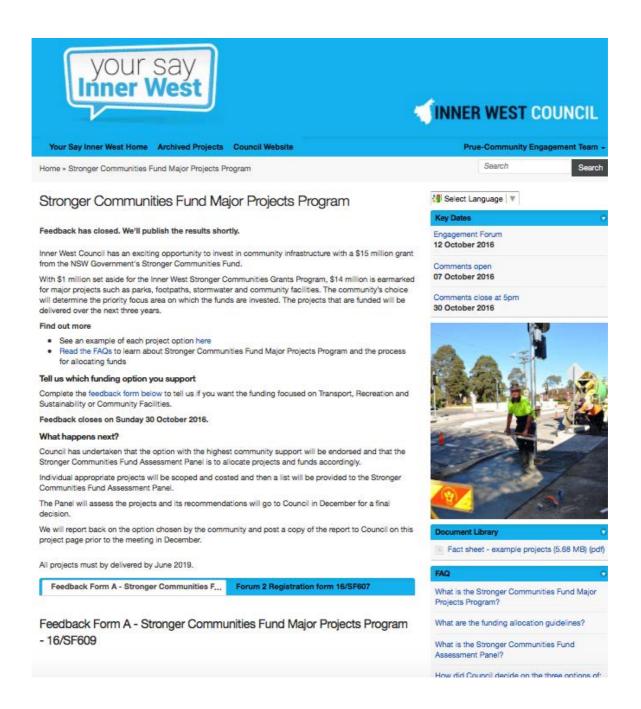




Surveys completed – 293

Your Say Inner West

Community members could complete a survey online at Council's online engagement hub, Your Say Inner West along with engagement material.



Responses

More than 650 responses were received. The option with the highest community support was Recreation and Sustainability, with more than half of the respondents supporting this option.

A breakdown of responses according to engagement method is as follows:

Option	Forum	Festivals	Online	Total
Transport infrastructure	12	88	42	142
Community Facilities	7	86	71	164
Recreation and Sustainability	17	119	214	350
Total	36	293	327	656

Demographic analysis

The community was asked to provide demographic data to enable Council to compare responses to the Inner West community profile (according to the Census 2011 which is the most recent data available). These questions were not compulsory and were not answered by every person so the following analysis and graphs are based on those respondents who answered the questions.

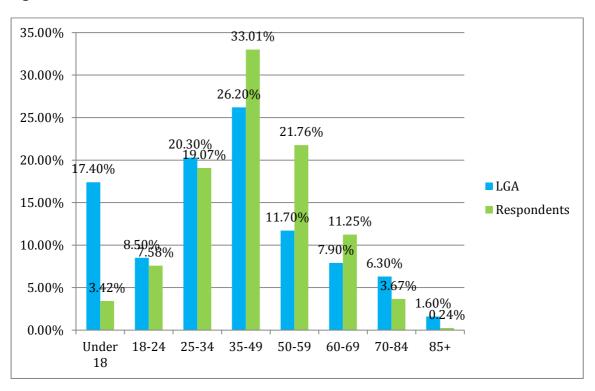
The comparison shows that the engagement was largely successful in reaching respondents generally aligned with the community profile.

In terms of age distribution, the engagement successfully reached a good proportion of 18-34 year olds – an age group which is often underrepresented in engagement activities. Under-18s trend low as children were not specifically targeted in the engagement. The 35-69 year olds participated at higher rates than their proportion in the general population while the over 70s were slightly lower.

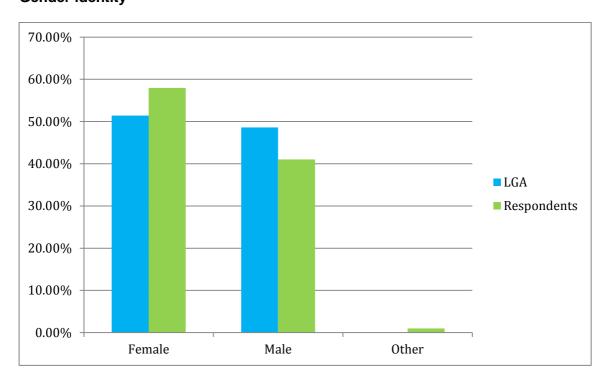
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were well represented, and in terms of gender, slightly more females than males participated when compared with the general population. The engagement reached significant numbers of people who were born overseas and who speak a language other than English at home, although not as many as the general community profile. Engagement at events was more culturally diverse than online which highlights the importance of using a range of methods to reach people.

In terms of place of residence, Marrickville ward was over-represented and Balmain underrepresented, due to the high engagement at Marrickville Festival, and the fact than no festival was held in Balmain during the engagement period. Additionally, visitors to the LGA contributed, mainly through the engagement at events.

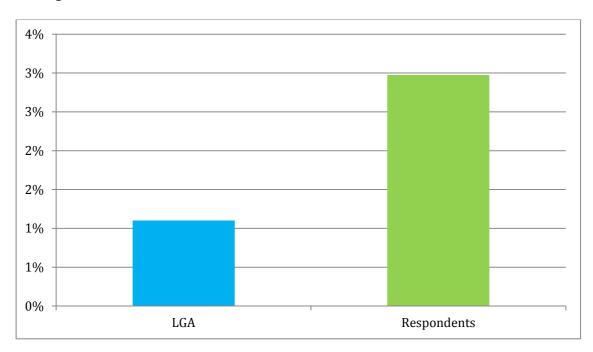
Age distribution



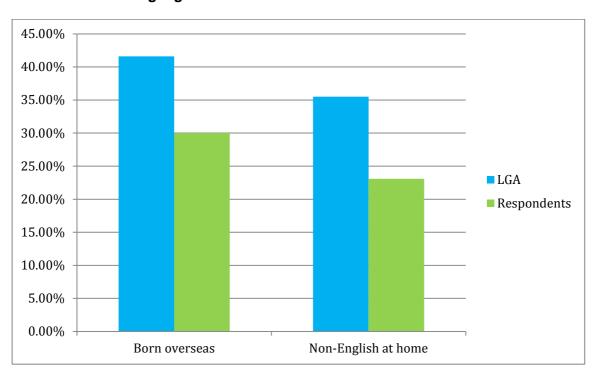
Gender identity



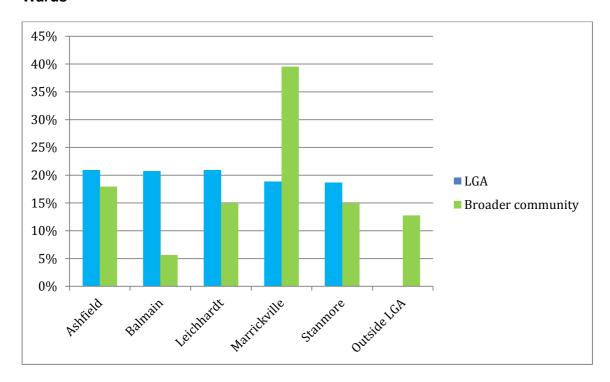
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander



Born overseas / language at home



Wards



Appendix 1 – Promotion for Stronger Communities Fund Major Projects Program engagement

Method		Audience	Date
Email	Invitation to Forum 2	Former committee members	29/9/16
Media release	Media release – Have your say on \$14m Stronger Communities Fund Major Projects Program	Media outlets	29/9/16
Social media	IWC Twitter post – Come to a community forum and tell us how we should spend \$14m	General community	29/9/16
E-news	Council e-newsletter – Stronger Community Fund Forum	E-new subscribers	29/9/16
Social media	IWC Facebook post – Register for Stronger Communities Fund Forum	General community - reached 3289	30/9/16
Email	Email to all staff to invite their community network members to Forum 2	Community networks known to council staff	30/9/16
Print media	News Feature in Inner West Courier council column re forum 2	General community	4/10/16
Flyer	Get Involved flyer - information and link for online engagement and face to face engagement at Forum 2, Marrickville Festival and Norton St Festa	Distributed to all households and businesses in LGA	Started 5/10/16 - Completed 18/10/16
Social media	IWC Twitter post - how should we spend \$14m	General community	5/10/16
Poster	Stronger Communities forum poster distributed with invitation and link to engagement	Community noticeboards, community facilities, libraries, customer service centres	7/10/16
Event	Ashfield Taste of Asia – face to face survey	General community	7/10/16
Social media	IWC Facebook Post - Register for Stronger Communities Fund Forum	General community – reached 8899	7/10/16
Flyer	Get Involved flyer - information and link for online engagement and face to face engagement at Forum 2, Marrickville Festival and Norton Street Festa	Distributed to all libraries, aquatic centres, childcare centres	Completed by 7/10/16
Online	Online engagement project pages opened at www.yoursayinnerwest.com.au	General community	7/10/16 – 30/10/16
Social media	IWC Twitter post – Come to a community forum and tell us how we should spend \$14m	General community	7/10/16
E-news	Your Say Inner West e-newsletter – information and links	YSIW members - 2485	7/10/16

Event	Summer Hill Neighbourhood Feast - face to face survey	General community	9/10/16
Online	Ipads with online engagement at YSIW placed at council Aquatic Centres	Aquatic Centre customers	9/10/16
Event	Community Forum 2 – Stronger Communities Fund Major Projects Program	LRAC, former committee members and general community members 43 attendees	12/10/16
E-news	Council e-newsletter – info and links to YSIW project pages	Subscribers	13/10/16 27/10/16
Online	Website home pages, IWC plus legacy sites for Ashfield, Marrickville, Leichhardt – info and links to YSIW project pages	General community	13/10/16 – 30/10/16
Print media	News Feature in Inner West Courier council column re engagements on YSIW	General community	18/10/16
Poster	Get Involved poster distributed with information and link for online engagements	Community noticeboards, community facilities, libraries, customer service centres	19/10/16
Media release	Media release - Still time to have your say on the Stronger Communities Fund Major Projects Program	Media outlets	19/10/16
Print	Cooks River Valley Times news feature	General community	19/10/16
Social media	IWC Facebook Post – boosted post – Still time to have your say on the Stronger Communities Fund Major Projects Program	General community - reached 552	17/10/16
Email	Emailed information and links for YSIW project pages	Former council committee members –approx. 450	Mid Oct
Email	Emailed information and links for YSIW project pages	Former Marrickville-based CALD Groups Multicultural interagency members - 122 predominately service providers (Greek, Italian, Vietnamese, Arabic, Turkish, Sierra Leonie) Inner West Multicultural Youth Alliance – 313 recipients, Children and families Interagency – approx. 260 Tom Foster	Mid Oct

		Community Care	
Email	Emailed information and links for YSIW project pages	Former Ashfield-based CALD groups West Region Chinese Association Australian Chinese Happy Choir Yoppy's Dance (Indonesian) Indonesian Welfare Association Ashfield Japanese Playgroup Ekushe Academy Australia (Bangladeshi) CASS Care (Chinese/Korean) Resourceful Australian Indian Network (RAIN)	Mid October
Email	Emailed information and links for YSIW project pages	Former Leichhardt –based CALD groups Multi-cultural Co- ordinators Forum (Human Rights Commission) Inner West Youth Alliance	Mid October
Social media	IWC Twitter post - How should we spend \$14	General community - 444 impressions	17/10/16
Social media	IWC Twitter post – Still time to have your say on how should we spend \$14m	General community – 427 impressions	19/10/16
Social media	IWC Twitter post - How should we spend \$14	General community - 371 impressions	20/10/16
Event	Marrickville Festival – face to face survey	General community	23/10/16
Social media	IWC Twitter post - Still time - How should we spend \$14m	General community - 360 impressions	26/10/16
E-news	Council arts e-newsletter – Artpost	Artists and creative 26/10/16 community and workers	
E-news	Council e-newsletter — info and links to YSIW project pages	General community	27/10/16
Event	Norton Street Festa - face to face survey	General community	30/10/16

Media coverage examples



Help spend windfall

Awarded funds of \$15m after council merger for local priority projects



Stronger Communities Fund Community Forum

The NSW Government has allocated \$14M to Inner West Council to invest in priority community projects such as parks, footpaths, stormwater and community facilities. Learn more about the funding and have your say on how \$14M of it is allocated. Wednesday 12 October, 6-8pm at The Centurion's Lounge, Leichhardt Oval, Mary Street Lilyfield. More information at yoursayinnerwest.com.au



Contact Us

Web | www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au Email | council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au



/innerwestcouncil @iwcouncil

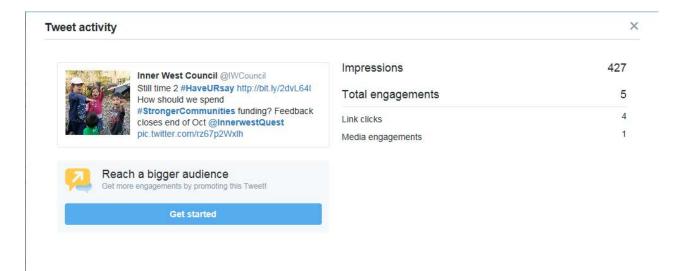


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Inner West Council

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Promotional material examples - Flyer



How to have your say

your say

At a community event

- · Marrickville Festival, Marrickville and Illawarra Roads on Sunday 23 October 10am - 5pm
- Norton Street Festa, Norton Street, Leichhardt on Sunday 30 October 10am - 5pm

Get involved!



Learn more about the parks, facilities and assets that will benefit from the Stronger Communities Fund Major Projects Program and then let Council know your priorities.

Wednesday 12 October from 6.00pm-8.00pm at the Centurion Lounge, Leichhardt Oval Stadium, Mary Street, Lilyfield. Register to attend at www.yoursayinnerwest.com.au



At www.yoursayinnerwest.com.au Feedback opens for both projects on Friday 7 October and closes on Sunday 30 October







Project 1

Help Council to develop a Statement of Vision and Priorities for the Inner

- · The Vision will guide Council's direction over the next couple of years and will feed into the development of a new longer term Community Strategic Plan
- The Priorities will determine what Council focuses on in the next 12 - 18 months

Project 2

The Stronger Communities Fund Major Projects Program - let Council know your funding priorities

The NSW Government has allocated a \$15M Stronger Communities Fund to Inner West Council. With one million dollars set aside for the Inner West Stronger Communities Grants Program, \$14M is earmarked for major projects such as parks, footpaths, stormwater and community facilities that will be delivered over the next three years.

Should Council focus on Transport Infrastructure, Community Facilities or Recreation and Sustainability?







Posters

INNER WEST COUNCIL

Get involved!

Project 1

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Project 2

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Should Council focus on -

- Transport Infrastructure,
- Community Facilities or
- Recreation and Sustainability?





Have your say

Online at www.yoursayinnerwest.com.au

Closing date is Sunday October 30

INNER WEST COUNCIL

Stronger Communities Fund Major Projects Program

Inner West Council has an exciting opportunity to invest in community infrastructure with a \$15 million grant from the NSW Government's Stronger Communities Fund.

With \$1 million set aside for the Inner West Stronger Communities Grants Program, \$14 million is earmarked for major projects such as parks, footpaths, stormwater and community facilities. The community's choice will determine the priority focus area on which the funds are invested. The projects that are funded will be delivered over the next three years.

Which option should Council focus its spending on?

Option 1 Transport Infrastructure

Example project only

Booth Street Bridge Renewal - Annandale (Balmain Ward)

Project Value: \$2 million

• Replacing road bridge on an important bus and cycle route



Option 2 Community Facilities

Example project

Haberfield Library - Haberfield (Leichhardt Ward)

Project Value: \$225,000

only

New lift to upper floor and building improvements



Option 3 Recreation and Sustainability

Example project only

GreenWay Missing Links – Council Contribution (Leichhardt, Ashfield and Marrickville Wards)

Project Value: \$2.5 million

· Safe pedestrian and cycle paths across busy roads

Example project only

Mahoney Reserve - Marrickville (Marrickville Ward)

Project Value: \$800,000

• Constructed wetland with new picnic area, BBQ and shade







Have your say

- •Fill in a hardcopy feedback form here today
- •Online at www.yoursayinnerwest.com.au

Closing date is Sunday October 30

What happens next?

Council has undertaken that the option with the highest community support will be endorsed and that the Stronger Communities Fund Assessment Panel is to allocate projects and funds accordingly. Individual appropriate projects will be scoped and costed and then a list will be provided to the Stronger Communities Fund Assessment Panel. The Panel will assess the projects and its recommendations will go to Council in December for a final decision. We will report back on the option chosen by the community and post a copy of the report to Council at www.yoursayinnerwest.com.au prior to the meeting in December.

All projects must by delivered by June 2019.

Media Release 19/10/16 - Have your say on Stronger Communities funding

Inner West Council is still consulting with the community on how \$14 million of NSW Government funding should be spent.

The Stronger Communities Fund Major Projects Program was established by the NSW Government so merged councils can kick-start projects identified by the community as priority projects.

"One of the tangible benefits of the new Council is the ability to accelerate provision of much needed community infrastructure and projects," Administrator of Inner West Council Richard Pearson said.

"We recently held a Forum with community members on how the funding should be spent."

Community members were asked: Which option should Council focus its spending on?

- **Transport Infrastructure** including roads, laneway and footpath renewal, flood mitigation, traffic calming and pedestrian safety, and bridge replacement.
- **Community Facilities** community halls and meeting facilities, libraries and childcare centres.
- Recreation and Sustainability such as parks, reserves and the GreenWay.

The forum was well attended with a diverse range of people from across the local government area, who heard Council experts present information on the three options.

Feedback from the attendees included questions around cycling priority and planning, climate change actions such as flood mitigation and solar projects, any opportunities to enhance Aboriginal heritage in the inner west, and accessible parking, kerbs, footpaths and public toilets for people with a disability.

"The Forum was a valuable opportunity to work with residents and community groups to prioritise infrastructure projects that will make a real and lasting difference to the life of our local communities," Mr Pearson said

"We are giving the community plenty of opportunities to tell us what they think. I urge everyone to ensure they have their say at a community event or on our online engagement hub."

Consultation is on-going until the end of the month. All inner west citizens are invited to have a say at Council's events: Marrickville Festival, Sunday 23 October and Norton Street Festa, Sunday 30 October. As well, the online engagement is taking feedback until the end of the month at www.yoursayinnerwest.com.au.

Staff are now working on a list of project costings in all three options. The project list, along with the community-voted options, will go to the Stronger Community Fund Major Projects Assessment Panel, which includes State MPs and former Councillors from each of the three former Councils.

Their recommendations will be put to the December Council meeting.

Funding of \$15 million was allocated to the new Inner West Council through the Stronger Communities Fund as a result of the merge of the three former councils of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville.

One million dollars was set aside for the Inner West Stronger Communities Grants Program, leaving \$14 million earmarked for major projects that will be delivered over the next three years.

Ends

FAQ Community information handout

What is the Stronger Communities Fund Major Projects Program?

The Stronger Communities Fund has been established by the NSW Government to provide councils with funding to kick start the delivery of projects that improve community infrastructure and services. The NSW Government has provided funds to new councils following their commencement, to enable councils to start consulting with communities and investing in projects. To ensure that the Stronger Communities Fund is allocated to projects that are prioritised using an open and transparent process, the NSW Government will require councils to apply high governance standards to the decision making process. This will include the appointment of a Stronger Communities Fund Assessment Panel that includes an independent probity adviser.

What are the funding allocation guidelines?

The NSW Government has stated that Council is to fund projects that deliver new or improved infrastructure or services to the community. Projects that are prioritised for funding must meet the following criteria:

- have been through a community consultation process
- demonstrate social and/or economic benefits to the community
- consider issues of sustainability and equity across the broader community
- demonstrate project feasibility and value for money, including full lifecycle costs;
- did not have funds allocated by the former councils
- give consideration to the processes and procedures outlined in the capital expenditure review guidelines.

What is the Stronger Communities Fund Assessment Panel?

The Stronger Communities Fund Assessment Panel is prescribed by the State Government and is to include:

- Administrator or delegate
- State Members of Parliament or representative
- Regional Coordinator of the Department of Premier and Cabinet or delegate
- Other members, appointed by the Administrator, as required
- An independent probity adviser, appointed by the Administrator to advise the Panel on their deliberation and assessment process

How did Council decide on the three options of

- Recreation and Sustainability Focus
- 2. Community Facilities Focus
- 3. Transport Focus?

Research on the current condition of assets across the Inner West Council area, information gathered from the community satisfaction surveys of the three former councils and projects contained in existing Asset Management Plans have all informed the choice of these three options.

These are all important options, if the community choice is Option 1 Recreation and Sustainability Focus, will the other two options miss out?

Council understands that each of these option areas is important and has committed to a minimum spend for each but funding priority will be chosen by the community.

Will the funding be distributed fairly across the Inner West Council area?

Inner West Council is aiming to deliver community benefits across the new LGA. Spending will be allocated equally in each ward.

Once the community has had their say on its preferred option, what happens next?

Council has undertaken that the option with the highest community support will be endorsed and that the Stronger Communities Fund Assessment Panel is to allocate projects and funds accordingly. Individual appropriate projects will be scoped and costed and then a list will be provided to the Stronger Communities Fund Assessment Panel.

The Panel will assess the projects and its recommendations will go to Council in December for a final decision.

We will report back on the option chosen by the community and post a copy of the report to Council on this YSIW project page prior to the meeting in December.

All projects must by delivered by June 2019.

Ends



Engagement Forum 2

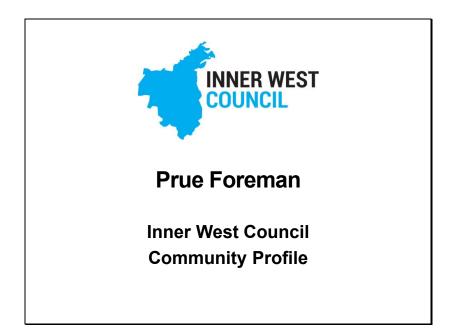
Stronger Communities Fund

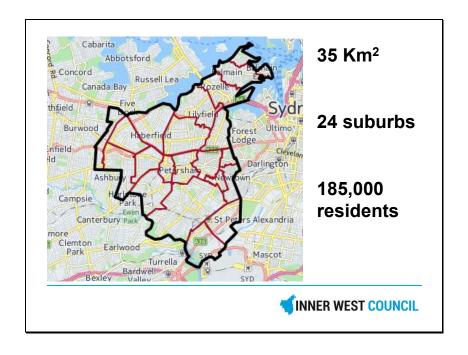
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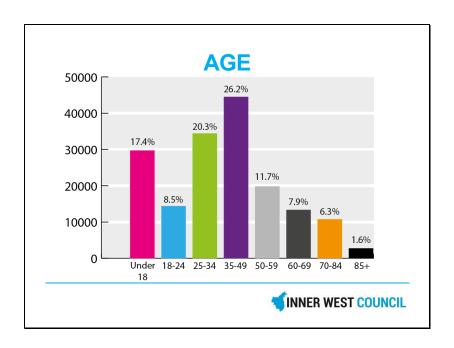


Richard Pearson

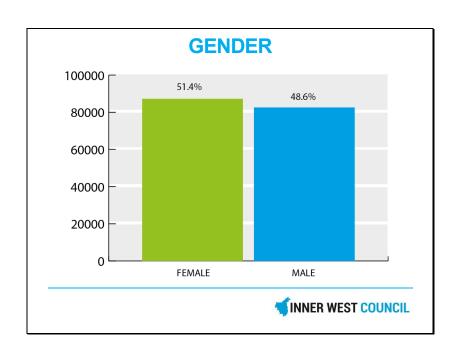
Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

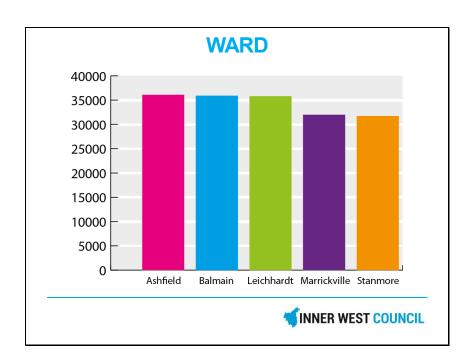


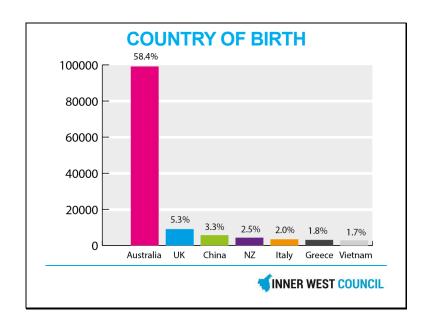


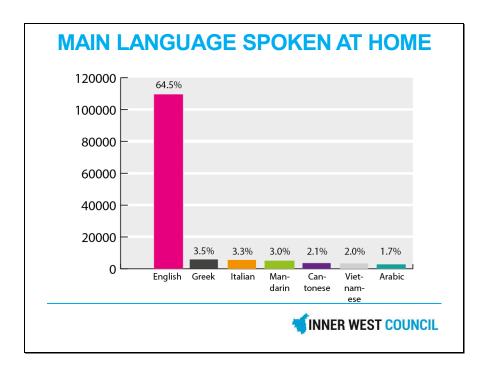


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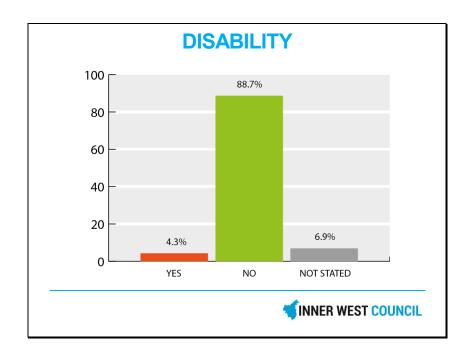


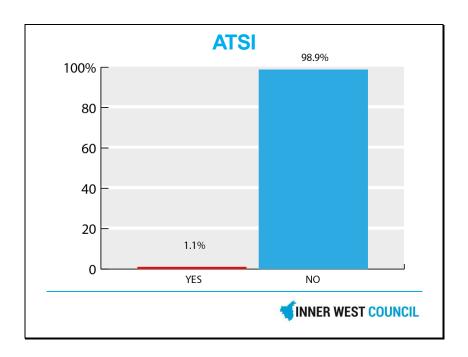




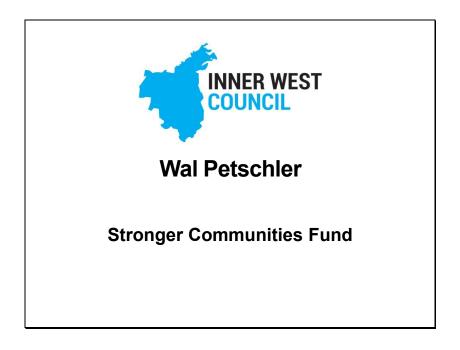


Slide 10





Slide 12



MAJOR PROJECTS STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUND

\$14 MILLION





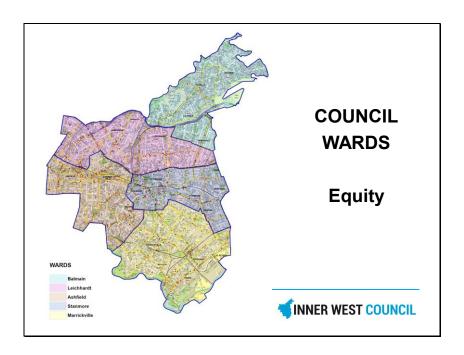


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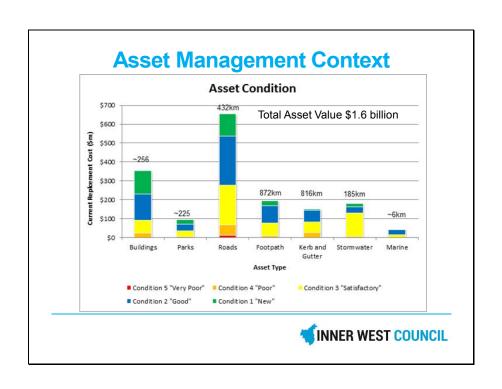
Program Criteria

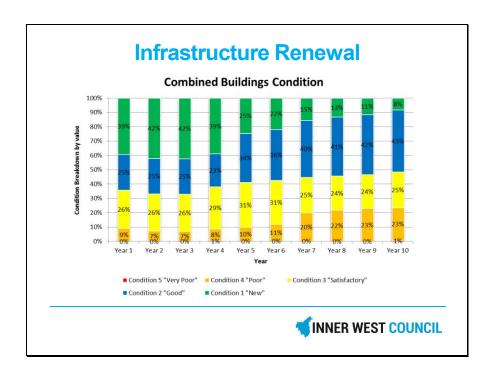
- 1. Community consultation.
- 2. Social &/or economic benefits.
- 3. Sustainability and equity.
- 4. Funds not allocated by former councils.
- 5. Project feasibility & value for money.





Slide 16





Community Satisfaction Marrickville Ashfield Leichhardt Roads, footpaths, drains **Maintaining Footpaths** Managing development maintenance Management of street parking **Footpath Condition** Waste & recycling Maintaining local roads Condition of local roads Aged & disability services Supporting local employment & Long term planning Cleanliness of town centres business Management of traffic in illegally dumped rubbish Traffic management residential areas Protection of the natural Restoring the Cooks River Parks & playing fields environment Adequate drainage and flood Adequacy of stormwater Planning for future development controls drainage INNER WEST COUNCIL

Project Sources

- Asset Management Plans
- Traffic Management Strategies.
- The Greenway Project
- Catchment Management Strategies.
- Park Masterplans/Plans of Mgmt.



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Program Area Options

1 Transport Focus	2 Community Facilities	3 Recreation & Sustainability Focus
Roads	Buildings & Facilities	Park upgrades
Footpaths	- renewal	The Greenway
Bridges	- accessibility	Water Sensitive Urban Design
Stormwater	- compliance	
Kerb & Gutter		
Traffic Facilities		





Brooke Martin

Transport



















Recreation and Sustainability

Recreation and Sustainability



Mahoney Reserve, Marrickville

Wetland Upgrade (Priority1&2 Works)



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Recreation and Sustainability

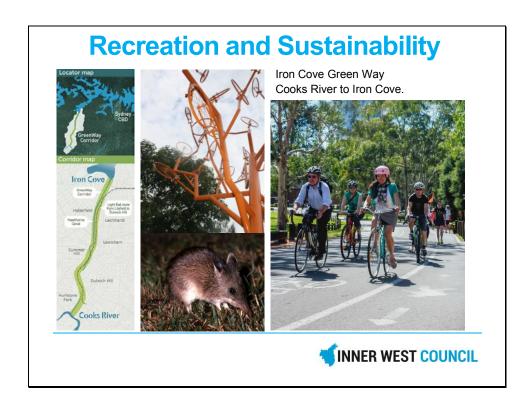


Ashfield Park, Ashfield

Sustainable Lighting Upgrade Project









Nick Chapman

Recreation and Sustainability

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GreenWay & Light Rail corridor "at a glance"



- 5.5 km sustainable transport and urban environmental corridor in Inner West
- links Parramatta & Cooks rivers
 catchment population of 48,000
- · connects 6 inner city villages
- mostly public land, owned by 4 local councils & state government

comprises

- 5km Inner West Light Rail extension
- Hawthorne Canal
- · cycleways, footpaths and open space
- 16 urban bush care sites
- outdoor classroom for 28 local schools
 recreation, fitness & sports facilities
- · public art, cafes & community culture

GreenWay Vision

"a recognisable environmental, cultural and non-polluting transport corridor linking two of Sydney's most important Waterways"

http://www.greenway.org.au

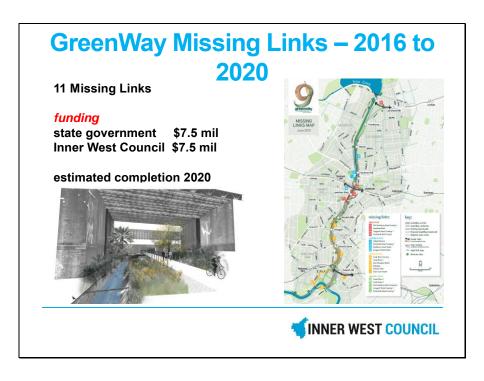












benefits

- ✓ new 5.5 km missing link in Sydney's regional cycle network
- ✓ safe, attractive off-road/dedicated shared path = increased commuter & recreational cycling
- ✓ supports government targets to double cycling in 5 years
- ✓ connects open space and community facilities in Inner West
- ✓ supports bush care, place making, schools education & public art along GreenWay









Gabrielle Rennard

Community Facilities

















Panel Q&A

Questions?

Slide 52



Richard Pearson

Feedback forms and closing remarks