Inner West Community Asset Needs Strategy 2021-2036

INNER WEST

"

"Social infrastructure (or community assets) are the facilities, spaces, services and networks that support the quality of life and wellbeing of our communities. They help us to be happy, safe and healthy, to learn, and to enjoy life. The network of social infrastructure contributes to social identity, inclusion and cohesion and is used by all Australians at some point in their lives, often on a daily basis."

- Infrastructure Australia

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Table of contents

APPENDICES

Appendices are contained within a separate document.

Part 1.0

Introduction

Newtown Town Hall

1.1.   Background and purpose

1.1.1.   Background

Sydney's Inner West local government area (LGA) is widely known for its diverse, engaged and creative community. Supporting this identity is a network of public and private community assets (including libraries, social and cultural assets) that support the local community but also attract people from all across Sydney - from regional theatres to small bars, maker spaces, libraries and community centres, galleries, the live music venues, and town halls.

Planning for community assets to support population growth and change has been identified as a priority by Inner West Council (IWC). Anticipated population and jobs growth will place additional pressure on existing community and cultural facilities within the Inner West LGA. Council is also concurrently developing a new consolidated Development Contributions Plan for the Inner West LGA.

The way that community assets are planned, designed, managed and activated affects how communities connect to them and how they experience using them. Recent events (COVID-19) have highlighted that community assets – community spaces, cultural facilities and libraries – are more important than ever for supporting human connection and mental, physical and social wellbeing, including for the most vulnerable in the community. Community assets are also important activators of local centres and generators of economic activity.

1.1.2.   Purpose of the Community Asset Needs Strategy

Cred Consulting and GLN Planning were engaged by IWC to deliver the *Inner West Community Asset Needs Strategy* (CANS) for the Inner West LGA. The strategy provides an assessment of community asset needs based on a range of indicators (see Figure 1) to identify priorities for existing and future community asset needs to 2036.

The CANS is also one of the key documents that will inform the new IWC contributions plan that will enable IWC to levy appropriate developer contributions for community asset investment (land and infrastructure) to meet the needs of the Inner West LGA over a 15-year time frame. This includes the needs of residents, businesses/workers (who may also be residents of the Inner West LGA) while also having some consideration for visitors.

The purpose of this CANS is to support IWC to:

· Deliver a strategic approach to the provision of contemporary community assets in a local government environment, having consideration for the broader context of community assets provided by other levels of government, industry and the not-for-profit sector, as well as funding limitations.

· Ensure the LGA is sufficiently supplied with community assets to support the current population and anticipated growth.

· Position IWC for collaborative funding opportunities and partnerships for the provision of community assets (facilities, programs and service delivery).

· Ensure that community assets are distributed as equitably as possible across the LGA.

· Identify opportunities for community assets to effectively respond to changing local community needs flexibly over a long time period.

· Maintain and promote awareness with internal and external stakeholders of existing community assets and future needs.

1.2.   Methodology and scope

1.2.1.   Methodology

In order to understand the current state and identify needs for the future of Inner West's community assets, the following approach was undertaken (illustrated in Figure 1):

· **Demographics** - Who is our population now? What population growth will occur? What are the characteristics of the existing and future community and what does this indicate they will need?

· **Strategic context** - Understanding planning directions at the national, state, regional and local level as well as impacts of major projects. What are the major projects within the LGA that may impact existing community assets or create opportunities for new ones?

· **Community and stakeholder engagement** - Community engagement was not part of the brief for the development of the CANS. However, community engagement completed by IWC for related projects has been considered to support understanding the needs as expressed by the community, including users of community assets.

· **Participation trends** - How has use of community assets changed over the years, and what are the emerging use trends from existing and emerging demographic and interest groups?

· **Case studies and best practice principles** - Researching leading practice principles and precedents. What can we learn from other comparable places and/or industry leaders?

· **Community assets audit** - What community assets do we have now? Where are they located? What are their strengths and weaknesses?

· **Benchmarking** - What do industry benchmarks, including population, comparative and proximity indicate?

· **Capacity and utilisation** - What is the utilisation of existing community assets and do they have the capacity to "work harder" through improved design and promotion?
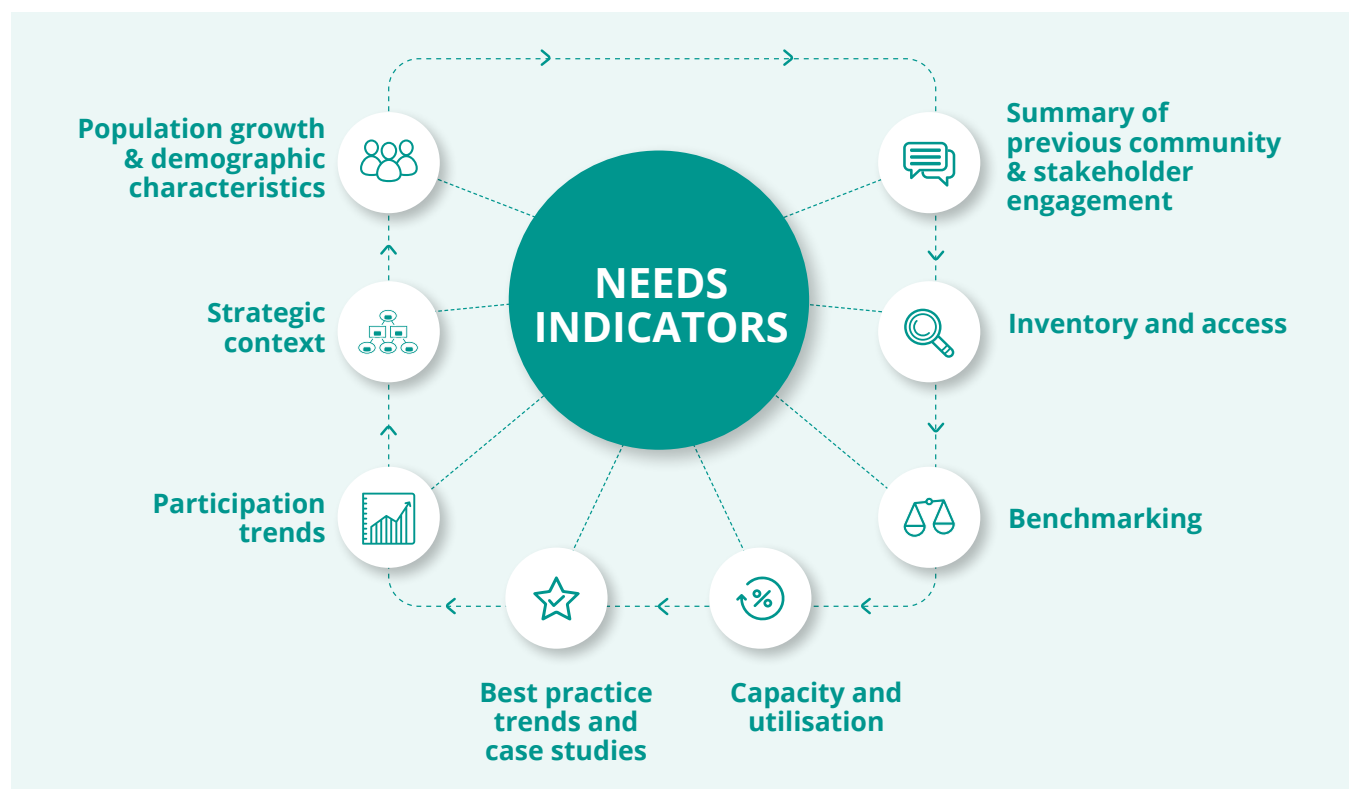

Figure 1 - Needs indicator diagram

1.2.2. Scope

Community assets include public and privately provided libraries and social and cultural assets, including IWC and non-Council assets. See Figure 2 for definition of community assets for the purposes of the CANS.

The CANS assesses how well community assets are serving IWC and the Inner West community's needs through an analysis of size (floor space), utilisation and assessment against best practice principles including multipurpose and flexibility, building quality, accessibility and how well they are located and co-located. The CANS also applies population based quantity and floor space benchmarks to assess how well existing Council-owned or Government-owned community assets will meet demand triggered by the future IWC population and what future community assets may need to be provided to meet identified gaps.

The audit of community assets includes a range of community assets located within the Inner West LGA, but primarily focuses on assets over which Council has:

·   primary responsibility (ownership, care and control)
·   chosen to play a role in delivering, or
·   has the ability to advocate to protect, change or enhance, for or on behalf of the community

Asset exclusions

The CANS does not include assessments of the following:

·   sports and recreation facilities
·   parks, trees and natural areas
·   built heritage and architecture
·   multicultural businesses eg food
·   'soft' infrastructure eg programs and activities
·   digital infrastructure

Neighbouring LGAs' assets

It is also important to acknowledge that people do not wholly live, work or play within planning catchment or LGA boundaries. IWC shares boundaries with five other LGAs. These shared boundaries are important to consider for community asset planning, with residents and workers from other LGAs potentially accessing Inner West's community assets, or vice versa.

Impact of COVID-19

This project began in December 2019, months before the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the spread of COVID-19 a pandemic on 11 March 2020. While this report is not able to yet reflect the impact of COVID-19 on population growth or participation trends across the community asset network (at the time of writing, these are unknown), IWC will be conducting a COVID-19 impact assessment over the next few years.

A living document

It is important to note that this CANS represents 'a moment in time' and as a result, Council plan to routinely review and update the asset inventory and report to ensure that it adapts to changing needs over time. Further targeted engagement with the community and other stakeholders will need to take place when projects referred to in this CANS are being considered for progression.

1.3. What are community assets?

Infrastructure Australia defines social infrastructure (or community assets) as:

"Social infrastructure is the facilities, spaces, services and networks that support the quality of life and wellbeing of our communities. It helps us to be happy, safe and healthy, to learn and to enjoy life. The network of social infrastructure contributes to social identity, inclusion and cohesion and is used by all Australians at some point in their lives, often on a daily basis."

An effective community asset network relies on the availability of facilities and spaces for the services, programs and activities that are held there. It includes:

- Hard infrastructure (community assets) - the facilities or physical structure where social, cultural and recreational services, programs and activities are delivered or operate.
- Soft infrastructure - the services and programs that are delivered within the hard social infrastructure.

The CANS is focused on quantifying and analysing IWC's hard infrastructure, which, for the purpose of the CANS, is referred to as community assets.

Responsibility for community assets is shared across Local, State and Federal Government, not-for-profit organisations and private/for-profit organisations.

Community assets provide important spaces for people to physically come together, create social capital, learn new skills, create, celebrate and build resilience essential to strong communities. They can also influence and support social diversity, economic activity, place-making and neighbourhood liveliness.

IWC has defined community assets (see Figure 2) as comprising:

- libraries
- social assets
- cultural assets

While libraries and social and cultural assets can be purpose-built for specific roles and functions, more contemporary approaches to community asset design and function include multipurpose and flexible community assets that cater to learning, social and cultural uses and create efficiencies in terms of floor space, staffing, "one stop access for users" and ongoing resourcing.

See Appendix 1 for detailed definitions of community assets (and all of the subcategories).

This information is provided by Inner West Council.

Figure 2 - IWC definition of community assets

Community assets

Libraries

Libraries
- Flagship/central library
- Branch library
- Digital library
- Pop-up and temporary tryouts

History and archives

Note: A history services storage plan is being developed by IWC that will provide detailed analysis and directions for these needs in the LGA.

Social assets

Community spaces
- Community hubs
- Community centres
- Town halls
- Community halls/ venues for hire
- Meeting rooms
- Function centres
- Spaces for youth and seniors programs

Scout and guide halls

Subsidised office space/ leased facilities

> Social assets not within the CANS scope:

Schools
- Primary
- Secondary

Community health
- Community health centres/primary health centres
- Hospitals
- Early childhood health centres
- Residential aged care centres

Child care centres

Note: Child care centres (early childhood education and care) are also social assets, however these are covered as part of a separate strategy running parallel to the CANS.

Cultural assets

Performance and exhibition space
- Galleries
- Live music venues
- Museums (including archives and storage)
- Performing arts centres
- Public exhibition and performance spaces
- Theatres

Community and participation space
- Maker spaces
- Co-working spaces
- Men's sheds

Commercial and enterprise space
- Creative workers and businesses
- Commercial galleries and studios

Festival, event and public space
- Outdoor facilities and spaces that could be adapted for local or major cultural events eg market spaces and art trails

Practice, education and development space
- Education and cultural facilities in schools
- Artist studios
- Artist residency/live-work studios
- Rehearsal and artist spaces
- Arts and craft facilities

Collections

Note: See Appendix for a detailed discussion on benchmarking methodologies, which of the above asset types have available benchmarks and which ones do not.

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1.3.1. What are libraries?

Libraries are defined as spaces for the community to access resources such as technology, the Internet, printers, photo-copiers and scanners and books, as well as programs and classes such as computer skills, English conversation or homework help. Detailed definitions of library assets are provided in Appendix 1, and all library assets are audited in *Part 6.0 LGA wide provision and needs* and *Part 7.0 Needs by planning catchment*.

The role of the traditional public library is shifting alongside the mainstreaming of digital resources, programs and technology. Libraries are increasingly seen as community spaces, where connections are built and where people can learn, find information, use technology and access a broad range of lifelong learning programs.

For the purposes of this report, the types of library floor spaces have been defined in accordance with contemporary approaches to library service delivery:

· **Flagship/central library:** Striking and symbolic building architecture, centrally/prominently located for maximum impact, typically flanked by other civic institutions. A public use destination for the Inner West community and visitors. A flagship library could blur the traditional concept of a library to include a range of social and cultural uses including a cafe, public "living spaces", theatres, maker spaces, recording studios, reading and learning rooms, meeting spaces etc. Marrickville Library is an example of a flagship library.

· **Branch library:** A branch library is a service point that is an auxiliary facility with a separate building from a central or flagship library. It has a permanent collection of books, permanent paid staff present during all hours of opening, it offers a broad range of public library services and a regular schedule of public service hours. Branch libraries may be stand-alone (eg Stanmore Library), or co-located (eg Haberfield Centre Library).

· **Digital library:** Digital library services present an opportunity to not only reach people in their homes but at a point of access that suits their needs. They provide access to invaluable sources of reference and service in addition to collections of digital works, e-learning and digitised rare books, maps, films and audio books that would be difficult to find in physical form. This approach ensures services and collections are readily inclusive and economically available for various community use.

· **Pop-up and temporary tryouts:** Pop-up services and temporary try outs fit under the outreach service model, as locations, scope and purpose will vary over time.

Marrickville Library – A flagship/central library in the Inner West LGA (©Photo by Matthew Duchesne)

1.3.2. What are social assets?

Detailed definitions of all community assets are provided in Appendix 1 and all social assets are audited in *"LGA wide provision and needs"* and *Part 7.0 Needs by planning catchment.*

While all social assets have been audited, community spaces, which include a wide variety of facilities, meeting rooms and multipurpose centres, are the only subcategory of community assets where population-based benchmarks have been applied. Contemporary community spaces are multipurpose and co-located and have a range of different community uses including spaces for targeted programs (eg spaces for youth and senior programs).

What are community spaces?

Community spaces refer to assets (or areas within a community asset) that are available to the general public for hire. These spaces can be stand-alone, co-located within one building, or form part of a precinct, which is a well-connected collection of buildings and uses. Community spaces can be owned and operated by a variety of providers including Council, schools, not-for-profit or private organisations. For the purposes of this report, the main types of community spaces are defined as follows:

· **Multipurpose community hubs/civic centres:** Purpose-built, larger buildings that integrate a range of different spaces and functions such as a library, community hall, meeting rooms, arts and cultural space or early education and health care services. Community hubs are always staffed and may have a reception desk. Examples include Ashfield Civic Centre and Haberfield Centre.

· **Town/civic halls:** Originally constructed as public buildings for the administration of local government, town halls today often function as large hireable halls which generally have the capacity to cater for major events such as civic ceremonies, formal functions, events and performances. They generally have a larger capacity than a community hall and service multiple suburbs. Examples include Marrickville Town Hall and Balmain Town Hall.

· **Community centres:** Typically buildings that include a range of flexible community spaces (eg a hall, a meeting room, a lounge area) for delivery of community programs and services. These can be managed by Council or leased to service organisations. Community centres are always staffed (part-time or full-time). Examples include Annandale Community Centre and Newtown Neighbourhood Centre.

· **Community halls/venues:** Generally smaller stand-alone buildings with spaces that can be hired by the community for activities, events and programs. These are typically unstaffed. Examples include Herb Greedy Hall, Seaview Street Hall and Whites Creek Cottage. Some church halls, school halls and scout/guide halls are also available to the public for hire and have been considered as part of the community hall/venue network in IWC.

· **Meeting rooms:** Can vary in size (eg small rooms for around six to 10 people and larger meeting rooms for around 40 to 50 people). These spaces are equipped for small meetings, education and training, such as English conversation, or for quiet study or collaboration. An example is Yanada Community Room.

· **Function centres:** Are large staffed venues that can offer a full service for functions and events such as weddings and cultural or corporate events. An example is the privately owned Le Montage function centre.

Herb Greedy Hall – A community hall/venue in the Inner West LGA (image source: Cred Consulting)

1.3.3. What are cultural assets?

Council has defined cultural assets as IWC, NSW Government or non-Council-owned or controlled facilities that are open to the public and provide space for cultural participation, production, presentation, or viewing.

Detailed definitions of all cultural assets are provided in Appendix 1, and all cultural assets are audited in *Part 6.0 LGA wide provision and needs* and *Part 7.0 Needs by planning catchment*.

The CANS has adopted the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) definition of cultural assets:

- **Performance and exhibition spaces**: Spaces for audiences and spectatorship, usually purpose-built in order to facilitate cultural activities and events. This includes major performing arts venues, live music venues (such as hotels, bars, cafes and clubs), museums, art galleries, art centres, heritage and discovery centres, comedy clubs, arena entertainment venues and drama and dance theatres.

- **Community and participation spaces:** Incorporating spaces such as libraries, town halls and government agencies focused on a more general community benefit, as well as those spaces, such as clubs and co-working spaces, serving specific communities (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2009). This includes: maker spaces, First Nations-led Keeping Places and multipurpose community centres that offer arts workshop spaces, or support creative hobby groups and arts organisations.

- **Commercial and enterprise spaces:** Commercial or social enterprises primarily focused on the operation, creation, production, reproduction and distribution of cultural goods and services. This includes creative businesses (eg advertising, architectural, fashion design, photographic services), artists, creative manufacturing (such as glass, jewelery, ceramics), creative publishing, creative digital media, music recording studios, film and video production, post production and distribution, cinemas, radio, television, web broadcasting and creative retailing (commercial art gallery, art or craft supplies retailing, music instruments retailing, book and record stores, antique goods, performing arts companies).

- **Festival, event and public spaces**: Spaces in the public realm, non-Council-owned spaces accessible to the public and spaces, such as shopfronts or small retail spaces, used for temporary events and festivals. This includes parks, gardens, halls, market spaces, non-Council-owned public spaces, public art, pop-ups, and 'unusual' spaces such as rooftops, backyards and cafes.

- **Practice, education and development spaces**: Spaces used to provide opportunities for learning, rehearsal or the formation of cultural skills. This category is diverse, ranging from schools to rehearsal facilities and artist-run initiatives focused on supporting artist development and the development of new work. This includes rehearsal rooms, writers' rooms, artist studios, studio and workshop spaces, relevant education providers (including art, theatre, dance, music and film schools), co-working spaces, not-for-profit artist-run centres or galleries, digital media arts production spaces (film, video, music, gaming), not-for-profit arts organisations and peak bodies, First Nations artist-led initiatives and cultural venues.

This definition has subsequently been adopted, with minor variations, by the NSW Government's Cultural Infrastructure Strategy (CIP) and the City of Sydney.

It is important to note that creative and cultural spaces often perform a range of roles, which present challenges for mapping and auditing these spaces in Inner West. A cultural asset's primary or dominant use has defined the category in which it has been allocated in the CANS.

1.4.   Community asset hierarchy

Regional, district and local community assets each serve different functions. These range from large assets that can cater for diverse needs and large events across a whole LGA or metropolitan area, to smaller-scale, local or neighbourhood facilities that may only cater for neighbourhood uses, including local programs, services or meetings. Residents will need easier and walkable access to local facilities, but will travel further to access district and regional assets.

To support social and economic sustainability in large and cosmopolitan places such as the Inner West LGA, access is needed to a range of community asset hierarchies.

Table 1 provides a summary of the widely accepted asset hierarchy standards that have been adopted for this CANS.

Table 1 - Community asset hierarchy

Regional/metropolitan facilities (typically servicing the LGA and beyond)	
Location	Major centres/significant opportunity sites
Catchment	100,000+ people
Description	Provides the premier civic, community places to serve an LGA or larger area, with a wide range of social and cultural facilities and services
May include	• Major civic and/or cultural centres • Performing arts centre or exhibition spaces • Large cultural production spaces
District level facilities (typically servicing a planning Catchment level)	
Location	Town centres/significant opportunity sites
Catchment	30,000+ (all planning catchments in the IWC LGA have current and forecast populations greater than 30,000 people
Description	Provides multipurpose flexible social infrastructure that services multiple suburbs or planning catchments
May include	• Multipurpose community centres • Town halls • Libraries
Local level facilities (typically servicing a suburb level)	
Location	Small centres/opportunity sites near transport
Catchment	Up to 20,000
Description	Small-scale local spaces
May include	• Community venues for hire • Meeting rooms

1.5.   The study area

1.5.1.   About the Inner West LGA

The study area for the CANS is the Inner West LGA which spans 36km² from the banks of Parramatta River and Sydney Harbour at at Birchgrove in the north-east, to the Cooks River at Dulwich Hill, Marrickville and Tempe in the south (See Figure 3). The CANS will assess community asset needs at an LGA level, but also at a planning catchment and suburb level to ensure that regional, district and local community asset needs are being met. Planning catchments used for the CANS are described in *Part 5.0 Planning framework*.

Figure 3 - CANS study area (Inner West Council LGA)

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Part 2.0

Community asset benefits and trends

2.1. Community asset benefits

This section provides an overview of the significant research that explores the many resilience, social, liveability, educational, and economic benefits of community assets.

2.1.1. Community connection and resilience

Community assets help to bind people and neighbourhoods together to create social capital, social cohesion and community wellbeing. There is significant research that indicates that social connection leads to happier people.[1] As evidenced by research, social connectedness increases as people are brought together through purposeful activities – acts of kindness, problem solving, singing/laughing/storytelling and through special interest groups[2]. A report from Busan in Korea showed there was a strong link between social infrastructure and happiness – residents who lived closer to libraries and schools were significantly happier than those who did not[3]. Having close and easy access to public social infrastructure can create neighbourhoods that actively participate in different activities together and promote a friendlier lifestyle.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also highlighted the need for both face-to-face and online connectivity, with 57% of Australians over the age of 70 having no access to the Internet and no other way to connect socially. Community assets can provide the spaces for people without access to technology to connect online.

Community assets also helps build resilient communities. 100 Resilient Cities has identified that our community needs to be prepared for a range of shocks, stresses and emergencies such as climate change impacts or pandemics (like COVID-19). Research from Resilient Sydney found one of the biggest barriers to cities responding to shocks and stresses is a lack of social connectivity. Access to community assets provides the spaces to keep people safe during major shocks, as well as the places, services and programs to build social capital, connections and feelings of trust. Local emergency plans can also designate some community assets as evacuation centres for emergency disaster management. This has been highlighted during COVID-19, where community assets such as health services, education facilities, volunteer organisations, cultural organisations, local community groups and community centres, together with social welfare organisations, have been critical in the response needed in local communities. These places have demonstrated that this infrastructure can pivot and proactively respond to changing issues and needs.

Measured benefits

- Studies show that a lack of social connection may be a greater detriment to health than obesity, smoking and high blood pressure. A study of more than 3.4 million participants in the UK found those who feel socially isolated have a 30% higher risk of early death (National Health Service, 2015).
- According to the 2018 Australian Loneliness Report, over 50% of Australians feel lonely at least one day per week. New studies have begun to measure the financial cost of social isolation and loneliness.
- In a 2017 American Association of Retired People (AARP) study, the cost to Medicare of social isolation and loneliness was estimated at $6.7 billion annually. Specifically, the increased cost was due to the higher health care costs of socially isolated and lonely seniors. Loneliness can be a risk factor for certain chronic health conditions, such as arthritis, high blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes.

1. Greenberg, M, Does being more social make us happier?, 2019
2. Nesbitt, H, COVID-19 highlights the value of social infrastructure - let's not forget, accessed on 20 October 2020, https://www.thefifthestate.com.au/columns/spinifex/covid-19-highlights-the-value-of-social-infrastructure-lets-not-forget/
3. Kim, M & Im, H, The relationship between social infrastructure and happiness in Journal of Korea Planning Association, 2020

2.1.2.   Liveability

Liveable places are those that have great access to community assets that enable lifelong learning and creative expression, create healthier communities and bridge social and cultural networks and supports. Liveable places deliver higher rates of wellbeing and a corresponding improved quality of life for residents.

Critical for building social relationships, community assets provide the essential services required for communities to function as well as the services that make places liveable and help improve the quality of life for people living there. Community assets strengthen local and place identity and character and contribute to the vitality of urban centres and local identity[9]. This is evident through the success of the recently built Marrickville Library. Community facilities are ideally situated on landmark sites with distinctive architecture and quality design. Local stories and culture can be ingrained in the building fabric to assist in fostering community identity and ownership. In high density communities, community assets improve liveability significantly by playing an important role as 'community living rooms', 'community backyards' and 'break-out spaces'[10].

Measured benefits

- Research from the American Enterprise Institute shows that Americans who live in closer proximity to neighbourhood amenities such as libraries are more content with their neighborhood, more trusting of others and less lonely regardless of whether they live in large cities, suburbs, or small cities or towns.

2.1.3.   Education and employment

Community assets are instrumental in supporting local businesses as they create new job opportunities; provide spaces and services that promote lifelong learning resulting in work opportunities; provide spaces for co-working and collaboration, networking and entrepreneurship; and activate urban centres.

On a national scale, according to Infrastructure Australia, community asset sectors contributed 12.5% of Australia's GDP in 2018. These sectors employ just over three million people, or around a quarter of Australia's workforce. Parents can more easily return to work when early education and care is high quality, accessible and affordable. Individuals and families, especially new migrants and refugees, can access employment when they have the training and support they need to access and thrive in new jobs.

Community assets also hold vital educational benefits. Having high quality social infrastructure for education is an investment that ultimately generates a greater return later on through more people completing tertiary education and the creation of new jobs. Having learning opportunities throughout life is also imperative to a community's development. This concept of 'lifelong learning' is becoming a key topic in educational infrastructure. Lifelong learning opportunities will meet the demands of a modern workplace, improve productivity and help communities to reach their full potential. It has a key role in social mobility and overall wellbeing as the provision of education can be both formal and non-formal, indicating that any member of the community is able to join.

Measured benefits

- Libraries in Australia have already provided 30,950 jobs and have made an estimated $3 billion from their total annual benefit just from public access.
- For every dollar spent on NSW public libraries, the value back to the community is, on average, between $2.82 and $4.24.[12]
- Studies from economist James Heckman show that for every $1 spent on child care $17 is returned to the community through better educational outcomes, higher school completion rates and less expenditure on health, welfare and crime services. High quality services have even greater social, education, and health outcomes for children: post-school tests showed that children who accessed quality education and care scored 15 to 20 points higher than those who did not.[13]

5. Dadvand, P., et al., Green spaces and general health: Roles of mental health status, social support and physical activity in Environmental International, 2016
6,7,8. Greater Sydney Commission, City shaping impacts of COVID-19
9. Madew, R, Infrastructure Australia's 2019 Inventory highlights the important role social infrastructure plays in our growing communities, accessed on October 10, 2020, https://infrastructuremagazine.com.au/2019/11/18/a-spotlight-on-social-infrastructure/
10. Infrastructure Australia, Social infrastructure in Australian Infrastructure Inventory 2019, 2019
11,12. McDougall, A, Savage, G., Dollars, sense and public libraries: The landmark study of the socio-economic value of Victorian public libraries, State Library of Victoria, 2011
13. Australian Early Development Census, The importance of early childhood development, accessed on October 18, 2017, http://www.aedc.gov.au/parents/the-importance-of-early-childhood-development

2.1.4. Economy and centre revitalisation

Adding more community assets such as libraries, cultural spaces and multipurpose urban spaces will encourage more locals and tourists to use the spaces and in turn generate positive economic outcomes. Community assets such as libraries and multipurpose community centres when located in towns and strategic centres are significant attractors, increasing visitation to retail offerings.

Councils are increasingly taking action to encourage activation and revitalisation of traditional centres that have experienced decline. Incorporating public spaces and community assets in centres encourages visitation by families and customers that would otherwise not visit the centre. Hosting markets and free events increases activity and attracts visitors. Strengthening the streetscape appeal and delivering public spaces creates a pleasant street environment and improved amenity, which is more conducive to outdoor dining.

Providing spaces within the public domain that can accommodate cultural assets supports Objective 9 and Strategy 9.1 of the Greater Sydney Region Plan. Notably the plan discusses multifunction and shared spaces as cultural assets and highlights how great places are made when artistic, cultural and creative works are visible, valued, distinctive and accessible. Centres in Inner West are well placed to deliver these opportunities.

The Greater Sydney Commission Eastern City District Plan highlights the importance of having high quality public places in and around centres:

"Streets, plazas, parks and recreation spaces provide places for community events, markets and festivals and for encouraging social interaction and active lifestyles. Growth and renewal will increase opportunities to expand and connect these places and to explore innovative public places, such as rooftops and podiums."[1]

Council assets can provide a valuable resource in stimulating the revitalisation of centres. Where surplus land is available in a centre, partnering with a developer can deliver valuable community benefits.

Measured benefits.

- The revitalisation of the Darling Quarter in Sydney has led to a 3% increase in international and domestic visitors between 2018 and 2019[2]

Marrickville Library has been a major activator for growing the Marrickville area. Delivering a landmark facility, the library has created a local character and increased liveability and visitation to the area. (Image source: Cred Consulting)

The Double Bay library was a result of the Kiaora Land redevelopment in Double Bay town centre. The new library has been a significant activator of the town centre and has increased foot traffic, business and economic outcomes. (Image source: Woollahra Municipal Council)

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1 Greater Sydney Commission, Eastern City District Plan, March 2018, p48
2 NSW Government & Destination NSW, Darling Harbour Visitor Profile, Year Ended March 2019

# 2.2.	Community asset mega trends

Across NSW there are increasing challenges to providing and governing the quality and appropriate and needed community assets to support population growth. This includes time lags between planning and delivery in growth areas, declining service coordination, increasing and competing government budget pressures, spatial inequalities, lack of innovative service models, ageing and single purpose buildings and increasing community demand. Australia's growing and ageing population, increasing urbanisation, advancements in technology and changing work patterns will impact the social infrastructure sector over the next 15 years and beyond.

There are existing and emerging mega trends across all social infrastructure types that can drive successful outcomes for the IWC LGA and shape a new vision to ensure Inner West has equitable and sustainable access to the essential social infrastructure it needs across all its planning catchments.

## 2.2.1.	A networked approach - connecting the district and the local

Increasingly, community assets are being planned to operate as part of a network of public facilities, public open space, streets and services that work together to meet a broad range of community needs across a neighbourhood, catchment and/or LGA/region. This integrated, strategic approach allows community assets to provide a different but complementary range of offerings, in a compact pool of quality and multipurpose spaces and avoid duplication. By considering community assets as part of a network of spaces, services and programs can be accessed locally through outreach in flexibly designed spaces.

Figure 4 - Community assets operate within a network of other spaces and places including public open space, passive recreation spaces, and recreational spaces

(source: Cred Consulting)
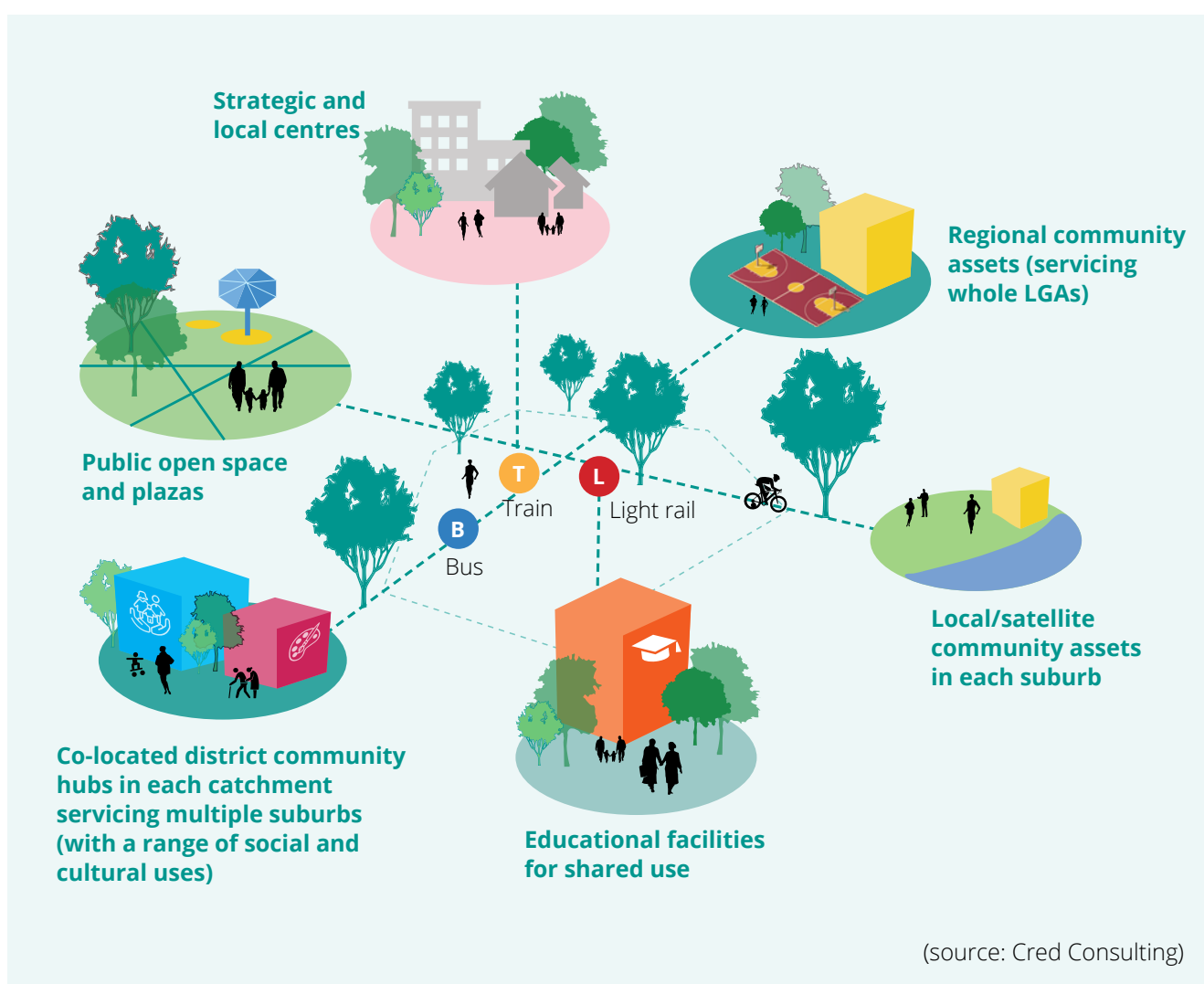
In highly urbanised and increasingly dense areas such as the Inner West LGA, the best practice approach is to provide district-level co-located community hubs to service catchments (or districts) in town centres and a number of local or neighourhood focused community spaces accessible in each suburb, which act as satellite spaces for the larger, staffed district assets. This network approach has become clearer during the global pandemic, with facilities, services and programs that support living local – local services, community support, small groups and individualised services – in significantly higher demand.

2.2.2.   Co-located services within community hubs

The term co-located community hub refers to the integration of community assets and services in one location or building to provide better access to a wider range of services (or a "one stop shop" for users) as well as a more cost effective way of delivering and operating these services. Integrating and co-locating social infrastructure within community hubs with a variety of activities helps create clearer key points of gathering within a community. This approach improves efficiency through encouraging compatible uses, supporting partnerships and resource sharing between different service providers and increasing the overall flexibility and activity of the given area. Community hubs provide opportunities to attract a range of users, increase access to services and allow for the coordination of supporting services like public transport.

2.2.3.   Community assets catalysing economic activity

Libraries and social assets are changing spaces and have traditionally been thought of as a having a supporting role to the needs of the residential community. However, more contemporary innovations have sought to increase libraries' and social assets' economic and cultural functions. Their co-location within employment centres and the provision of co-located community and cultural floor space means that they can play an economic and cultural supporting role for communities as well. In particular, a library's economic function within employment precincts is becoming increasingly important, as are library services to complement learning and economic innovation, such as the provisions of fast, free WiFi, up-to-date technology and multi-use learning facilities and accessible spaces to enable childcare, work, study, meetings and collaborations.

2.2.4.   Going up - stacked and rooftop community assets

Community assets can also be co-located within multilevel or stacked buildings, within mixed use development and on rooftops of commercial, residential or community buildings. Increasingly, in higher density cities, where land values are high and land is scarce, community assets are being delivered on rooftops or using smaller footprints (or land area) by building up. This includes cultural participation and exhibition spaces in high rise buildings and multilevel community hubs (such as Surry Hills Library and Community Centre and Ultimo Community Centre in Sydney) that have different floors delivering different services. These kinds of community assets are commonly delivered in town centres with high visitation. This approach can enable more of the ground level to be used for open space, reduced land costs, and for the community assets to be delivered by a developer as part of their community benefit offer in their planning proposal.

2.2.5.   Multipurpose, shared and flexible design

Multipurpose and flexible community assets have been a trend for some time, particularly for new buildings. Multipurpose and flexibly designed spaces support a range of different services and programs being delivered at once and for the space to change over time in response to changing needs. The demand for multipurpose spaces will be accelerated with retrofitting of existing infrastructure to accommodate a range of essential activities. Theatres and cinemas may need to work as smaller performance spaces; public streets can be shared for active transport such as walking and cycling; and community centres can become food banks, testing centres and emergency evacuation/support centres.

2.2.6.   Outdoor rooms for collaboration and innovation

Gathering, learning, socialising, collaborating, and delivering programs outdoors is increasing in popularity. Recent events have also accelerated demand for these types of outdoor meeting and collaboration spaces with people working from home seeking social connection and innovation precincts encouraging collaboration in informal environments. This trend of delivering community spaces in parks and outdoor areas can be seen in recent examples of the Goods Line in Ultimo (outdoor study and collaboration spaces), Burwood Pavilion (outdoor stage/covered hard stand areas and hireable community room) and, most recently, Chill Out Hubs (open-air smart hubs) in Georges River and at NUspace in Newcastle's CBD.

2.2.7. Increasing the capacity of what we have - "making it work harder"

Before any new community assets are planned, local government is increasingly reviewing the capacity of what they already have and identifying opportunities for re-purposing community assets that are well located, and have the potential to be modern, flexible and multipurpose. Local government is asking the question: "Can existing infrastructure be extended or improved, or is new investment needed?"

In the context of unprecedented population growth and increasing community expectations, improving the capacity, efficiency and performance of existing community facilities will need to be a priority in order to meet demand. Opportunities exist to make smaller, more incremental investments where significant capacity enhancements can be delivered through existing infrastructure. This could include re-fitting of ageing assets with modern technology to increase amenity and utilisation.

2.2.8. Shared use of community assets

Sharing the use of existing community assets has significant potential to maximise the use and efficiency of a variety of spaces and buildings for community benefit. Sharing existing space may decrease the need to build new facilities that replicate already existing infrastructure, making assets work harder for the benefit of all. There may be opportunities in areas with community asset deficiencies, including growth areas, to share community assets with primary and secondary schools and with other community partners.

2.2.9. Environmentally sustainable development

Community assets offer opportunities for local government to lead by example, demonstrate new sustainable materials and technologies and deliver leading practice projects with an educational role. Environmentally sustainable social infrastructure typically has lower operating costs and is therefore more financially viable and sustainable to operate. Delivering environmentally sustainable development means that facilities are located so as to promote walking, cycling, and public transport, which also has a positive impact on fostering healthy, active communities. In May 2019, Council reinforced its commitment and the need for urgent action by declaring a climate emergency and subsequently adopted a Climate and Renewables Strategy in December 2019 with the following targets:

- Corporate: Inner West Council is carbon neutral and 100% renewable by 2025.
    - ~ Electricity and gas are approximately 80% of council corporate carbon emissions.
- Community: By 2036, community emissions are 75% less than in 2017 and net zero by 2050 or before.
    - ~ Electricity is approximately 70% of community carbon emissions and transport is 20%. Buildings and transport are also a significant source of community emissions.

The environmental performance of precincts, buildings and assets, both new and retrofitted, will have a substantial influence on meeting adopted community and Council targets.

2.2.10. Revenue streams

Many community assets – being public – operate on a not-for-profit basis with income generation approaches ranging from hiring spaces, to fundraising and receiving grant funding. To enhance the cost-effectiveness and sustainability of community infrastructure, many facilities rely on rental income to fund operations but even then, there is usually a gap between income and expenses, including maintenance costs. Increasingly within community infrastructure, operations of assets like community facilities rely on revenue methods that generate reliable and increased sources of income in order to improve financial viability and sustainability.

2.2.11. Public Private Partnerships and cross sector collaboration

Public Private Partnerships allow governments and the private sector to work together and share resources to plan for, deliver and manage major projects. This usually involves governments providing incentives for the private sector to deliver a public asset or service. To be successful, these partnerships require shared vision, early commitment and comprehensive planning. Public Private Partnerships usually have the public interest at heart and can deliver increased value for money.

2.3.   Leading practice

The following case studies demonstrate leading practice examples that respond to some of the trends identified in section *2.2. Planning for future community asset*s of this report. The case studies include:

· Midjuburi Meeting Rooms, Steel Park, Inner West LGA
· Kiaora Place, Double Bay, Woollahra Municipal Council
· The Goods Line, UTS, City of Sydney
· Burwood Park Community Centre and Pavilion, Burwood Council
· Juanita Nielsen Community Centre, City Of Sydney
· The Connection, City of Canada Bay
· Darling Square Library and Maker Space, City of Sydney
· Epping Community Services Hub, City of Whittlesea

First Nations designed space

Midjuburi Meeting Rooms (Steel Park)

The Midjuburi Meeting Rooms (Steel Park) are located in a small two-storey building at the entrance to the PCYC at 2 Thornley Street, Marrickville. Construction of the building was completed in November 2019 and is the first community asset that has been designed in collaboration with and for the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

There are two 25m^2 rooms available for hire (one per level). Hire of the facility is free for First Nations Peoples. Murals on the outside of the building were completed by an Aboriginal artist and have contributed to a sense of place and increased the visibility of the Aboriginal culture in the local area. A seating area outside allows for casual gathering and socialising.

The building is suitable for small meetings, service provider program delivery and potentially an artist residency on one of the floors.

Centre revitalisation

Kiaora Place, Double Bay NSW

Kiaora Lands is a master planned mixed use precinct in the heart of Double Bay. It is a joint venture between Woolworths, Solotel, and Woollahra Municipal Council.

The main components of the scheme were a 600-space car park including 300 car spaces for public use, a 2,000m^2 public library, a 3,500m^2 supermarket, specialty retailing, 133 apartments, a 21-room private hotel with function rooms, and a five-storey commercial office building. The project realigned three streets and included a 600m^2 public square. The development consisted of six separate buildings over a common two level basement car park. The middle stretch of Kiaora Lane was pedestrianised, while trucks use either end for access to Woolworth's underground loading bay.

Woollahra Municipal Council amalgamated a number of sites to create the new library centre with a through-site link. The public library is considered a "next-generation" space featuring everything from a slippery dip for children, to a public access computer hub, meeting rooms, and study areas. The library has become a destination in its own right, providing a public space for events including live music and exhibitions, extensive children's programs and workshops and movie screenings. It has been designed with all ages in mind and acts as an attractor for the centre. The library is framed by a number of retail shops and cafes that line the through-block connection. The library is open until 8pm.

💡 Outdoor collaboration spaces

The Goods Line, UTS

The Goods Line is an urban linear park designed for daily use by students and workers alike. With elements of sit, play and relaxation incorporated into a linear strip of open space, it meets the needs of many local residents and commuters.

Location and demographics are key in determining the feasibility of an urban linear park. However, with the right conditions, a successful community open space can be created that is narrower and within a high density location, while retaining land area.

The Goods Line features several concepts of seating, as seen in the figure below. Differing seating arrangements allow for a variety of users across the park, increasing accessibility and usability. With the purpose of servicing workers and students in mind, the Goods Line allows for multifunctional uses, such as recreational play at the table tennis installations, or for communal meetings with the amphitheatre-style stairway seating at the park.

💡 Outdoor community space

Burwood Park Community Centre and Pavilion, Burwood LGA

Located in the Burwood town centre, Burwood Park is one of Sydney's busiest and most successful parks in terms of its range of facilities and functions that support culturally and socially diverse communities.

The park is used daily by children and families, working aged residents, older residents and young people for sport, social gathering, dance, Tai Chi, board games, learning and other activities. The park's facilities include:

- Burwood Park Community Centre and Pavilion, an indoor/outdoor space popular for local events and for local Chinese groups for dance and performance
- shaded, multipurpose hard surfaces, used for games, group dancing and exercise
- tables and chairs for gatherings and games
- walking paths for exercise
- sporting facilities including cricket pitches and a sports fields
- trees and shaded areas
- power outlets for events

The park is a great model for innovative delivery of outdoor community spaces in high density, culturally diverse areas.

Going up - stacked community hub

Juanita Nielsen Community Centre, City of Sydney

The Juanita Nielsen Community Centre offers a range of adult fitness classes at the centre's gym, as well as many recreational, social and creative learning programs for all age groups. Facilities at the Centre include:

· **Community gym** - Offers an affordable and fully equipped community gym for residents, workers and visitors of the local area, and an outreach program.

· **Free co-working space** - Provides an opportunity for startups and local small businesses to share a space and communicate with other like-minded people to generate ideas and support each other in their business development.

· **Community programs** - Offers adult fitness classes, recreational, social and creative learning programs for all age groups.

· **Outdoor play area**
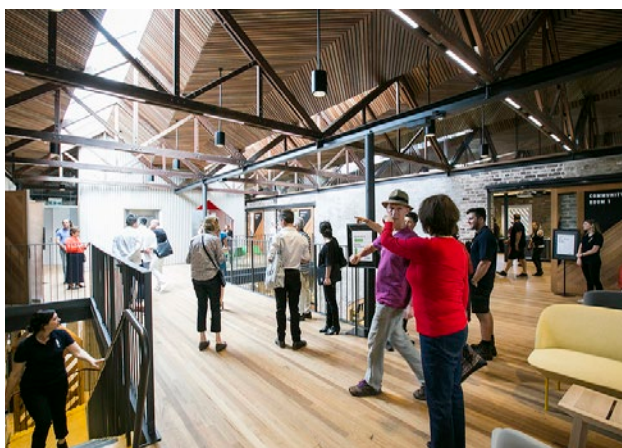
Multipurpose community and library

The Connection, City of Canada Bay

The Connection caters for a wide range of events and purposes, from small group classes in The Meeting Space and workshops on the latest digital technology in The Learning Space to celebrations for 300+ guests in The Event Space and digital art exhibitions in The Digital Gallery. The Connection provides spaces for the whole community to undertake a range of activities and incorporates ecological sustainable design principles and a mix of community and income generating uses to help offset operating costs, to boost the precinct's financial sustainability.

Activator & Co-Located Hub

Darling Square Library and the Ideas Lab, City Of Sydney

The City of Sydney and Lendlease have recently unveiled a new $10 million library as part of the $3.4 billion redevelopment of Darling Harbour.

Darling Square Library is co-located with commercial spaces on the ground floor and a 200m^2 Ideas Lab for hands-on workshops and events on level 1.

The Ideas Lab is a dedicated makerspace and multipurpose room to create, invent or tinker. It is a dedicated space for people who like to experiment, as well as for startups – a place where people can design and prototype their ideas. It has 3D printers, a laser cutter, electronic kits and soldering irons, among other pieces of equipment.

The City and Lendlease will work together to oversee the program of events and structure of the Ideas Lab. The space focuses on supporting startups and entrepreneurs. The program of hands-on workshops features 3D design and printing, robotics and electronics to help startups and curious makers upskill, share knowledge and network.

Co-located community services hub

Epping Community Services Hub, City of Whittlesea

The Epping Community Services Hub in the City of Whittlesea, Victoria, is a community hub that co-locates a range of organisations together in order to deliver a comprehensive range of services that respond to the unique needs of a large and diverse community.

Key to the success of the project has been a detailed understanding of what the community needs are, a common vision between Council and the lead tenant and an action learning process with careful design to promote and encourage service collaboration. The design of the space serves as a catalyst for collaboration, rather than just the co-location of services and has resulted in the delivery of innovative and targeted programs for the community.

Community spaces include six service rooms, including family rooms and meditation rooms. There is also a training room available for community use that enables local workshops such as women's small business, with a childcare provided in the adjacent room.

Other building design features include:

·   110 workspaces in the hub, with around 19 services offering over 40 programs

·   no individual offices

·   a communal lunch room and a "meet the hubsters" board with photos and names of every worker to encourage people to get to know each other

·   family friendly installations, such as play stations in the hallways and each room

·   soft entry points for the community including a social enterprise cafe

·   bright pink exterior wall signaling community use

Services and program features include:

·   an innovation and collaboration leadership group which meets regularly

·   shared events and training sessions

·   front desk staff that can 'triage' people when they arrive

·   out of hours use of the space by the community

·   computers for community use

The office space is open plan, with no private offices for any staff member. Similar services are grouped together, as are services who hire just one or two desks. There is a shared meeting/lunch room for collaboration and networking.

The social enterprise cafe is run by a service housed in the hub and provides training and employment for people with disability.

2.4.   Participation trends

The way people participate in social and cultural activities has changed over time. This influences use of communal spaces and the subsequent need for community assets and the facilities within them. The following participation trends provide insights into the future use of the Inner West's community asset network, in particular around increased demand for access to technology, desire for ways to socially connect more, places to participate outside of the home and increasing and high participation in arts and cultural activities.

2.4.1.   Community participation trends

While there is no data specifically on community participation, through volunteering participation and demand for community spaces in Inner West, the following trends have been identified:

- People are increasingly interested in activities and programs that occur after work and on weekends.
- People are looking for opportunities to participate in programs where they can connect socially, build new relationships and contribute to their community.
- There is increasing interest in programs and services that support creative production and the DIY movement, as demonstrated by the increasing number of makerspaces.
- People are increasingly interested in accessing and borrowing new technologies, particularly the ones that people can't afford to buy.
- People want to participate in community activities outside of the home, particularly those who live in high density housing.
- There is existing and increasing demand for fit for purpose assets across the LGA for a range of environmental activities addressing the full range of urban sustainability capacity building eg zero waste, food, transport, energy, share economy, circular economy etc. This is demonstrated through:
  - ~ Council's Green Living Centre program workshops being consistently booked out, with people on waiting lists.
  - ~ The high level of community support for organisations such as the Bower and Reverse Garbage.
  - ~ The Community Leaders in Sustainability course run by the Green Living Centre being oversubscribed.

2.4.2.   Cultural participation trends

Due to technological advancements in how cultural participation is recorded and measured, there is now more data available about how people participate in cultural and creative activities. Research shows that cultural participation and attendance across Australia is increasing.

As shown below, results from the Australia Council for the Arts National Arts Participation Survey 2016 indicate the majority of Australians engage with the arts in some way or another, with 46% actively participating in creative activity. The most popular live attendance categories include:

- live music (54% attended)
- dance and theatre (53%)
- visual arts and craft (46%)
- festivals (45%)

Figure 5 over the page illustrates some of the results from this survey.

Arts and cultural participation and cultural infrastructure needs may differ between demographic groups such as women, children, older people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and people with disability. While there is very limited data available about the arts and cultural participation preferences of specific groups, the overview on the next page gives insights into levels of participation at the state and national level.

Figure 5 - Cultural participation trends (Source: Create NSW 2019)

Listen to recorded music — 97%
Creatively participate — 46%
Read books — 78%
98% That engage with the arts
Engage online — 80%
74% Attend live...
- Festivals 47%
- Music 56%
- Literary events 20%
- Dance and theatre 53%
- First Nations arts 37%
- Visual arts and crafts 45%
Engage with the arts as part of their cultural background — 34%
Are involved with the arts as part of their cultural background — 15%

Results from the ABS survey of Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events 2017-2018 show that:

Over 82% of Australians attended at least one arts and cultural venue or event in the year prior, with attendance increasing since 2013-2014.

Part 3.0

Strategic context

3.1.   Policy context

This section provides an overview of the existing strategic plans and policies that guide and influence the provision and delivery of community assets within the Inner West LGA. Figure 6 provides a high level diagram illustrating the project policy context. It considers international, national, state, regional and local policy. This chapter has been structured around the strategic directions of the Community Strategic Plan 'Our Inner West 2036' - a plan that outlines the community's 10-year vision and should drive all Council decision-making.

Figure 6 - Indicative strategic context document relationship
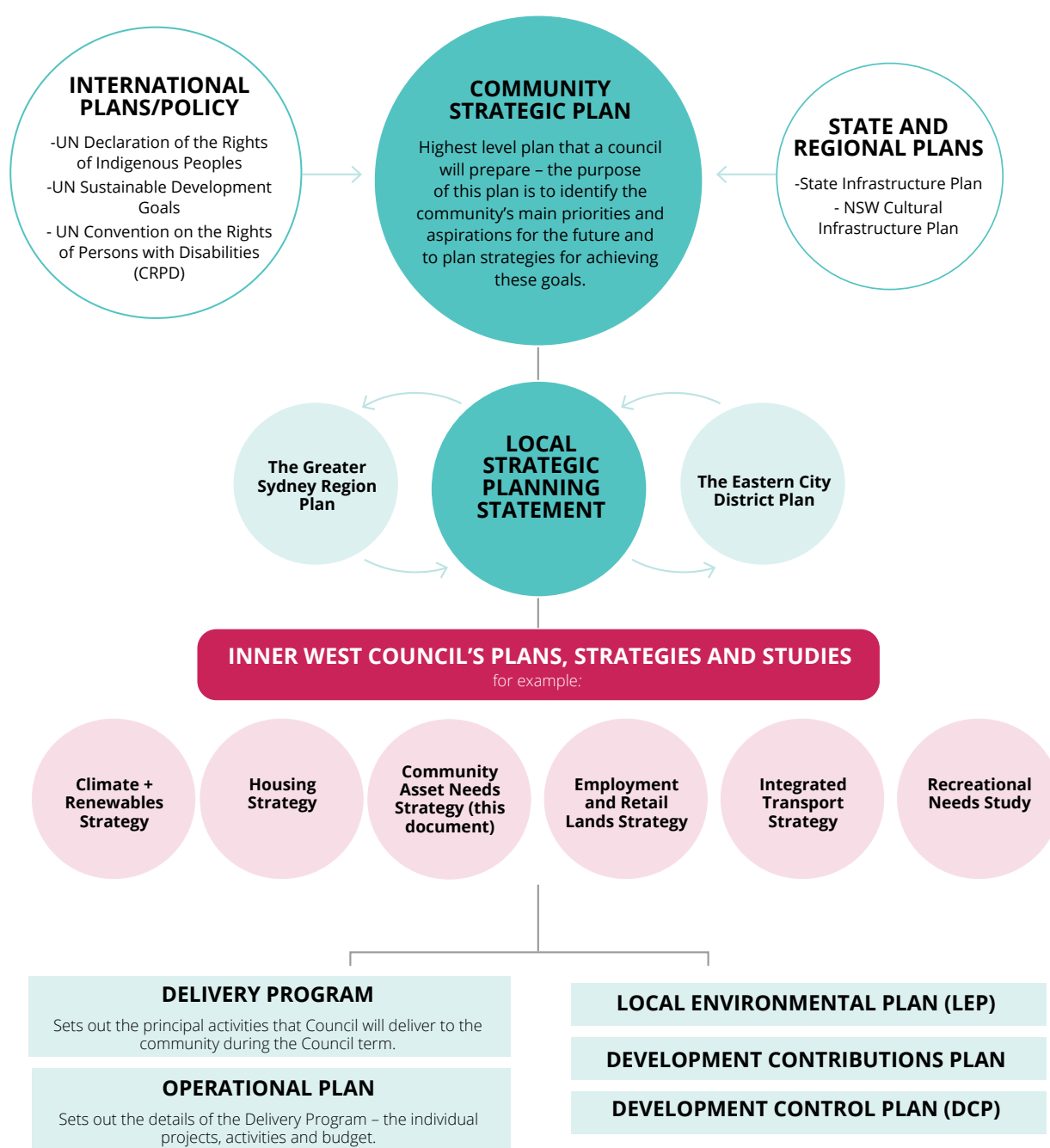
3.1.1. Building caring, happy, healthy communities

This strategic goal is a cornerstone for the CANS. The aspiration for the LGA is that by 2036 there is a strong sense of social justice and diversity is seen as an asset. Everyone is valued and accepted for who they are and supported to participate in community life. The community collaborates with each other, creates meaningful partnerships and is resilient.

What does this mean for community assets?

- Community assets should be flexible and multipurpose to cater to diverse and changing community needs and for a variety of services.
- Everyone in the community should be able to access – and feel welcome to participate in – community assets, services and programs.
- The design and provision of community assets should consider access for people of all abilities, ages and backgrounds, whether that be through physical, cultural and/or psychological inclusion.
- Community assets provide important spaces for meeting, learning traditions, sharing stories and recognising and celebrating local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.
- Schools are community assets both during school hours and outside school hours and can be shared through partnerships to address growth and demand.
- Community assets should offer opportunities for intergenerational and intercultural sharing, connection and participation to support community connection and cohesion.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The *United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals* relevant to this report include:

- Good Health and Wellbeing (SDG 3)
- Quality Education (SDG 4)
- Gender Equality (SDG 5)
- Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10)
- Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11)
- Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16)

While these goals are designed for a global community, they remain relevant to the local Inner West context.

UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Adopted in 2007, the *UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* establishes a universal framework of minimum standards for the survival, dignity and wellbeing of Indigenous peoples. Inner West Council has a stated commitment to reconciliation and "always ensuring that the process is based on respect, trust and a spirit of openness". This statement also acknowledges that "building relationships with the local Aboriginal community enhances the living experience of our residents, businesses and general community members and promotes Reconciliation through better understanding".

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Adopted in 2006, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) provides a broad definition of disability and advacates that people with disability must enjoy equal rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Convention outlines eight principles to guide governments in improving disability inclusion. Australia ratified the CRPD in 2008 setting nation wide obligations to ensure that measures (including legislation, policies and programs) are put in place to uphold the principles.

Resilient Sydney – A Strategy for City Resilience 2018

The *Resilient Sydney Strategy* recognises that no single organisation can solve metropolitan Sydney's problems and instead looks at how everyone can work together, across boundaries to protect and champion the needs and interests of communities across Sydney. This strategy sets the direction to strengthen the ability to survive, adapt and thrive in the face of increasing global uncertainty and local shocks and stresses and calls for business, government, academia, communities and individuals to lead and work as one city.

Direction 3, Connect for Strength, aims for every Sydneysider to feel they belong in the community and city. This is to address Sydney's declining social cohesion and looks to drive an outcome where people have equal access to engage in society, the economy and all the city has to offer.

NSW Education and Communities five-year strategic plan 2012-2017

The priorities outlined in the *NSW Education and Communities five-year strategic plan 2012-2017* relevant to this study include an intention to innovate and undertake continual improvement to respond to the changing needs of the population as well as forming strong partnerships with parents and families, industry, and non-government education providers. The plan does not provide any strategic guidance on the location of new, or extensions to existing, educational institutions.

NSW Volunteering Strategy 2016-2020

Volunteering is recognised as a contributing factor to reducing social isolation and increasing social connectedness. The *NSW Volunteering Strategy 2016 - 2020* focuses on six areas:

- expanding participation in community life
- creating digital media avenues to support volunteering
- developing a mainstream media campaign and local marketing strategies to promote volunteering
- designing and developing new volunteering options
- building capacity in volunteer organisations
- enhancing programs to recognise the positive contribution of volunteers

Sydney Local Health District Strategic Plan 2012-2017

The *Sydney Local Health District Strategic Plan 2012-2017* estimated that by 2021, the Sydney Local Health District (SLHD) population is expected to reach 642,000 people. With an ageing population (the number of residents aged 70+ is expected to increase by 30% over the next decade), increased health care demands and diversity of services are expected in the district.

Eastern City District Plan, 2018

The *Eastern City District Plan* identifies the Camperdown-Ultimo Collaboration Area as part of the innovation corridor and one of the largest and most comprehensive health and education precincts in Greater Sydney. Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPAH) is a key anchor of this precinct and is fundamental to the precinct being distinctive for world-leading education, health and training institutions and providing opportunities for innovative health and medical related commercial premises as well as complementary uses that support the hospital and benefit the Inner West community.

NSW Ageing Strategy 2016-2020

The *NSW Ageing Strategy 2016-2020* vision is that people in NSW experience the benefits of living longer and enjoy opportunities to participate in, contribute to and be included in their communities. The strategy focuses on five priorities:

- health and wellbeing
- working and retiring
- housing choices
- getting around
- inclusive communities

NSW Disability Inclusion Plan 2016

NSW Disability Inclusion Plan 2016 focuses on four areas for concentrated action identified by people with disability, the NSW Government and community stakeholders. They are:

- developing positive community attitudes and behaviours
- creating liveable communities
- supporting access to meaningful employment
- improving access to mainstream services through better systems and processes

Inner West Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021

The *Inner West Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021* outlines an aspiration for Inner West to be inclusive and a place where everybody can take part. It recognises that inclusive communities benefit everyone, not just people with disability, but that it is important to provide better opportunities for people with disability to take part in all aspects of community life.

The plan defines inclusion as being heard and valued, feeling connected and belonging, taking part in a meaningful way, having choice and control in your own life and being able to find and use the support you need.

Draft Inner West Local Emergency Management Plan 2021

The plan seeks to provide detailed arrangements for, prevention of, preparation for, response to and recovery from emergency within the Inner West local government area. It will consolidate the three former emergency management plans implemented by the former Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville councils. Designated community assets will act as emergency evacuation centres and community asset planning policy will be updated as information is made available.

3.1.2. Creative communities and a strong economy

This strategic direction is fundamental to the identity of **Inner West as the creative and cultural engine room of Sydney**, bringing a wealth of experience and employment to the city. It also recognises that the creative sector and new technologies support and grow a diverse and thriving local economy as well as providing a diversity of experiences and interesting places that are vibrant, inspiring and pleasurable.

What does this mean for community assets?

- Community assets should align to the changing needs of the creative community and actively support the arts, creative industries and innovation.
- Council should plan to address the various demands on limited land availability, which at times marginalises one use in preference for another, such as the transformation of industrial building stock, leading to the displacement of creative uses and/or affordable spaces for production. This should include supporting the creation of production space, creation of creative clusters and supporting creative industries.
- Consideration should be given to the need for purpose-built creative spaces as well as multifunction spaces that are adaptable for a variety of activities.

UNESCO 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression

The adoption of the *UNESCO 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions* was a milestone in international cultural policy. Through this historic agreement, the global community formally recognised the dual nature, both cultural and economic, of contemporary cultural expressions produced by artists and cultural professionals.

Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Strategy 2015-2018

The *Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Strategy 2015-2018* sets out a vision that it "will deliver a strong, contemporary multi-disciplinary Aboriginal arts and cultural sector in NSW and increased employment opportunities for Aboriginal Peoples at all stages of their artistic practice". Its three strategic directions are:

- Connection - Aboriginal artists and arts and cultural organisations broaden and deepen their engagement with the people of NSW and the world.
- Culture - Employment of Aboriginal Peoples in the arts is based on individual connection to Country, mob, Language, cultural identity and multi art form practice.
- Pathways - Partnerships across all tiers of government and the creative industries build Aboriginal creative leadership.

NSW Cultural Infrastructure Plan 2025+

NSW Cultural Infrastructure Plan 2025+ guides the planning and delivery of cultural infrastructure that will support a thriving and dynamic cultural sector across NSW. For the Eastern City District, which includes Inner West, the plan prioritises the following which are relevant to this study:

- upgrade, renew and maintain infrastructure supporting major cultural institutions
- increased access to affordable space for the small to medium cultural sector
- creation of production space and establishment of cultural clusters
- investment in cultural infrastructure to support job creation and the creative industries
- strategic co-location of cultural infrastructure with emerging centres of technology and innovation

Creative Spaces and Venues Discussion Paper

The *Creative Spaces and Venues Discussion Paper* was commissioned by Council to identify the range of policy levers available to Council to retain, protect and grow creative spaces and employment lands in its LGA. Locally, the opportunities and issues that emerged from the paper that will inform the CANS as well as the cultural strategy include:

· the transformation of industrial building stock leading to the displacement of creative making

· rezoning of areas without planning provision for creative venues

· instability of new "creative spaces" within redevelopments and new developments for existing creative uses – one size does not fit all

· more sophisticated understanding of needs to inform decision-making for creative land uses

· affordability and security of tenure of creative spaces and the vulnerability to change of cultural organisations which have invested in upgrades and space for co-location

The findings and recommendations in this discussion paper are discussed in more detail in Parts 6 and 7 of this report.

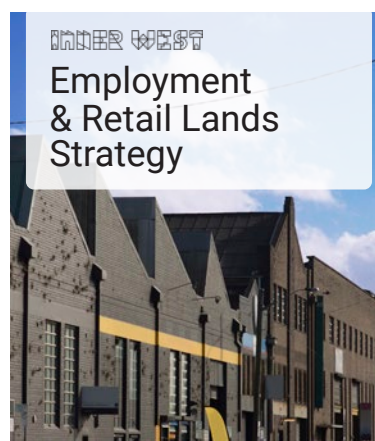## Inner West Employment and Retail Lands Strategy, August 2020

The *Inner West Employment and Retail Lands Strategy 2020* provides an approach for managing land to maximise productivity and facilitate jobs growth, with both being important to the long term prosperity of the LGA.

The vision: The Inner West LGA has a rich industrial and urban services economy and is a leading destination for creative industries and entrepreneurship. It leverages strategic connections from the Eastern City's trade gateways and Harbour CBD. The thriving local economy provides a diversity of employment opportunities and services for local residents. The industrial precincts and employment corridors are productive and well managed, providing businesses with the confidence to invest and expand. The centres are enjoyable locations to visit, live and work in, with high amenity, quality services and strong transport connections supporting their growth.

Four principles support the vision, three of which are relevant to this study:

· Principle 1 - Centres are distinctive and productive: Development in centres will prioritise employment and will be complemented by quality public space.

· Principle 3 - Spaces for business are suitable and available: A pipeline of new, well-located suitable employment floor space will be delivered in employment corridors and key precincts.

· Principle 4 - Planning framework is clear: The planning framework supports local business and minimises land use conflict.

The findings and recommendations in this plan are discussed in more detail in Parts 6 and 7 of this report.

Creative Spaces and Venues Discussion Paper

Draft Employment and Retail Lands Strategy, based on a substantial Employment and Retail Land Study.

CSP Strategic Goal 2

3.1.3.   Unique, liveable, net-worked neighbourhoods

This strategic direction acknowledges that each of the neighbourhoods within Inner West has a unique inner city urban vibe. The aspiration is that the heritage and culture – a mix of old and new – is visible, valued and affordable for all. This direction also aims for people to be connected through ideas, technology, transport and the places they call home to enjoy a diversity of people, places, housing and experiences.

What does this mean for community assets?

- Design of community assets should be contextual, inclusive, engaging and inviting and be of benefit and add value to the community.
- The use of available public land for community assets should be optimised.
- Future community assets should provide healthy, safe and inclusive places for all ages and abilities, support active, resilient and socially connected communities and facilitate opportunities for creative and artistic expression and participation. This includes people who are homeless or need to access housing services.
- Community assets should be integrated and multipurpose to support social connections and provide vibrant community hubs where everyone feels welcome.
- Areas identified for future residential development must consider the additional community asset needs and plan for this at the start – not the end – of the planning process.
- Opportunities for multifunction and shared spaces as cultural infrastructure should be identified.

Better Placed

Better Placed by Government Architect NSW is an integrated design policy for the built environment and underscores the importance of good design at the centre of all development processes, from project definition to concept design through to construction and maintenance. *Better Placed* is based around seven distinct objectives that together seek to create a "well-designed built environment that is healthy, responsive, integrated, equitable and resilient".

Greater Sydney Region Plan

Greater Sydney Region Plan: A Metropolis of Three Cities from the Greater Sydney Commission is built on a vision where people live within 30 minutes of their jobs, education and health facilities, services and great places and is guided by 10 strategic directions. Directions relevant to this study include:

- A city for people - celebrating diversity and putting people at the heart of planning
- A city of great places - designing places for people
- A collaborative city - working together to grow a Greater Sydney
- A city supported by infrastructure and supporting new developments

Specifically, the plan talks about providing spaces within the public domain that can accommodate cultural infrastructure (Objective 9 and Strategy 9.1). It discusses multifunction and shared spaces as cultural infrastructure and highlights how great places are made when artistic, cultural and creative works are visible, valued, distinctive and accessible.

The Eastern City District Plan

The Eastern City District Plan from the Greater Sydney Commission aims to:

- create sustainable communities through vibrant public places, walking and cycling, and cultural, artistic and tourism assets
- align growth with infrastructure, including transport, social and green infrastructure, and delivering sustainable, smart and adaptable solutions
- through collaborative approaches, increase the use of public resources such as social infrastructure

The planning priorities relevant to this report include:

- Planning Priority E3 - Providing services and social infrastructure to meet people's changing needs
- Planning Priority E4 - Fostering healthy, creative, culturally rich and socially connected communities
- Planning Priority E6 - Creating and renewing great places and local centres and respecting the district's heritage

Our Place Inner West – Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020

The *Our Place Inner West – Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020* (the LSPS) is a document to guide land use planning and development for the Inner West LGA to 2036 and is informed by community values and priorities, by State Government plans and by evidence based studies and strategies.

The vision is for "a place of creative, connected, sustainable and productive neighbourhoods – as vibrant, innovative and diverse as our community".

The LSPS consists of Council's vision and a set of planning priorities, objectives and actions under six themes. Relevant planning priorities and objectives in relation to the CANS include:

An ecologically sustainable Inner West

Planning Priority 1: Adapt to climate change

- Inner West is resilient to the impacts of climate change, urban and natural hazards (well designed buildings, cooling in the public domain).

Planning Priority 2: Inner West is a zero emissions community

- Inner West transitions to renewable energy.
- New developments achieve net zero carbon emissions.
- Low-carbon, high performance precincts drive innovation and showcase sustainable urban living.

Planning Priority 4: Inner West is a water sensitive city with clean waterways

- Development on all private and public land incorporates best practice Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD).

Planning Priority 5: Inner West is a zero waste community

- Resources are managed to avoid waste and maximise recycling/reuse.
- Strategically located, accessible waste infrastructure is responsive to future needs for reuse, recycling and recovery services.
- Inner West is part of a district circular economy.
- Inner West reduces emissions and increases community and infrastructure resilience.

Unique, liveable, networked neighbourhoods

Planning Priority 6: Plan for high quality, accessible and sustainable housing growth in appropriate locations integrated with infrastructure provision and with respect for place, local character and heritage significance

- Heritage values are respected.

Planning Priority 7: Provide for a rich diversity of functional, safe and enjoyable urban spaces connected with and enhanced by their surroundings

- Provide urban spaces that support community needs and creative places.

Creative communities and strong economy

Planning Priority 9: A thriving local economy

- The local economy is diverse, strong and resilient.
- Inner West has a thriving and diverse evening and night-time economy.
- Industrial lands are retained, protected and increased.
- Zoning and planning provisions accommodate affordable entry points for a range of industries.
- Inner West continues to grow as a leading creative and cultural hub.
- Main streets and centres are designed to be unique, lively, safe and accessible.

Caring, happy, healthy communities

Planning Priority 10: Recognise and sustain Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories

- Indigenous cultures and histories are recognised and steps are taken to ensure cultural continuity.
- Aboriginal heritage of significance is conserved in Inner West.

Planning Priority 11: Provide accessible facilities and spaces that support active, healthy communities

- The community has access to a wide range of accessible high quality open spaces, community facilities and recreational and cultural spaces.

Progressive local leadership

Planning Priority 13: Develop diverse and strong stakeholder relationships through collaboration with government, community and business to deliver positive planning outcomes and realise the benefits of growth

Planning Priority 14: Deliver visionary long-term planning and responsible decision-making reflective of the Community Strategic Plan

- Apply consistent and integrated planning across Inner West, supported by a place-based approach.
- Plan and manage Council's assets and resources responsibly to support Council's strategic direction.

Local Housing Strategy 2020

The *Local Housing Strategy 2020* identifies what makes parts of Inner West more or less suitable for housing development, and when and what types of housing might be delivered. It notes that Inner West has a strong sense of social and environmental justice and a belief that everyone has the right to a roof over their head and a place to call home. Therefore making housing affordable for more people and planning for a diverse range of housing types and tenure is needed. The vision relevant to the CANS is that "we are a network of diverse communities sharing values of inclusiveness, acceptance and fairness". The principles associated with this vision are to:

· provide for a diverse mix of housing typologies, sizes and tenures that cater to the needs of people at all stages of their lives
· Start to close the affordability gap between housing need and provision for very low, low and moderate income households

Some of the key challenges relevant to this study include:

· a need to supply more housing for people with disability to ensure people of any ability can live an equitable and independent life
· a need to supply more affordable housing

Council adopted the *Local Housing Strategy 2020*, subject to amendments being made at its meeting on 3 March 2020.

Inner West Affordable Housing Policy

The *Inner West Affordable Housing Policy* provides targets for affordable housing contributions in new release areas and urban renewal precincts and when land is rezoned. The policy has established three focus areas for delivering this new approach to homelessness:

· Focus 1: Prevention and early intervention
· Focus 2: Better access to support and services
· Focus 3: An integrated, person-centred system

While homelessness is primarily the responsibility of state and commonwealth governments, local government has a significant role to play as custodians of public open space and other community assets which are used by people who are homeless and others.

Inner West Homelessness Policy

The *Inner West Homelessness Policy* acknowledges that people who are homeless represent some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable in our society and that the UN Declaration of Human Rights requires that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and wellbeing of themselves and their family, including access to housing.

The policy also notes that all members of the community, including people who are homeless, have the same right to be in public places, have the right to participate in community events and activities, use public facilities and to carry with them and store their own belongings, so long as it does not impact on the safety of others. A key principle is that where possible, vulnerable people in public places should be supported by specialist homelessness services and supported to exit homelessness.

West Council Gender Equity Implementation Action Plan 2021-2022

The *Draft Inner West Council Gender Equity Strategy 2021-2024* and *Draft Inner West Council Gender Equity Implementation Action Plan 2021-2022* seek to create a community that promotes:

· Gender equity and healthy relationships
· A safer community and active bystanders
· Active participation in all aspects of community life, employment and economy.

The following principles and beliefs underpin the strategy:

· Women should be able to move freely and safely in the community
· Residents should be able to participate in Council activities
· Residents see themselves reflected in all aspects of Council and community life
· Women experience different levels of inequity.
· Multiple inequities are experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities, LGBTIQ, older people/women (seniors), women and people with a disability
· Gender equity is a key component of reducing domestic and family violence, and a foundation of building a safe, respectful and inclusive community
· Gender inequality is a key driver of domestic and family violence.

Inner West Council and the community have a longstanding and demonstrated commitment to social justice, inclusion, advocacy and diversity. This draft strategy prioritises leadership, capacity building and partnership to drive gender equity in the Inner West.

Inner West Council Property Asset Management Strategy 2018-2028

This *Asset Management Strategy* was prepared to assist IWC in improving the services from its infrastructure including roads, bridges, footpaths, stormwater, fields, buildings, aquatic centres, sea walls, wharves and marine structures. These assets have a replacement value of $1.8 billion as at 30 June of the 2017 financial year. The purpose of the asset management strategy is to:

- enable Council to show how its asset portfolio will meet the services needs of the community into the future
- enable Council's asset management policies to be achieved
- ensure the integration of Council's asset management with long term planning

Inner West Council Long-Term Accommodation Strategy

This strategy is currently on hold pending COVID-19 reassessment of floor space demands.

Recommendations and outcomes from the CANS should be taken into consideration when reviewing this strategy.

Inner West Council Delivery Program 2018-2022 and Combined Operational Plan and Budget FY20/21

The *Delivery Program and Operational Plan and Budget* includes a number of Directions that apply to community assets considered by the CANS:

- Strategic Direction 2.3.1.5 - Support the creative communities through innovative cultural planning and the delivery of art and culture in public spaces
- Strategic Direction 3.1.2.1 - Digitise and build on existing Inner West history collections
- Strategic Direction 3.2.11 - Support the creative communities through proactive partnerships that deliver arts and cultural opportunities for Inner West residents
- Strategic Direction 3.2.4 - Facilitate the availability of affordable spaces for creative industries and services
- Strategic Direction 4.11.1 - Review and assess library signage needs and begin implementation across Inner West
- Strategic Direction 4.1.4.1 - Investigate feasibility of creating an Inner West History Centre and relocation of history services

Inner West Council Land and Property Strategy 2019

The *IWC Land and Property Strategy* provides directions to ensure that community assets are being properly managed and protected for the long-term best interests of the community, as well as providing a sound basis to achieve a sustainable property portfolio, generating positive community outcomes by developing and enhancing community capacity. It also serves to guide future investment and resource allocation decisions associated with Council-owned and operated property assets to meet the diverse and evolving needs of the local community.

The key principles and actions relevant to the study are described below:

- Optimise benefits to the community which are sustainable and equitable:
  - ~ review and identify opportunities including reuse and disposal
  - ~ management of property portfolio to sustain value and heritage significance
  - ~ responsibly represent Council as the owner including on strata boards and when reviewing development applications
  - ~ deliver multiple benefits from each property, including diversity of services operating from hubs
- Demonstrate industry best practice: be transparent, consistent, manage risk and demonstrate best value for money:
  - ~ maintain a land and property register for Council controlled, managed and owned properties
- Meet the needs of the community now and in the future:
  - ~ undertake service needs analysis such as community services, cultural spaces, recreation and aquatics (which is the purpose of the Community and Assets Needs Study).
  - ~ develop an integrated 10-year strategic property program:
    - ~ develop a 10-year program for new plans and renewal of existing plans for management of community and crown land
    - ~ develop and implement a prioritised schedule for acquisition, consolidation or amendment of land and property
    - ~ develop a list of land parcels such as laneways or road closures for reuse or sale
    - ~ manage the property portfolio to meet the needs of Council

~ manage the buildings portfolio to maintain agreed service levels for capacity, utilisation, risk, condition and function.

- optimise Council revenue to support services delivery and community capacity:
  ~ identify the priorities for application to property investments
  ~ benchmark costs versus benefits to identify opportunities for improvements

The *Land and Property Strategy* identifies the main issues and required actions with these community facilities.

The outcomes of the CANS should be incorporated into an update of the Lands and Property Strategy once adopted by Council.

3.1.4. An ecologically sustainable Inner West

This strategic direction is a clear statement about the need to collectively address climate change and aim to make living sustainably easy to do. The aspiration is for a collaborative approach to addressing complex urban environmental issues and development of creative solutions to build a healthy ecosystem and benefit the health and wellbeing of the community with fresh, clean air, trees, water and food.

Key strategies in the CSP under this direction, relevant to this CANS include:

- provide the support needed for people to live sustainably
- create spaces for growing food
- support people to protect, restore, enhance and connect with nature in Inner West
- maintain and increase Inner West's tree canopy and urban forest and enhance biodiversity corridors
- provide local reuse and recycling infrastructure
- support people to avoid waste and reuse, repair recycle and share.

What does this mean for community assets?

- Connecting community assets with nature will enhance the community's health and wellbeing.
- Future community assets should be designed and managed sustainably with thought given to the life cycle of the building.
- Community assets can support sustainability services and programs, such as food growing, and circular economy activities as needed.

Draft Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2021

The *Draft Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2021* (LEP) consolidates all three former Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville LEPs. All existing principal development standards and controls are retained and the same floor space ratios, building heights and minimum lot size standards will continue to apply. Some alignment issues addressed as part of the Draft Inner West LEP include:

· rezoning of the central portion of Ashfield Town Centre from B4 Mixed Use to B2 Local Centre
· permitting light industries such as creative makers in some business zones
· ensuring centres have active uses at street level by restricting residential development to upper floors
· prohibiting dual occupancies in residential zones
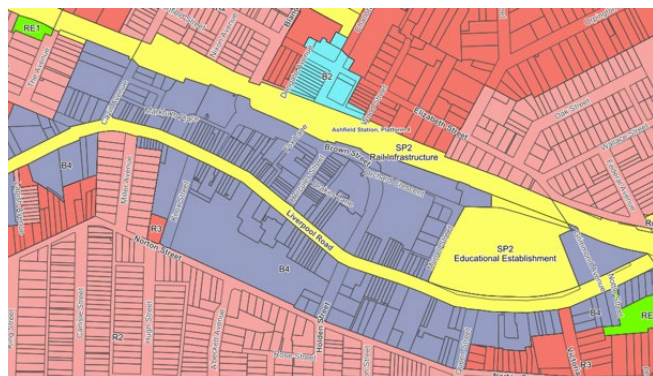
Ashfield Town Centre Proposed Rezoning to B2 Local Centre

3.1.5. Progressive local leadership

This strategic direction aims to encourage a community of diverse voices that are listened to and respected and one in which everyone has the information, support and opportunities to show leadership and effect change. It is clear that Inner West is a place and community that stands up for what it believes in and collectively shapes and owns its future.

Key strategies under this direction, relevant to this CANS include:

· collaborate with partners to deliver positive outcomes for the community, economy and environment (5.2.3)
· undertake visionary, integrated, long-term planning and decision-making reflective of community needs and aspirations (5.3.1)
· Deliver innovation, excellence, efficiency, effectiveness and probity in Council processes and services (5.3.3).

What does this mean for community assets?

· Decision-making about future community assets and spending should be based on need and deliver community benefit for many, rather than a few.
· Everyone has the opportunity to input and be heard to help shape the future of their places and spaces.
· The delivery of community assets is collaborative and undertaken with the end user in mind.
· Innovation, new ways of thinking and best practice delivery models and asset design is at the heart of future planning.

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3.2. Major projects and development

It is important to understand the major planned and in-progress projects that are happening across the Inner West LGA in order to understand any potential impacts (either positive or negative) on community assets.

The impacts of proponent-led major projects are considered by the overarching strategic planning framework. Additional government agency projects include:
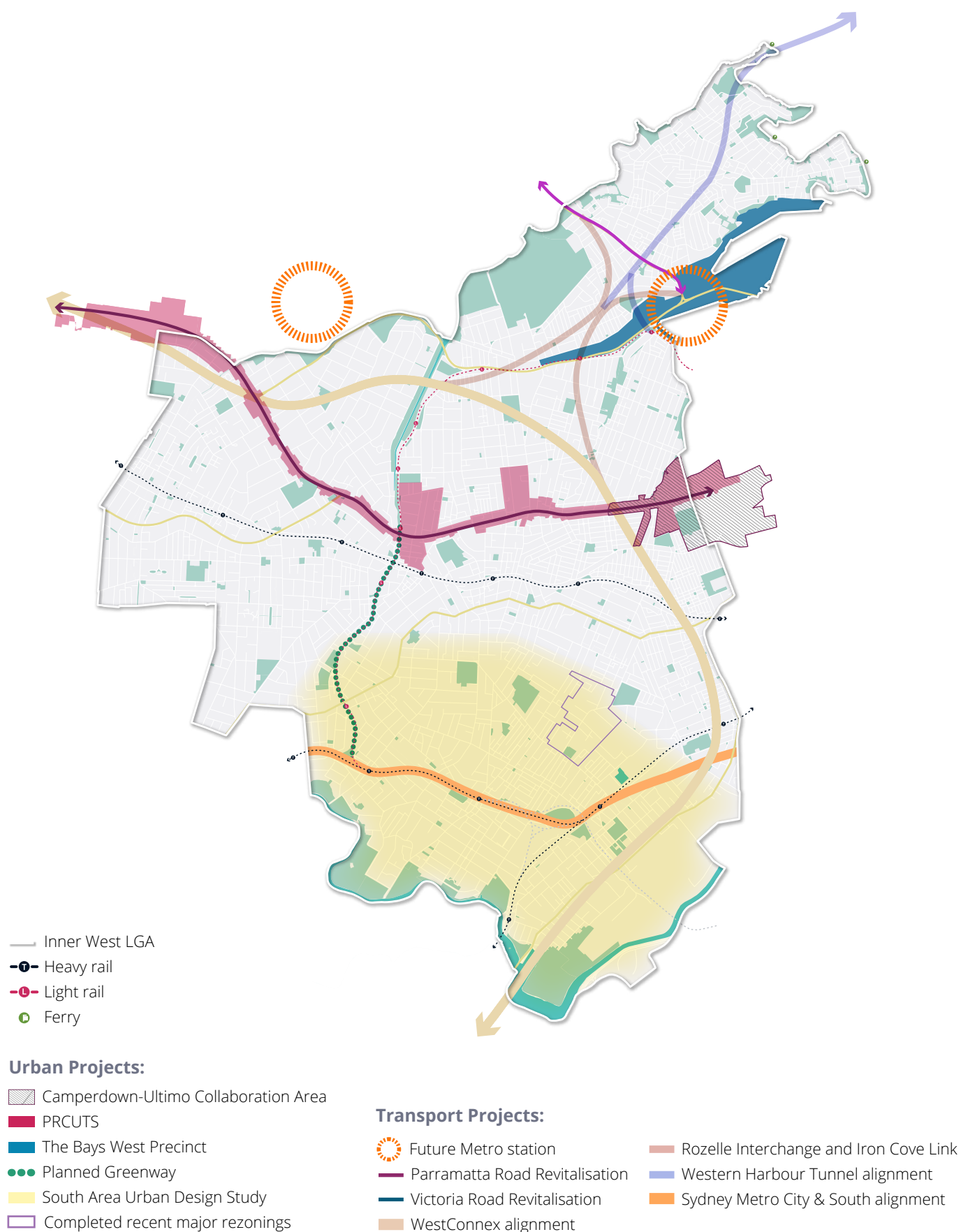
- State Government led major projects
  - ~ The Bays West Precinct
  - ~ Callan Park Master Plan
- IWC-led major projects
  - ~ Camperdown-Ultimo Collaboration Alliance
  - ~ Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy
  - ~ Investigation areas for additional housing
  - ~ South Area Urban Design Study

A spatial summary of the key major projects is provided in Figure 7 over the page.

What are the implications of major projects for community assets?

- The Bays West Precinct offers a major opportunity to unlock significant heritage and cultural assets along the Rozelle and Balmain Foreshore, including White Bay Power Station.

- Callan Park is a major untapped asset within Inner West that has the potential to deliver heritage, recreational, health, education and cultural outcomes for the Inner West community. Council should continue to liaise with the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) on the Landscape Infrastructure Plan.

- Future development along the Parramatta Road Urban Transformation Corridor (PRCUTS) will revitilise the area, however this could also result in rent increases, potentially pricing creative uses out. Different planning mechanisms to protect this creative cluster should be considered as part of the corridor renewal.

- The Camperdown-Ultimo Collaboration Area has been recognised as the most significant innovation precinct in NSW with world-class health, education and research institutions. The project includes investigation into provision of affordable commercial space for creative, tech and research industries.

- Council is working on a number of strategies and studies that will identify areas for growth within the LGA (eg the Draft Housing Strategy and the South Area Urban Design Study). Development unlocks opportunities for value sharing and delivering new community infrastructure. Developer contribution agreements should be informed by the community asset needs identified in this report.

- Three town halls and one community centre are undergoing accessibility upgrades, potentially unlocking additional community floor space for certain user groups.

Figure 7 - Major projects in Inner West summary map

---- Inner West LGA

-**T**- Heavy rail

-**L**- Light rail

O Ferry

Urban Projects:

▨ Camperdown-Ultimo Collaboration Area

■ PRCUTS

■ The Bays West Precinct

●●● Planned Greenway

▨ South Area Urban Design Study

▭ Completed recent major rezonings

Transport Projects:

⭕ Future Metro station

━━ Parramatta Road Revitalisation

━━ Victoria Road Revitalisation

━━ WestConnex alignment

━━ Rozelle Interchange and Iron Cove Link

━━ Western Harbour Tunnel alignment

━━ Sydney Metro City & South alignment

3.2.1.   State Government-led projects

The Bays West Precinct

The *Transformation Plan: The Bays West Precinct, Sydney (2015)* represents a blueprint to transform The Bays West Precinct into a bustling hub of enterprise, activity and beautiful spaces over the next 20 to 30 years.

The Bays West Precinct is divided into eight distinct but linked destinations, comprising 5.5km of harbourfront, 95ha of largely government-owned land and 94ha of waterways in Sydney Harbour. The Plan includes:

· providing 5.5km of public foreshore access
· staging public access to previously excluded areas, starting with Stage 1, linking Blackwattle Bay to Pyrmont
· providing benefits for existing and future businesses exposed to new pedestrian trade
· reconnecting Balmain to Pyrmont by working towards the adaptive reuse of Glebe Island Bridge
· increasing visual and physical links to Sydney Harbour
· providing a mix of green shorelines and living sea walls

A number of these areas fall within the Inner West LGA.

IWC's priorities for the Bays West Precinct are:

· world-class public transport access
· reopening of the Glebe Island Bridge to pedestrians and cyclists
· public access to foreshore
· up to 30% of all new housing to be affordable housing (on government owned land)
· new recreational facilities including an indoor sports centre and multiple outdoor sporting grounds

White Bay Power Station

The White Bay Power Station is a key destination as part of the transformation of The Bays West Precinct. The NSW Government's objective for this precinct is to unlock the potential of the White Bay Power Station to recognise its history in an authentic way. Key features of this precinct include:

· providing a hub for knowledge intensive and advanced technological industries
· adaptively reusing the State listed heritage of the White Bay Power Station
· providing housing choices to support and attract talent for a knowledge-intensive destination
· merging with the Bays Waterfront Promenade in a new activated forecourt that provides access to the water
· reviewing opportunities for a new ferry service

Project status and timeline

Renewal will largely take place following the construction of major projects in the area and linked with the proposed Bays Metro station (part of the Sydney Metro West project), which will be operational in the second half of the 2020s.

Rozelle Rail Yards will be the first piece of significant new open space for the community at Bays West, with up to 10ha of new parkland to be provided as part of the WestConnex M4-M5 Link. Structural works will continue on the White Bay Power Station, a State Heritage-listed item and much-loved feature of Inner West.

Callan Park Master Plan

Callan Park is 60ha of parkland at Iron Cove in Lilyfield, with a number of heritage buildings with community uses, including a former recreational hall which now houses the Community Refugee Welcome Centre.

Master planning of the site is a State Government responsibility, however the former Leichhardt Council took on this challenge as a result of many previous unsuccessful State Government attempts.
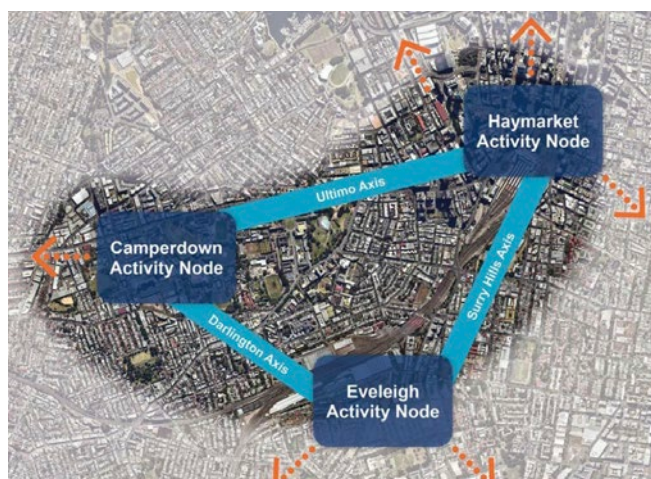
In February 2018, the NSW Government Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) began developing a Landscape Infrastructure Plan for Callan Park. Council has called on OEH to publish the process for community input into the Plan, including the timeline.

The Bays West Precinct site area

3.2.2.   IWC-led projects

Camperdown-Ultimo Collaboration Alliance

IWC is working with the Camperdown-Ultimo Collaboration Alliance to meet the Collaboration Area Place Strategy productivity priorities for the Camperdown activity node. This work includes the current Inner West Council, City of Sydney Council, Sydney Local Health District (RPA) and the University of Sydney-funded *Camperdown Innovation Precinct Land Use and Strategic Employment Study*, which will underpin a master plan, planning controls and policies for this health and education precinct with its core biotechnology hub.

The Place Strategy identifies "the lack and growing demand for local open space and community facilities and services and limited capacity to provide these services and facilities" as a key challenge for this area. Preliminary findings of the *Camperdown Innovation Precinct Land Use and Strategic Employment Study* indicate the precinct needs shared/collaborative spaces for individuals and businesses to thrive as well as development contribution-funded social and open space infrastructure. The shared spaces should include seminar and conference facilities and meeting rooms for formal events, as well as cafes, restaurants and bars for more informal events and social activities. The draft Study recommends devising appropriate funding mechanisms for the development and long-term operation of such collaborative spaces.
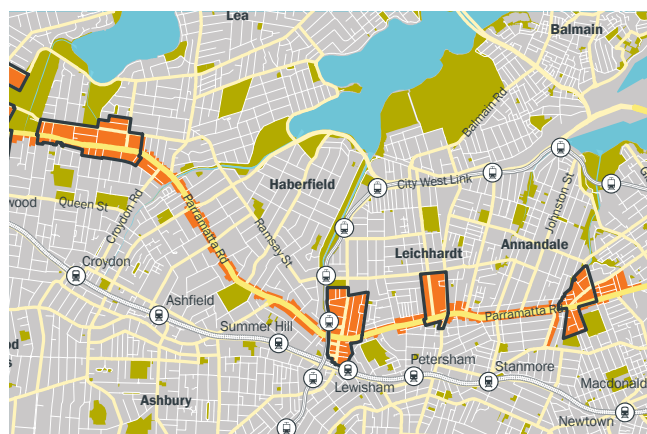
Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy

This Strategy is the NSW Government's 30-year plan setting out how the Parramatta Road Corridor will "grow and bring new life to local communities living and working along the Corridor". The Parramatta Road Corridor spans 20km from Granville in the west to Camperdown in the east. It comprises the land adjoining and at least one block back from Parramatta Road, as well as precincts that have been identified as focuses for future growth based on their different functions and characters.

Inner West LGA includes part of the "Corridor East" section of Parramatta Road and four precincts: Taverners Hill, Leichhardt, Camperdown and Kings Bay.

The *Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy* was finalised in November 2016, however it required further detailed traffic and transport modelling to be undertaken by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. This modelling is due to be completed by the end of 2021 and will enable further investigation work to commence in the four precincts within the Inner West LGA.

Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation areas

Camperdown-Ultimo Collaboration Area activity nodes

Investigation areas for additional housing

The Inner West LSPS identifies the following investigation areas for additional housing that is separated into two phases the first from 2019 and the second from 2026 (see maps below).

The LSPS does not include the growth estimates for these investigation areas, rather these are available in the Draft Local Housing Strategy for each area identified, along with descriptions of the type and amount of growth envisioned. All growth estimates come with the preface that the additional growth is subject to refinement by further urban planning studies.

South Area Urban Design Study

IWC has commenced its initial investigations of the *South Area Urban Design Study* (Dulwich Hill and Marrickville investigation area). The below map shows the South Area and the neighbourhoods for the purpose of the local character statements. There are draft statements for Marrickville and Dulwich Hill.
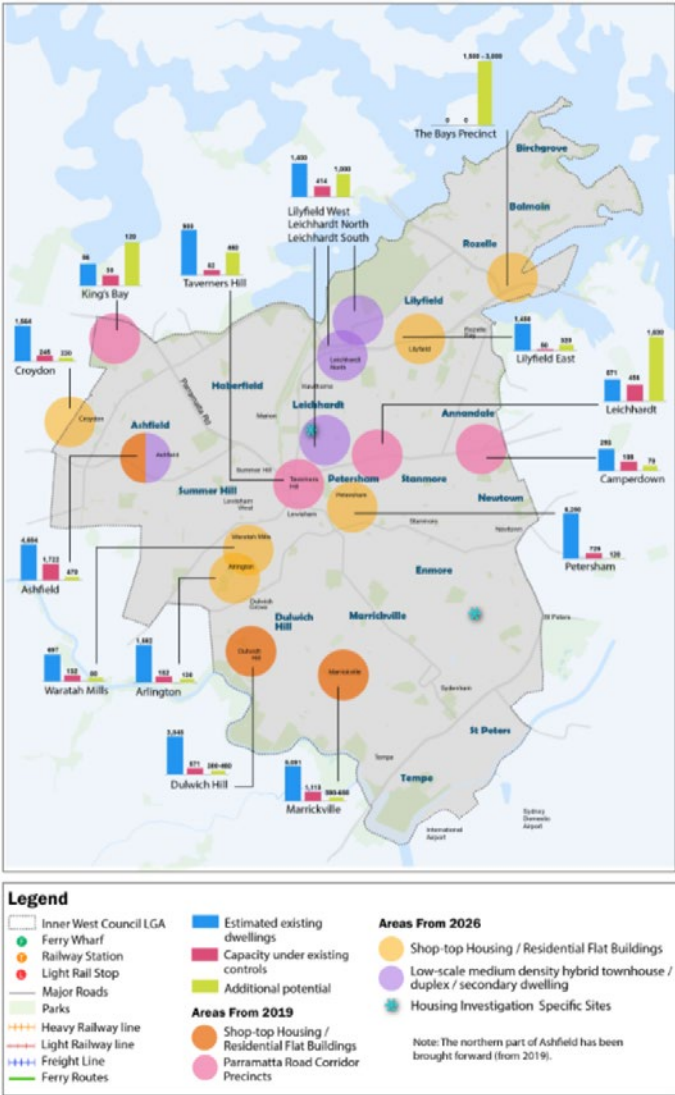
Investigation areas for additional housing
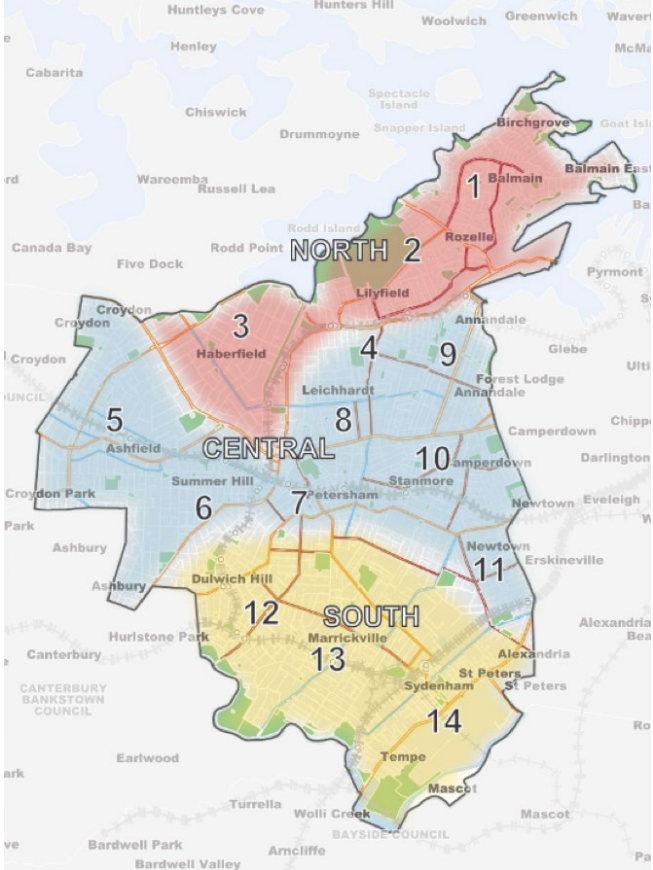
Local character statement areas

3.3. Previous engagement

An important indicator of community asset needs are the needs, priorities and opportunities expressed by the community who live, work and visit the Inner West LGA. Community engagement was not part of the brief for developing the CANS, however previous engagement completed by IWC has been reviewed and interviews have been completed with IWC staff to inform the CANS.

3.3.1. Expressed needs across previous engagement

This section provides a summary of existing and relevant community engagement including engagement to inform this needs strategy, including:

- *Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement – Engagement Outcomes Report* (LSPS)
- *Inner West Employment and Retail Lands Strategy Community Engagement Report*, HILLPDA Consulting for Inner West Council (ERLS)
- *Inner West Community Strategic Plan (CSP) Community Engagement Plan Report 2018*
- *Creative Spaces and Venues Discussion Paper – Stakeholder Focus Groups Engagement Outcomes Summary Report* (CSVDP)
- Community Satisfaction Survey (2018)
- *Town Hall Issues, Opportunities and Recommendations - Arts Industry Expert Interviews (2019)*
- interviews with IWC staff

Provide community assets that meet the needs of the growing and diverse Inner West population and places

Previous engagement indicated that the community and stakeholders are conscious that the Inner West population is growing and there is a need for more community assets to meet increased demand, especially in proximity to new development areas (LSPS, ERLS). Stakeholders were supportive of opportunities to deliver additional community assets through contributions planning to meet the needs of residents and workers (ERLS).

Community engagement participants identified a need for community assets that are flexible and consider the diverse needs of the Inner West population, which comprises a range of cultures and communities. There is an expressed need for community assets planning to consider diverse needs (including those of culturally diverse communities, older people, young people and teenagers, people with disability, workers etc) (LSPS).

As the Inner West population and places grow and change, the community and stakeholders would like to see local character and heritage protected and expressed a need for place-based planning, in particular within transformation areas (LSPS).

Ensure accessibility and inclusion of community assets to enable participation for all community members

The accessibility and safety of buildings and public spaces is a community priority including to enable participation by people of all abilities and ages (LSPS). This means that planning for community assets will need to consider the physical accessibility of buildings to enable inclusive participation.

Protect creative spaces as they are critical to Inner West's reputation as a leading creative and cultural hub

Stakeholders have expressed a strong need for IWC to develop a framework to better support innovation, culture and creative uses and to play a key role in protecting and preserving spaces for a diverse array of creative industries, manufacturers and cultural producers (ERLS, CSVDP). Increasing gentrification and rising costs were noted as major challenges to creative spaces and music venues (CSVDP).

Overall, there was support for protecting/retaining industrial lands, with some expressing concerns that key industrially-zoned spaces that cater to the creative industries will be eroded and replaced with mixed use developments. While mixed use developments may include creative spaces, some feel that these do not sufficiently replace industrial lands (LSPS, ERLS).

One submission to the LSPS noted that retaining industrial IN1 and IN2 zoning is "critical for if Inner West is to succeed in seeking to grow its reputation as a leading creative and cultural hub" (ERLS). Industrial areas in Marrickville (including Carrington Road) and Sydenham were identified as particularly important to creative uses (ERLS).

Another submission to the LSPS identified opportunity for government acquisition of strategic industrial lands to support creative industry/manufacturing clusters of metropolitan importance, where their key role cannot be assured by private interests (ERLS). However, another indicated need for a more flexible approach to industrial lands to allow for other uses (ERLS).

Inner West residents increasingly recognise the importance of community assets

Findings from a 2018 Community Satisfaction Survey indicate there were significant increases in Inner West residents' level of importance people gave to community centres and facilities between 2017 and 2018. However, findings from the same survey found that just 52% of residents agreed that they have enough opportunities to participate in arts and cultural activities.

Explore opportunities for community assets to support the night-time economy and live music

There is a strong community and stakeholder desire for IWC to support the local night-time economy and to ensure late-night areas are safe and accessible (CSVDP, LSPS), with opportunities for community assets to further support night-time and live music activities.

Enhance town halls and other community assets to further support creative activities

Through engagement completed by IWC around the future of town halls, stakeholders identified various ways in which existing Inner West town halls could be enhanced to be better suited to cultural activities.

In particular, stakeholders identified that town halls may have limited appeal due to their large size, unsuitable stages and front of house, age, presentation, lack of sound and AV equipment and lack of venue management.

Stakeholders identified opportunities for physical improvements that would support their appeal for creative uses including upgrading furniture, taps, carpets, curtains, tables and chairs etc, option of bar/front of house service/loading in from the street and seating banks to be installed by Council upon hire. Stakeholders also identified opportunities for variable sizes of halls to accommodate uses that require less space.

Stakeholders recommended that Council cost options for various management models to ensure the venue is fit for purpose, with options including a simple hire arrangement (eg Glebe Town Hall); a venue manager for town halls with user pay options (eg Angel Place in the CBD); or securing a lead tenant to run the facility and run hire out to the community (eg Eternity Playhouse in Darlinghurst).

Other suggested improvements include providing a more suitable booking system for multiple bookings for different time slots. Stakeholders also identified opportunity for offices in town halls to be used by complementary arts and cultural organisations.

Inner West Council, community engagement on a range of topics, Marrickville Festival 2017

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Part 4.0

Current and forecast community profile

4.1.   Current population

Community assets should reflect the Inner West community's needs and aspirations, which are in turn shaped by socio-demographic characteristics. This profile of population characteristics of the Inner West community is based on the most recent (2016) ABS Census of Population and Housing, with population characteristics sourced via Profile.id. The total population estimates and future projections were supplied by IWC.

4.1.1.   Total current population

Total residential population

At the time of the 2016 Census, the Usual Resident Population (URP) of the Inner West LGA was 192,022 people. From 2011 to 2016, the total population grew by approximately 7%. This was a lower growth rate compared to Greater Sydney (10%). In 2019, the population was estimated to be 200,811 (Estimated Resident Population/ERP).

Population density

The Inner West LGA is characterised by a very high population density of 52 persons per hectare (pp/ha) compared to Greater Sydney at 4pp/ha.

Population density varies across suburbs from a high of 90pp/ha in Enmore, to a low of 17pp/ha in Tempe.

Workers

The Employment and Retail Lands Study estimates there to be 77,510 workers within the LGA as of 2019 and this is expected to increase to 94,950 jobs by 2036. This represents a 17,420 or 22% employment growth over the period.

To accommodate this growth, the Employment and Retail Lands Study estimates that by 2036 IWC will need to provide approximately:

· 60,000m^2 of additional retail floor space
· 176,000m^2 of additional commercial floor space
· 218,000m^2 of industrial/large format business floor space

Photo sources: Inner West Council

If Inner West was 100 people...

1 person is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

36 is the median age

18 people are aged under 18 years

9 people are aged 18 to 24 years

12 people are aged over 65 years

34 people were born overseas

28 people speak a language other than English at home

Mandarin (4)
Greek (3)
Italian (3)
speak these languages

5* people are in need of daily assistance due to disability

19 people volunteer

8 people are studying at university

42 people have a university degree

3 people cycle to work

5 people walk to work

If Inner West was 100 households...

26 lone person households

9 group households

25 couple with children households

8 single parent households

27 households live in high density dwellings

6 same-sex households

24 couple without children households

16 households don't own a motor vehicle

41 households are renting

23 households owned outright

$2,042 Median weekly household income

13 low-income households earning less than $650 a week

35 high-income households earning more than $2,500 a week

* The 5% figure only represents people who need daily assistance. It is broadly acknowledged that up to 20% of populations experience some level of disability.

4.1.2.   Age in the Inner West

Service age structure trends

The median age in the Inner West LGA is 36, the same as in Greater Sydney.

Figure 8 shows the age profile of the Inner West LGA based on service age groups. Service age groups divide the population into categories that reflect typical life stages. This is important to understand the level of demand for services that target different age groups.

The most populous age groups in the Inner West LGA span 25-49 years of age and can be broken into two service age groups:

· 'Young workforce' aged 25-34 years (20% of the total population)
· 'Parents and homebuilders' aged 35-49 years (25%)

While overall the service age structure is similar to that of Greater Sydney, the LGA has a lower proportion of children and young people aged 17 years or younger as well as a slightly lower proportion of residents aged over 60 years.

Moreover, age profiles vary across the LGA, with higher proportions of working aged adults in the east and higher proportions of older people, children and young people in the west.

The suburbs with the lowest median age are: Newtown, Camperdown and Ashfield (North) (each 33 years), while the suburbs with the highest median age are: Balmain East (43), Haberfield (43) and Birchgrove (42).

Figure 8 - Service age structure 2016
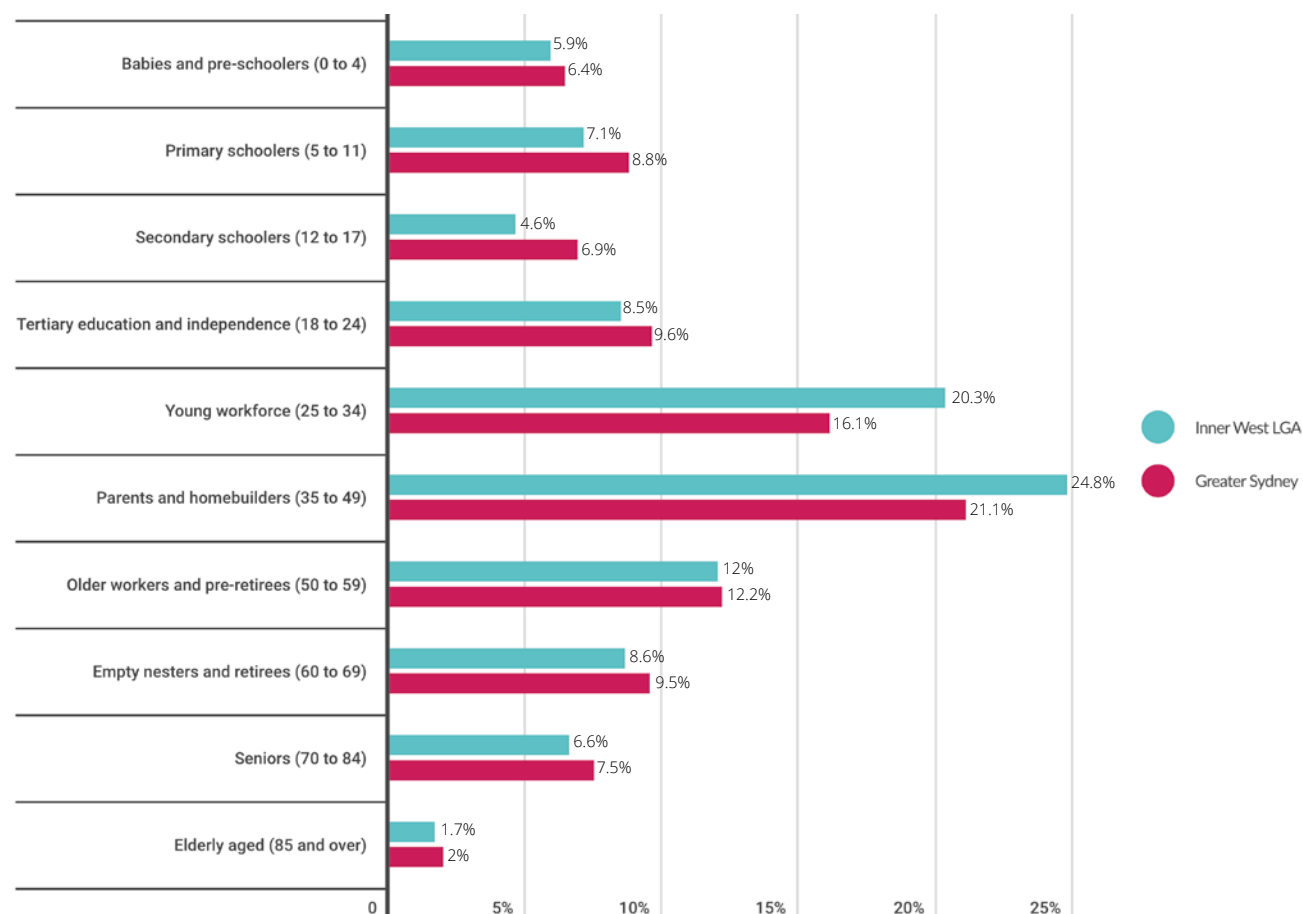
4.1.3.   Diversity in the Inner West

Cultural diversity

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

In 2016, there were 2,029 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people living within the Inner West LGA. This represents 1.1% of the Inner West community, a slightly lower proportion compared to Greater Sydney (1.5%).

Born overseas and recent arrivals

The Inner West LGA community is culturally diverse, with over a third (34%) of the population born overseas. This is a lower proportion compared to Greater Sydney (37%). Of residents born overseas, 21% arrived in Australia between 2011 and 2016, with higher proportions of new arrivals in Ashfield (32%), Camperdown and Newtown (29% each). Ashfield has a much higher proportion of overseas-born residents (54%) compared to the entire LGA, with higher proportions also in Croydon (41%), Marrickville (37%) and Summer Hill (35%).

Speaking a language other than English at home

More than one in four (28%) Inner West residents speak a language other than English at home, with the most common languages being Mandarin (3.6%), Greek (2.9%), Italian (2.8%), Vietnamese (2%) and Cantonese (1.9%). It is important to note that linguistic diversity trends are changing in Inner West, with increasing numbers of Mandarin, Nepali, Thai and Vietnamese speakers and decreasing numbers of Italian and Greek speakers.

While overall the LGA has a lower proportion of people speaking a language other than English at home compared to Greater Sydney (36%), some suburbs have higher proportions including Ashfield (55%), Croydon (44%) and Marrickville (37%). Figure 9 highlights these differences across suburbs and shows there is a higher proportion of non-English speakers in the west of the LGA.

Same-sex couples living together

In 2016, there were almost 47,000 same-sex couples living together in Australia, accounting for 1% of all couple households. Inner West has a much higher proportion at 6% of all households. Suburbs with the highest proportion of same-sex couple households include Newtown (14%), St Peters - Sydenham (14%), Camperdown (11%) and Enmore (10%).

Note: Information on people's sexual orientation was not collected in the 2016 Census, however, the Census captures information on same-sex couples based on responses to relationship and sex questions.

Reported need for assistance

In 2016, 4.5% of the LGA's population reported a need for assistance with day-to-day activities due to disability (8,168 people), a slightly lower proportion compared to 4.9% in Greater Sydney. The suburbs with the highest proportions of people reporting a need for assistance were Haberfield (6.8%), Marrickville (6.5%) and Ashfield (5.8%).

Note: The Census Data above relies on people evaluating themselves (or being evaluated by their carers), as being in need of assistance and cannot be relied upon to provide details as to the total number of people with disability. Furthermore, the 4.5% figure only represents people who need daily assistance – the highest level of daily needs – but it is broadly acknowledged that up to 20% of populations experience some level of disability.

It is also acknowledged that accessibility issues impact a far broader population cohort than people with disability statistics alone indicate, including family and those in caring roles.

Index of relative socio-economic disadvantage

Overall, the Inner West LGA has a higher SEIFA index score than Greater Sydney (1053 compared to 1018), indicating relatively low levels of disadvantage.

Ashfield (South) has the lowest SEIFA index score (997.1) indicating relatively high levels of disadvantage, followed by Marrickville (1006.5), Tempe (1007.5) and Ashfield North (1012.6).

Figure 9 - Inner West cultural profile 2016 (source: A Healthier Inner West - Recreation Needs Study)
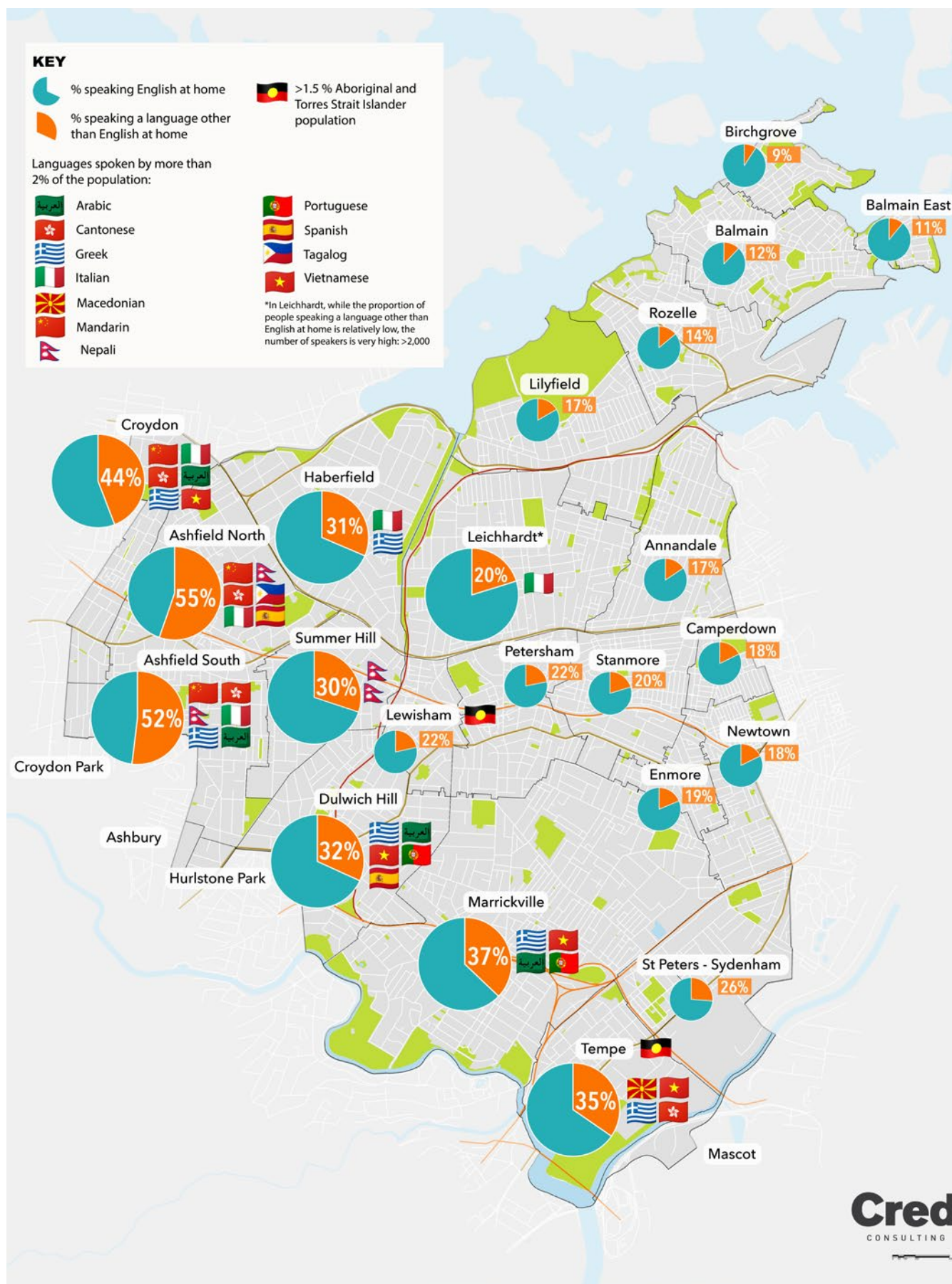
4.1.4.   Households in the Inner West

Average household size

The Inner West LGA is characterised by a slightly smaller average household size (2.4 persons per household) compared to Greater Sydney (2.7). Household sizes vary across the LGA, with the largest average household sizes in Haberfield (2.8) and Tempe (2.7) and the smallest in Newtown and Camperdown (both 2.1)

Household composition

As shown in Figure 10, the LGA is characterised by a higher proportion of group households and lone person households and a lower proportion of family households.

Group households

In 2016, the LGA had almost double the proportion of group households (8.6%) compared to Greater Sydney (4.5%). Newtown, Enmore and Camperdown (each 15%) have the highest proportion of group households in the LGA.

Lone person households

The LGA has a much higher proportion of lone person households (26%) than Greater Sydney (20%), with the highest proportions in Balmain and Summer Hill (both 29%).

Family households

The Inner West LGA has a much lower proportion of couples with children (25%) than Greater Sydney (35%). Haberfield (41%) and Croydon (36%) have the highest proportion of couples with children.

Single-parent families make up 8% of families living in the LGA; a lower proportion than Greater Sydney (10%). Haberfield, Croydon and Tempe (each 11%) have the highest proportions of single-parent families.

Couples without children

The LGA has a higher proportion of couples without children households (24%) compared to Greater Sydney (22%).

Figure 10 - Inner West household composition 2016
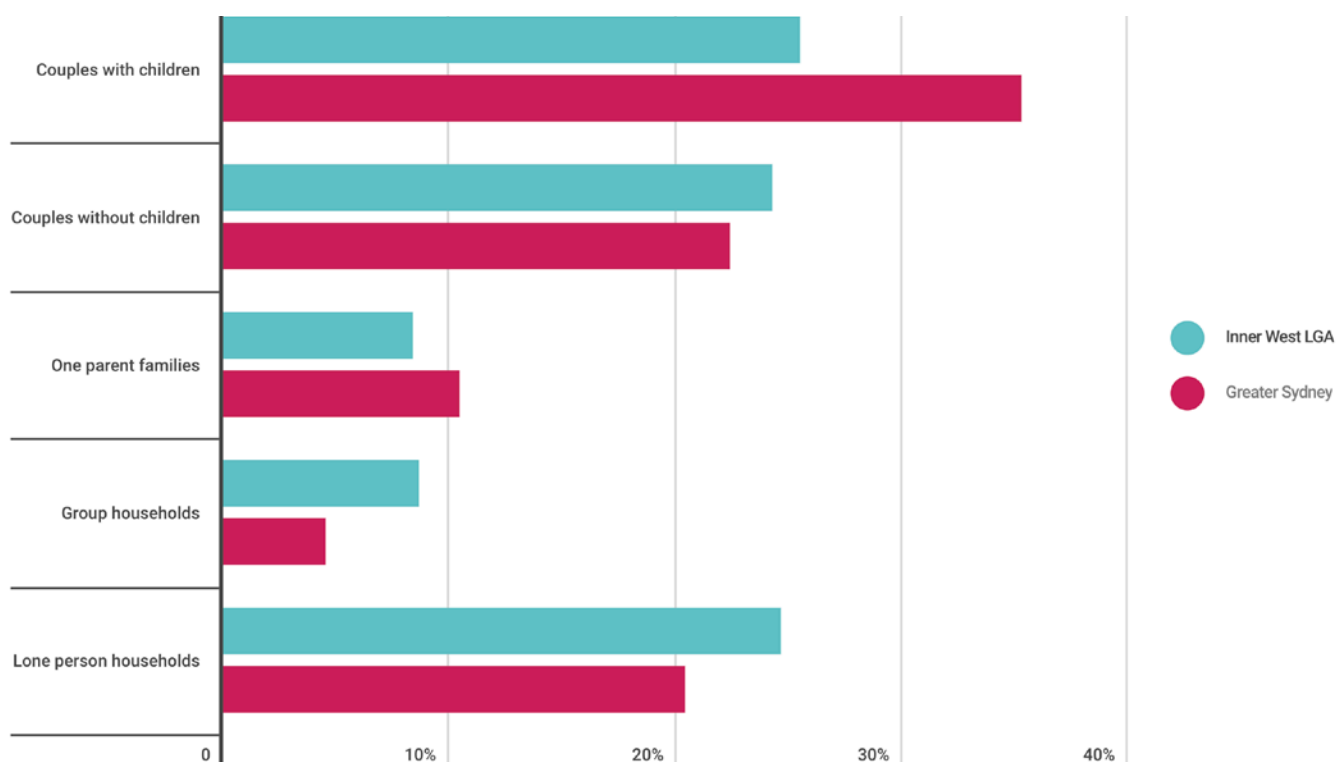
Housing density

As shown in Figure 11, the vast majority of the Inner West LGA's residents live in high density (27%) or medium density (47%) dwellings (total 77%), much higher than in Greater Sydney (44%).

The suburbs with the highest proportions of high density dwellings were Ashfield North (59%), Camperdown (37%), Balmain East (37%), Dulwich Hill (35%) and Marrickville (31%).

Housing tenure

As shown in Figure 12, compared to Greater Sydney, the Inner West LGA is characterised by a much higher proportion of households renting privately, a lower rate of home ownership and a slightly lower proportion of households renting social housing.

Renting

The Inner West LGA has a significantly higher proportion of households renting privately (37%) than Greater Sydney (28%), with the highest proportions in Ashfield North (49%), Camperdown (47%), Newtown (47%) and Summer Hill (46%). Those renting social housing make up 3.5% of households, a slightly lower proportion than Greater Sydney (4.6%), with the highest proportions in Lilyfield (11%) and Balmain East (6.3%).

Home ownership

Overall, the Inner West LGA has a lower rate of home ownership (23%) than Greater Sydney (28%), with the highest proportions in Haberfield (49%), Birchgrove (35%), Croydon (32%) and Balmain East (31%).

Internet connection at home

At 19%, the proportion of Inner West households that do not have an Internet connection at home is the same as Greater Sydney. Suburbs with the lowest Internet connection rates were Ashfield South (23%), followed by Marrickville (21.6), Enmore (21.4%) and Haberfield (21.2%).

Vehicle ownership

The Inner West LGA has a higher proportion of households without a car (16%) compared to Greater Sydney (11%). Suburbs with the highest proportion of households without a car are Newtown (26%), followed by Ashfield, Enmore and Camperdown (each 21%).

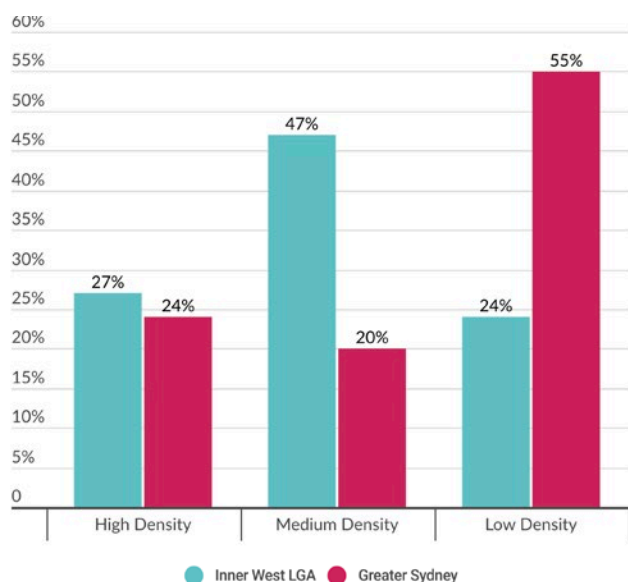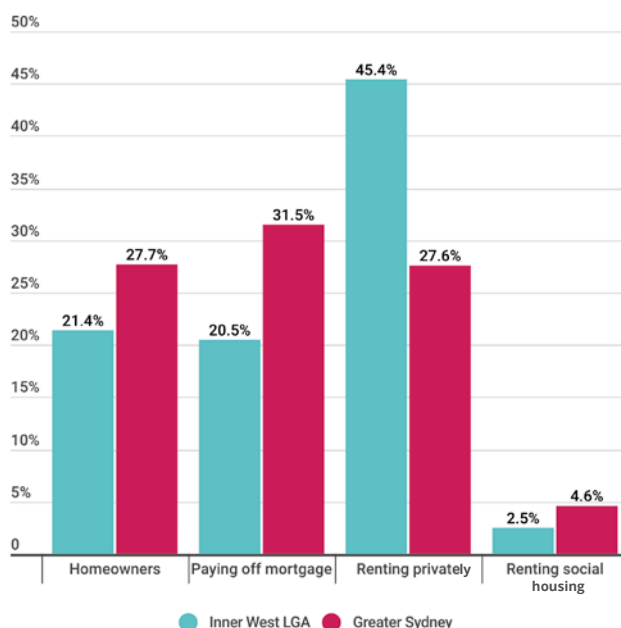**Figure 11 - Inner West housing density 2016**

Figure 12 - Inner West housing tenure 2016

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4.1.5. Employment, education and income in the Inner West

Education institution attendance

In 2016, 9.4% of people living in the Inner West LGA were students attending university or TAFE, a slightly higher proportion than Greater Sydney (8%).

Camperdown (15.8%), Ashfield North (13%) and Ashfield South (12.4%) have the highest proportions of people attending university or TAFE, compared to the Inner West LGA and Greater Sydney.

Labour force participation

There is higher labour force participation within the Inner West LGA, with 68% of the population aged 15 years and over either employed or actively looking for work, compared to 62% in Greater Sydney.

Unemployment rate

In 2016, at the time of the Census, 4.8% of the Inner West LGA population aged over 15 years was unemployed and looking for work, a lower proportion compared to Greater Sydney (6%).

Across all areas of Ashfield, there is a significantly higher rate of unemployment (7.3%) compared to the Inner West LGA and Greater Sydney. Ashfield South has the highest rate of unemployment (7.7%) followed by Ashfield North (6.9%).

Main industries of employment for residents

There are 62,402 people who work in the LGA (38,118 full time equivalent jobs), with 31.3% of local workers also living in the area. Key employment destinations include parts of Marrickville/Sydenham (north-west of the train line) and Ashfield town centre.

The main industries in which residents of the Inner West LGA were employed in 2016 were:

·   health care and social assistance (13.2%)
·   retail trade (11.3%)
·   education and training (8.7%)
·   accommodation and food services (8.6%)

Household income

In 2016, households in the LGA had a median weekly income of $2,042. This is $297 higher compared to Greater Sydney ($1,745). Within the LGA, median household incomes range from a low of $1,585 in Ashfield South to a high of $3,267 in Birchgrove.

In 2016, 13% of the LGA's total households were low income households (receiving less than $650 dollars per week (before tax), a lower proportion compared to 15% in Greater Sydney.

The four suburbs with the highest proportion of low income households were:

·   Ashfield South (17%)
·   Lilyfield (16.5%)
·   Ashfield (total) (15.9%)
·   Croydon (15.8%).

4.2.   Profile: Inner West's creative workers

4.2.1.   Local workers

As detailed in the Employment and Retail Lands Study, in 2016, there were around 99,573 people living in the LGA who were employed. The population within the working years age bracket – those aged 15 to 64 years – is above average, with 72.5% of the population in this age category compared to 67.4% in Greater Sydney. Overall, the LGA has a relatively young workforce and workforce participation in the LGA was highest for those aged 25 to 34 years (23.2%), with that age bracket having grown the fastest, in terms of number of people, between 2011 and 2016 (2,197 persons).

In June 2018, the Gross Regional Product (GRP) for the Inner West LGA was $10.41 billion, representing a 23% increase from that generated in June 2008 ($8.48 billion).

The largest employing industry is health care and social assistance (14.3%), following by retail trade (11%) and construction (10.4%). In 2017-18, the largest industries, by industry value added, were professional, scientific and technical services ($771.4 million), health care and social assistance ($759.8 million) and manufacturing ($651.9 million). The LGA has a high and growing number of small businesses. Changes in business numbers suggest a repositioning of the LGA in favour of professional types of businesses and services.

4.2.2.   Creative and cultural industries in Inner West

Inner West is seeking to grow its reputation as a leading creative and cultural hub, encourage the establishment of new creative industries enterprises in the area and support local job creation by protecting industrial and employment lands. Creative and performing arts make up 8.8% of the Inner West workforce compared with 6% in Greater Sydney (Our Inner West 2036)[1].

In 2016-17, the Inner West LGA supported 4.3% of all cultural and creative industries jobs in Greater Sydney and generated 3.7% of creative output (see Figure 14). If creative and cultural industries was a sector, it would be the fifth largest employing sector in Inner West. According to the Employment Lands study, in the five years to 2016, cultural and creative industries grew by 2.9% per annum compared to 1.7% for all other industries. Key industries in which local creative and cultural employment is focused include creative artists, musicians and writers, printing, architecture, design, arts education and the film industry. There are more than 4,830 cultural and creative industry businesses in Inner West.

Figure 13 - Employment industries in the Inner West LGA, 2016 (source: profile.id)
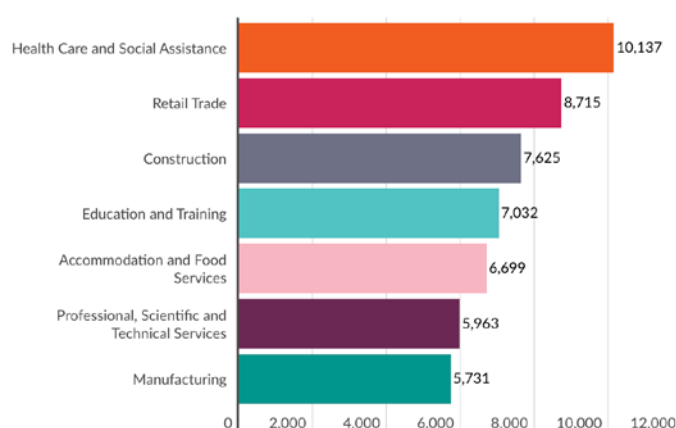
Figure 14 - Creative and cultural industries in the Inner West LGA (source: Inner West Council and profile.id)

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4.3.   Future population

4.3.1.   Forecast population growth (2036)

Understanding how the community will change and grow into the future will drive planning for future community asset needs. Population forecasts have been sourced from Inner West Council.

The Inner West LGA is forecast to grow to a community of 226,837 by 2036. This is an estimated additional 34,815 people, or about 18% growth. This a much lower forecast growth rate than Greater Sydney over the same period (+30%).

As shown in Figure 15, Figure 16 and Table 2, population growth in the Inner West LGA will vary across suburbs, with the highest forecast growth in:

· Marrickville North (+5,472 people, 32%)
· Leichhardt (+5,049 people, 33%)
· Ashfield South (+3,742, 32%)
· Dulwich Hill (+3,225 people, 23%)

The lowest forecast growth is in:

· Balmain East (+4, +0%)
· Camperdown (+131 people, 4%)
· Enmore (+156 people, 4%)

Figure 15 - Inner West forecast population growth 2016 to 2036

This information is provided by Inner West Council.
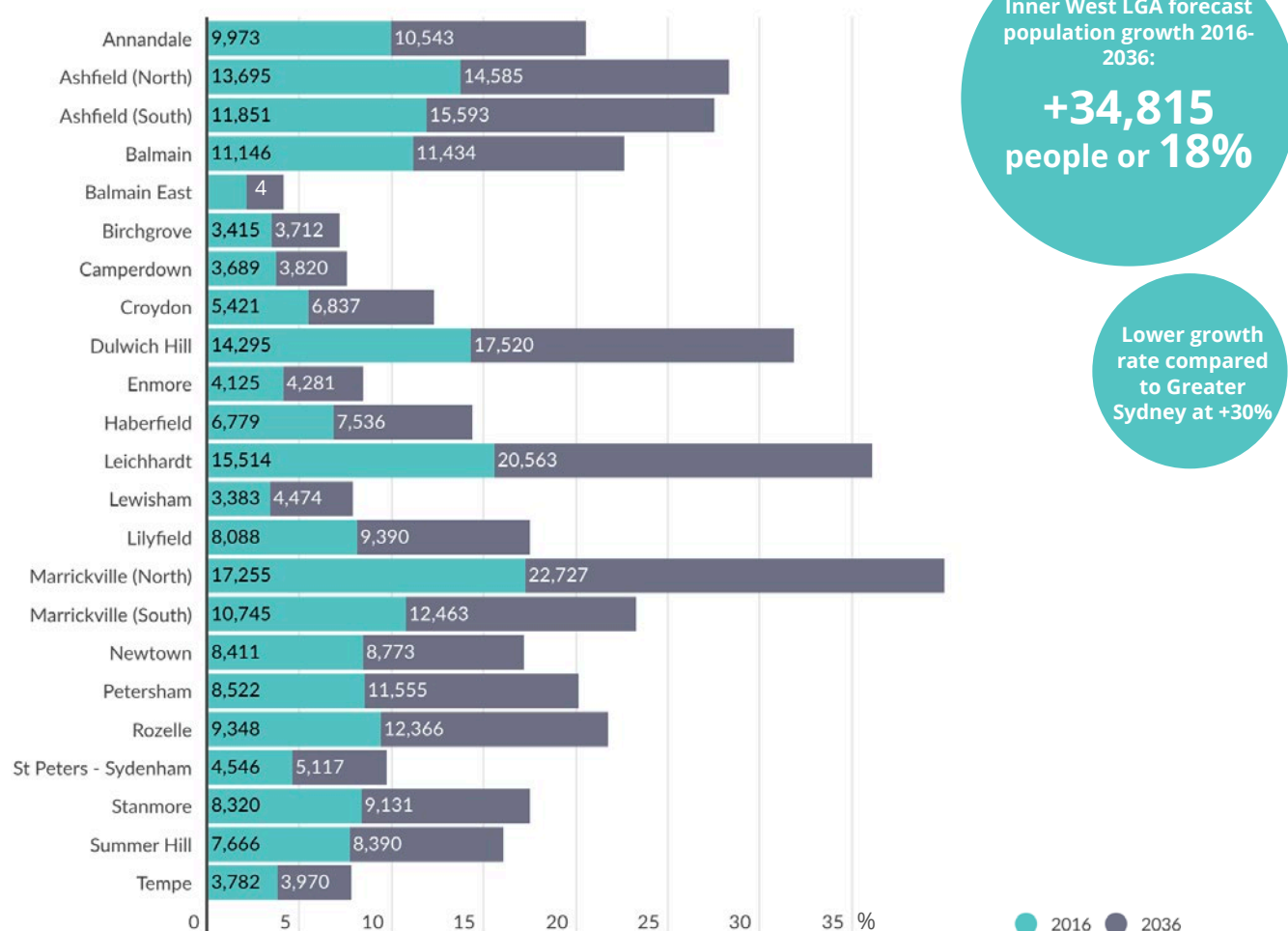
Figure 16 - Inner West forecast population growth heat map 2016 to 2036

Legend:
- >50%
- 45-50%
- 40-45%
- 35-40%
- 30 - 35 %
- 25-30%
- 20-25%
- 15-20%
- 10-15%
- 5-10%
- 0-5%

Birchgrove +297 +9%
Balmain East +4 +0%
Balmain +288 +3%
Rozelle +3,018 +32%
Lilyfield +1,302 +16%
Croydon +1,416 +26%
Haberfield +757 +11%
Leichhardt +5,049 +33%
Annandale +570 +6%
Ashfield North +890 +7%
Camperdown +131 +4%
Ashfield South +3,742 +32%
Summer Hill +724 +9%
Lewisham +1,091 +32%
Petersham +3,033 +36%
Stanmore +811 +10%
Croydon Park
Enmore +362 +4%
Newtown +362 +4%
Ashbury
Hurlstone Park
Dulwich Hill +3,225 +23%
Marrickville North +5,472 +32%
Marrickville South +1,718 +16%
St Peters - Sydenham +571 +13%
Tempe +3,225 +23%
Mascot

City of Canada Bay
Burwood Council
City of Sydney
City of Canterbury-Bankstown
Bayside

Table 2 - Inner West LGA forecast population growth 2016-2036 (source: Inner West Council)

SUBURB	2016	2026	2036	Change 2016-36	
				#	%
Annandale	9,973	10,212	10,543	+570	+6%
Ashfield North	13,695	14,051	14,585	+890	+7%
Ashfield South	11,851	13,875	15,593	+3,742	+32%
Balmain	11,146	11,157	11,434	+288	+3%
Balmain East	2,053	2,052	2,057	+4	0%
Birchgrove	3,415	3,400	3,712	+297	+9%
Camperdown	3,689	3,781	3,820	+131	+4%
Croydon	5,421	5,831	6,837	+1,416	+26%
Dulwich Hill	14,295	16,294	17,520	+3,225	+23%
Enmore	4,125	4,249	4,281	+156	+4%
Haberfield	6,779	7,140	7,536	+757	+11%
Leichhardt	15,514	16,775	20,563	+5,049	+33%
Lewisham	3,383	4,173	4,474	+1,091	+32%
Lilyfield	8,088	8,596	9,390	+1,302	+16%
Marrickville North	17,255	21,356	22,727	+5,472	+32%
Marrickville South	10,745	11,823	12,463	+1,718	+16%
Newtown	8,411	8,757	8,773	+362	+4%
Petersham	8,522	10,790	11,555	+3,033	+36%
Rozelle	9,348	9,659	12,366	+3,018	+32%
St Peters - Sydenham	4,546	5,042	5,117	+571	+13%
Stanmore	8,320	8,831	9,131	+811	+10%
Summer Hill	7,666	8,357	8,390	+724	+9%
Tempe	3,782	3,947	3,970	+188	+5%
Inner West LGA TOTAL	192,022	210,148	226,837	+ 34,815	+18%
Greater Sydney	4,688,255	5,746,821	6,661,720	+1,973,465	+30%

4.4.   Forecast growth in neighbouring areas

In addition, forecast population growth in neighbouring council areas will mean more people from outside the area accessing community assets in the Inner West LGA.

As shown in Figure 17:

· the Inner West LGA has the lowest rate of population growth compared to neighbouring councils and a slower rate of growth compared to Greater Sydney
· City of Sydney has the highest rate of forecast population growth to 2036
· remaining surrounding council areas have population growth rates between 23-31% to 2036

Table 3 - Inner West and neighbouring LGAs population forecast (Source: Inner West Council and Forecast.id)

SUBURB	2016	2036	#	%
Inner West	192,022	226,837	+ 34,815	18%
City of Canterbury-Bankstown	361,554	463,311	+101,757	28%
City of Sydney	224,211	339,498	+115,287	51%
Canada Bay	92,382	119,858	+27,476	30%
Bayside Council	162,358	212,836	+50,478	31%
Burwood Council*	38,495	47,244	+8,749	23%
Greater Sydney	4,688,255	6,661,720	+1,973,465	30%

*Note: Forecast.Id was not available for the Burwood Council area, however data was sourced from the Burwood - Canada Bay - Strathfield Inner West Council profile.

Figure 17 - Forecast growth in neighbouring LGAs (source: Inner West Council)
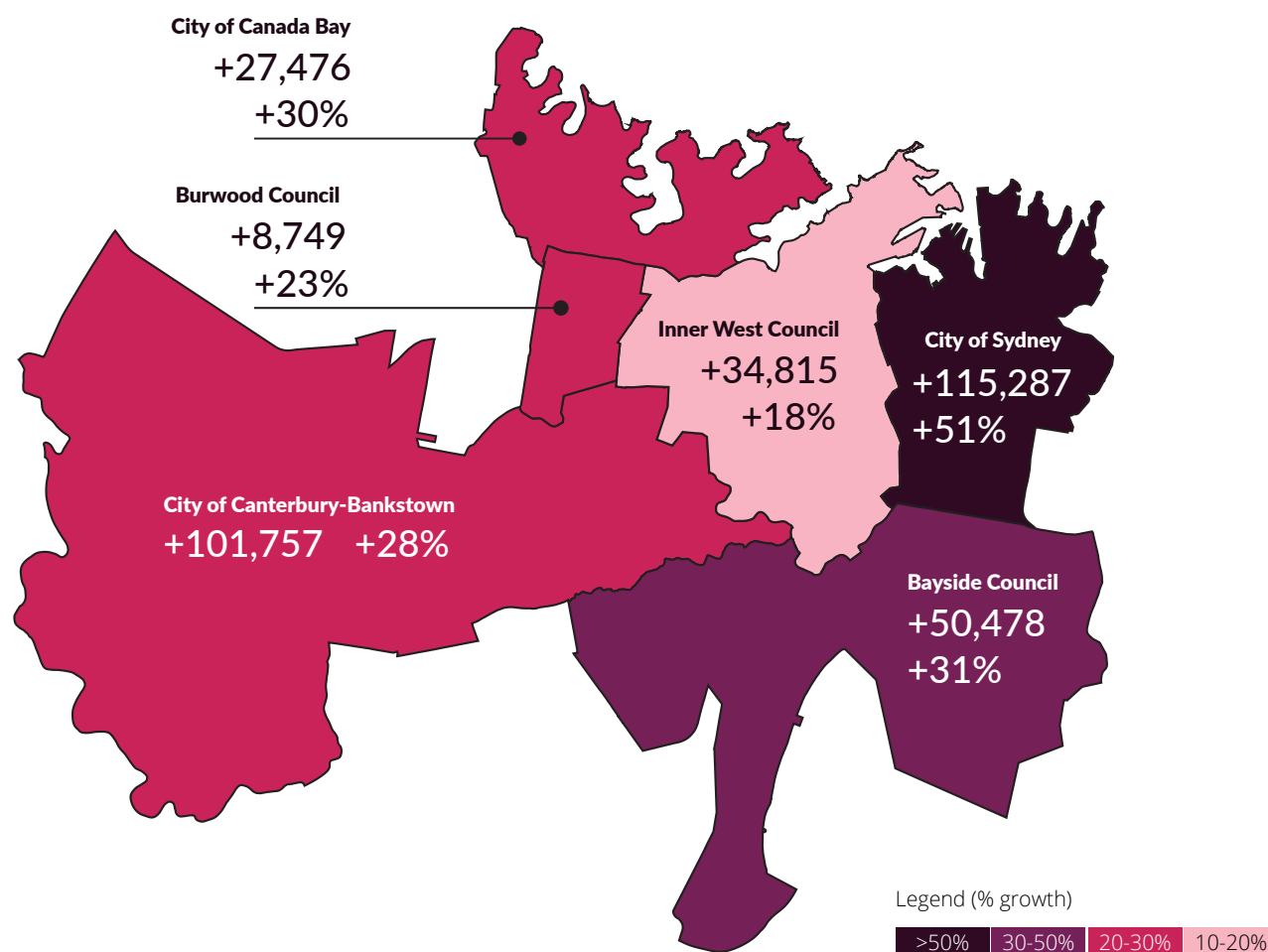
4.5.   What does our community profile mean for future community asset needs?

The current and forecast demographic characteristics of the Inner West community indicate a range of demands for community assets based on population growth and density and specific target group needs.

Demographic characteristic/trend	What does this indicate?
An additional 35,000+ people living in higher density	The forecast population growth will create pressure on the existing pool of community assets with higher demand for access to services and programs, and reducing the ability of existing community assets to service this increased demand. This significant population increase will trigger a need to increase the capacity of what exists to "make it work harder" alongside a need to deliver new community assets in areas with high population growth. This new community will also need to access programs, events and workshops held in community assets to connect with their new neighbours and create social capital and more resilient neighbourhoods. The future and increased population will most likely be living in high density dwellings and will require both communal and public community assets to participate in community life outside of their apartments. People living in higher density areas often need access to spaces outside the home to participate in cultural activities that may require more space than is available in an apartment. Ensuring there is adequate and fit-for-purpose cultural infrastructure in proximity to higher density areas will support participation. Other needed spaces include spaces for children's birthday parties, family events, spaces for students to study and spaces for larger groups to meet, celebrate, perform, practice, create, learn, recreate and relax. This can also include communal spaces within developments such as music practice rooms and social and study spaces.
People with disability	The Inner West LGA has a similar proportion of people in need of daily assistance due to disability (4.5%*) compared to Greater Sydney (4.9%). However, in some suburbs across the LGA, including Ashfield South (7.4%), Haberfield (7%) and Marrickville (6.4%), there are higher proportions of people in need of assistance due to disability. *As explained earlier in this section, the 4.5% figure only represents people who need daily assistance – the highest level of daily needs – and it is broadly acknowledged that up to 20% of populations experience some level of disability. This is likely to be a significant portion of the Inner West community. It is also acknowledged that accessibility issues are a concern for a far broader population cohort than people with disability statistics alone indicate, such as families and those in caring roles. Therefore, there is a need to ensure that community assets are universally accessible throughout IWC's facilities, including: • accessible parking and 'drop-off zones' – provide designated parking spaces for people with disability and maintain a continuous path of travel from the parking space to the facility • fit outs – lift access, change facilities and hearing loops should incorporated in assets • Accessible toilets – avoid locking accessible bathrooms while the facility is in use by members of the public and ensure accessible bathrooms can be reached via a continuous path of travel (Australian Human Rights Commission 2016) Additionally, it is important that access to facilities, services and programs in Inner West are welcoming and inclusive to all, as access enables inclusion. IWC can support higher levels of access and inclusion through further understanding the diversity of disability within the Inner West community and reflecting this diversity through a range of spaces, programs and services, as well as through advocacy and promotion.

Demographic characteristic/trend	What does this indicate?
First Nations peoples	Although the Indigenous population of Inner West (1.1%) makes up a slightly lower proportion compared to Greater Sydney (1.5%), suburbs such as Tempe (2.3%) and Lewisham (1.9%) have higher proportions of Indigenous residents. As such, it is important for programs and services to reflect the multicultural heritage of the local area, in particular the local Indigenous culture. There is much to learn from First Nations peoples and cultures and increased visibility in future community assets is a priority. Community assets could reflect our First Nations culture by including interpretive signage, naming and public art and spaces that are appropriate for gathering, storytelling and cultural activities.
An increasing ageing population	Inner West has an increasing ageing population. Planning for community assets to support the needs of older people within Inner West should include universal design, clear wayfinding and signage, places to participate in social groups and to keep fit, healthy and engaged (eg community gardens, makerspaces) and places to learn new skills and to access new technologies. Inclusive and accessible design of facilities is important for seniors, including providing accessible facilities located near public transport and accessible parking spaces.
Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) residents	In Inner West, cultural diversity is largely centralised within the suburbs of Ashfield, Croydon and Marrickville South, all of which have significantly higher proportions of residents born overseas compared to Greater Sydney and the Inner West LGA. Considerations for community assets include: • providing free or low cost meeting places for programs such as English conversation classes and computer skills • more opportunities for cross-cultural sharing and experiences • larger venues for hire for large performances and community gatherings • multilingual staff at facilities • opportunities to deliver a centralised community services model that can help people access services in terms of proximity, affordability and language • spaces to participate in cultural programs including Tai Chi, dance, Mahjong and performance • activated spaces at night, due to a higher demand for night-time activities
More families and primary school aged children	Families with children make up 33% of the Inner West population and there are increasing numbers of children aged 5 to 11 years needing access to programs and services. .With Inner West being a particularly high-density area, it is important for community assets to anticipate the increase in demand for accessible spaces for families and children, including: • facilities that can host family celebrations • programs for babies and young children and spaces for these programs in community facilities and libraries • community facilities that have access to play and learning opportunities • accessible facilities located near public transport or accessible parking spaces • dedicated parents' rooms or change facilities that are in unisex toilets, rather than female bathrooms only
A high proportion of working aged people	The significant proportion of residents in the workforce indicates a demand for increased hours in which they can access community assets, services and programs outside of work hours, particularly in the evenings and on weekends. Considerations for social and cultural infrastructure include: • extended opening hours that accommodate people who work and facilitate night-time activities • access to public spaces and parks • online and centralised booking systems • affordability of both room hire and program attendance

Demographic characteristic/trend	What does this indicate?
Creative and cultural workers	The creative and cultural industries are an important economic and cultural factor in Inner West. In 2016-17, Inner West supported 4.3% of all cultural and creative industries jobs in Greater Sydney and generated 3.7% of all creative output (economy.id 2016). In 2017, there were an estimated 861 creative artists, musicians, writers and performers working in Inner West. Retaining these jobs within the local community will be reliant upon the continued provision of creative and cultural spaces to facilitate employment and opportunities to gain experience and develop skills in the creative and cultural industries.
Youth and young adults	In Inner West, residents aged 12 to 24 years make up 13% of the population. While there is a spectrum of interests across this age group, there are similar community asset needs to be considered for future planning, including: · spaces accessible outside of school and work hours, to assist with transition after leaving school, and widening access to facilities, spaces and equipment · affordable (or free) programs, services and facilities · access to community assets in close proximity to transport and shops · integrated technology, such as charging stations and power outlets and free WiFi areas, located near transport and shops · provision of study skills programs and places to study (eg libraries and outdoor spaces with extended hours) With an increasing proportion of young people living in high density, there will be a demand for more quiet and group study spaces within libraries and community facilities (that are powered and have access to good Internet). This could also indicate a demand for free public WiFi in town centres and public spaces. It is also important for young people living in high density to have places and opportunities outside of home where they can develop their cultural and creative skills.
Low income and disadvantage households	Overall, the Inner West LGA has a higher SEIFA index score than Greater Sydney (1053 compared to 1018), indicating relatively low levels of disadvantage. However, some areas such as Ashfield South (997.1), Marrickville (1006.5), Tempe (1007.5) and Ashfield North (1012.6). have lower SEIFA index scores indicating relatively high levels of disadvantage. Residents living in these areas will need walkable access to community assets that can deliver affordable and low cost services and programs for a range of age groups and that can support lifelong learning, employment and educational outcomes through social enterprise spaces and social connection and wellbeing.
A high proportion of residents identifying as LGBTQI+	Inner West is a highly diverse community and is home to the highest proportion of male same-sex couples in NSW and a similarly high proportion of female same-sex couples, based on data from the 2016 Census. It is important that access to facilities, services and programs in Inner West is equitable and inclusive of all. IWC can support this by role modeling acceptance and inclusion through direct service delivery, coordination of services and advocacy and promotion. Targeted support for LGBTQI+ young people, such as peer support, activism/advocacy opportunities and mentorship and public recognition and acceptance of LGBTQI+ young people through Council events, local media, celebration of LGBTQI+ people are important to consider when planning and delivering social and cultural infrastructure.

💡 Social enterprise spaces for disadvantaged communities

Nana Community Cafe, London

The Nana Cafe, winner of the NESTA Ageing Well Challenge, is a comfort food cafe in Clapton, London. The cafe recruits women aged mainly over 60 who are at risk of being socially isolated. An article published in the Guardian in 2014, titled 'Nana cafe embraces the talents of grandmothers' reports that: '*Each Nana works a set shift each week and after three months each will take a small share in the profits. Among the teapots and cake stands, soups and stews, plans are also afoot to host craft classes in knitting, crocheting, embroidery and sewing. To make the social enterprise financially sustainable, Nana transforms at night into a bar called the Convenience serving craft beers and wines. For 62-year-old Lyn Cornwall volunteering at the cafe is about reconnecting with people of all ages. "A mother's work is never done, and when my children flew the nest I missed my caring role. The cafe is challenging as well as being socially rewarding. It's not about money, it's about benefiting everyone."*

Photo Source: Daniel Hambury, Standard.co.uk

💡 High density development with community assets and social and health outcomes

Kampung Admiralty, Singapore

Located in the north of Singapore, Kampung Admiralty is a public housing development targeted at senior residents that integrates, healthcare, public facilities, community space and commercial amenities in a vertical format. There are four distinct components of the project: the lower levels contain the People's Plaza, a 'community living room' with shops, eateries, and access to a tropical garden; the medical centre is located on the middle floors; and the topmost layer contains studio apartments and green spaces.

Two features of the project that were highlighted by the World Architecture Festival judges included:

- "The close proximity to healthcare, social, commercial and other amenities support inter-generational bonding and promote active ageing in place."
- "Buddy benches", designed to encourage residents to sit together and socialise, are strategically placed at entrance points.

Photo Source: ArchDaily

💡 Temporary spaces to support growth

Green Square Community Kiosk, Sydney

Many residents moved into Green Square prior to the delivery of social infrastructure. The Community Kiosk provided a temporary and compact community space for delivery of community activities and storage of basic equipment (e.g. portable chairs).

The Kiosk was located in a park and provided a small multipurpose community space including a kitchen, storage space and awning to support community and Council community development programs. The facility had outdoor seating and tables and was used for community meetings, the Infohub, English language classes and other community activities. The facility was compact and low cost.

💡 Spaces for new residents to connect

Marrickville Makerspace DIY Dinner Series, Sydney

The maker movement has risen from a fringe hobby available to specific groups (eg men's sheds) to a prominent lifestyle with important implications for economic development in both city and regional locations. In the past, tools have been available only to those who own them. However in the age of the subscription/membership/share economy – especially in high-density city living – the maker movement is filing a gap in the growing demand for access to tools, physical space and training. At Marrickville Makerspace in Sydney, people pay a membership fee to be part of a community and to access space and equipment that they can use to learn, design and make.

This year, the major community building event is based on the idea of a 'DIY dinner' where everything used for the dinner is made by members. Students can choose which aspect of the 'feast' to make, including screen-printed bench seats, table runners and napkins, metal knives, wooden tables and ceramic plates and cups.
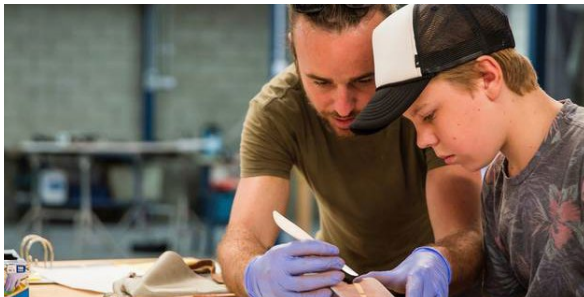
Photo Source: Time Out

💡 Spaces to improve access to digital and creative technology

Whitlam Library, Cabramatta, Sydney

Whitlam Library is an example of how the boundaries of the traditional library can be pushed to deliver services that actively respond to community needs. Within the footprint of a 3,000m^2 library, recent renovations and creative reuse of spaces has seen the inclusion of "the workery", "Studio 2166" and a VR technology space. These additions provide space for the community to make best use of the library's resources to develop business ideas, get creative in the studio to produce music and video, as well as learn and trial the latest in technology. Access to these resources is important, particularly in areas of socio-economic disadvantage where residents may not be able to access their own VR technology, recording equipment or be able to rent office space. The library has also extended its opening hours to midnight, allowing students who may not have a dedicated quiet study space in their own home to stay at the library into the evening.

💡 New cultural spaces as part of development

Bathurst Street Creative Hub, Sydney

Located in what is set to be Sydney's tallest residential tower on Bathurst St in Sydney's CBD, the City of Sydney is building a new creative hub. Spanning over 2,000m^2 over 5 storeys, the facilities will include:

· soundproof rooms for music rehearsals
· studios with sprung timber floors for dancers and actors
· media and editing suites for filmmakers and new media artists
· wet-dry studios for artists

The City has a 99-year lease on the creative hub through a voluntary planning agreement.

Photo Source: City of Sydney

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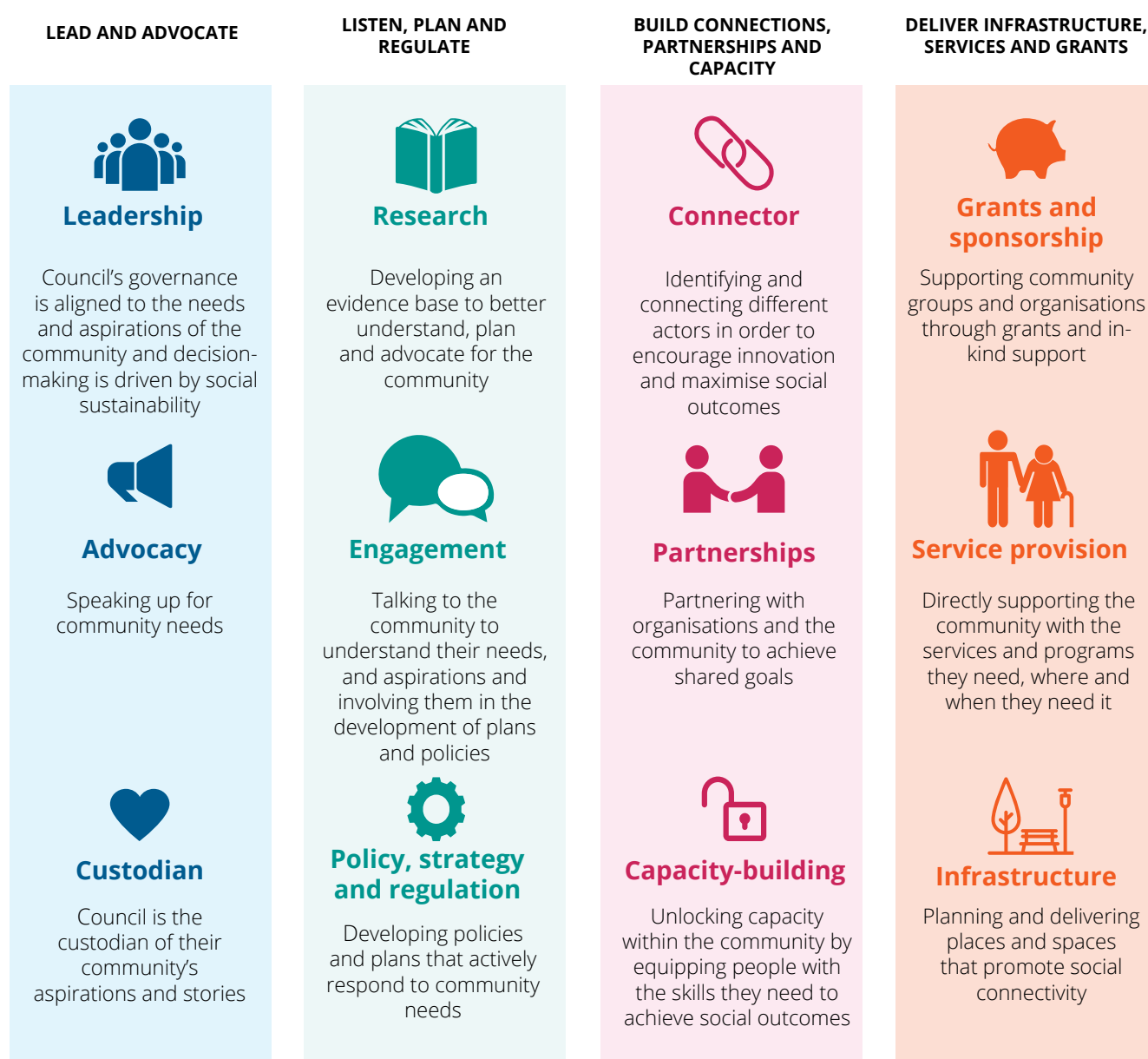## Part 5.0

Planning framework

5.1. IWC's role

5.1.1. Planning and provision of the community asset network

IWC has the ability to play a number of roles in the planning and provision of the library and community asset network, as shown in Figure 18.

In addition to providing physical space, IWC can directly influence the provision of public benefits through local policy, planning and regulatory frameworks. These influence business innovation, investment and industry growth through land use permissions, development approvals and providing appropriate supporting infrastructure.

Figure 18 - Council's role in planning for the delivery of community assets (Source: Cred Consulting)

LEAD AND ADVOCATE

LISTEN, PLAN AND REGULATE

BUILD CONNECTIONS, PARTNERSHIPS AND CAPACITY

DELIVER INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES AND GRANTS

Leadership

Council's governance is aligned to the needs and aspirations of the community and decision-making is driven by social sustainability

Research

Developing an evidence base to better understand, plan and advocate for the community

Connector

Identifying and connecting different actors in order to encourage innovation and maximise social outcomes

Grants and sponsorship

Supporting community groups and organisations through grants and in-kind support

Advocacy

Speaking up for community needs

Engagement

Talking to the community to understand their needs, and aspirations and involving them in the development of plans and policies

Partnerships

Partnering with organisations and the community to achieve shared goals

Service provision

Directly supporting the community with the services and programs they need, where and when they need it

Custodian

Council is the custodian of their community's aspirations and stories

Policy, strategy and regulation

Developing policies and plans that actively respond to community needs

Capacity-building

Unlocking capacity within the community by equipping people with the skills they need to achieve social outcomes

Infrastructure

Planning and delivering places and spaces that promote social connectivity

5.1.2. IWC's role in cultural asset planning and provision

"IWC Council is aware of the vulnerability of the creative ecosystem within the local government area and the pivotal role creative spaces play in the health of the creative economy. The protection of local creative production spaces is aligned with the Greater Sydney Commission's Eastern City District Plan. Council can provide support to the sector by protecting and nurturing local creative and cultural spaces, in turn strengthening local community, economy and liveability."

- IWC, Creative Spaces and Venues Discussion Paper, 2019

IWC places great importance on the planning and protection of cultural assets across the Inner West LGA. While the CANS is not a cultural strategy or a creative industries study, it provides an analysis of the provision of, and need for, new, improved and protected cultural assets for community production, participation and viewing. While the focus of the CANS is on community cultural assets rather than creative industries, it is important to point out the crucial role that IWC plays in protecting and nurturing spaces for creative industries through policy levers and planning frameworks and providing support through grants and partnerships.

For many cities and urban places, a strong cultural identity is one of the key attractors of residents, workers, businesses and visitors. However, as the popularity of these places grow, the retention of cultural assets becomes more challenging with the decrease in the availability of appropriate spaces for the variety of cultural asset uses – live music venues, small theatres, arts production spaces, galleries, studios and rehearsal spaces – both permanent and temporary; the affordability of access to these cultural spaces and the land on which they are located; as well as the existing land use planning and regulation framework to enable IWC to safeguard cultural assets that are currently provided privately (eg Art Est in Lords Road Leichhardt and the makerspace in Marrickville).

A recent study by the City of Sydney, *Making Space for Culture in Sydney,* outlines that "the existing property market is ill-suited to providing the kind of cultural infrastructure required, leaving us with a lack of employment land for the creative industries and the risk of long-term, embedded social issues" (p42).

Left bank Co. and JOC Consulting prepared a discussion paper for IWC in April 2019. The paper addresses the range of policy levers available to IWC to retain, protect and grow creative spaces and employment lands in the LGA. Some of the initiatives outlined in the paper include:

- A review of the planning and regulatory framework that governs music and late-night activities as proposed by the City of Sydney in its discussion paper, *An Open and Creative City: planning for culture and the night-time economy*. IWC is reviewing the package of recommendations and discussing how to adapt these to benefit Inner West.
- A focus on harmonising proposed regulatory reforms on King St, Newtown and the Newtown/Enmore precinct so that City of Sydney and IWC regulations are consistent.
- IWC's Live Music Planning Liaison Service has been launched to enable new and established live music venues to navigate planning controls and lodge development applications.
- IWC has removed red tape for cafes and restaurants in Leichhardt, Annandale, Rozelle, Lilyfield, Balmain and Birchgrove wanting to convert their premises to a small bar. Cafes and restaurants now have a 10-day approval process from Council or a certifier, rather than a lengthy DA and a separate application to the NSW Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority. Council advocated to the NSW State Government in order to effect these changes.

The discussion paper also notes that while IWC has been active in supporting the arts, creativity and live music through a variety of programs, rapid urbanisation and gentrification of the LGA presents a significant risk of loss of local creative spaces, placing the network of cultural and creative assets at risk. Potential flow on impacts may negatively impact the Inner West LGA's rich and vibrant places to live, work and visit and its retention as the "cultural engine room of Sydney".

The Inner West Employment and Retail Lands Study and Strategy further explores the opportunities, challenges and recommendations for creative industries in the Inner West LGA. The Retail Lands Study suggests that "large-scale interventions need to be considered to circumvent the evident and potentially long-term negative impacts to our city" (2020:42). Relevant to the CANS, the interventions suggested that also align to the actions suggested in IWC's *Creative Spaces and Venues Discussion Paper* include:

- B.1 Apply agent of change principle to planning and development processes to put onus on new developments to manage sound impact of nearby music venues.
- B.2 Identification of key cultural and night-time precincts that are exempt from policies and regulations

that pose limitations, including but not limited to sound and night-time activity.

- B.3 Establish new planning controls through the development of the new LSPS, LEP and DCP specific to supporting cultural uses in areas with strong traditions of cultural activity – embedding the creative and cultural character of key zones of Inner West Council in LSPS and in LEP and DCP protects the creative character of parts of the Inner West Council local government area and makes these uses more deliverable. It is important that this takes a broad approach to culture, not only arts and culture but also culturally diverse places and practices.
- B.4 Improve regulations and establish guidelines to encourage interim, temporary and ancillary use that supports low-risk small-to-medium scale cultural uses in existing buildings and businesses.
- E.1 Partnerships with developers to protect, plan for and deliver creative uses in new developments, particularly where creative spaces already exist on a proposed development site.

Other actions suggested in the discussion paper include the exploration of ways to zone and secure large-scale industrial buildings for creative and cultural use within industrial lands (C.2) in addition to Council embedding creative zones and new or existing creative spaces and venues in master plans for growth areas. The difficulty with both of these actions is that there is no existing statutory mechanism with the NSW planning system to implement them. In recent changes to their planning controls, the City of Sydney introduced a new cultural precinct in Alexandria, proposed a 24-hour trading area with an arts, cultural and entertainment focus and encouraged in the North Alexandria heritage warehouse precinct. This example uses multiple layers – land use, trading hours and heritage provisions – which already limit the type and scale of future development and combine this with a clear future character statement and strong existing policy framework to encourage the retention and increase of cultural uses.

One of the key approaches to retain and increase cultural assets for cultural activities is the strategic use of IWC-owned properties. While this is a matter more for consideration within the Cultural Strategy (to be prepared), the investment of Council through its use of its existing property portfolio can have a catalytic impact. These spaces can be run by government agencies or leased at below market rate to a range of creative enterprises.

Development contributions and Voluntary Planning Agreements

The use of the current development contributions mechanism (section 7.11 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979) provides for a range of infrastructure including community facilities, roads and open space, as well as cultural infrastructure. Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPA) are also used as a way to secure public benefits associated with a development or changes to planning controls and are commonly leveraged from larger new developments.

However, the implementation of these mechanisms, particularly when considering cultural assets is very limited. VPAs rely on negotiation with a private landowner to secure a range of uses that are deemed to be of "public benefit" and are aligned with council's needs, while the scale and use of development contributions are highly regulated by NSW legislation. In both cases, the high demand for community benefit and the stringent nature of the planning process requires a clear evidence base upon which to make decisions.

The successful use of these mechanisms usually requires a development that is relatively large in scale.

"The delivery of cultural infrastructure is more complicated as a comparable evidence base has not been produced or implemented in a consistent manner. Delivering cultural infrastructure through planning agreements could be assisted by identifying cultural infrastructure priorities and developing a clearer evidence base on the needs and types of space our communities require."

- City of Sydney 2020, p34. An example of a successful VPA is the Greenland development in Bathurst Street, Sydney (see case study provided in Part 4 of this strategy).

Council is exploring value-capture mechanisms along the Parramatta Road urban renewal corridor that may enable the use of a Community Infrastructure Contribution LEP Clause. This would be facilitated by a similar clause to Randwick Council's Kensington to Kingsford Corridor (cl. 6.17 of RLEP2012), or City of Sydney's clause 6.14 for Green Square, but is subject to further feasibility studies currently being investigated.

5.2.   Community asset guiding principles

The following principles should guide the future planning, delivery and management of IWC's community asset network. These principles are based on:

·   best practice trends in design and management
·   strengths and challenges of the community asset network
·   strategic context review and existing directions for decision-making
·   current and forecast demographic needs
·   supply and demand analysis
·   stakeholder engagement

While there may be some nuanced differences between libraries and social and cultural assets, the principles largely apply across the community asset network.

Principle	IWC's library and community asset network will:
Multipurpose and flexible	Be multipurpose, including spaces and amenities for a range of functions and services to support diverse user groups.
	Be flexibly designed to change with community needs and interests.
	Provide an appropriate level of access to technology, equipment and contemporary furniture as relevant to the asset's use, role and hierarchy.
	Consider how larger multipurpose community spaces can be upgraded or purpose built to better cater to a wider range of activities or co-located activities (both community and cultural uses in the same space or co-located)[1].
	Maximise opportunities to positively contribute to town centre activation, the night-time economy and placemaking.
Co-located, networked and accessible	Community assets should operate as a network with regional assets servicing the whole LGA, district social, cultural, and library assets in each catchment, and access to at least one local asset providing satellite services in each suburb (these could be either social, cultural or library assets).
	Be located within easy walking distance of public transport, located on a high street or central area with high visibility and co-located with other community assets or educational institutions. Well-located assets should be prioritised for upgrades over those that have less desirable locations. The journey to community assets from public transport routes (i.e. train stations, bus stops and disabled car parking spaces) should also be considered for public domain improvements to improve accessibility.
	Co-located to provide "one stop shop" access to services. Deliver multiple benefits from each asset including diversity of services operating from hubs.
	Consider worker and student demands and needs by co-locating community and cultural floor space in employment and education centres, including opening hours and flexible work/study space and resources.
	Co-locate with public open space (green or urban).

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1   ERLS

Principle	IWC's library and community asset network will:
Equitable, inclusive, welcoming and sociable	Prioritise new community assets and upgrades to align with where residential growth is to occur[2] or where there is a gap in the provision of inclusive assets.
	Design assets to be welcoming in amenity and appearance and accessible to people of all genders, ages, abilities, and cultural backgrounds.
	Ensure new and upgraded community assets meet the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (DDA) as a minimum, but aspire to go beyond compliance and achieve broad universal design principles that remove physical and other barriers to access and create a welcoming community asset network. Include a diversity of spaces, such as quiet space, and consider lighting and acoustic environments as well as terrain and the journey to get to the asset.
	Incorporate gender equality considerations into any planning and design projects regarding council-owned community assets or the public domain projects.
Making the most of existing assets	Prioritise improving the quality and investigate better access and use of existing community assets through assessments of how existing community spaces can be upgraded and expanded to better meet future needs[3].
	Partner with non-IWC stakeholders to help meet existing demand for community spaces such as investigating shared use of school facilities (eg halls), where there is an undersupply of community spaces (which cannot be funded thorough development contributions) and as opportunities arise.
	Maintain and retrofit IWC's assets with heritage significance to ensure their ongoing relevance for civic uses over time.
Collaborative planning and management	Plan and manage in an integrated way across IWC departments.
	Plan, manage and deliver assets collaboratively with government agencies, service providers, educational institutions and the private sector.
	Engage with the community through the planning and activation process to understand changing needs and trends.
	Demonstrate industry best practice – be transparent, consistent, manage risk and demonstrate best value for money through maintaining a land and property register for Council controlled, managed and owned properties[4].
	Work collaboratively with the community and stakeholders to identify and assess opportunistic provision of community assets on a case-by-case basis.
Quality, management and sustainability	Include a range of reliable sources of revenue through hire, lease and license and grant funding.
	Develop or maintain good governance and effective management models to maximise community use and benefits.
	Manage the buildings portfolio to maintain agreed service levels for capacity, utilisation, risk, condition and function.
	Review and identify opportunities including for reuse and disposal.
	Manage property portfolio to sustain value and heritage significance.
	Preserve the affordability of creative spaces in Inner West.
	Ensure Council-owned existing and future community assets help IWC to achieve their targets of becoming a zero emissions community and water-sensitive LGA.

2   LHS direction
3   Strategic direction 2.1.3 in the CSP
4   Inner West Council Land and Property Strategy

5.3. Planning catchment

The CANS takes a catchment approach to the assessment and planning of community assets. A catchment approach is a useful planning tool that aims to reflect, where possible, patterns of community preference in accessing services and facilities. Currently, the IWC does not have detailed information about the place of residence or work of users of social and cultural assets in the LGA. Therefore the process of defining catchments has been based on the following considerations:

· the location of key urban centres
· likely travel patterns
· the spread of existing and future population across the LGA
· natural barriers (eg waterways, topography)
· built barriers (eg arterial, roads, rail corridors)

While not perfect, catchments remain a useful tool to consider the network provision of local and district spaces across a large area, with regional assets more likely to service the LGA as a whole.

A catchment approach facilitates a more equitable approach to community asset planning by understanding how supply, demand and quality are located across the LGA, rather than looking at the whole LGA as one. The CANS community asset planning catchment boundaries align with suburb boundaries and are generally socially and geographically aligned. As shown in Figure 19 , there are four district catchments used in analysing district needs.
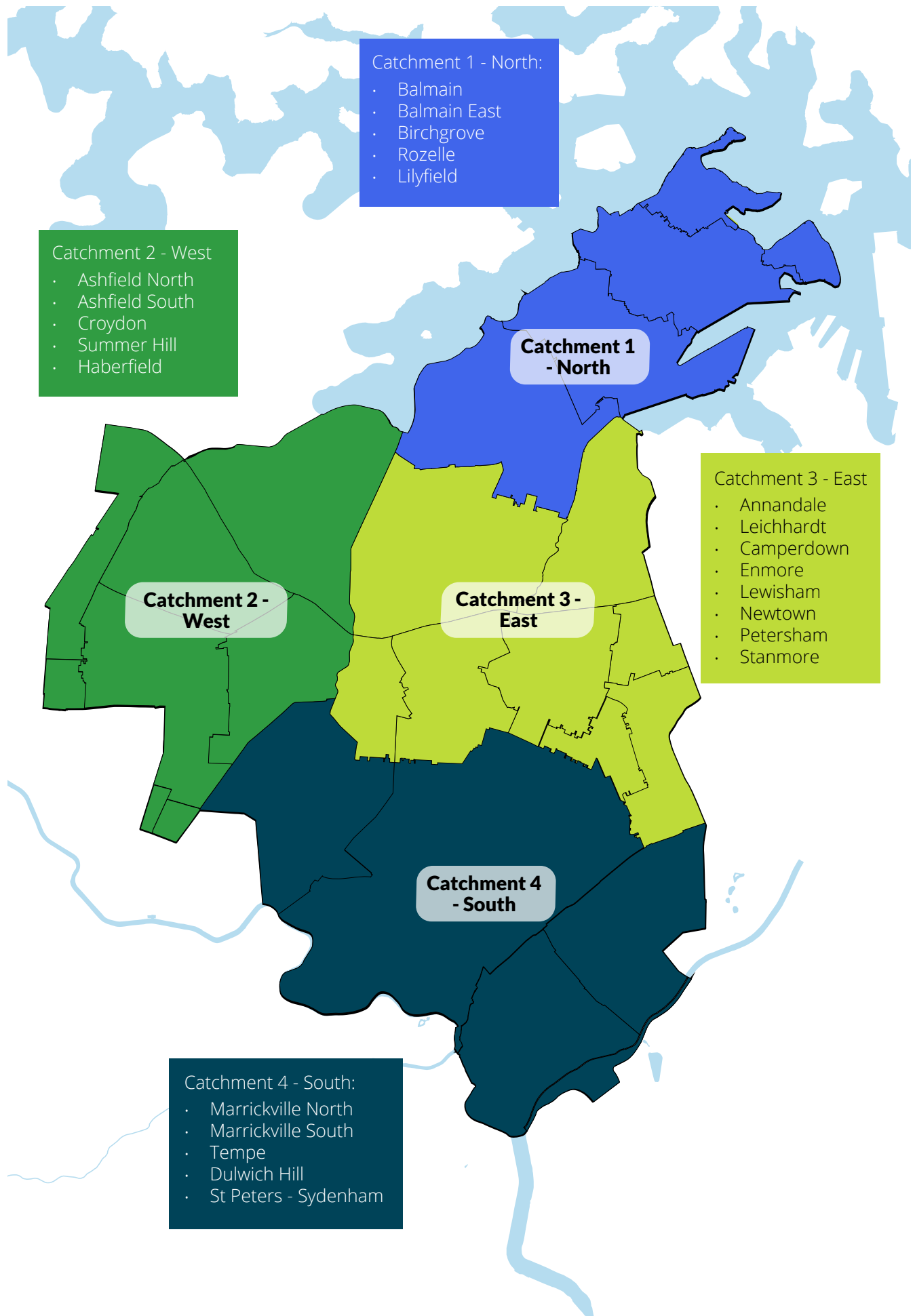
The planning catchments will be used to understand:

· unique demographic characteristics of each catchment
· broad distribution patterns and supply of existing library, social and cultural assets
· areas of future need for local and district level community assets (regional level facilities are not planned for at the catchment level).

The four planning catchments are:

· **Catchment 1 - North** includes the suburbs of Balmain, Balmain East, Birchgrove, Rozelle and Lilyfield.
· **Catchment 2 - West** includes the suburbs of Ashfield North, Ashfield South, Croydon, Summer Hill and Haberfield.
· **Catchment 3 - East** includes the suburbs of Annandale, Leichhardt, Camperdown, Enmore, Lewisham, Newtown, Petersham and Stanmore.
· **Catchment 4 - South** includes the suburbs of Marrickville North, Marrickville South, Tempe, Dulwich Hill and St Peters - Sydenham.

Figure 19 - CANS Community Asset Planning Catchments

Catchment 1 - North:
· Balmain
· Balmain East
· Birchgrove
· Rozelle
· Lilyfield

Catchment 2 - West
· Ashfield North
· Ashfield South
· Croydon
· Summer Hill
· Haberfield

Catchment 3 - East
· Annandale
· Leichhardt
· Camperdown
· Enmore
· Lewisham
· Newtown
· Petersham
· Stanmore

Catchment 1 - North

Catchment 2 - West

Catchment 3 - East

Catchment 4 - South

Catchment 4 - South:
· Marrickville North
· Marrickville South
· Tempe
· Dulwich Hill
· St Peters - Sydenham

5.4.   Benchmarking approach

5.4.1.   Library benchmarks

Public libraries have several well-developed library provision standards. The *People places: A guide for planning public library buildings in New South Wales* (August 2020) outlines two benchmarks that are considered by the Library Council of New South Wales to provide minimum area sizes for public library buildings in NSW. These are a service-based benchmark (number of libraries) and population-based benchmark (floor space required for distribution across all flagship and branch libraries).

The CANS has applied a population-based benchmark (see benchmark 1 in Table 5 below) to current and future residential and worker populations using the provided floor space calculator tool[1]. The population-based floor space benchmark (benchmark 1) provides a recommended size for a library based on the population of the catchment it is to service. This may be thought of as a recommended minimum size, but it should be noted that it may not reflect the size required to deliver the range of services specific to any given library. These two methodologies should be used together to provide a range of sizes for a new or expanded library building.

Table 5 - Adopted library benchmarks for CANS

Benchmark type		Facility Type	Rate of Provision
1	**Number of libraries benchmark**	Flagship/central library	One flagship/central library per catchment of approximately 100,000+
		Branch library (larger catchment)	One branch library per catchment of approximately 35,000-65,000 people
2	**Floor space benchmark**	All libraries	State Library of NSW population-based library calculator. (Source: https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/public-library-services/population-based-library-calculator)

Worker demand for libraries

The State Library of New South Wales population calculator was used to complete the library floor space benchmarking in the CANS. This benchmarking approach included considering the demand generated by non-resident workers in each catchment.

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1   Population-based benchmark tool (https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/public-library-services/people-places/community-needs)

5.4.2. Social and cultural asset benchmarks

The CANS applies two kinds of population-based benchmarks to determine current and future demand for social and cultural assets. These are based on widely endorsed population-based benchmarks applied by local councils across NSW.

Population-based benchmarks (also commonly referred to as provision standards) are a commonly used tool in estimating the demand for various types of community assets based on populations and catchments. Population-based benchmarks are used to give an indication of the number and size of community assets that would ideally be provided if opportunity exists, feasibility is demonstrated, funding is available and the local context and site opportunities and limitations, as well as the broader provision close by, are taken into account.

There are two types of population-based benchmarks recommended by this strategy as shown in Tables 6 and 7 over the page:

- Benchmark 1 - A floor space benchmark provides a benchmark of the amount of floor space required per 1,000 people
- Benchmark 2 - A number-of-spaces benchmark provides an indication of the number of community or cultural spaces that would be needed at a local and district level based on a population range.

These are established benchmarks based on other NSW council precedents (City of Sydney, Wollongong City Council, City of Ryde and Cumberland City Council) and deemed appropriate for the Inner West context. For benchmark types 2 and 3, because all catchment population sizes exceeds 30,000 people, this benchmark will be considered most relevant to assess future needs. However the 20,000 benchmark remains relevant for some low density suburb areas in the Inner West. The total floor space benchmark can be spread across several community space types including halls, multipurpose community centres and spaces for seniors and young people within multipurpose facilities.

Worker demand for social and cultural assets

This strategy also examines the demands of workers on social and cultural assets but does not recommend a nexus or benchmark to be applied to the number of workers for the purpose of future contribution planning. Rather, the consideration of workers is included to understand which facilities may experience higher utilisation and different types of demands than others.

The benefit of this approach is that community facilities within proximity to employment precincts could also play a dual fostering and clustering role for emerging industries and innovation within the community.

Co-locating community uses can also help to support employment centres where economic vitality is decreasing, by attracting foot traffic to these centres.

Table 6 - Adopted social asset benchmarks for the CANS (for social assets/community floor space within the scope of the strategy)

Benchmark type		Facility Type	Rate of Provision
1	**Floor space benchmark**	All community spaces (inclusive of all subcategories)	80m² of social asset community floor space per 1,000 people.
2	**Number of social assets/ community spaces**	District community space	One community space providing community floor space per catchment of approximately 20,000 to 30,000 people. All districts or planning catchments in IWC are above 30,000 people, so only the 30,000 benchmark is applied.
		Local community space	Three to four local community spaces per catchment of 30,000 people. This equates to a range of one local community space per 10,000 people (or three facilities per 30,000) to one local community space per 7,500 people (or four facilities per 30,000).

Table 7 - Adopted cultural asset benchmarks for the CANS

Benchmark type		Facility Type	Rate of Provision
1	**Floor space**	All cultural spaces	20m² of cultural space per 1,000 people.
2	**Number of cultural spaces**	Major civic/performance space	One space for every 100,000 - 150,000 people.
		District cultural space	One arts and cultural space per Catchment of approximately 20,000 to 30,000 people.
		Local cultural space	Between three and four local arts and cultural spaces per catchment of approximately 20,000 to 30,000 people. This equates to a range of one local community space per 10,000 people (or three facilities per 30,000) to one local community space per 7,500 people (or four facilities per 30,000), with an aim to deliver a local space in every suburb.

5.4.3.   Consideration of non-IWC-owned community assets

The benchmarks to determine current and future demands have been applied to Council-owned community assets only. But it is acknowledged that there are a number of spaces that are owned and managed either by State Government or privately that make valuable contributions to the community asset network. The established approach to population-based benchmarking is to exclude non-Council-owned assets. The primary reason for this is that non-Council-owned community assets are subject to market pressures and the will or circumstances of the owner which are subject to change at any time. In essence, non-Council-owned spaces cannot be relied on into the future.

With Council-owned community assets, there is much more certainty that they will remain available for community use in the long term, or will be replaced with an equivalent or better facility (ie no negative impact to community access to community spaces).

Joint use agreements with schools are also becoming more common practice in NSW. The long-term effectiveness of this strategy is yet to be tested. While there are a number of successful examples, there have also been a number cases where joint use agreements – for use of ovals and outdoor spaces between schools and the general public – have been reverted due to the school's safety concerns. For this reason, school halls have been excluded from benchmarking, but could be considered as a strategy to meet future demand where new or upgraded Council-owned facilities are not able to be provided.

5.4.4.   Limitations of population-based benchmarking

It is important to note that population-based benchmarking processes are not without limitation. Benchmarks take an historic approach to assumptions of future demand in calculating the quantum of community assets required. The output of benchmarking is a numeric expression of demand that enables the comparison of like-for-like infrastructure across time and geography. However, benchmarking does not take into account:

- new and innovative methods for infrastructure delivery or current leading practice which may not be aligned with current benchmark assumptions
- the manner in which people engage with and generate demand for infrastructure due to their technological, accessibility, cultural and urban density contexts
- the suitability of spaces and their ability to meet people's needs including the condition of assets and the range of users serviced
- the ability of assets to be more efficiently utilised and satisfy a higher level of demand than benchmark outputs suggest
- the practicality to deliver infrastructure, especially types with significant floor space or land area requirements, particularly in places of high land value or with constrained land availability
- the varying views across both state and local government organisations as to the acceptable standard and level of infrastructure provision against which benchmarking is to be set