



Our Future Sydney: Children's Summit

August 2019

CITY OF SYDNEY



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Introduction

The Children's Summit was the culmination of three months of consultation with students from ten primary schools in the City of Sydney local area on the future of Sydney.

Purpose

The purpose of the Children's Summit was to engage primary school students in a dialogue about the future of Sydney to the year 2050.

The Summit took as its foundation the key areas of interest identified by students in the initial consultations run in April – June 2019.

A central aim for the day was to bring a diverse range of children, from a diverse range of schools together in a stimulating collaborative environment of real-world learning focused on articulating a vision for Sydney in the year 2050.

This day-long engagement session supported children to develop and pitch big ideas that would help the City achieve their 2050 vision.

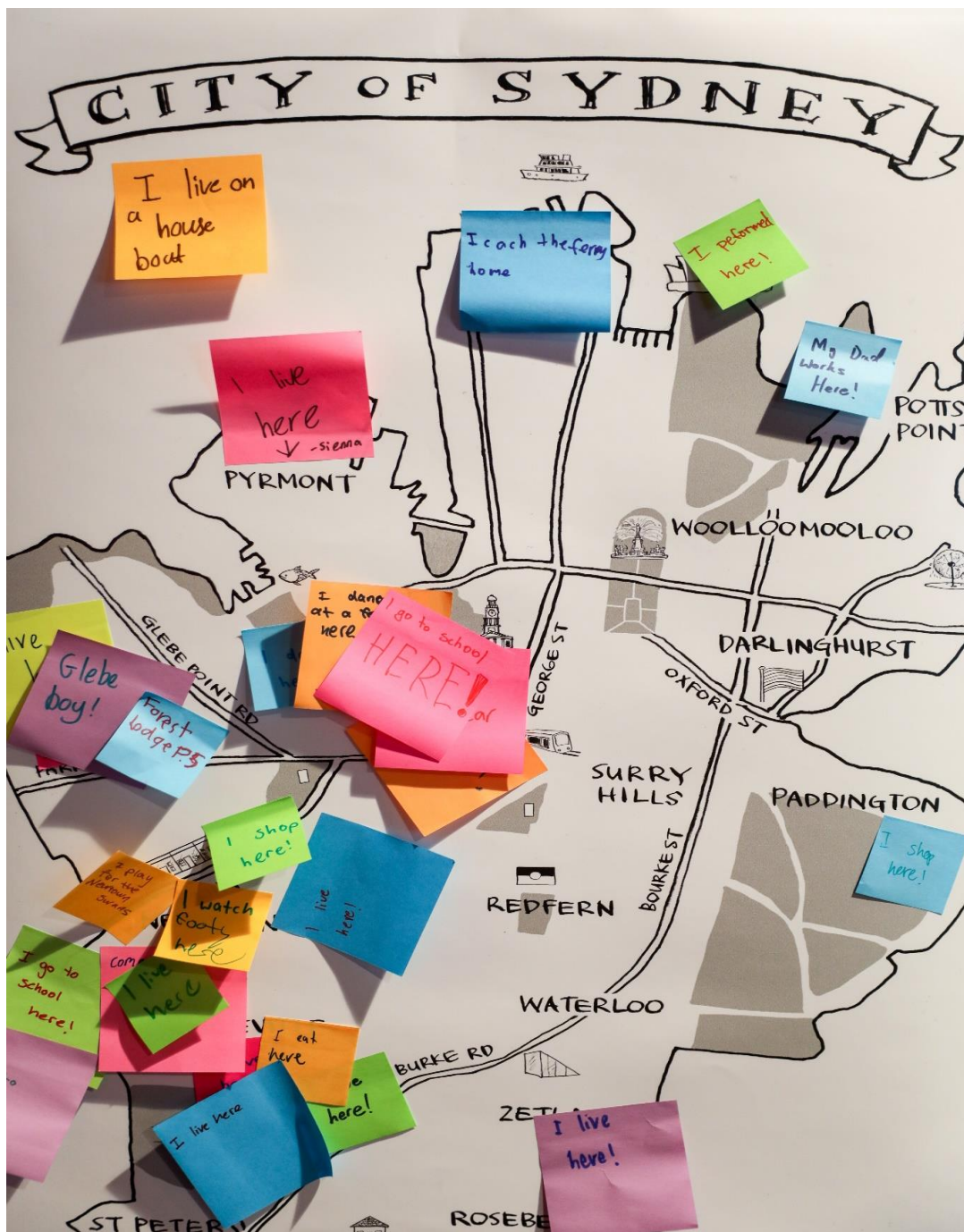
Objectives

- Find out how young people envisage the future of Sydney to the year 2050
- Give students the opportunity to develop big ideas that could impact the future of Sydney
- Give children the opportunity to collaborate with a diverse range of students outside their own school community
- Give children the opportunity to speak directly with senior members of the City of Sydney Council about their ideas.
- To enable children to present their big ideas directly to the Lord Mayor
- Show their views count and the City of Sydney is listening
- Build civic engagement in children and young people
- Build ongoing, educative relationships with local schools

Participation

The following schools took up the opportunity to participate, collectively sending 67 students:

- St Andrews Primary School
- Fort Street Public School
- Erskineville Public School
- Alexandria Park Community School
- St James Catholic School
- Forest Lodge Public School



Methodology

The Children's Summit was structured to facilitate deeper exploration of the five key themes that emerged from the initial in-school consultations as areas of primary interest for young people when contemplating Sydney in the year 2050.

At the start of the day the whole group of students participated in two starter activities aimed at putting the voices of young people at the centre of the process, inspiring future thinking and collaboration.

- THIS IS YOU-THIS IS US-design a flag. On a double-sided blank flag the students glued three images that reflect their life within their community, on the other side they chose three images that represented what the council does in their community. By making the flag they reflected on how they like to interact with the city and their ideas about what the city does for them.
- Why the voices of young people are important brainstorming session

The summit then reviewed the outcomes of the school consultation, exploring key areas of interest and developing ideas for action.



The five key areas for exploration

The key areas identified by young the children in the initial consultations as being of central importance when thinking about the City's future were:

- A city that uses resources – water, energy and waste – efficiently
- A place with parks, trees and lots of nature
- A place where you can get anywhere safely on public transport, walking or on your bike
- A place where lots of different cultures live happily together
- A creative city where people can have fun

Participants selected one of the five areas to be their focus for exploration. These groupings of students then divided into smaller groups of 3 or 4 to explore the issues.

Ideas generation process

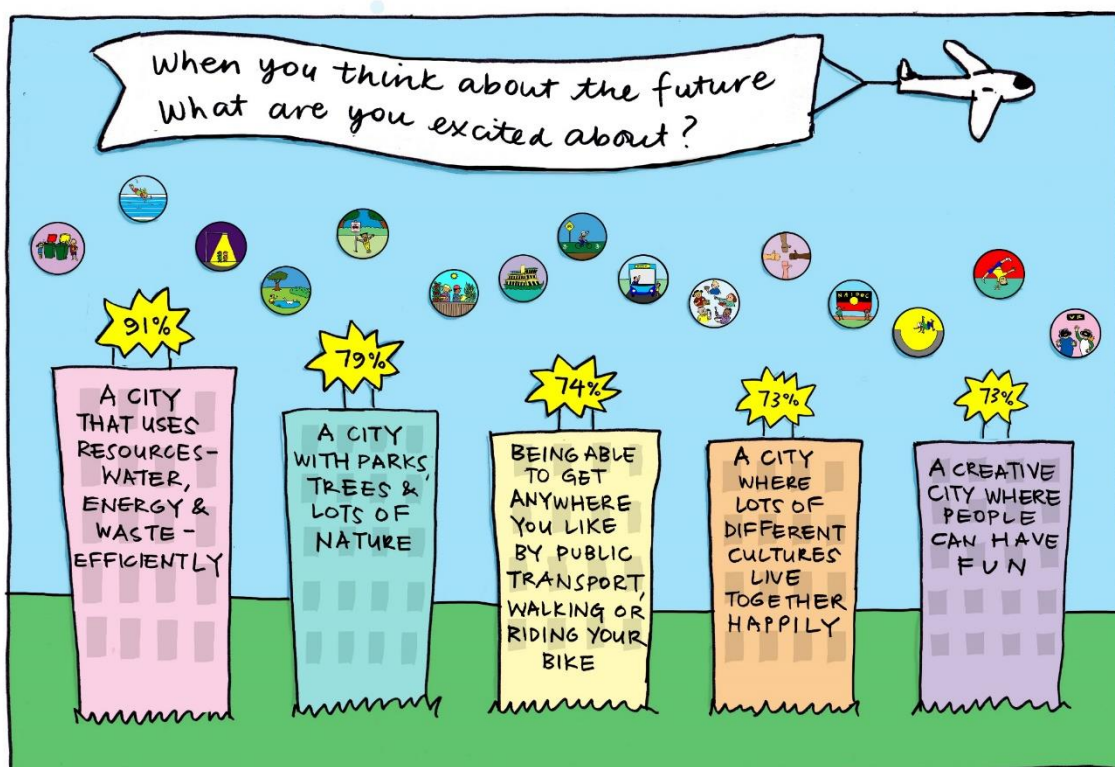
The children worked their way through a five step process that started broadly and progressively narrowed the focus of their ideas. Participants were supported by teachers from different schools and a member of the City of Sydney team.

Students began by brainstorming what their ideal Safe / Sustainable / Green / Creative / Diverse city would be like in 2050. This formed the basis for the creation of a vision statement.

Participants were then asked to generate ideas that would help Sydney become the city they envisioned.

Students interrogated their own ideas through discussion with senior City of Sydney staff including the CEO and directors with expertise in each of the thematic areas under consideration. This helped students to narrow down and clarify their ideas.

Each small group of young people then pitched their final ideas to all the attendees. A vote was then taken to decide which idea from each area should be delivered in front of the Lord Mayor at the Presentation Ceremony a week later. For several themes, the students agreed that combining the ideas was better than choosing one other the other.



Outcomes

Sustainable city

Solar Powered Streets

- Increase awareness of renewable energy
- Add more solar panels throughout the city

Expand solar usage to street lights
and buildings



Renewable Energy

stop
polluting



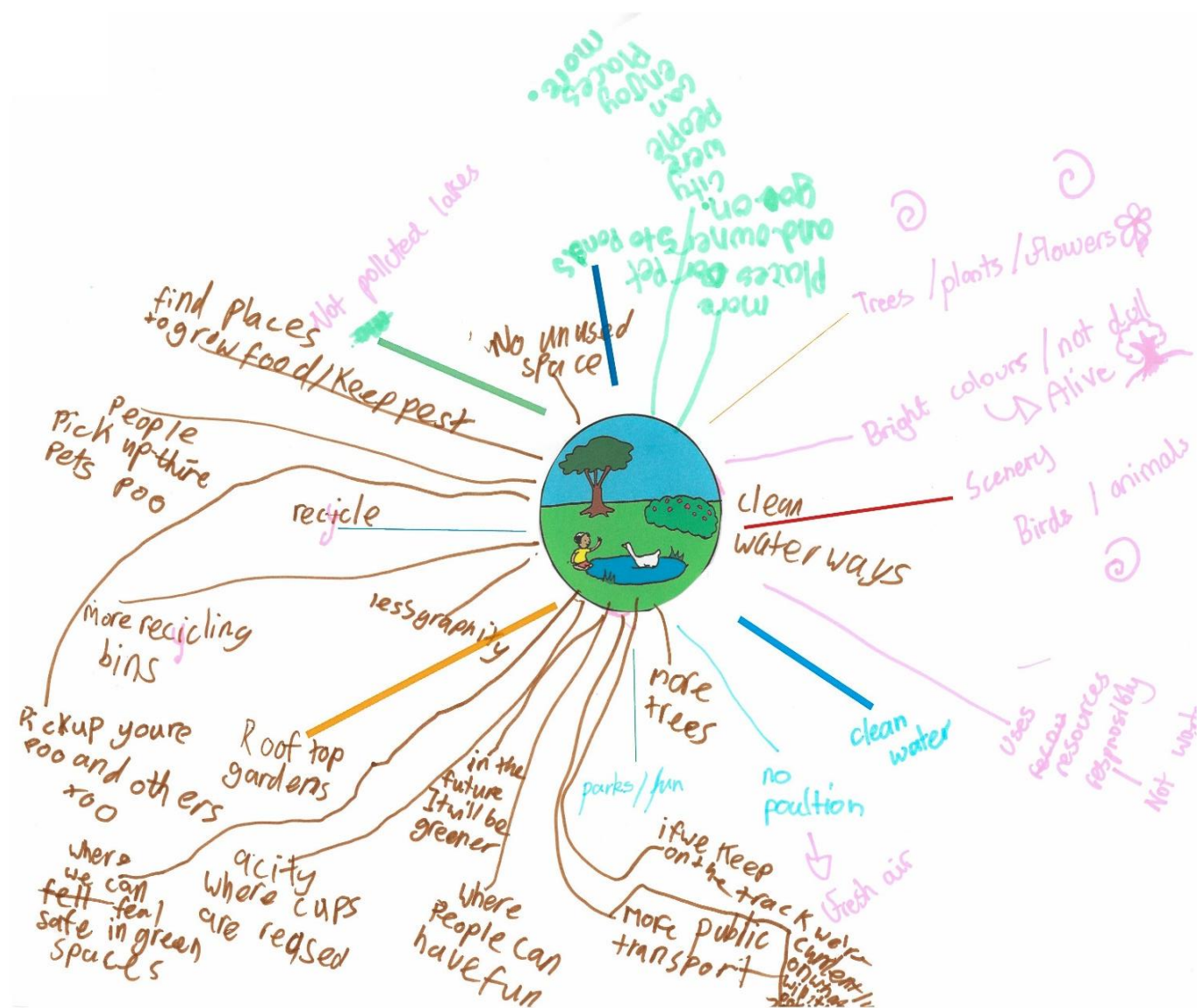
Green city

Build native gardens on rooftops

- Encourage native flora and fauna
- Get the whole community involved

A city with sustainable housing.

In a way of having Vertical garden there can also serve as a habitat for animals and insects.



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Diverse City

Storytelling Cultural Festival

- Where all cultures feel welcome and celebrated
- Reduce racism and discrimination, encourage acceptance and share stories

STORY TELLING FESTIVAL

Cultural Calendar
Getting rid of misconceptions
and stereotypes about different
races + cultures

The market's focus is
a different culture



Creative city

Multi-purpose centre – accessible to all

- A low cost space where everyone can express themselves
- Activities and opportunities to share experiences and learn new things



lots of
inclusive events.



Festivals
and shows

there can
be lots of
play ground
and people
interact
cultural

A place where there are consistent activities for the public in the creative arts and athletics.



is to create places where people share their creativity,
put aside their differences and express themselves limitless.

where everyone
can be happy
and always
learn
new things



sports



classes
for the
arts

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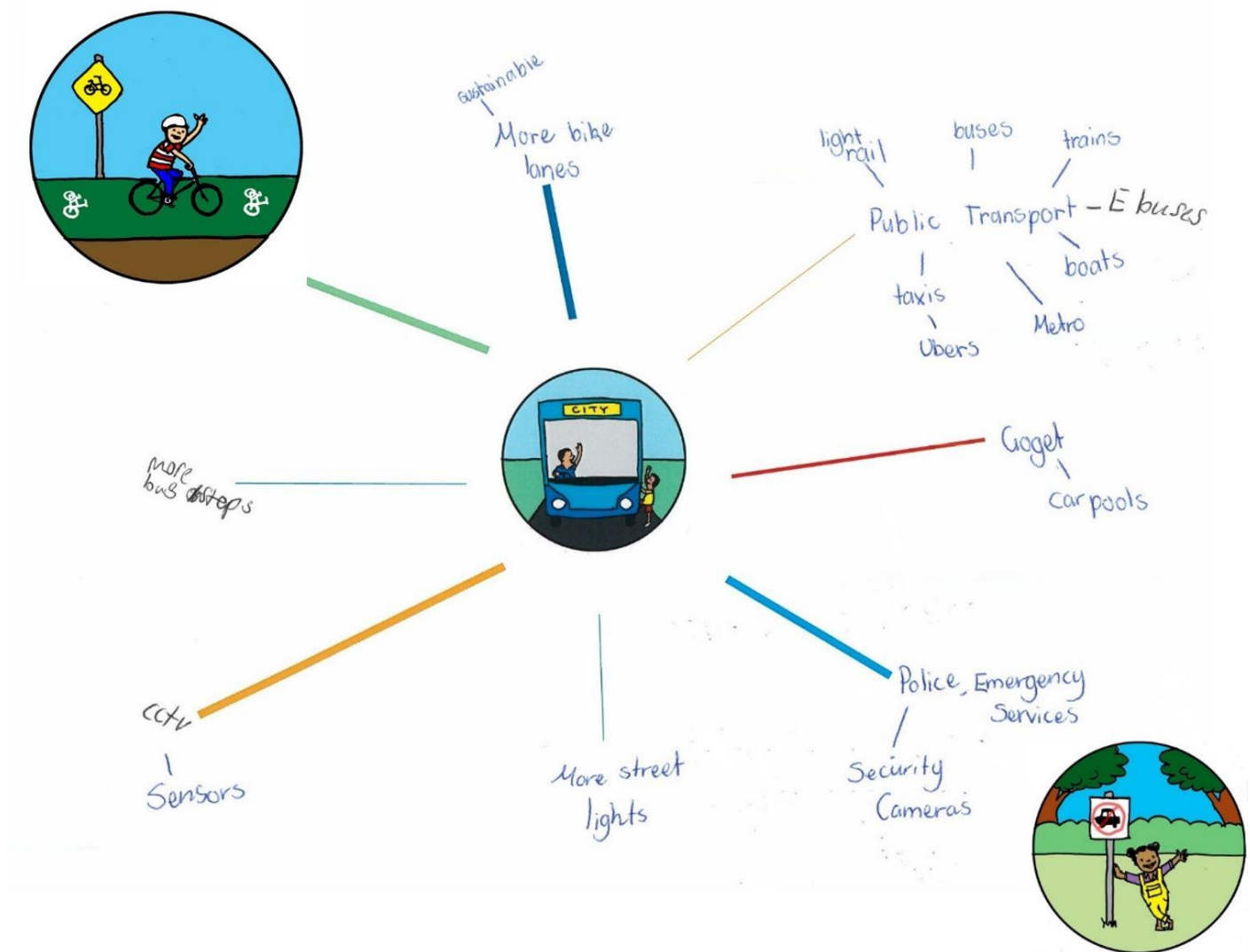


A Safe and easy to get around

Electric vehicles in the City of Sydney

- Provide charging stations
- Decrease traffic and increase space for pedestrians

Convert all public
transport to electric public
transport



Ideas ceremony

Student representatives from all schools attended the Eternity Playhouse on the 26th August with their families and teachers at which they presented the ideas they had developed in the summit to the Lord Mayor. Here is a transcript of the main parts of the event.

We look to the skies that covers Gadigal land, we touch the ground of Gadigal land and we touch our hearts for the care of Gadigal land. Thank you please be seated.

Good evening, I'm Ben along with Rishka, Morgan and Louie. We will explain a little about what we did at the 2050 children's summit.

On the 12th of August students from Forest lodge, Erskineville, St Andrews, Fort Street Darlington and St James Glebe primary schools met to discuss the future of our city.

We discussed what is important to children. We interviewed experts from the City of Sydney but most importantly we came up with ideas for the future.

We enjoyed meeting the experts from the council and talking to them about our big ideas for Sydney in 2050. We also enjoyed working with people from other schools and sharing our opinions and ideas with them.

We feel that student need to have a pivotal role in shaping the Sydney of 2050. This is important because kids our age will be the future of Sydney.

We would now like to present to you the top idea for each of the topic areas that were most important to primary school students.



A city that is sustainable

Hi everyone, I'm Robin. This is Zoe, Stella and Praneel and we are the sustainability group.

Two weeks ago some schools went to the Town Hall to brainstorm some ideas on how the City of Sydney would be in 2050. Our idea is to have solar powered street lights so we can save energy and money in the long term.

Solar panels are a renewable energy source that are environmentally friendly. They will replace fossil fuels such as coal which is currently what Australia uses, producing heaps of greenhouse gases into our air and intoxicating our environment.

Renewable energy sources are important because they provide clean energy helping our daily lives as we use a lot of electricity in our jobs. It is vital we produce this energy without negative by-products or else we will be living in unsafe and polluted air.

Renewable sources, which is solar panels in this case, turns sunlight into energy powering street lights throughout the night. Any excess energy could be used to power something else. Our idea is important because streetlights use up a lot of energy.

If we change to sustainable energy, it would not only save money in the long term it would also help the environment. Street lights are everywhere and making them power themselves will definitely makes a big difference to the city. Starting to remove the need for coal.



A city that is green with lots of nature

Hi my name is Will and this is Lachlan. We would like to share our idea for a green city. Our idea will help not only make the city look greener but make living in the city feel greener.

Our idea is to have more buildings with vertical and roof top gardens. We think the gardens must consist of native flora and fauna.

We got our inspiration for this idea from the vertical gardens at Central Park not only do they look amazing but they clean our air. These vertical and rooftop gardens will encourage more diversity in our eco system and battle against our pollution problems.

They will be equipped with sprinklers if needed or any other needed equipment to keep the plants alive. Building that have these would have to be built to be very waterproof to make sure no leaks get through the building.

When we build this there could be multiple challenges such as making the buildings stronger to support all the soil on top of the roof.

Getting the plants the right amount of sunlight and maintaining them would also be pretty difficult.

Our city needs to have more of theses to increase the amount of native plants and animals in Australia.

Many native Australian plants are threatened and many native animals are endangered because of land clearing. We believe that making roof top gardens would also help house the local endangered animals like the dragon flies and possums.



A city where different people live happily together

Hi my name is Kyna and this is Luke and this is Dimitri. Our big idea is a multicultural big idea. A multicultural festival where for one night you can sit together and tell a story. Everyone is welcome, everyone is accepted.

You can eat different foods from different cultures and all we ask of you is \$1 for a fun night. We believe that doing this once a twice a year can help diverse and new people to Australia feel at home.

My name is Ramona and this will help the community and the city by honouring, respecting and celebrating each other's differences, stories and heritages.



A creative city where people can have fun

Good evening my name is Charlotte our idea is to create a space that is continually open for people to learn sport and the arts. A space for practising sharing and enjoying what they love. Accessible to all with no booking system, that takes forever to sort out. It would be low cost and the main idea would be for everyone to express themselves and generally just try and support everyone's creativity.

This space is crucial to create opportunities for people and to help them share their ideas.



Questions for and responses from the Lord Mayor

From the Green City group whose idea was to create more rooftop gardens and foster native habitats in them:

Our question is how would the council help make this possible?

Lord Mayor: Greening the city is a very high priority for us. In fact in our last council meeting we signed off on the renewal of 12 playgrounds and parks. Sydney Park is the jewel in the crown, another is the Glebe foreshore and the Harold parkland which we opened not so long ago.

We actually have a whole new part of the city - Green Square - and over 40 parks will be going in there and we are greening the streets too.

Ideally we want to have a liveable city which is walkable, where people can cycle safely and the traffic is not going too quickly, and where we are bringing down emissions and it's a good space for people.

So greening the city is a really high priority and I can assure you we are doing it and we will be able to get onto greening more buildings too.



From Charlotte about creative spaces:

I wanted to ask a question about the Fringe Headquarters you mentioned. Say, if the trial is successful, what will be the next step?

LM: Well that's exactly what we were thinking about this morning. The minister was thinking about it too.

We hope if it goes successfully it will be possible to continue as a performance space. I don't know how, but we want to see how it goes.

It's a fabulous building with an amazing history and ambiance. I think people will want to go there. On the ground floor there will be music at night... and on the other floors they will curate it so there is a variety of different arts and performance there and you can go and decide what you would like to see. The space is an opportunity for artists to get a start or to try out their ideas.



Thank you from the Lord Mayor

The Lord Mayor presented all student with a certificate and thanked them for their important contributions to the future of the city.

“I want to thank you and your parents and your teachers for supporting you in getting involved in this project and talking to us about what you think is important for our city in the future.

As many of you said, this is your future.

It's going to be your city and it's about the things that concern you now, about the future. It's also giving you good experience in thinking about the future and what we need do.

I find it very encouraging to listen to you and to know what's important to you, because many of the things you are talking about are things that are really important to us too.”



Conclusion

This report represents the culmination of a five month consultation process involving 202 students from local primary schools. The young people we have spoken to have been diverse: they have come from public and private schools, non-religious and religious schools with a wide range of cultural backgrounds.

While the young people involved in this process have been diverse, the messages we have heard them speak, have been strongly aligned.

They want an environmentally responsible, innovative, diverse and affordable city. They want a city that is green and inclusive of all cultures. They want a city where human development and the natural environment are in harmony.

They want a city which gives its young people opportunities to express themselves and be heard. They are a generation that is strongly aware of the importance and validity of their own ideas. They are invested in being responsible citizens and are deeply attached to ideas of fairness and equality for all. They see their ideas are often at odds with adult mainstream, particularly where climate change is concerned.

“We have rights. We will be the leaders.”

“I think adults should listen to us because we are helpful, creative and respectful.”

“I hope you can stop climate change now or all the animals will die.”

“...make a place where everyone is treated fairly and can share their culture.”

“I think kids should have a bit of a choice about what happens in the world we live in...”

Acknowledgements

The 2050 Youth Consultations were developed and delivered by the City of Sydney's Strategic Engagement team: Yvette Andrews, Jen Guice, Gareth Jenkins, Sarah Easterman.

We extend our thanks to the City of Sydney staff who attended the Children's Summit and to all the participating students and their teachers.

Congratulations to the following students for their contribution to the future of our city.

St James Catholic Primary School

- Emma Langley
- Charlotte Challiss
- Victoria Thompson
- Beth Pomfret- Steel
- Essence Abiah
- Claire Cassidy
- Alannah Toauli

Forest Lodge Public School

- Halle Robertson
- Lachlan Murphy
- Kyna Wild
- Sienna Robertson
- Sylvie King
- Monty Rooney
- Caleb Jeremy

Erskineville Public School

- Grace McAllister
- Zoe Schacht
- Llew Saunders
- Wil Stanton-Clark

- Ramona Sheikh-Saraf

- Edie Porter
- Robin Ludwig
- Leo Ford

Darlington Public School

- Joe Wilson
- Amon Bolland
- Lucine Kontain
- Jack Davidson
- Charlotte Bullivant
- Ophelia B Andrews
- Jesse Russell
- Jarvis Spencer
- Stella Lagan

St Andrews Cathedral School

- Joshua Morgan
- Oliver Duggan
- Danielle Chapman
- Reina Shi
- Georgia Wansey
- Dennis Cosmetatos

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Fort Street Public School

- Naolin Yeoh
- Abigail El-Sayed
- Aidan Doble
- Antoine Vuong
- Ashley Han
- Ashley Kim
- Ben Cooney
- Dimitri Suhanovs
- Katherine Dorval
- Keyan Alvarez
- Luke Copeman-Hill
- Manon Yhuel
- Morgan Lubbers
- Praneel Nakkina
- Rami Khaldoun
- Rishikaa Malik
- Seyar Akbary
- Soane Jones
- Steven Jap
- Vicky Del Hoyo Collado

