

ACTING TO PROTECT OUR STREETS FROM CLUTTER



Sydney's footpaths are already congested in many areas

Last year, the City of Sydney joined the City of Melbourne and the City of Brisbane in taking legal action against Telstra over the proposed installation of large payphones with advertising panels and 5G cells in our cities' streets and public spaces.

Under the current Commonwealth Telecommunications Act, Telstra has the power to install payphones anywhere in Australia without council guidance or permission. **The City of Sydney believes Telstra is inappropriately exploiting these powers for profit.**

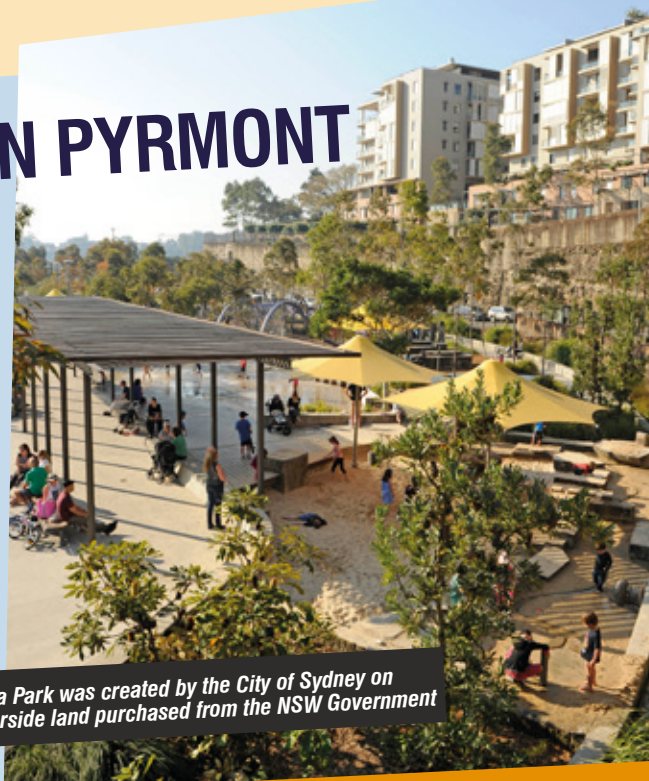
We are working to decrease clutter and make the City a more pedestrian-friendly city. It's vital that we have a say in the approval of any large advertising billboards that will impact on accessibility and amenity.

TOWARD PROPER PLANNING IN PYRMONT

In October 2019, we broadly agreed with the stated outcome of the Greater Sydney Commission's (GSC) review of planning in the Western Harbour Precinct, including the Pyrmont peninsula. In their report, the GSC called for a more simplified planning framework by using a place-based approach with adequate community and public transport infrastructure, and consistent community and stakeholder engagement.

For too long, the NSW Government has taken an ad hoc approach to the development of Pyrmont and the Western Harbour, proposing development of state-owned land with little consideration for context and transport needs, and with almost no consultation with residents who live in an area which already has high densities.

The City of Sydney looks forward to working with the NSW Government to build on the best qualities of Ultimo and Pyrmont, while developing an innovation corridor in the precinct that delivers more jobs in our already thriving tech and start-up sectors.



Pirrama Park was created by the City of Sydney on harbourside land purchased from the NSW Government

LOCKOUT LAWS LIFTED IN SYDNEY



On 14 January this year, the lockout laws in the city centre and on Oxford Street were lifted, a move that we hope will breathe oxygen into the city's cultural life and night-time economy.

The lockouts were an overreaction when what was needed was 24-hour public transport, and a much stronger liquor licensing system that supported well-run venues and penalised rogue ones. We needed an effective approval system to spread venues across the city rather than concentrating them in the one place such as Kings Cross.

In May 2019, Council endorsed our Late Night Trading Development Control Plan (DCP). This allows for up to 24-hour trading across the entire CBD, and until 2am on village high streets, and creates new late-night trading areas in some of the city's fastest-growing neighbourhoods as well as a new cultural precinct in Alexandria. It also rewards venues holding live performances and creative events with an extra hour of trading.

As of December 2019, more than 30 applications for extended trading hours had been approved under the revised DCP and we anticipate many more now the lockouts have been removed.

We are keen to work with the NSW Government and the sector to deliver the safe, lively and diverse nightlife Australia's global city deserves.

This will include the City of Sydney and an industry representative co-chairing a new forum to manage vibrancy and safety in the city, called the Sydney Liquor and Night Safety Operations Group. The group will comprise representatives from each of the eight liquor accords in our area, two representatives from large hospitality groups, two representatives from non-government organisations including the Safe Space program and Australian Hotels Association, as well as Police Area Commanders, Transport for NSW, and Liquor & Gaming NSW.

Help shape the future of Sydney.
Have your say at
[SydneyYourSay.com.au](https://sydneyyoursay.com.au)

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CEO of Flow Power Matthew van der Linden, Lord Mayor Clover Moore and Robert Hayward of Repower Shoalhaven at Sydney Town Hall

February 2020

SYDNEY CITY NEWS

CITY OF SYDNEY

100% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY TO POWER CITY OPERATIONS

The City of Sydney has been taking action on climate change for more than a decade.

When we endorsed Sustainable Sydney 2030 in 2008, 97 per cent of people told us they wanted action to address climate change. So we set a goal to reduce the City's emissions by 70 per cent by 2030, wrote masterplans, set targets and worked to achieve them over the past decade. We then set an even more ambitious goal to reach net zero emissions by 2050 following the Paris Climate Agreement in 2015.

We became Australia's first carbon neutral council in 2007. By 2017 we had reduced emissions from our own operations by 25 per cent and worked with others to reduce emissions city-wide by 21 per cent. During this time the city's economy grew by 37.5 per cent. If it had been business as usual, greenhouse emissions would have increased by 57 per cent.

In 2011 we launched the Better Buildings Partnership with the owners of over 50 per cent of CBD office space. Its members have collectively reduced their emissions by 53 per cent – saving them \$30 million annually!

I recently signed an agreement for the City's operations to be powered by 100 per cent renewable electricity by July 2020. This means we will achieve our 70 per cent 2030 emissions reduction target by 2024 – six years ahead of schedule. By purchasing power from wind and solar farms in Glen Innes, Wagga Wagga, and the Shoalhaven, the City is supporting jobs in regional areas and saving our ratepayers half a million dollars each year, for 10 years.

This is in stark contrast to our Federal Government's continued inaction on climate change. Inaction that continues despite the ongoing crisis where lives have been lost, as well as wildlife, farm animals and native bushland in ferocious bushfires unprecedented in NSW. The science is clear that climate change is supercharging natural disasters and we need urgent, coordinated and global action now more than ever.

In this issue of Sydney City News, we'll update you on some of the action we have taken as part of our *Resilient Sydney* work and tell you about how we are drought-proofing the city.

Clover Moore.

Lord Mayor of Sydney

[@CloverMoore](https://www.facebook.com/CloverMoore)

[@clovermooresydney](https://www.facebook.com/clovermooresydney)

CREATING A RESILIENT SYDNEY

Through the *Resilient Sydney* strategy, the City of Sydney is working with all 33 councils across metropolitan Sydney, as well as state agencies, businesses and the community, to create a connected, inclusive and resilient metropolitan Sydney. A key part of this strategy is getting prepared for acute shocks, such as the current bushfire crisis.

As part of this work, *Resilient Sydney* has led an innovative project to measure carbon emissions, energy consumption, water use and waste production across all of Sydney. This means that for the first time, each council in metropolitan Sydney is working from the same data, providing us with a standardised evidence base for decision-making and enabling collaboration, advocacy and action.

This vital work was recognised at the 2019 Smart City Awards, receiving the overall award for the Best Smart City Project.

Resilient Sydney also received the Chief Commissioner's Award at the Greater Sydney Planning Awards 2019.

As part of *Resilient Sydney*, the Australian Red Cross and general insurer IAG have developed the free 'Get Prepared' app.

You are encouraged to download the app and get prepared for any type of emergency.



COMBATING A HOTTER CLIMATE

The reality of living with climate change is that our city is getting hotter.

In our *Resilient Sydney* strategy, extreme heat is identified as one of metropolitan Sydney's largest risks. Extreme heat significantly impacts on everyone in our community, especially children, the elderly and people experiencing homelessness.

Our consultations for Sustainable Sydney 2050 have also identified urban heat as one of our community's biggest concerns.

We are cooling the city in the following ways:

- **Planting more trees** – We have a target to increase the urban tree canopy by more than 50 per cent. *Since 2008, we have planted 9,438 new trees and we are planting 700 new trees each year.* This will add to the 80,000 trees already in our city!
- **Using light coloured concrete instead of dark coloured asphalt on footpaths and reducing hard surfaces with green verges and raingardens to reduce the urban heat island effect.**
- **Designing more greenery into our buildings** – Under our green walls and roofs policy, which was the first of its kind in Australia, we encourage building owners in our city to incorporate greenery into their projects. *We now have at least 151,107 square metres of green roofs and walls across our city.*

For years, we've been using sensors to measure the temperature, humidity and solar radiation on our streets in Chippendale. We recently partnered with the University of Technology, Sydney and installed 16 more sensors in and around the city centre. This means we are gathering the data to understand which initiatives are most effective at keeping our city cool, so we can implement them across the local government area in the future.



Trio, Chippendale



SUPPORT FOR THE NSW BUSHFIRE RECOVERY

The City of Sydney leveraged the power of New Year's Eve to raise funds for bushfire relief and recovery. Reminders to donate to the appeal and tributes to firefighters were projected onto the Harbour Bridge pylons and broadcast throughout the ABC's live coverage.

The fundraising drive raised \$13.3 million to support the Red Cross's important work helping communities impacted by the horrific bushfires.

This was a huge showing of community generosity on top of the \$620,000 the City had already donated to bushfire and drought relief and wildlife rescue.

We are now working to support councils that will have to replace basic civic infrastructure. In partnership with the NSW Government and Local Government NSW, we have established an office (the Local Government Bushfire Recovery Support Group) to link offers of assistance from non-bushfire affected councils to communities in need.



City of Sydney staff and vehicles will support statewide bushfire recovery

This does mean that some City staff and vehicles will be out in other parts of the state for some time, so please be patient if there are small disruptions to City services. We will keep you up to date if that is to happen.

INVESTING IN SYDNEY'S WATER SECURITY

With more than 90 per cent of NSW in drought, including Greater Sydney, it is essential that governments invest in long-term, responsible water infrastructure such as water recycling.

Australia is the driest continent on earth and with our projected population growth and global heating, by 2030 water demand across our city will grow by approximately 30 per cent.

We negotiated for the Transport for NSW light rail contractor to build a continuous recycled wastewater pipe from Circular Quay to beyond Central Station, alongside the light rail tracks.

This could enable connection to new or existing wastewater recycling plants and has the potential to provide recycled water to buildings in the CBD and to nearby parks such as Hyde Park. We're also looking at the cost of retrofitting our own major properties along George Street, including Sydney Town Hall, so they can be connected to this new recycled water pipe network.

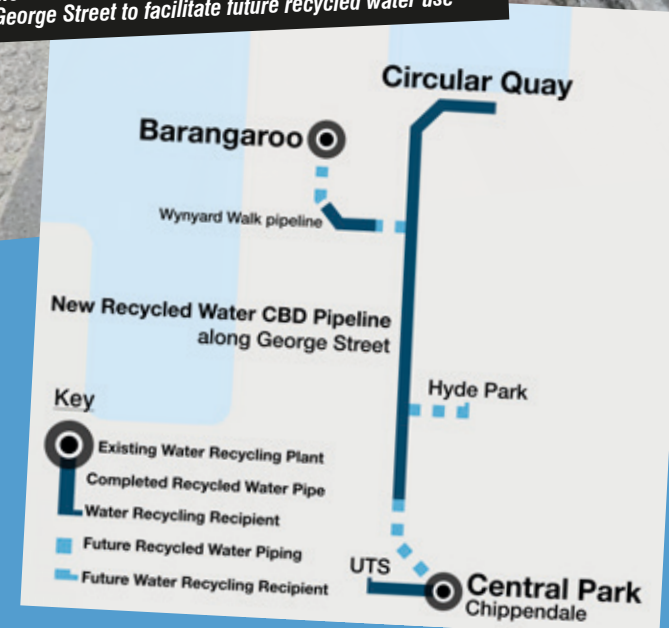
In 2018, we switched on Australia's largest urban stormwater recycling scheme in Green Square, which is providing recycled stormwater to the new parks and buildings in Green Square town centre, and when the 14 hectare town centre is fully developed, the scheme will provide recycled water via dual plumbing to 7,000 houses and workplaces for toilet, laundry and garden purposes.

We now want to switch on stage two of our Green Square recycling scheme, which would provide recycled wastewater to residential, commercial and community buildings across the entire 278 hectare Green Square area. However, current pricing and regulatory settings introduced by IPART in January 2018 (known as 'retail minus') enables Sydney Water to apply a surcharge for the removal of waste – a by-product of wastewater recycling – through the sewerage system. The result is a financial disincentive for commercial water recycling operators to provide recycled water in residential development. Since it was introduced in January 2018, there have been no new facilities built.

The City of Sydney is calling on the NSW Government to scrap 'retail minus' and revert to the 'non-residential prices' that all other businesses are charged, so we can urgently move to recycling wastewater – particularly in urban renewal areas across Greater Sydney.



5.6 kilometres of pipes have been installed under George Street to facilitate future recycled water use



VITAL STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN GREEN SQUARE

In November 2019, we officially opened the Green Square stormwater trunk drain. This two-kilometre trunk drain is a critical piece of infrastructure because Green Square is located on a floodplain that used to be a network of wetlands and creeks.

Without this trunk drain to reduce the risk of flooding in the area, our urban renewal of Green Square – which includes the City of Sydney's \$1.3 billion investment in infrastructure like our new library, pool, childcare centre, parks, playgrounds, public art, roads and footpaths – would not have been possible.

The \$140 million trunk drain project has been delivered by the Drying Green Alliance, which included the City of Sydney, Sydney Water and industry partners.

It runs from Link Road, Zetland, to a stormwater system at Alexandra Canal which flows into the Cooks River. The stormwater is treated in two large gross pollutant traps resulting in improved water quality in the river.

It also diverts stormwater to our recycling scheme in Green Square town centre, which can deliver 320 million litres of recycled stormwater each year for use in cooling towers and to flush toilets, wash clothes, and water parks and gardens.



1.8 metre wide pipes before they were laid in Green Square



Deputy Lord Mayor Jess Scully, Councillor Philip Thalys, Lord Mayor Clover Moore and Councillor Linda Scott at the opening of the Green Square trunk drain