



Global Research
Turning **Information** Into **Insight**

Shaping Sydney To 2050 Stakeholder Event

SUMMARY REPORT: Polls and comments results

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Prepared by Global Research Ltd
For





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Sydney 2050

A City For People

Ideas, actions and desires

Across all the opinions and comments, in summary, the overriding sentiment was that Sydney should be focused on being a place that prioritises people.

Six overarching approaches to creating a city for people were identified from the Shaping Sydney to 2050 stakeholder workshop information.

More affordable, particularly housing

Workshop participants strongly supported Sydney becoming an affordable city by 2050. Housing, rental accommodation, and space for creatives were considered to be out of reach for many and, as such, actions to increase the availability of affordable housing and space were frequently proposed.

Funding for the arts, environmental initiatives and placemaking were also requested across themes. Collaboration between business, Government, and creative agencies in order to provide funding, support and space for creatives to perform/work in were suggested.

Cost of living challenges, such as the need for affordable public transport were frequently identified.

Sustainability actions were considered hampered by affordability, for example, retrofitting “green” initiatives in commercial and residential buildings. Developing new technology, industries, and housing developments were also considered unaffordable in the current economic climate.

An inclusive community that involves and celebrates all people

An inclusive, people-centered, liveable city which supports its most vulnerable and is inclusive of and celebrates diversity was sought by participants.

Diversity was considered to be the differences in cultural, ethnic, age, employment, industry, ability, and economic background. Actions for cultural diversity included providing creative space within commercial and community districts. Participants valued creatives and the arts in general.

Celebration of ethnic diversity and respecting/valuing all people, regardless of their background was desirable. Respect for and the inclusion of First Peoples’ ideas, history and culture were also valued.

Support for people of all ages and collaboration between generations were proposed. Some elderly people were considered vulnerable to isolation and participants sought more local community involvement for elderly people. Future employment, space, and entertainment for young people were also sought.

Inclusivity for people who identified as having a disability was discussed, including one idea to provide funding for sign language interpreters and wheelchair access to events.

Supporting those on low incomes and providing shelter/community services to the homeless were frequently mentioned actions also.

Reconsidering and repurposing public and private space

Developing mixed-use spaces, which would support Sydney in becoming a vibrant 24/7 city was considered important. Words such as multi-purpose, multi-use, diverse, shared and affordable-for-all were used to describe how they would like to see space used in the CBD and other parts of Sydney. Some suggested that space for creatives be mandated in all new commercial buildings.

Creating more green space was also proposed when participants spoke of what a future Sydney looks like and included initiatives such as green roofs, walls and public squares.

Participants suggested that urban design should incorporate areas where people can live/work/play and that space should be “people-centered” instead of centered around personal vehicle requirements.

Gaining official support for creating space in the city was important to participants. For creatives, thinking outside of the square to create space for their work was important. For example, they

suggested using lobby space for performances/pop-up craft stalls, and the outside of buildings and inside commercial offices as places to display their work.

Future focused transport solutions

Vehicle reduction and development of public and active transport options were key changes sought. Reducing cars on Sydney's roads was a key action to increase city liveability, as it would reduce congestion, and allow car parks to be repurposed for more people-friendly uses. Reduced traffic congestion could also be achieved by increasing the provision of public and active transport.

Participants were in favour of increased active transport options and more efficient, affordable and sustainable public transport. The creation of space such as walkways, cycleways and shared bike and bike storage facilities were key active transport actions to create a city where people want to walk and cycle.

Cost and political factors such as political will and approach were the most frequently mentioned barriers to reducing reliance on cars in favour of public and active transport options.

Act to improve environmental outcomes

Climate change impacts on the City of Sydney were a concern. Participants were primarily concerned about Government and community inaction, as well as the severity of the climate crisis. Participants opined that the status quo cannot continue, and more sustainable developments and initiatives need to be implemented.

Improving the environmental performance of the city through smart urban design, and advanced building material use, was proposed. Smart green space provision/use such as rooftop gardens, and public city green spaces were suggested to improve energy efficiency and to mitigate against urban heat.

Water, waste, and energy were key discussion points. These ideas centred around the conservation, reuse, and recycling of water resources and waste products, such as food scraps and plastics. Energy ideas included the provision of off- and on-site renewable resources, such as solar and wind power and the shift to E-transport options.

Political measures and education, awareness and perception were considered key actions and barriers to creating a sustainable city. This is because political will and the type of policies and regulation dictate the uptake of environmental and sustainable initiatives and development. The level of education and awareness that residents receive would dictate their perception of environmental issues and actions and whether or not they would take such actions to reduce environmental harm in their own home, workplace or community.

An innovative economy that assists all to prosper

Creating a circular economy that encourages recycling/reuse of material as well as product stewardship was considered important by participants. As was creating an economy that is strong and that enables all of Sydney's citizens to be supported and prosperous.

Investing in innovation and diversifying the economy in order to retain a competitive edge was frequently mentioned by participants. From the perspective of creatives, valuing and supporting the creative economy was anticipated to benefit all of Sydney, and would attract more visitors to the city, thus also increasing tourism revenue.

Developing a night-time economy would help Sydney create a reputation as a vibrant and diverse city.

Barriers to achievement

Most of the ideas and actions proposed by participants included barriers that would need to be overcome so that they could be implemented. The barriers most frequently identified were cost, politics and attitudes/attitudinal reactions/fears.

Cost/affordability impacts in multiple ways

Cost/affordability was the most frequently mentioned barrier to the implementation of many of the ideas and actions discussed by participants. Cost was defined in a range of ways: the cost of the action or idea was prohibitive; the relative cost of the action or idea in comparison of the cost to retain the status quo; the viability of the action or idea; the opportunity cost; and, the affordability of certain measures, such as housing.

Positive political will and approach necessary

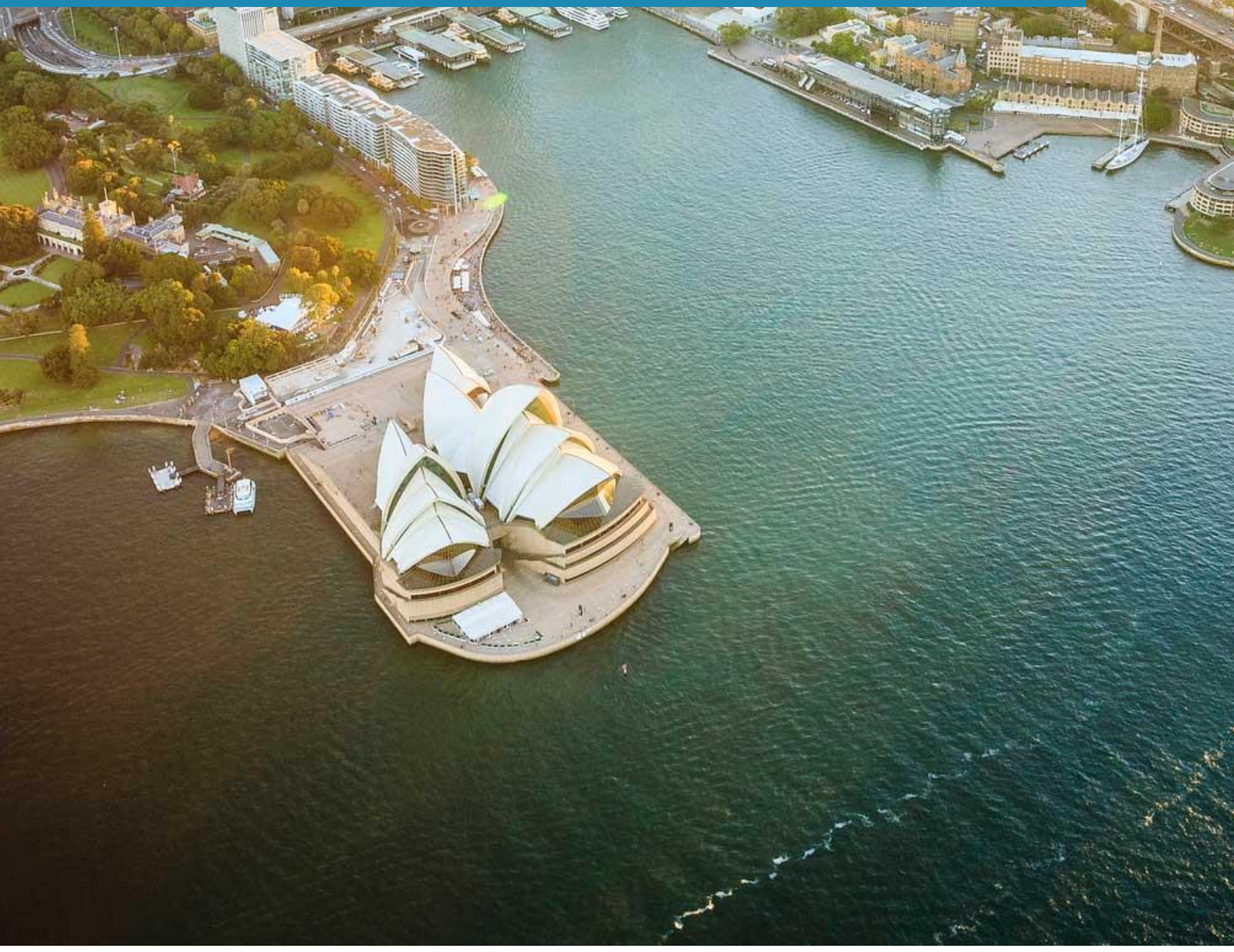
Political barriers included, political will and approach and policy, regulation and planning. These barriers were frequently noted in relation to the ideas and actions commented on by participants. Policy, regulation and planning measures were discussed as key barriers to the implementation of new initiatives. The will of Government and their approach to various actions and ideas was noted as a barrier.

Attitudes receptive to change required

Attitudes of different groups were frequently considered barriers to a range of actions and ideas. There was a belief that Australia is a lucky country and therefore there was no need to change/improve society, the economy, the environment or policy and regulations – which can hinder progress. Lack of education/public awareness and perception of environmental issues was also cited as a barrier to many actions.



Overview



Project background

The City of Sydney ran the Shaping Sydney 2050 multi-stakeholder event on 19th June 2019.

The event was attended by 283 stakeholders from a variety of community sectors, including: Cultural; Economic; Environmental; Governance; Planning; Public Domain; Social; and, Transport/Access.

Information was collected from participants in two ways.

Participants were invited to respond to 10 poll questions via an app. Some participants voted on the responses posted by other participants and questions covered topics such as: “*What’s your big idea for Sydney’s future?*” and “*In one word, tell us what concerns you most about the future of Sydney*”.

Information was also collected via table discussions, where participants proposed *ideas*, *actions* and *barriers* for the city to be successful across five themes: city growth, diversity, liveability and competitive advantage, environment.

Global Research, an independent consultancy, prepared this report.

In total, around 3,000 written statements/comments were collected to inform the findings in this report.

Analysis approach

The two data sources (polls and comments) were analysed similarly.

Comments from the poll questions were organised into key themes and topics, and were dependent on the content of statements and single word answers provided by participants. In most cases, this was around 20 topics. For each of the topics, the total comments and votes on comments were tallied to identify the most and least popular comments/ideas. These results have been presented as charts. The content/sentiment of comments relative to particular topics have been presented as summary discussions.

The table discussions recorded data in a variety of ways. Three of the five themes, *Diversity*, *Competitive Advantage* and *Environment* captured data from particular perspectives. For example, the *Diversity* theme captured data from the perspectives of creatives, key workers and vulnerable people. Two themes, *Liveability* and *Growth* captured comments from one perspective only. All of the ideas proposed were read by analysts and categorised into topics relevant to their content. Each *Ideas* topic was then synthesised to identify common points and singular ideas. The actions and barriers associated with each of the ideas were then synthesised following the same approach. The total number of ideas, actions and barriers under topics were presented as summaries.

Report structure

This report commenced with the Sydney 2050 – a City for People section, which provides a summary of the comments made and opinions expressed across all of the workshop exercises. This section, Overview, outlines the project background, analysis approach and report structure.

The body of the report then follows, which is divided into two main sections. The first section includes the Poll question results – summary charts, a synthesis of written comments and word clouds for some of the data. The second part of the body of the report presents the findings from the five table discussions. These commence with a summary of what was said, followed by charts presenting the total number of comments made on topics under each of the ideas. When poll questions were asked on particular themes, the results are presented following the summary of what was said.



Polls of all participants



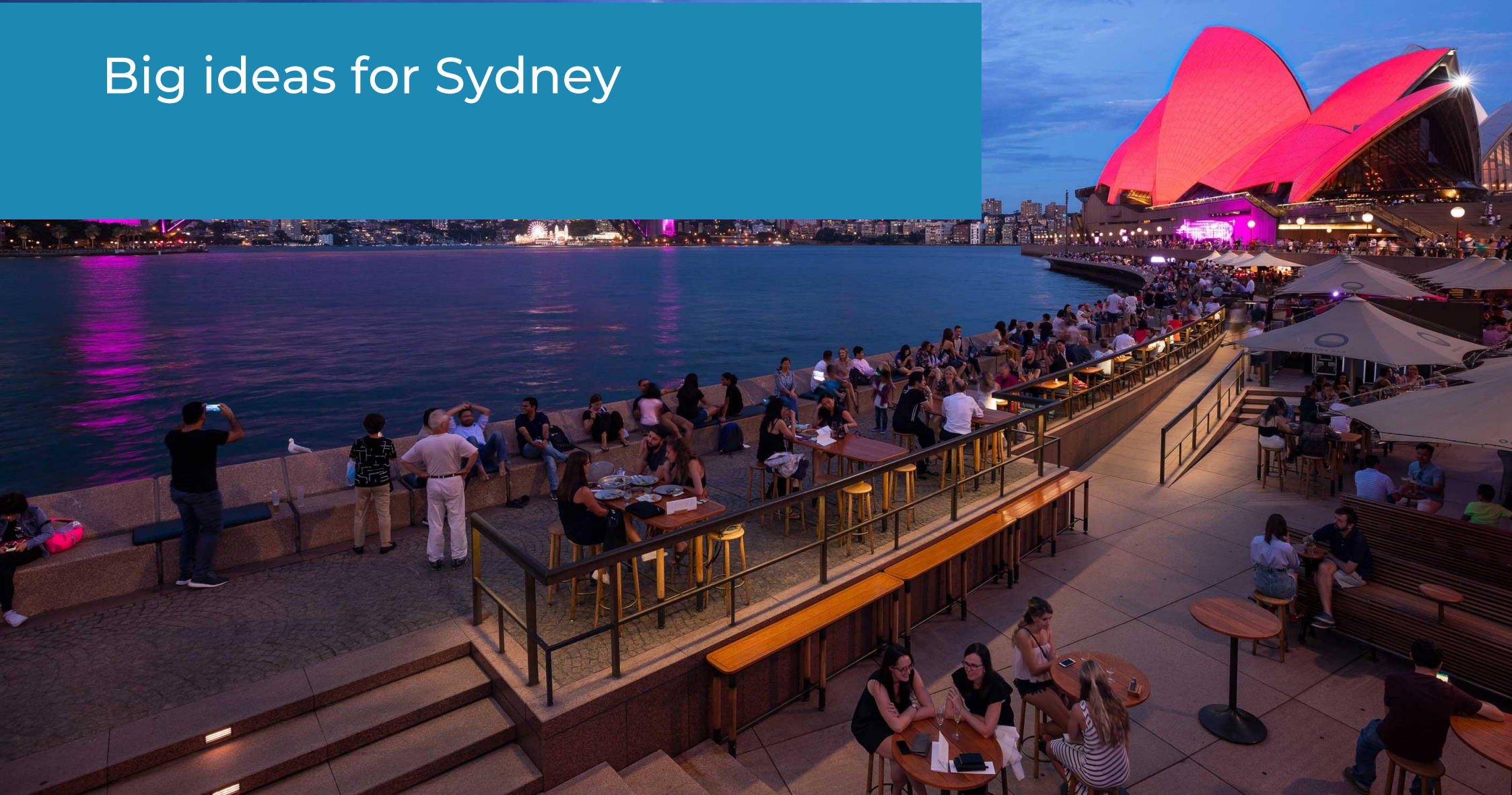
This section contains the results from workshop participants responses to the following polls:

- Big ideas for Sydney
- What excites most about the future
- Biggest concerns about Sydney's future
- Hopes for Sydney in 2050
- Organisational actions to achieve shared vision

Within the poll discussions, to consistently indicate the amount of comments on each topic, the following key is referred to describing the number of comments made within particular topics:

- Very large amount/number of comments = 150+
- Large amount = 100–149
- Sizeable = 75–99
- Substantial amount = 50–74
- Considerable amount = 25–49
- Moderate amount = 15–24
- Several comments = 8–14
- Small number = 4–7
- Few = 3
- Couple = 2

Big ideas for Sydney

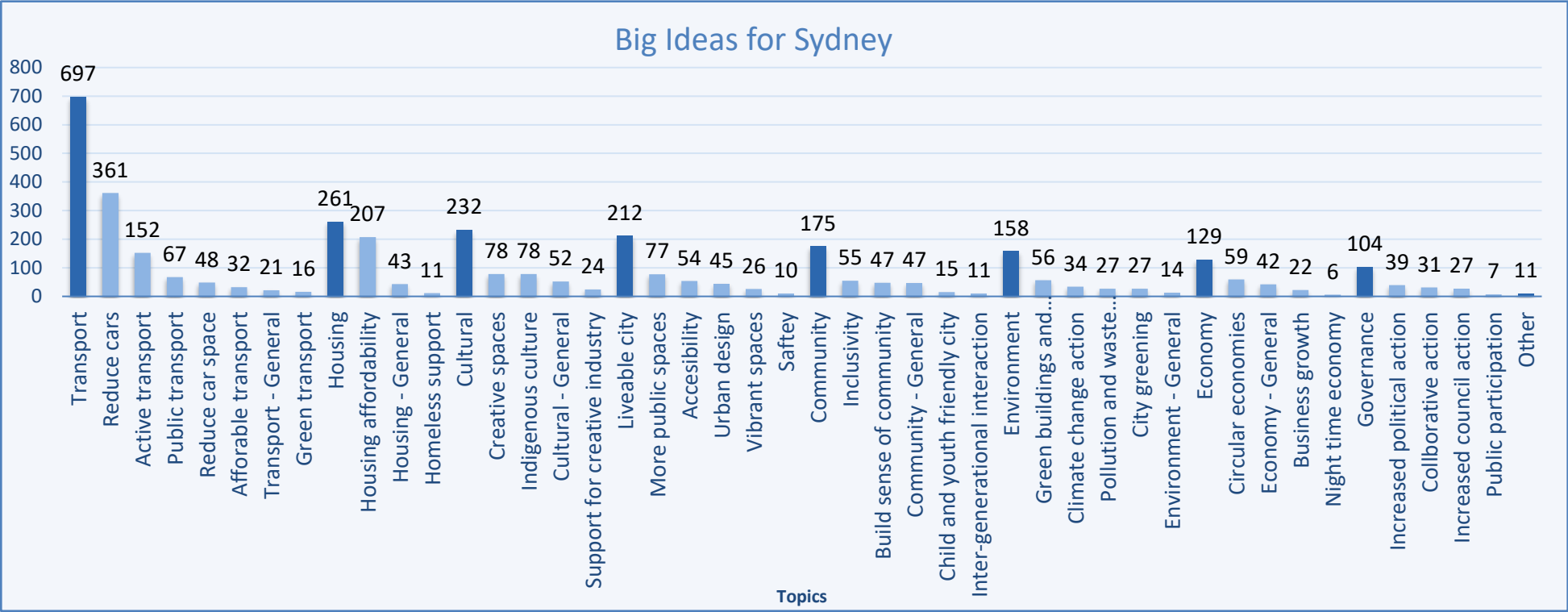


Participants responded to: **What's your big idea for Sydney's future?** They were also able to vote in favour of ideas. The count of ideas and votes is presented in the table. Note, the darker blue bars are the tally of all the light-blue bars under each topic.

What was said

- Transport was the most discussed and voted for idea, particularly: **reduced cars, active transport** and **public transport**.
- Housing affordability was the second most discussed and voted for big idea.
- Cultural initiatives were the third most important idea, particularly: **provision of space for creatives** and **Indigenous people**.

Number of ideas on topics



Comment discussion

The following summarises comments made by participants on each topic. Included with each brief discussion is the number of comments made, plus the number of supporting votes for each topic.

Transport (697)

Big ideas for the future of transport in Sydney were provided by a very large number of participants. Half of these ideas proposed reducing or removing cars from the CBD. A large number of comments were in favour of increasing active transport options, e.g. walking and cycling. A substantial number of comments wanted efficient and affordable public transport within the city.

Housing (261)

Housing affordability was a key issue for a very large number of participants – there was a desire for urban residential spaces to always be affordable.

Cultural (232)

The provision of cultural/creative spaces was important to a large number of participants. A substantial number favoured increasing the inclusion of Indigenous culture/practise in the city of Sydney. Providing more support in the future to creative industries was proposed by a moderate number of participants.

Liveable city (212)

Liveability was discussed by a large number of participants, with nearly half desiring public spaces within the city. Other liveability ideas focused on accessibility, vibrancy, and safety throughout Sydney.

Community (175)

Creating inclusivity, building stronger CBD communities, and increasing inter-generational interaction were ideas suggested by a large number of participants.

Environment (158)

The environment was discussed by a large number of participants. Increasing the number of green buildings and infrastructure in the city was requested, as was a call for collective action on climate change. Reducing waste and pollution, and greening the city in general were ideas proposed by a considerable number of participants.

Economy (129)

The city's economy concerned a large number of participants, with a third of comments favouring a transition to a circular economy model.

Governance (104)

An increase in political action, including actions undertaken by the City Council, were proposed by a considerable number of participants. People also favoured collaborative actions between councils, communities, and commercial interests.

Big Ideas for Sydney

(The 50 most popular words: the size of each word is relative to the number of times it was used by participants. Similar words (synonyms) have been combined.)



An aerial night photograph of a dense urban skyline, likely Sydney. The image shows a variety of skyscrapers, some with distinctive architectural features like a circular rooftop structure. The buildings are illuminated from within, creating a warm glow against the dark sky. The perspective is from a high angle, looking down on the city streets and building tops.

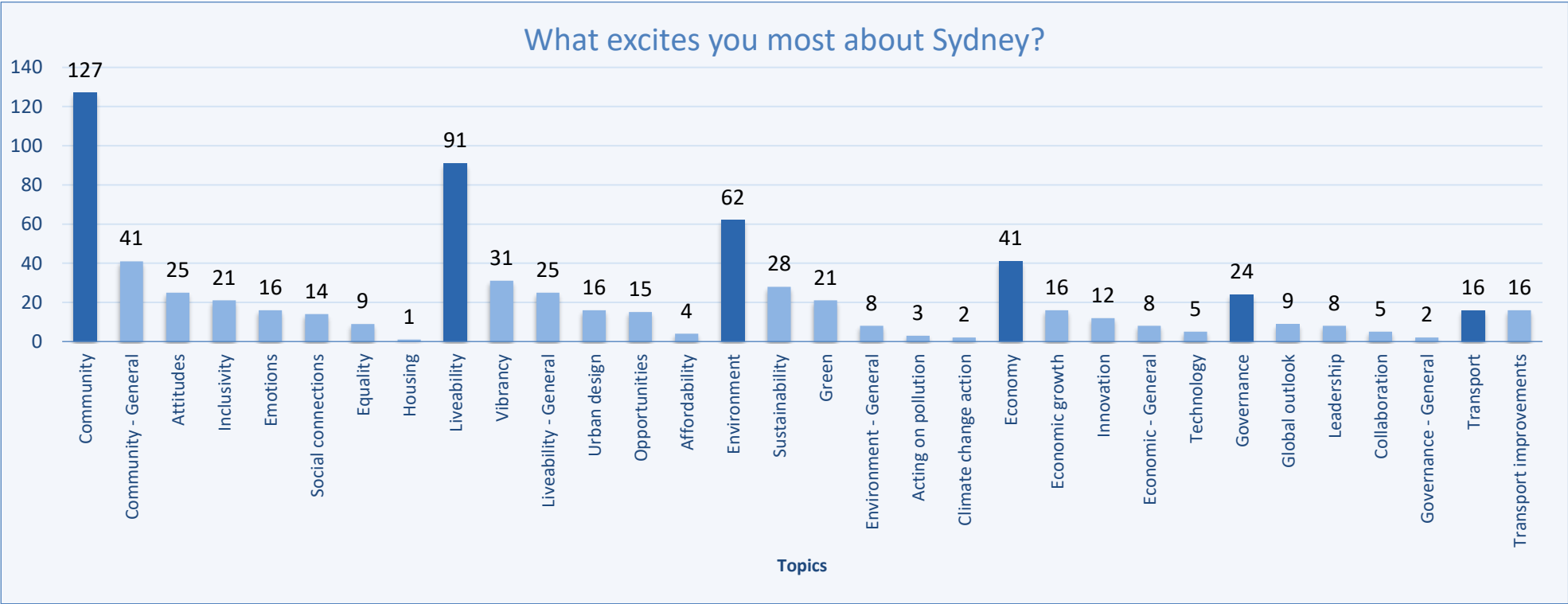
What excites most about
Sydney's future

Participants respond to: In one word, tell us what excites you most about the future of Sydney?

What was said

- Liveability aspects were the most raised and voted on topic that excited participants, particularly the prospect of a vibrant city.
- Community aspects were raised and supported by participants, with people the most commented/voted on aspect.
- Environmental aspects such as sustainability featured as the third most popular response about what excites people about Sydney.

Number of ideas on topics



Comment discussion

Community (127)

Community was mentioned by a sizeable number of participants. Attitudes or approaches to living that excited participants were noted a considerable number of times. People spoke of change, potential resilience, progressiveness and ethical living. Inclusivity was the most exciting thing about Sydney for a moderate number of participants. Emotions such as happy, healthy and hopeful were descriptors used in a moderate number of comments. Social connections and equality were exciting for several people.

Liveability (91)

Liveability was exciting to a sizeable number of participants. Vibrancy and liveability in general were cited by a considerable number of participants, whilst urban design and opportunity were stated as most exciting for a moderate number. Affordability was noted by a small number of people.

Environment (62)

The prospect of a sustainable Sydney was considered exciting by a considerable number of participants. A moderate number of people were excited about the city being 'green' [note – this could be interpreted as more environmentally aware, or having more vegetation in the city]. Environment was simply stated by several people, and action on climate change was proposed by a couple of participants.

Economy (41)

Economic growth and/or prosperity were noted by a moderate number of participants in response to the question of what excites them most about the future of Sydney. Several people responded with innovation and remaining comments were split between general 'economy' and technology.

Governance (24)

Several participants were excited about Sydney having a global outlook, and a similar number cited leadership. Collaboration was viewed as an exciting aspect by a small number of people.

Transport (16)

Transport options such as walkability, light rail and active transport modes were what most excited a moderate number of participants about the future of Sydney.

What Excites Most About Sydney's Future

(The 50 most popular words: the size of each word is relative to the number of times it was used by participants. Similar words (synonyms) have been combined.)





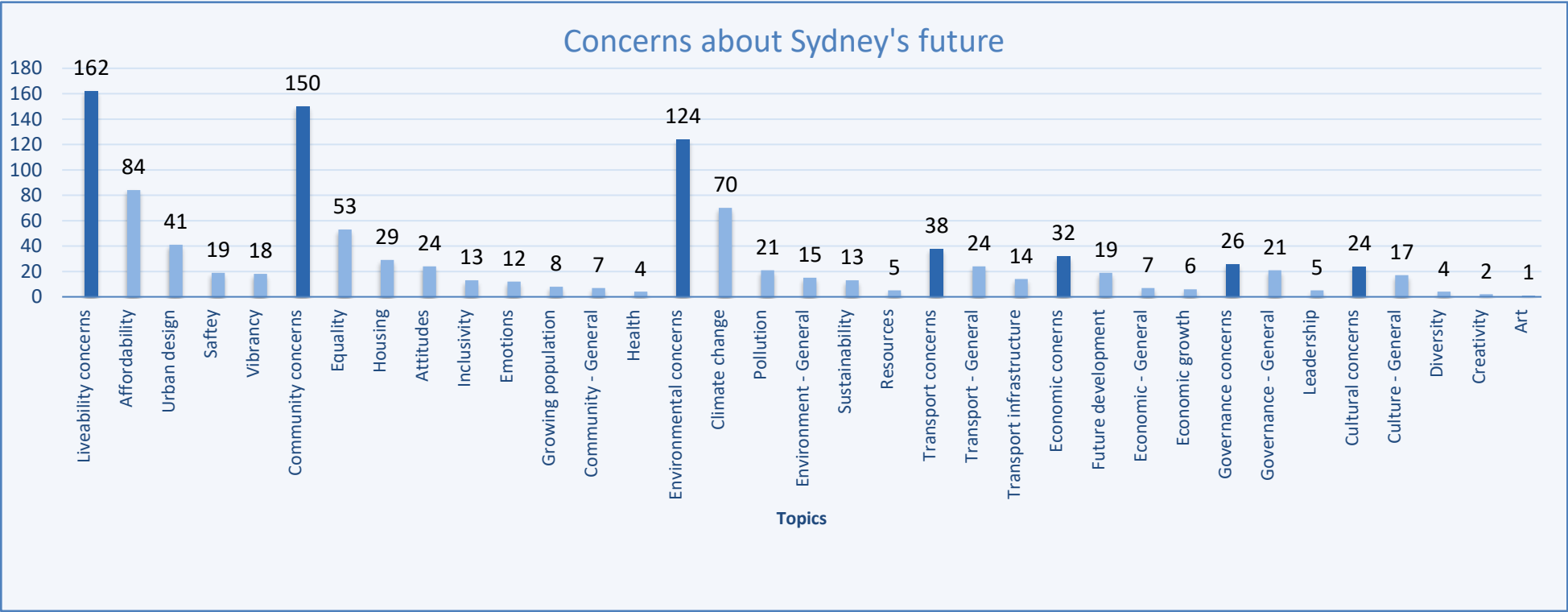
Biggest concerns about Sydney's future

Participants respond to: In one word, tell us what concerns you most about the future of Sydney?

What was said

- Liveability was the biggest concern regarding the future of Sydney, in particular, affordability.
- Community aspects were prominent, with concerns about social cohesion visible.
- Environmental concerns were the third biggest concern regarding the future of Sydney, with climate change the particular concern.

Number of ideas on topics



Comment discussion

Liveability concerns (162)

Affordability was the biggest concern for a sizeable number of participants, regarding liveability. A considerable number of other comments on liveability were related to enhancing urban design. Safety and vibrancy were concerns for a moderate number of participants.

Community concerns (150)

Equality was important to a substantial number of participants with regards to community. A considerable number of people were concerned about housing and a moderate number were concerned about attitudes. Several people were concerned about inclusivity, emotions and the growing population.

Environmental concerns (124)

Environmental concerns were important for a large number of participants. Climate change was the second highest commented on topic overall, with a substantial number of participants worried about its impacts. Pollution and the environment in general were of concern to a moderate number of people. Sustainability was noted several times and resources were a concern for a small number of participants.

Transport concerns (38)

Transport concerns were generalised, with only a small number related specifically to transport infrastructure.

Economic concerns (32)

Future economic development was a concern for a moderate number of participants. A small number of people were concerned about economic growth. The rest of the comments were about economic concerns in general.

Governance (26)

Leadership and political concerns in general were highlighted by a considerable number of people. Nearly all of these were generalised comments, with only a small number citing leadership issues as the most concerning aspect for the future of Sydney.

Cultural concerns (24)

Cultural concerns were generalised and often simply stated as 'culture'. Concerns about diversity and creativity were raised by a small number of participants.

Biggest Concerns about Sydney's Future

(The 50 most popular words: the size of each word is relative to the number of times it was used by participants. Similar words (synonyms) have been combined.)





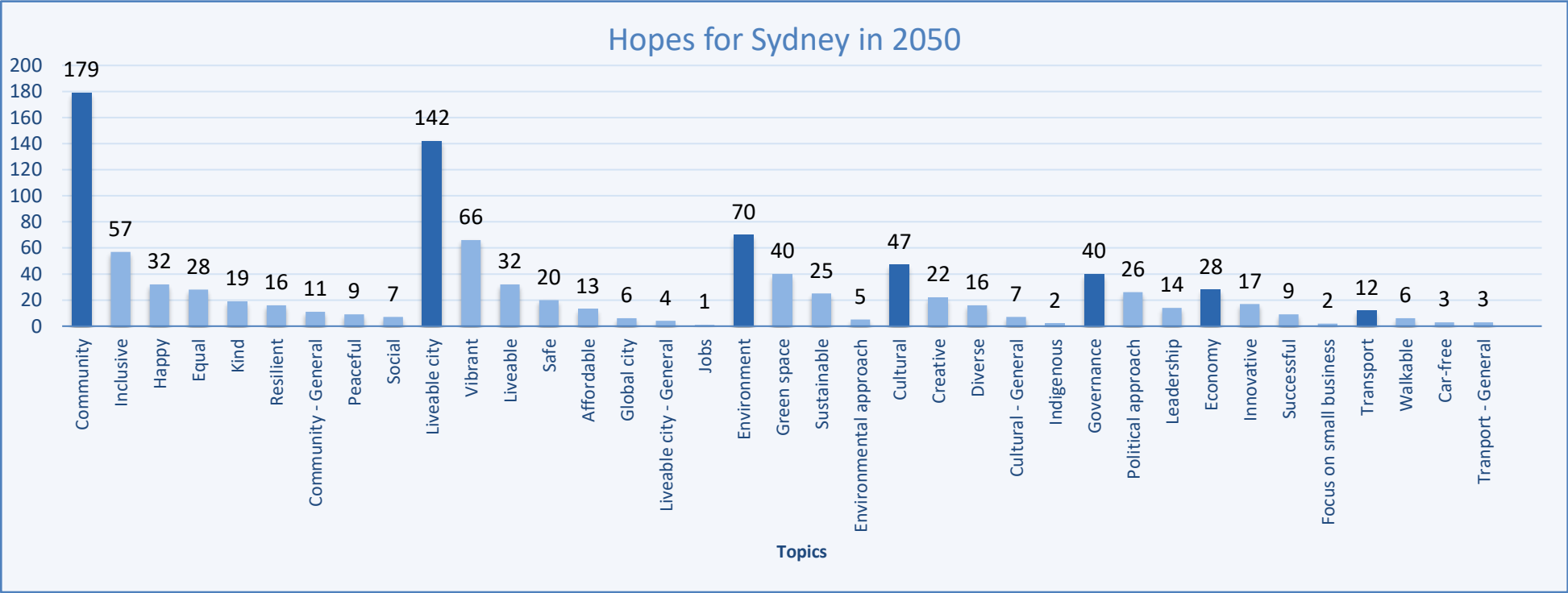
Hopes for Sydney in 2050

Participants responded to: In one word, tell us what is the Sydney you hope for in 2050?

What was said

- Community was the biggest hope regarding the future of Sydney, particularly around ideas of inclusivity and happiness.
- Liveable city was the second biggest hope regarding the future of Sydney; participants spoke of Sydney being a vibrant and liveable city.
- Environmental was the third biggest hope regarding the future of Sydney; green space and sustainability were the most discussed ideas.

Number of ideas on topics



Comment discussion

Community (179)

In the very large number of comments on community, participants conveyed that they hoped mainly for inclusivity in 2050. A considerable number of people each hoped for happiness and equality, while a moderate number hoped for kindness and resilience. Several participants stated that their hope was for generally positive community outcomes, peace, and social outcomes.

Liveable city (142)

For a very large number of people, hopes for Sydney in 2050 were centered on it being a liveable city. A substantial number of people stated 'vibrant', while a considerable number stated 'liveable'. A moderate number wanted a safe Sydney in 2050, and several hoped for affordability. A small number hoped for Sydney in 2050 to be a global city, and one simply stated 'jobs'.

Environment (70)

For a substantial number of participants who contributed to the poll, environmental hopes were prioritised. Over half of the environmental hopes were about green or natural space in the city, while a third hoped for sustainability. A small number wanted the environment prioritised in general ways.

Cultural (47)

Cultural hopes were centered around creativity, with a moderate number of participants hoping for a creative Sydney in 2050. A moderate number also hoped for a diverse Sydney, while a small number of people noted general cultural hopes, and a couple of peoples' hopes were 'Indigenous'.

Governance (40)

Various political approaches were cited in response to the question of what hopes people have for Sydney in 2050. Several participants cited leadership as a hope.

Economy (28)

An innovative and successful economy were hoped for by a considerable and moderate number of participants respectively. Economic hopes were a priority for a considerable number in total.

Transport (12)

Transport hopes were few, with several people citing aspects of this in their responses. A small number wanted a walkable Sydney and a few participants each noted car-free and general transport hopes in comments.

Hope for Sydney

(The 50 most popular words: the size of each word is relative to the number of times it was used by participants. Similar words (synonyms) have been combined.)



Organisational actions to achieve shared vision



Participants responded to: **To achieve our shared vision for the future between now and 2025, my organisation will...** (participants could select more than one option)

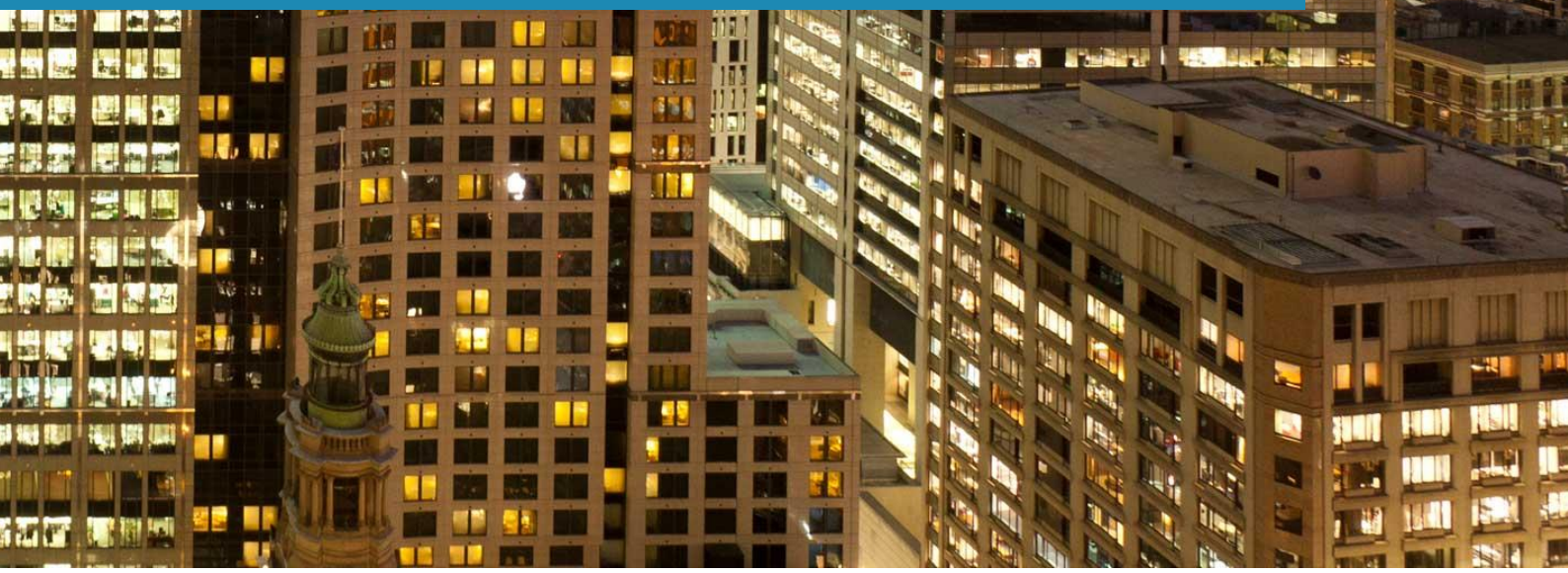
Partner with the City and/or other city stakeholders; Collaborate with the City or other stakeholders; Contribute resources, including finance; Advocate with the City and/or other stakeholders.

What was said

- Collaborate with the City or other stakeholders was the most commonly selected option – 80%
- Advocate with the City and/or other stakeholders was the second most commonly selected option – 72%
- Partner with the City and/or other city stakeholders was the third most commonly selected option – 63%



Table discussions and polls



The sections that follow summarise the findings for the discussions held on five key topics for Sydney to 2050: How the city retains its diversity; How Sydney's competitive advantage can be strengthened, How Sydney maintains its liveability; How the city should grow, and, How we live within our environment. Each section commences with a summary of findings for each theme, then provides results of Topic Polls that were held, and finally the number of Ideas, Actions and Barriers comments is presented in charts. The Full Report (separate to this report) contains a full synthesis of all comments that were provided by participants.



How the city retains its diversity



What we heard

Creative perspective

Availability of space ideas primarily covered providing space for creatives to work and display their work. It was important to participants that there are varied options, and that these are accessible. Some practical actions associated with this included the identification of locations suitable for arts initiatives (such as the use of foyers and/or vacant buildings, and, creativity hubs), and initiatives to promote a diverse population of creatives (such as subsidies, or designating certain Government buildings for arts). Barriers foreseen included tensions between those with different objectives, and a lack of funding.

Affordability issues were viewed as impacting on creatives' ability to live and work in Sydney. The availability of affordable housing was the main issue, actions suggested to support affordability were consistently about initiatives designed to 'free up' under-used spaces, or regulations to ensure the provision of affordable housing. Barriers to this were typically financial, but also related to housing supply and broader societal factors such as attitudes and values.

Regulations were criticised by participants as hindering the ability of a diverse creative city to evolve. Fewer regulations around noise were called for, particularly in the case where an existing venue is encroached upon by a new development. Local residents were seen as a potential barrier to these actions, and their expectation of peace and quiet was viewed as being at odds with city living.

Support for creatives was envisaged in the following forms: increased opportunities to showcase work, community support, Council support (such as free transport during arts festivals or exhibitions, and subsidised rental for art studio or band practice spaces). Barriers were again around costs and the difficulties of implementation due to bureaucratic and administrative roadblocks.

Community development ideas were centered on the concept of a 'city of villages' and the promotion of these as independent creative locales. Precinct-level support services (i.e. de-centralisation) was thought to enable better communication and collaboration at a 'village' level. The few barriers identified were around unsystematic approaches which were viewed as ineffective.

Economy ideas, actions and barriers were few. Participants supported the embedding of a cultural economy and identified socio-economic inequality and the lack of person-centered approaches as barriers.

Key worker perspective

Transport ideas were typically about reducing commute times and the availability of affordable and reliable public transport. Barriers identified were systemic, such as the economy, and the will of the Government.

Affordability issues, such as for housing, were viewed as potentially limiting diversity and stifling creativity in Sydney. Suggested actions proposed included the idea that accessible housing be located close to transport and health services, and also that co-working spaces be made available for digital nomads to be able to take a flexible approach as to their work location. Affordable housing was viewed as crucial to attracting key workers to the city.

State-Federal Government initiatives suggestions involved clear mandate/policy targets on inclusionary zoning (or equivalent) in order for the city to retain its diversity from the perspective of key workers. Government intervention through planning and zoning was thought to achieve this, and barriers were again identified as being of a systemic nature.

Vulnerable persons perspective

Affordability was seen to mostly impact on elderly women. Actions to combat high housing costs were identified as zoning changes, investment in social housing, and reducing land costs. Barriers were money, space, and allocation of resources.

Availability of space was an issue affecting the ability of Sydney to retain its diversity. Ideas to combat this included the utilisation of existing spaces for creative networking, and the provision of accessible support services for vulnerable people. Some of this could be funded by developers, according to one participant. Barriers raised were those to do with policy and/or decisions around who would administer initiatives and how.

Community development ideas and actions were around inclusivity for those with a disability, or the elderly – and involved funding arts ventures for physical infrastructure (i.e., ramps) to improve accessibility, as well as social support in the form of Auslan interpreters, although it was acknowledged that resourcing this might be a barrier to its implementation.

State-Federal Government initiatives were supported in theory, with participants' ideal scenario involving all levels working together. This was considered difficult to enact on the basis that the three-tiered system is embedded, and that the will to change operationally might not be present.

Homeless support services of a sustainable and connected nature were suggested, with both actions and barriers involving funding. One suggestion included mandatory donations from businesses.

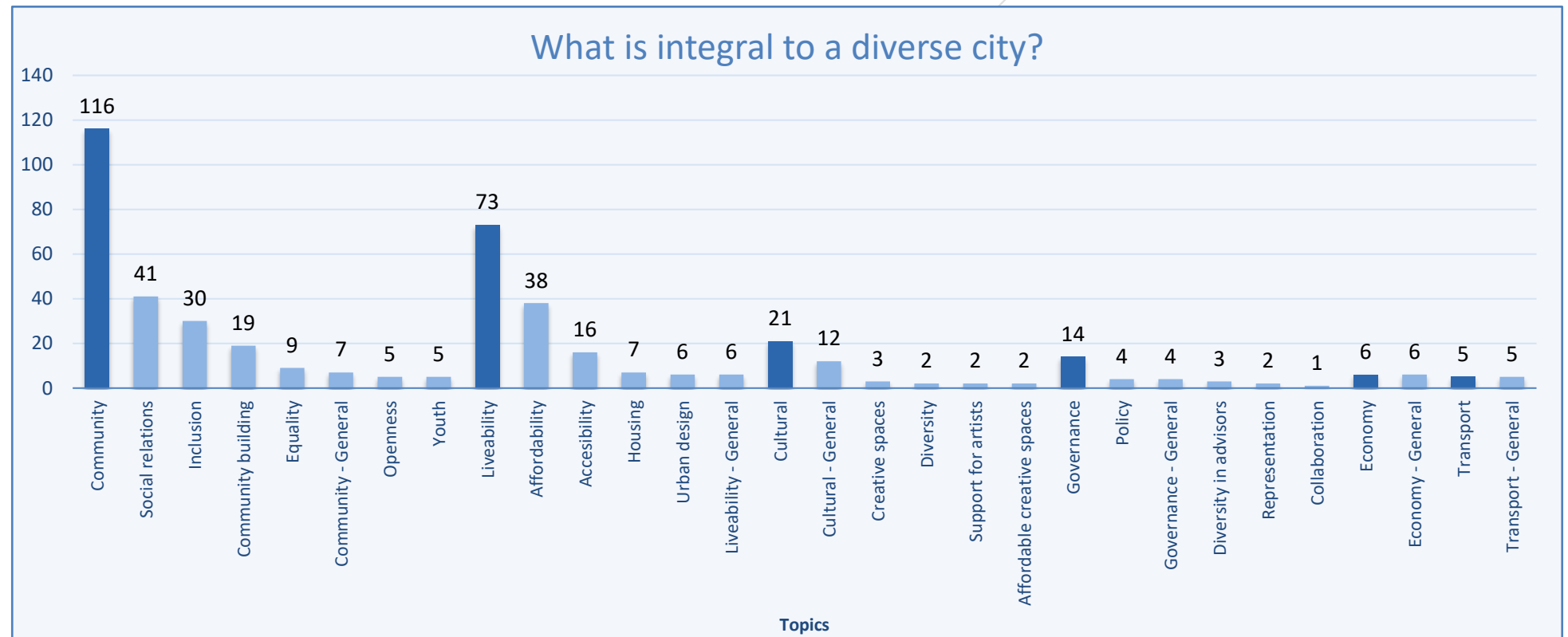
Topic poll: Integral for diversity in the city

Participants respond to: What is the one thing that is integral to having a diverse city?

What was said

- **Community** was important for a diverse city, with positive relationships and good **social relations** viewed as integral aspects of this.
- **Liveability** was the second most important thing for a diverse city; **affordability** was particularly highlighted.

Number of ideas on topics



Comment discussion

Community (116)

A large number of participants discussed community aspects of diversity, such as relationships, inclusivity, and equality. Of these, a considerable number said that social relationships between people were crucial to fostering diversity in Sydney. Others noted that in order to be diverse, Sydney should be inclusive and open to all members of society.

Liveability (73)

Affordable living was a key part of ensuring diversity in Sydney according to a considerable number of participants. This particularly related to the availability of affordable housing in the city. A moderate number of participants spoke about accessibility and ensuring that the city was accessible to all.

Cultural (21)

A moderate number of participants said that culture was important to creating diversity in Sydney. Particular cultural aspects mentioned by a few participants included the importance of creative spaces, support for artists, and affordable creative spaces.

Governance (14)

Several participants said that effective governance was integral to encouraging diversity in Sydney. They spoke of improved policies, increased representation and diversity of advisors in Government, as well as collaboration – as all being integral to diversity.

Economy (6)

The economy was viewed as integral to having a diverse city by a small number of participants, with finance, money, productivity and jobs cited as being important.

Transport (5)

Transport was cited as integral to diversity by a small number of people.

Integral for diversity

(The 50 most popular words: the size of each word is relative to the number of times it was used by participants. Similar words (synonyms) have been combined.)



Table discussion

Description of table exercise

Participants were invited to reflect and discuss within their tables the following question:

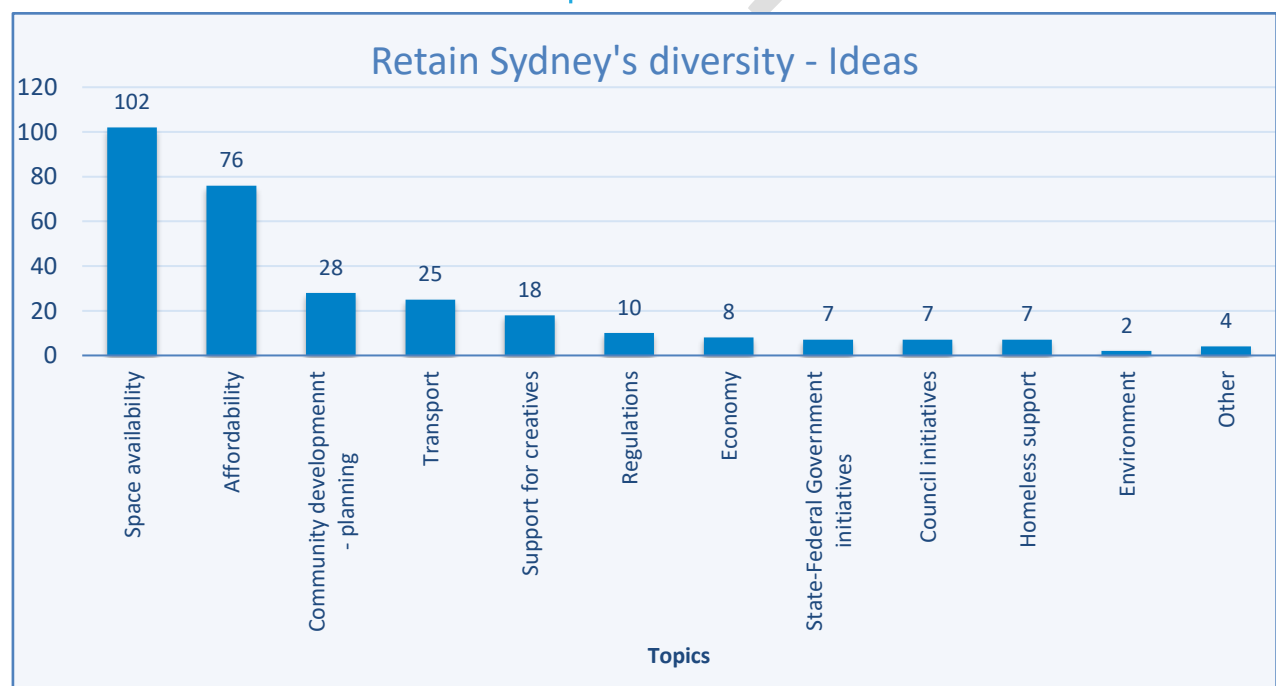
'What do we need to do to respond to the needs of our creatives? The most vulnerable? Key workers? If we want to have a city that is diverse, inviting, lively and creative.'

At each table, participants were provided with blank cards and were invited to write down their ideas, the actions to be taken and the barriers related to that idea. Their responses were divided into the perspectives outlined in the above question. The perspectives were – creatives, key workers and vulnerable persons.

Number of Ideas, Actions and Barriers

The three charts that follow present the number of ideas, actions and barriers comments made during the discussions on *'What do we need to do to respond to the needs of our creatives? The most vulnerable? Key workers? If we want to have a city that is diverse, inviting, lively and creative.'* Note that these charts include all the perspectives, and are not split into the perspectives of, creatives, key workers and vulnerable persons.

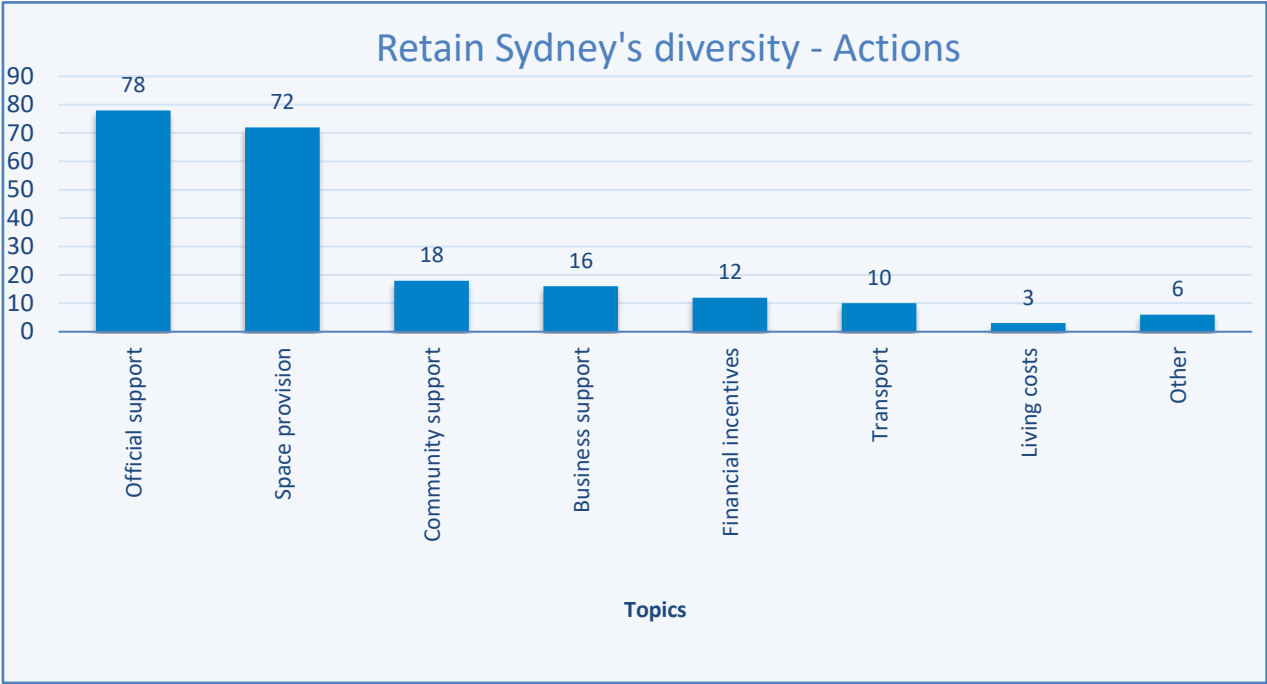
Ideas: number of comments on topics



Results

- *Space availability* ideas were the most commonly suggested.
- Other commonly suggested barriers were those about *affordability*.

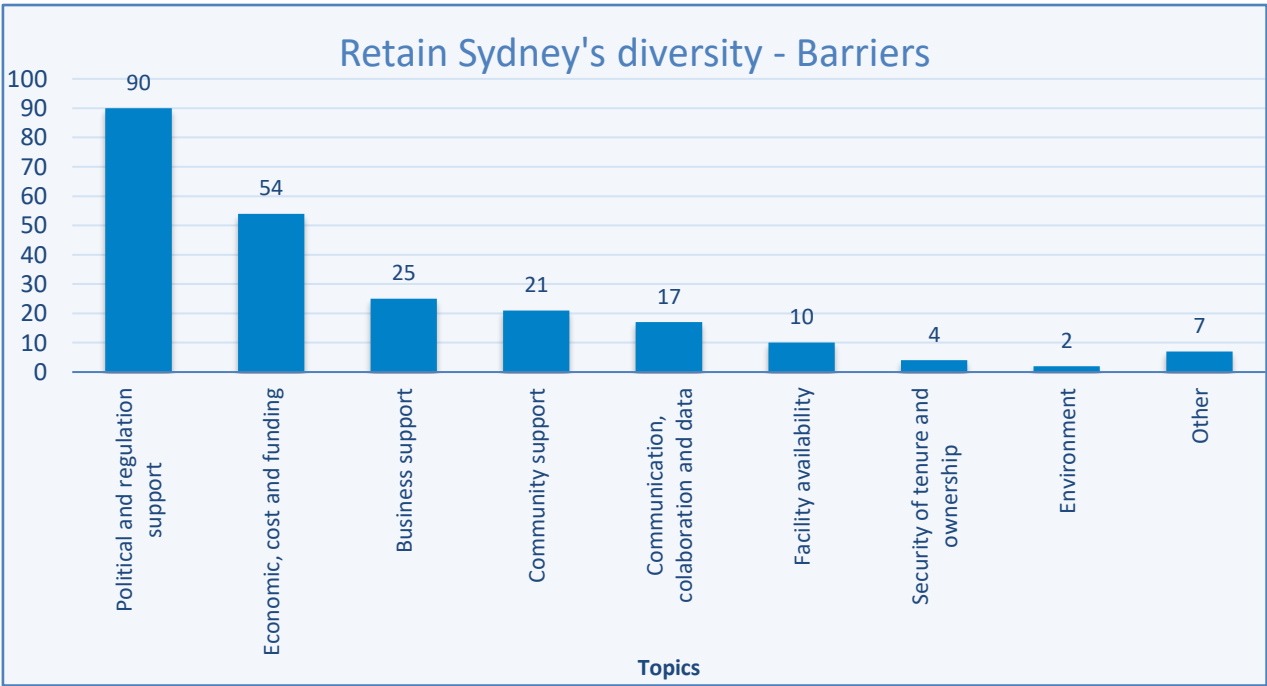
Actions: number of comments on topics



Results

- *Official support* actions were the most commonly suggested.
- Other commonly suggested barriers were about *space provision*.

Barriers: number of comments on topics



Results

- *Political and regulation support* barriers were the most commonly suggested.
- Other commonly suggested barriers were those about *economic, cost, funding*.

A nighttime photograph of the Sydney Town Hall. The building's facade is illuminated with green lights, highlighting its classical architecture, including columns and a clock tower. In the foreground, several people are walking, their figures blurred to convey a sense of movement. A blue rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing white text.

How Sydney's competitive advantage can be strengthened

What we heard

0–5-year time period

Establishing and growing innovative businesses was a popular idea cited for maintaining Sydney's competitive advantage, and reducing risk was a key outcome sought. Actions to achieve this were the provision of affordable building space for various uses and the reduction of tax and insurance liabilities. Enticing successful businesses to Sydney by supporting their growth was another suggested action. Barriers identified were entrenched business management practices that don't embrace technology-based development options, such as working remotely.

Supporting artistic development, such as making Sydney Australia's cultural hub was proposed. A centralised hub, as well as repurposing spaces for artistic purposes were suggested actions. Improved affordability for providers and audiences was another suggestion. Specific actions for Local and Federal Government were funding and supporting artistic programmes. The key barrier to delivery was considered lack of understanding and acknowledgment of the importance of the arts.

An equitable, diverse city with high quality of life was interpreted as the need for building social capital, social connections and equity for all including the most vulnerable. The sentiment within actions to deliver on equity outcomes was being flexible and adaptive to community needs, including: tech/innovative designs to improve city life, community environmental actions/activities, and authentic cultural celebrations. Government actions included facilitating and tracking change. Barriers were considered the need for affordable housing and freeing up floor space, along with the issue of Sydney citizens' mindset and cultural attitudes.

Other ideas suggested were:

- **Improving human capital**, through improving salaries, job centres and educational opportunities. More training and jobs growth were key actions, and barriers were the current institutional systems and equitable opportunities.
- **More, improved affordable housing** to attract a more diverse Sydney population, particularly young people. Actions included reusing and repurposing existing space. The main barriers included the matter of funding and the need for private business to return profits.
- **Support for a more diverse Sydney** was suggested in a few ideas. Actions to achieve this were the promotion and delivery of Government programmes. A barrier was the need to prioritise and take meaningful action.

6–10-year time period

Support for clean tech/green innovative businesses over financial and professional services was a popular idea for the medium term, to maintain Sydney's competitive advantage. Actions to achieve this were Government support through grants and investment, and supporting affordable commercial space through structural policy changes. The main barriers were identified to be financial/cost and uncertainty around skills availability.

Improving city liveability through physical infrastructure – such as walkability and spaces that facilitate human interactions – were other ideas. Actions to achieve this were providing space for creatives within new buildings and green interaction space within all new developments, as well as improving active movement infrastructure (walkability) in public spaces. Providing computer terminals in public spaces for the disadvantaged was also suggested. The key barrier was the lack of will to make changes to the public realm to improve walkability, and the need for ongoing support to access services for underprivileged communities.

Fostering human capital through a variety of ideas was suggested, such as investing in talent, and educating young people to work in new industries. Actions to achieve this were focused on teaching young people what they will need to know so as to be successful in the future. Barriers to delivering ideas were a lack of investment in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) research, youth lacking the confidence to take learning risks, and the undervaluing of international education.

Reduced traffic congestion through better public and active transport was suggested. Actions to achieve this were a comprehensive metro, cargo bikes for last-km deliveries, charging points, and diversified activity centres. Barriers to achievement were cost and political will.

Improving environmental resilience was proposed in other ideas. Actions to achieve this included embedding resilience and climate risk management into every planning decision. Heat mitigation included green roofs and an urban tree canopy, improving building efficiency and light-colored roads, promotion of repair and recycle to reduce consumption was also suggested. Barriers included a lack of integrated thinking across sectors.

11–30-year time period

There were fewer ideas suggested for the 11–30-year time period than there were for the two shorter time periods.

Building on competitive strengths through exporting professional services and education technology were proposed ideas. Actions to deliver these included the enhancement of multiculturalism and links to places outside of Sydney. Barriers were cost efficiency of geographic connectivity and collaboration.

Business initiatives were relatively diverse and included implementation of a modern slavery bill, diversifying work centres to Parramatta, ensuring diversity of space, and filling the gaps between seed funds. Actions to deliver these were the provision of affordable business space, realignment of the metro system to Parramatta, lobbying Federal Government and incentivising exploitation-free workplaces. Barriers to achievement were the value of Sydney's real estate and political criteria.

Improving liveability through changing where people live was expressed in ideas to increase the number of people living in the CBD or to establish Parramatta as more of a centre. Actions to achieve this were increasing CBD residential living options and improving transport connections to Parramatta. Barriers to achievement were the need to create an attractive city that draws people, such as one that isn't dominated by personal vehicles.

Other ideas suggested were:

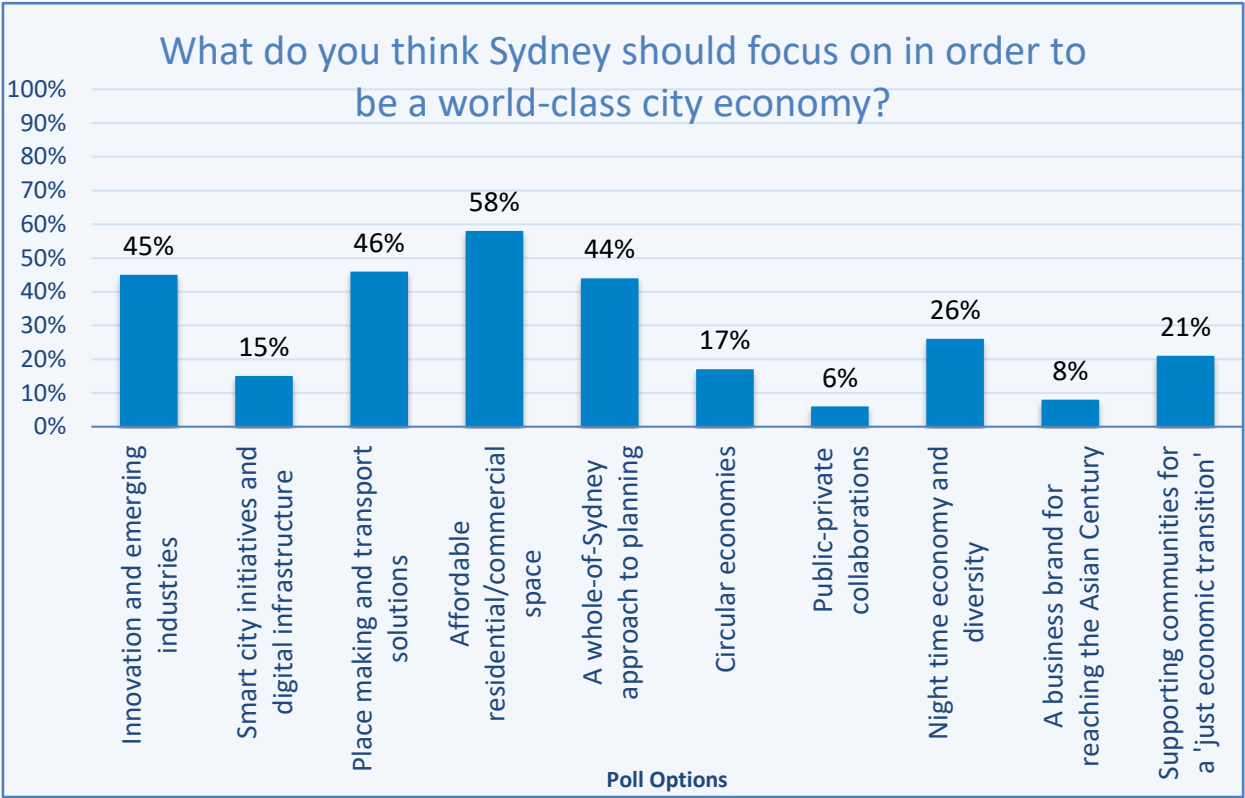
- **Council and Government improvements** through increased efficiency, increasing commercial space through rezoning. Actions to achieve this were increased Council influence with a Swedish approach, incentivising space development and reducing Government control. Barriers to achievement were the lack of trust between authorities and developers.
- **Develop a culture hub** was one long-term idea, with actions to achieve this being an investment in creativity and the development of Government policy to create culture hubs. A lack of policy was identified as a barrier.
- **Improved active transport** and reduced vehicles, through actions such as improving the city's pedestrian master plan. Barriers identified were cost and political will.
- **Improved housing** through better environmental options or a mix of residential and commercial space. Actions included support for 5/6-star environmental standards and local Government initiatives. Barriers to achievement were cost and prioritisation.

Topic poll: Sydney's focus to be a world-class city economy

Participants were invited to answer the question below, by selecting options presented in the chart below. Note that multiple options could be selected, and 78 participants completed the activity.

'What do you think Sydney should focus on in order to be a world-class city economy?'

Sydney's focus to be a world-class economy



Results

- The most commonly selected option (58%) to focus on what *affordable housing and commercial space*.
- Three other options were also considered important (+44%): *place-making and transport solutions*; *innovation economy and emerging industries*; and, *A whole-of-Sydney approach to planning*.

Table discussion

Description of table exercise

Participants were invited to reflect and discuss within their tables the following two questions:

‘What do we need to do to build on our competitive strengths as a job centre, tourism attractor and cultural hub?’

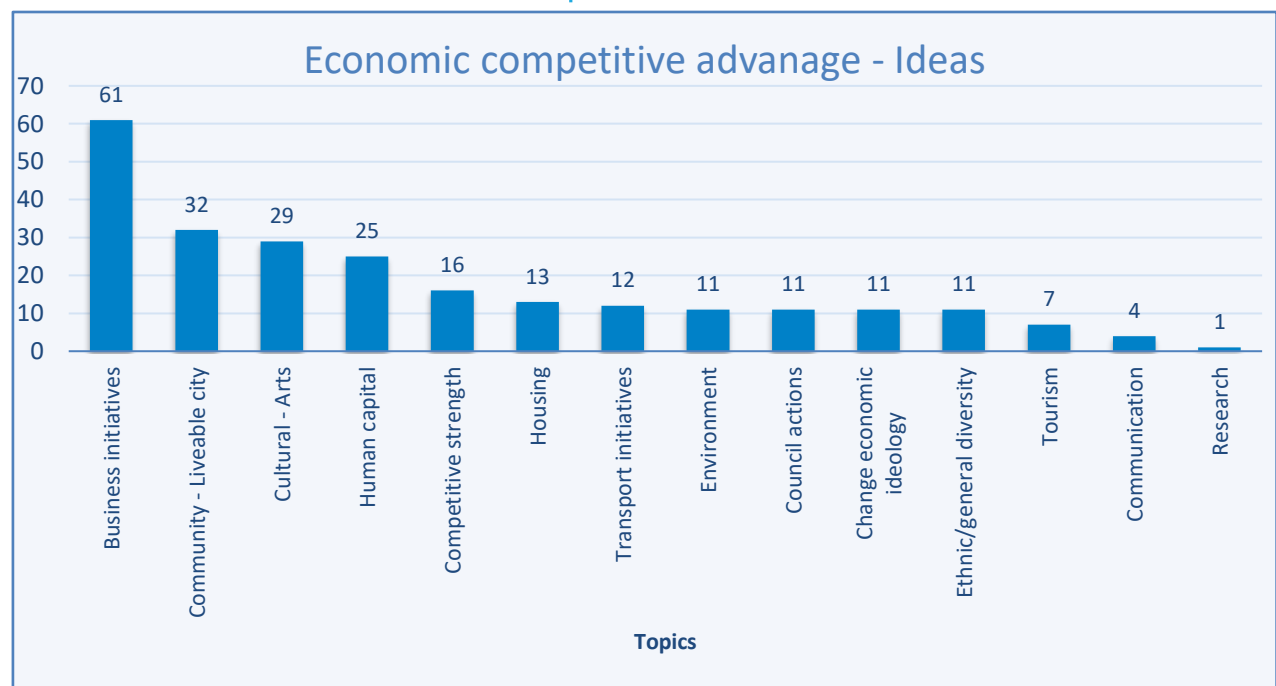
‘How do we ensure the city’s economy is resilient, agile and inclusive to prosper in the face of change?’

At each table, participants were provided with blank cards to write down their ideas, the actions to be taken and the barriers to that idea and then to plot the cards into a timeline of 0-5 years (by 2025), 6-10 years (by 2030) and 11-30 years (by 2050), according to the timing they considered important for that idea to be implemented.

Number of Ideas, Actions and Barriers

The three charts that follow present the number of ideas, actions and barriers comments made during the discussions on “*How do we strengthen Sydney’s competitive advantage?*”. Note that these charts are for all time periods, and have not been split by the 0–5 ; 6–10 and 11–30 year time periods.

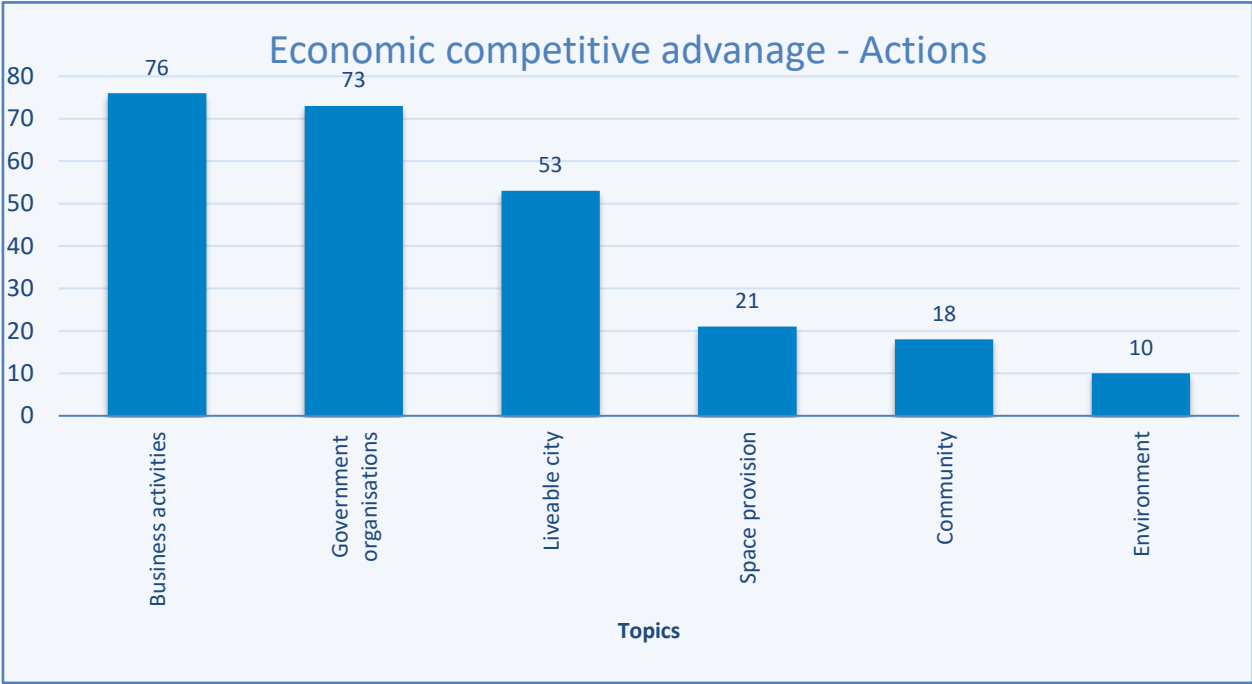
Ideas: number of comments on topics



Results

- *Business initiatives* were the most commonly suggested ideas.
- Other commonly suggested ideas were: *community-liveable city*; *cultural-arts*; and, *human capital*.

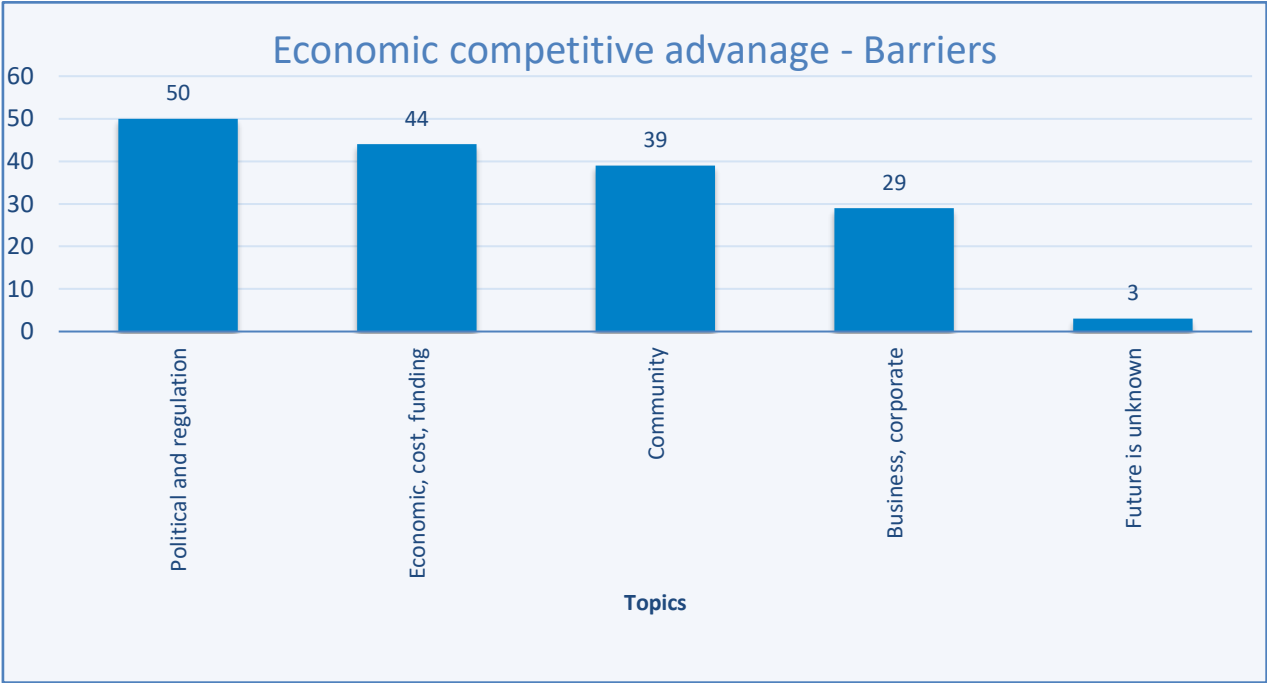
Actions: number of comments on topics



Results

- *Business activities* were the most commonly suggested actions.
- Other commonly suggested activities were those regarding: *Government organisations* and *liveable city*.

Barriers: number of comments on topics



Results

- *Political and regulation* barriers were the most commonly suggested.
- Other commonly suggested barriers were: *economic, cost, funding, community, and business, corporate*.



How Sydney maintains its liveability



What we heard

Green the city was the most discussed idea as to how Sydney could maintain its liveability. This idea involved finding ways to increase the number of trees and greenery in the city, and the connection of green open spaces, as well as improving cooling, air quality, and climate resilience. The most popular action to 'green' the city was the development of vertical and rooftop gardens. Other suggestions included urban rewilding, vines across streets and on wires, the repurposing of existing space to green space and increased access for the community to plant and care for green space. Key barriers to the greening of the city included infrastructural, policy, cost, and regulation and planning barriers.

Create more space for people by calming the city centre to create more space for people to walk, cycle and 'stay' supported by a great public transport system. Increasing the number of public transport options and the amount of public transport that was available were suggested actions, along with extensions to, and development of, new cycle ways, the removal and use of cars, and the creation of park-and-ride and underground parking facilities. Cost, infrastructure availability, investment and not enough focus on integrating public transport and cars or creative solutions to current problems were all identified as key barriers.

Create a city for walking, with investment in calm, cool, green, connected streets to encourage more people to walk more often. The most popular action was to create spaces for walking in the city. Other actions included the development of infrastructure, such as a skywalk, public water fountains and shade panels to encourage people to walk. Green building design and the 'greening' of streetscapes and corridors were also discussed. Cost was the biggest barrier. Other barriers included public resistance and ingrained dependence on cars, as well as regulatory and policy barriers.

Support night-time economy, by encouraging a range of activities, supported by good public transport – to ensure the city has a vibrant, safe and flourishing night-time economy. The key actions to achieve this idea were to create, change or remove policy and regulations and to develop activities and spaces to better support a night-time economy. The most identified barriers were planning, policy and regulatory functions.

Re-prioritise road space in the city centre by re-routing traffic from the city centre to around the city centre – to decrease congestion and make more space available for public life. A range of actions was suggested, including: limiting traffic on the roads; the implementation of a road toll to enter the city, or a congestion tax; reducing speed limits; the creation of shared roads; and, reclaiming parking spaces for other uses. The barriers to re-prioritisation of road space were highly varied. The barriers included private industry will, policy and regulatory barriers, effects on city transport and parking reduction, as well as conventional hours of transport.

Create a city for cycling, through investment in bike routes that connect the city centre to surrounding areas so as to encourage more people to cycle more often. The development of infrastructure, such as interconnected and protected bikeways, bike storage facilities and transport solutions were the most popular actions identified to create a city for cycling. Other actions included the implementation of education programmes in order to rectify driving culture and the attitudes of drivers towards cyclists and pedestrians, implementation of share- and e-bikes, and policy and regulatory controls to increase the 'greening' of the city. The key barriers were education, public awareness and perception, the driving culture, public and motorist resistance, and political will and approach.

Leverage public transport investment, investing sufficiently in public transport to move people across metropolitan Sydney into the city centre and creating great places around public transport infrastructure. Over half of the actions suggested concerned 'green' infrastructure, particularly the implementation of electrified buses, such as those that run on solar or battery power. Cost was the biggest barrier, followed by political will and approach.

Create a city for staying by improving the quality and expansion of public spaces across the wider City of Sydney. Public spaces were seen as spaces for people to come together, for recreation, sporting activities, events, and cultural activities. Suggested actions centered around developing community and shared spaces. Three key barriers were identified, including: private industry will, space, and governmental barriers.

An inclusive city is a child-friendly and age-friendly city – a city that works for everyone of all ages and abilities and is welcoming. Two key actions were identified to achieve an inclusive city. Suggested actions were to increase the interactions between children and adults, especially the elderly, and also to increase accessibility of buildings for all peoples. Cost, stereotypes and inadequacy of exiting spaces, buildings and facilities were barriers that were each identified twice. No one barrier was identified more than a couple of times.

A cultural and creative city, by encouraging more small scale, localised cultural activity in Sydney. Key actions to improving cultural activity included grants for community, creative and cultural activities, the use of existing spaces or 'cheap' spaces for cultural and creative activities. Affordability and funding issues were highlighted as key barriers to a cultural and creative city.

Retain the character of particular areas of the city and identify the qualities that make that area unique – its character, or heritage or fine-grained nature for example – and work to retain them. A range of actions were identified to retain, prioritise, value or save character areas. Research and development actions were also proposed to identify areas of character importance. The provision of money and cost was the biggest barrier.

Celebrating First Peoples' cultures through telling the stories of the First Peoples of Sydney and celebrating the oldest continuous living cultures. The most popular action was to celebrate First Peoples stories, through education programmes, naming, cultural celebrations, tourism, digital forums and the creation of related cultural space and activities. First Peoples' community actions included the development of community projects, centres and culturally appropriate and affordable housing solutions. Funding was identified as the key barrier.

Digital place-making was an idea that encompassed utilising data and technology to inform better decision-making and bring the unique character, history and culture of the city to life with place-based digital storytelling. A range of actions was discussed. The actions fell into the categories of the development of digital infrastructure and hubs, storytelling platforms and digital promotion. No barriers were discussed.

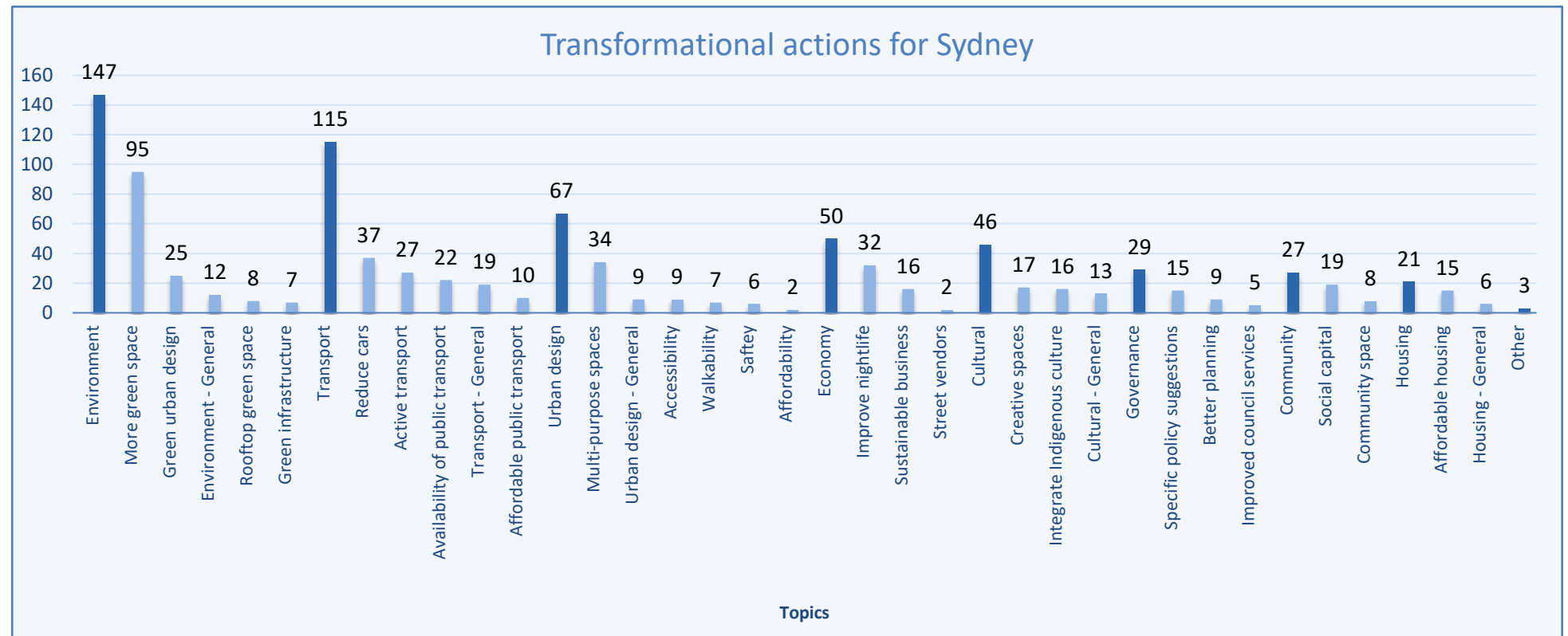
Topic poll: Transformative actions for Sydney's future liveability

Participants responded to: What are the three most transformative actions the City could take to ensure our future liveability?

What was said

- **Environment** was the most discussed and voted for action, particularly: more green spaces and green urban design.
- **Transport** was the second most discussed and voted for action, particularly: reduced cars.
- **Urban design** was the third most important action, particularly: multi-purpose spaces.

Number of ideas on topics



Comment discussion

Environment (147)

The environmental was important to a large number of participants, two-thirds of whom stated that more greenery in the city would be the most transforming action for the city in terms of liveability. Second to increased greenery (in the form of parks, trees, spaces), was environmentally sensitive design and environmental concerns generally. Several people each noted green rooftops and green infrastructure as transformative.

Transport (115)

Transport issues were also a concern for a large number of people, a quarter of these wanted the number of cars to be reduced in the city. A considerable number of people stated that active transport as the primary means of getting about would positively impact liveability, and a similar number were in favour of increasing the uptake of public transport. General transport improvements and more affordable public transport were noted by several people.

Urban Design (67)

A substantial number of participants felt that urban design actions would be the most transformative in terms of creating a liveable city. Half of these were about the ability to use spaces in a variety of ways. Remaining urban design initiatives suggested included comments from several people who each advocated for accessibility, walkability and safety features. A couple noted the issue of public transport affordability.

Economy (50)

A substantial number of people stated that aspects of the economy were transformational actions so far as Sydney's liveability is concerned. Two-thirds of these (a moderate number) stated that an improved night-time economy, such as more opportunities for nightlife, was integral to liveability. A moderate number cited sustainable businesses as transformational for liveability, and a couple thought street vendors were a key to a liveability.

Cultural (46)

Socio-cultural aspects such as creative spaces and the integration of Indigenous peoples' perspectives in city life were reported by a moderate number of people each. Other general cultural issues were viewed as adding to liveability by several participants.

Governance (29)

There were specific policy suggestions from a moderate number of participants while several people called for better planning. A small number of participants thought that improved Council services would improve liveability, and a few had other governance ideas.

Community (27)

A considerable number of people thought that community aspects would improve liveability; these included a moderate number who supported social capital initiatives and several who felt that the provision of appropriate community spaces would be transformational for Sydney's liveability.

Housing (21)

A moderate number of participants raised housing as a transformational aspect to improve liveability. Most of these were about affordability, others were general.

Transformative Actions for Sydney's Future Liveability

(50 most popular words: the size of the word is relative to the number of times it was used by participants)



Topic poll: Actions most important to ensure future liveability

Participants responded to: **Of the three transformative actions below, what is the most important one to ensure future liveability?** Respondents could select one option.

What was said

- **Convert laneways into public green spaces** was the most popular option, selected by 43% of participants.
- **Repurpose spaces and reimagine nightlife** was the second most popular option, selected by 37% of participants.
- **City greening** was the third most popular option, selected by 20% of participants.

Actions most important to ensure future liveability

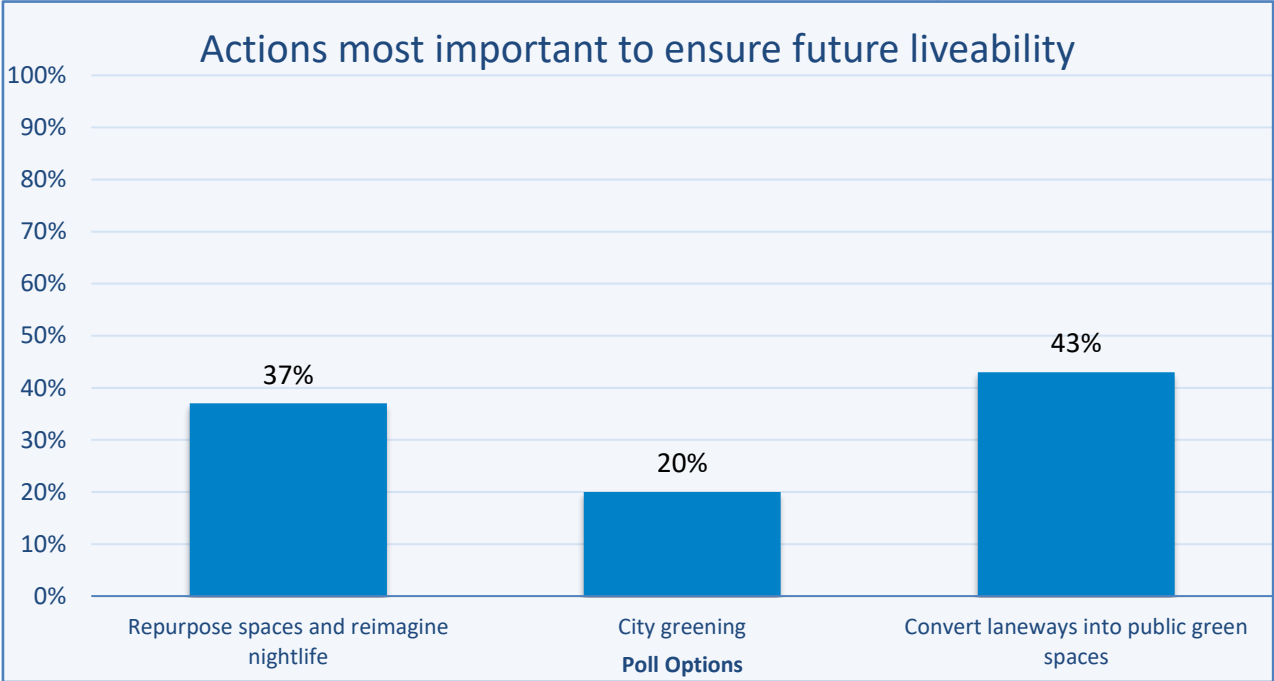


Table discussion

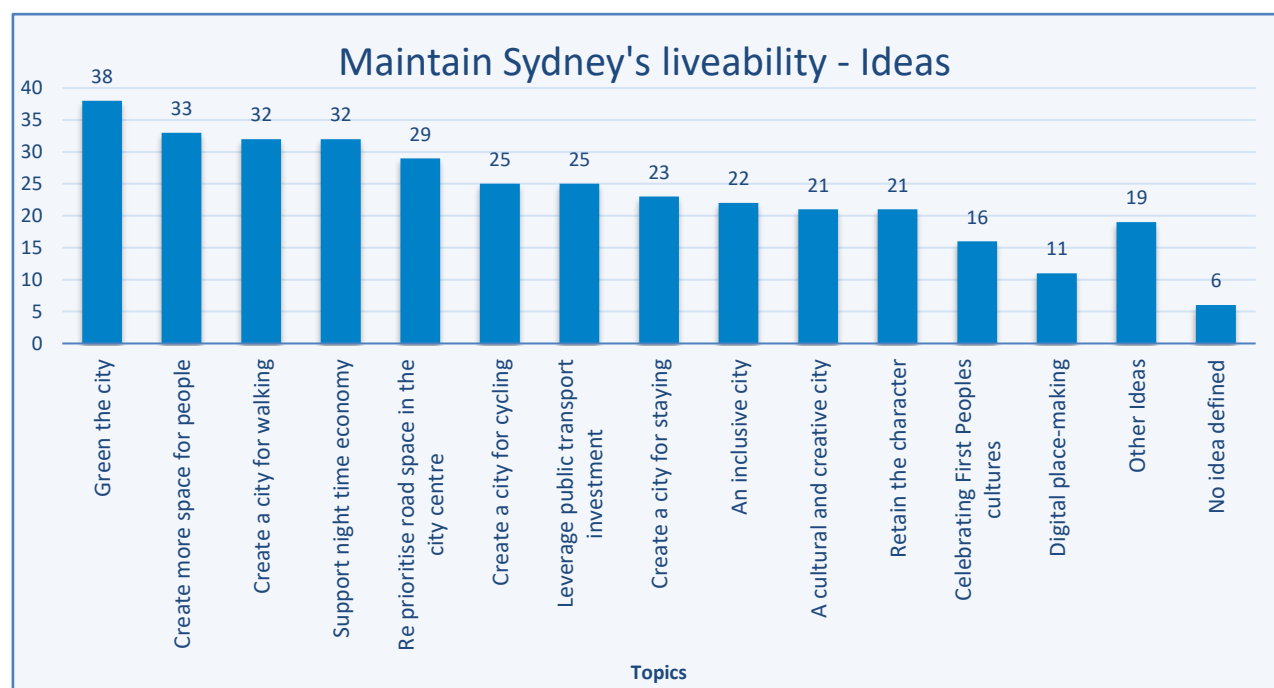
Description of table exercise

Each table was provided with cards pre-populated with 13 different ideas. Participants were asked to identify the actions to be taken and the barriers to each idea. Blank cards were also provided to participants to write down ideas not covered by the pre-populated cards.

Number of Ideas, Actions and Barriers

The three charts that follow present the number of ideas, actions and barriers comments made during the discussions of the pre-prepared ideas.

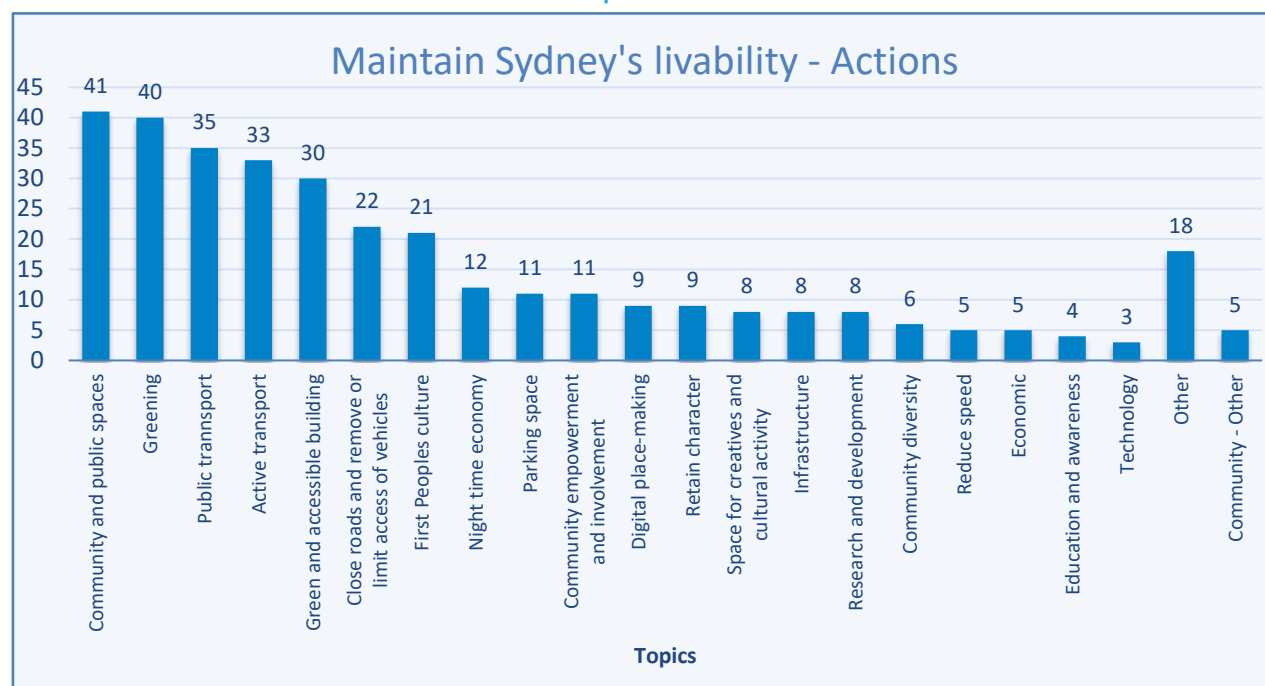
Ideas: number of comments on topics



Results

- Ideas to *Green the city* were the most commonly suggested.
- Other commonly suggested ideas were: *create more space for people*; *create a city for walking*; and, *support night-time economy*.

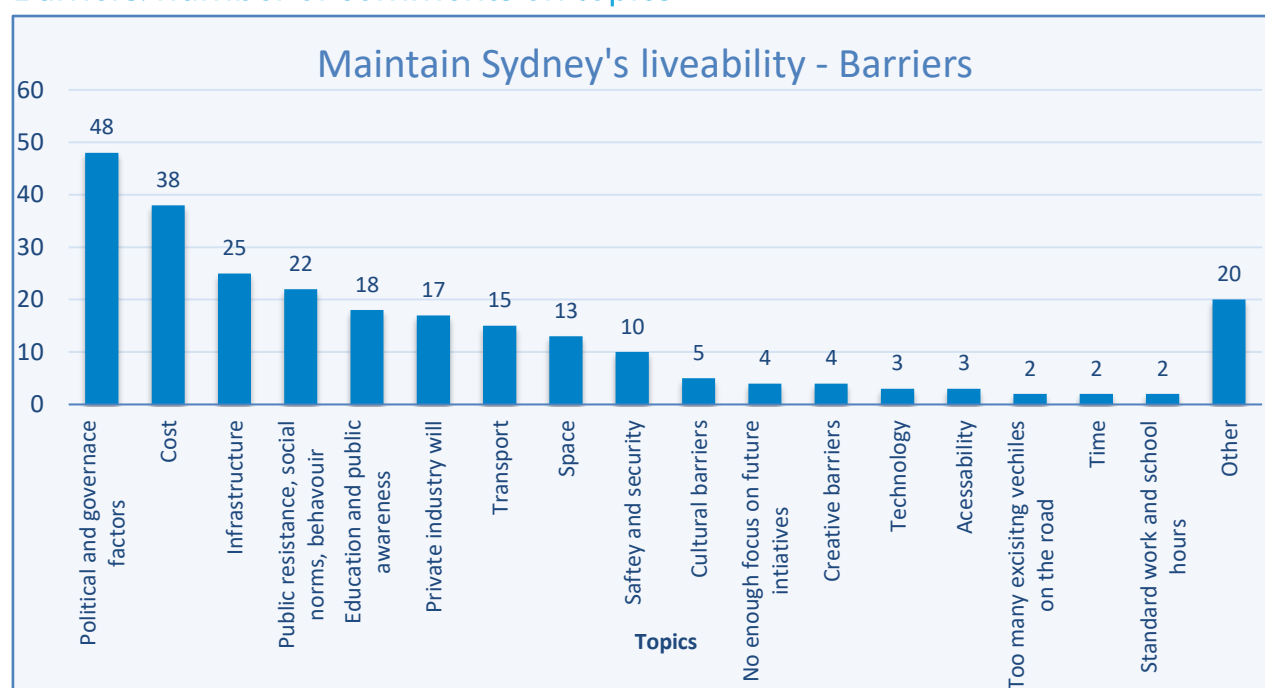
Actions: number of comments on topics



Results

- *Community and public spaces* actions were the most commonly suggested.
- Other commonly suggested activities were: *greening; public transport; and, active transport.*

Barriers: number of comments on topics



Results

- *Political and governance factors* were the most commonly identified barriers.
- Other commonly suggested barriers were: *cost; infrastructure; and, public resistance, social norms, behaviour.*

A large, mature tree with a thick, gnarled trunk and dense foliage dominates the foreground. The tree's branches spread out, casting a long, dark shadow across a grassy field. The sun is low in the sky, creating a warm, golden light that illuminates the grass and the tree's leaves. In the background, a paved path winds through a park-like setting with other trees and a distant building. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

How the city should grow

What we heard

Space provision and availability of space for creative or innovative purposes were viewed as the most prized way to achieve good growth.

The idea of **creative corridors** was frequently supported, with the idea that this initiative would activate the city and foster creativity/innovation generally. Actions proposed to activate this idea were varied and included allocating dedicated space, and either conversion or more efficient use of existing space for creative collaboration. This meant promoting a culture that values trialing new things, requiring open-mindedness and leadership from Council as well as support from developers.

Barriers were mostly viewed as being financial or economic. Participants agreed that costs can hamper initiatives, and that those with a financial interest in building-use (i.e., landlords, developers) have profit as a primary goal, which can exclude creative and/or innovative endeavors.

Mixed and multi-use spaces were suggested to facilitate good growth; participants envisaged smarter use of spaces, and spaces (including housing) accessible to people from a range of ethnicities, incomes, lifestyles and ages. There was strong support for actions to reduce emphasis on real estate as a vehicle for profit, and the need to re-conceptualise private/public space to better cater to social needs. Barriers to this were viewed as being both systemic and at the micro level, with financial and economic barriers again the most prominent in discussion.

Public and active transport and good mobility were considered essential for the good growth of Sydney. Ideas centered on accessibility and connectivity, with support for reduced car-use and increased cycling, walking, and public transport. Suggested actions included better management of public transport (e.g., by the state), coordination of transport routes and housing areas (to enable better accessibility), and congestion tax.

Barriers included aspects around collaboration and the perceived lack of ability of bureaucratic systems to achieve this.

Urban design ideas included calls for good, high quality and forward-thinking design to ensure good growth. A dense yet attractive city was viewed as ideal, alongside which smarter and more efficient ways of living should be promoted. Actions included people-focused design (mandated if required). Barriers to this were seen in the form of regulatory and legislative limitations.

Other city growth topics included:

- Ideas around the **protection of city heritage and character** were popular; this aspect was viewed as an important aesthetic amenity in Sydney and an attraction for visitors. Actions suggested included resourcing for preservation and clear design standards. Foreseen barriers included accessing funding and also negative influence from those with vested interests.
- Ideas in support of a **creative economy** were suggested by several participants, such as cultural programmes, and initiatives to support and nurture creative enterprise. Suggested actions included: CoS role-modelling creativity; collaboration with artists and including them in decision making; and, financial support. The lack of the latter was viewed as one of a few barriers to the development of a thriving creative economy.

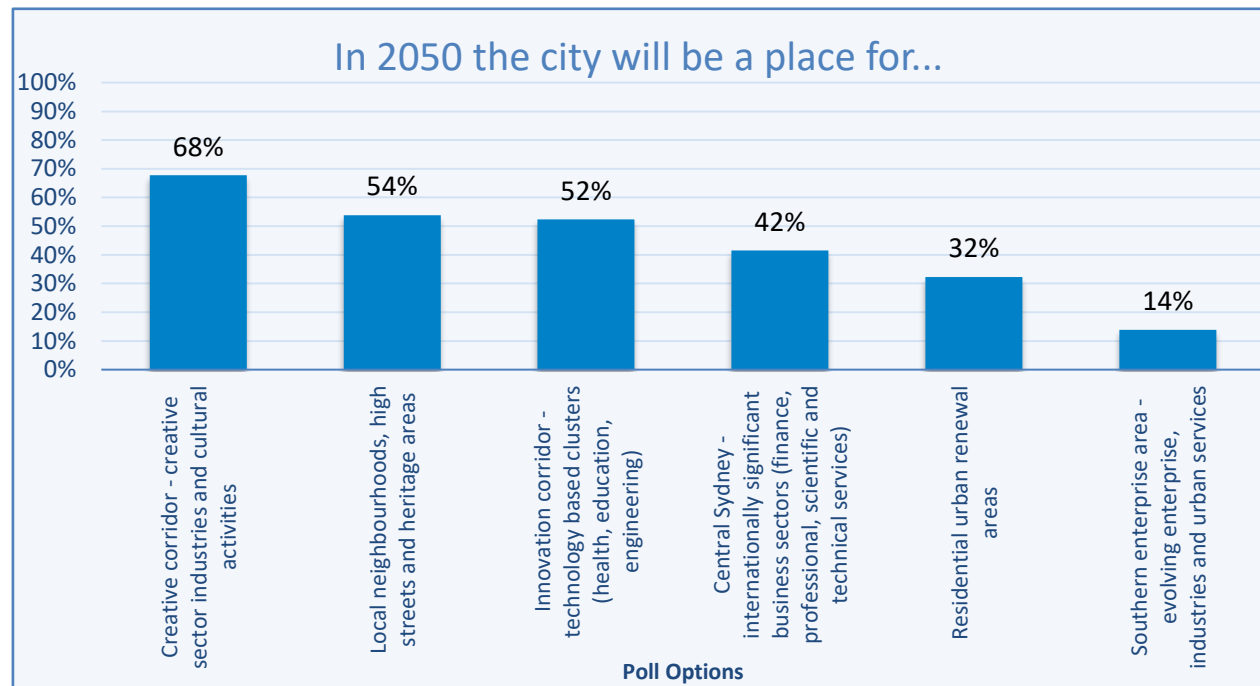
- **Collaborative approaches** were supported by several participants as an aspect of good growth. Ideas included inter-sector and inter-industry collaboration, and better or increased communication between community, business and CoS leaders was also sought. Barriers to this were perceived in the form of the difficulties in actuating meaningful relationships.
- **Social and walkable streets** ideas and actions included those for a greener, activated people-oriented, safe city. Barriers were that there are conflicting ideas about how to achieve this, and a lack of coordinated approach as to how to act on it.
- **Cultural identity and inclusivity** ideas included a small number that wanted to see Sydney being a more diverse and inclusive city.
- **A healthy city** with increased emphasis on physical health and improvements to infrastructure for physical activity were called for. More hospital beds, and better overall public health was the goal, and barriers were again financial and systemic.
- **Other** ideas were varied and included support for more: innovation, environmental/ social focus; better inclusivity for all ages; less rules/red tape; a night-time economy; and, a welcoming city. Barriers were just as varied and included: associated costs; administrative time/costs; general difficulties in activating change; balancing stakeholder needs; and, lack of cohesive and coordinated response(s).

Topic poll: Sydney's focus as it grows

Participants were invited to answer two question (below), by selecting options presented in the charts. Note that multiple options could be selected, and 65 and 64 participants respectively responded to each question.

Thinking about the city's role in greater Sydney, in 2050 the city will be a place for....'

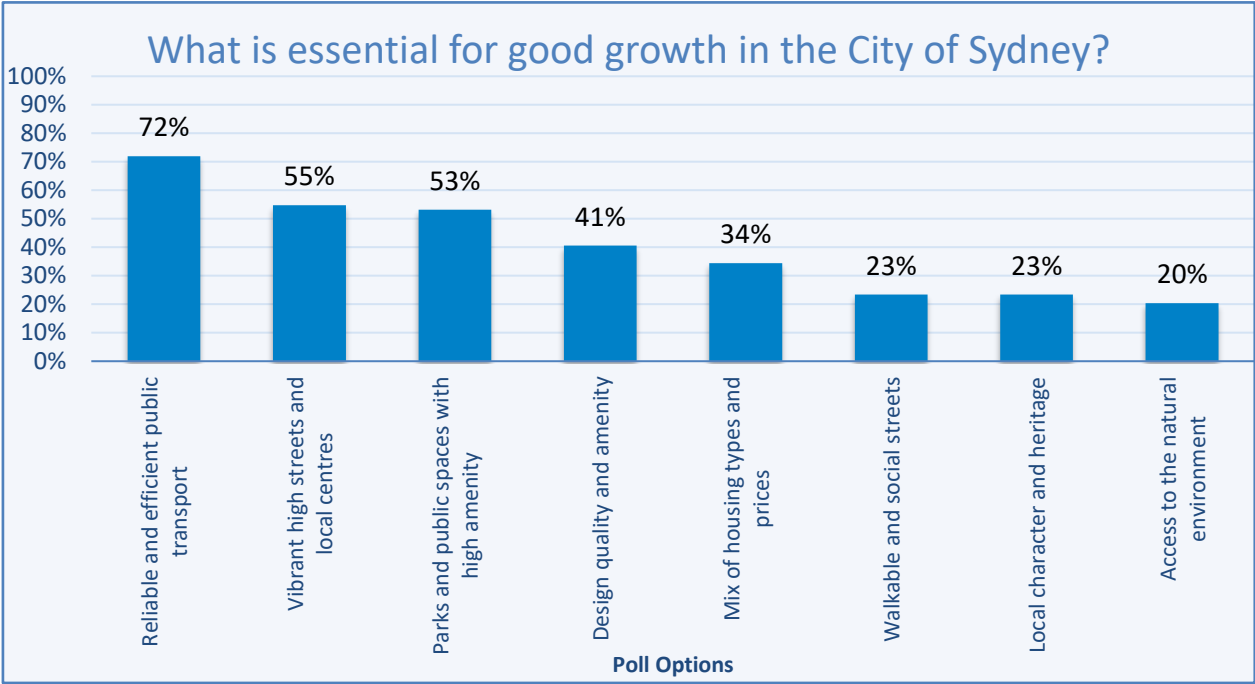
In 2050 the city will be for



Results

- The most commonly selected option (68%) that the city was considered to be in 2050 was *Creative corridor – creative sector industries and cultural activities*.
- The second most commonly selected option (54%) that the city was considered to be in 2050 was *Local neighbourhoods, high streets and heritage areas*.
- The third most commonly selected option (52%) that the city was considered to be in 2050 was *Innovation corridor – technology-based clusters (health, education, engineering)*.

What's essential to good growth in the City of Sydney?



Results

- The most commonly selected option (72%) that the city was considered to be in 2050 was *Reliable and efficient public transport*.
- The second most commonly selected option (55%) that the city was considered to be in 2050 was *Vibrant high streets and local centres*.
- The third most commonly selected option (52%) that the city was considered to be in 2050 was *Parks and public spaces with high amenity*.

Table Discussion

Description of table exercise

Participants were invited to reflect and discuss within their tables the following two questions:

- ‘Thinking about the city’s role in greater Sydney, in 2050 they city will be a place for?’
- ‘What is essential to good growth in the City of Sydney?’

At each table, participants were asked to choose 3 preferred options for each question.

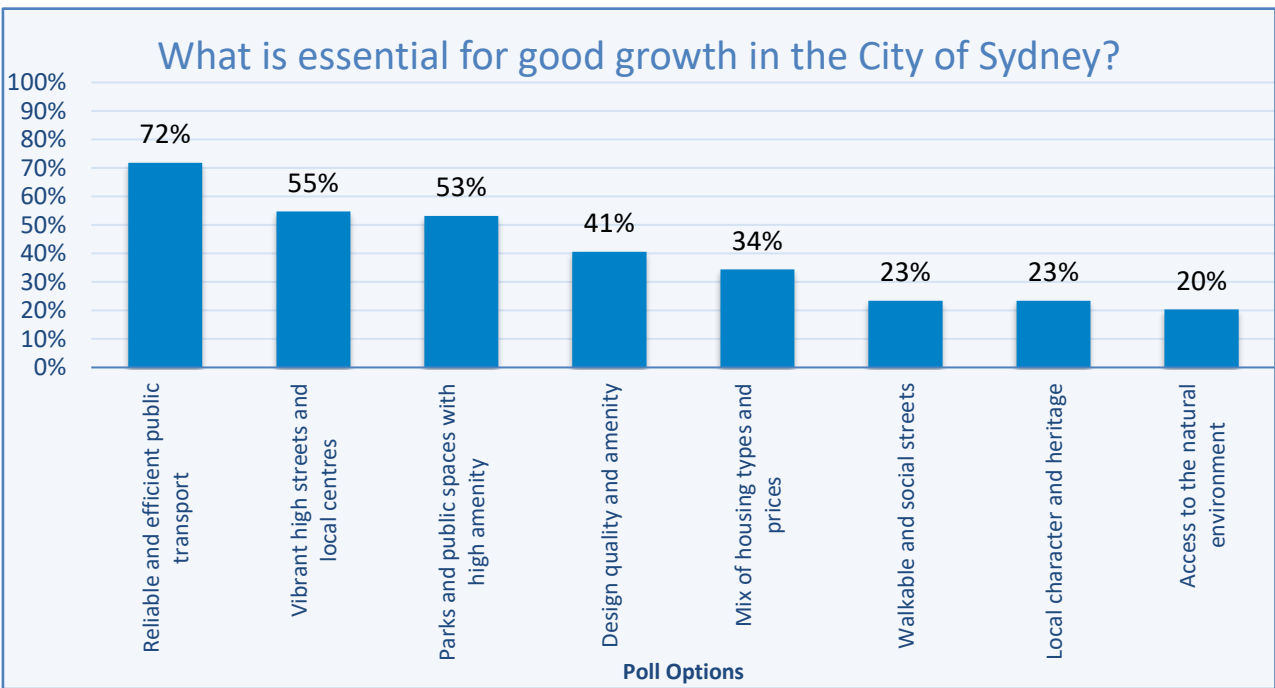
Participants were also asked to write down the reason for their responses on blank cards, and to write down any new ideas and the actions and barriers related to these.

Each table was also provided with blank cards, and participants were asked to write down the reasons that they chose their responses to the above questions, and also any new ideas and the actions and barriers related to their ideas.

Number of Ideas, Actions and Barriers

The three charts that follow present the number of ideas, actions and barriers comments made during the discussions on; *Thinking about the city’s role in greater Sydney, in 2050 they city will be a place for?’*; and, *What is essential to good growth in the City of Sydney?’*.

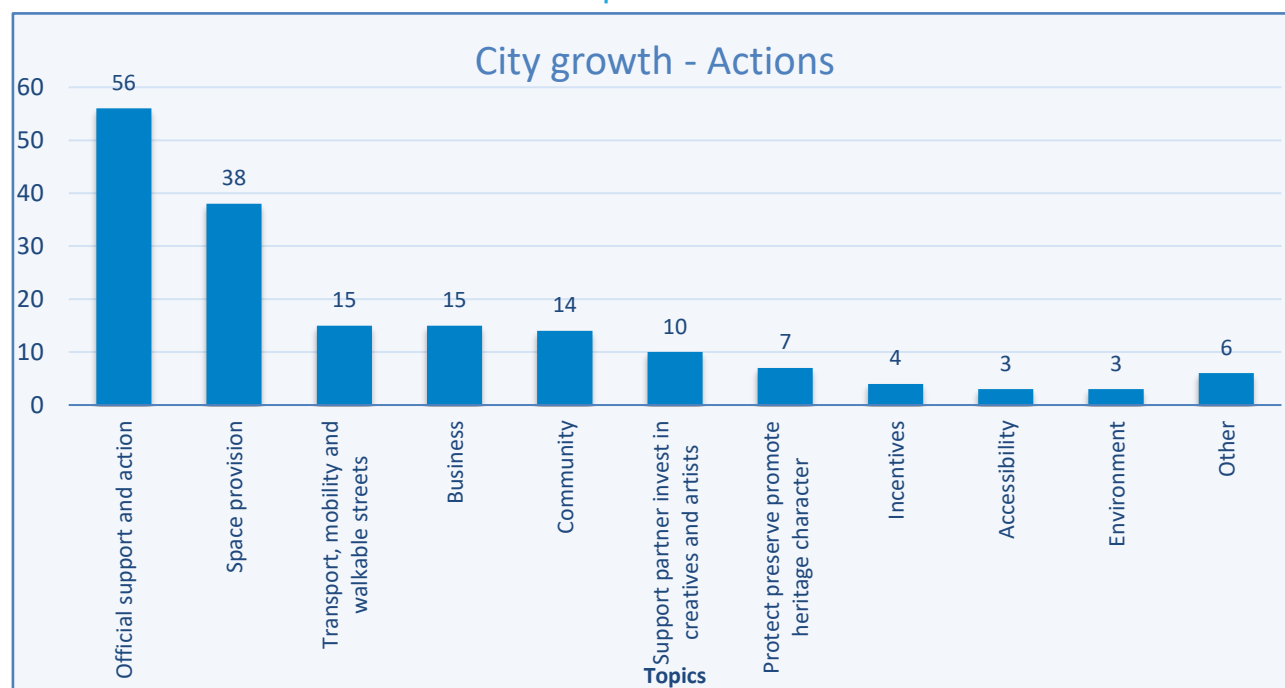
Ideas: number of comments on topics



Results

- *Space provision and availability* was the most commonly suggested idea
- Other commonly suggested ideas were: *transport mobility accessibility*; and, *urban design*.

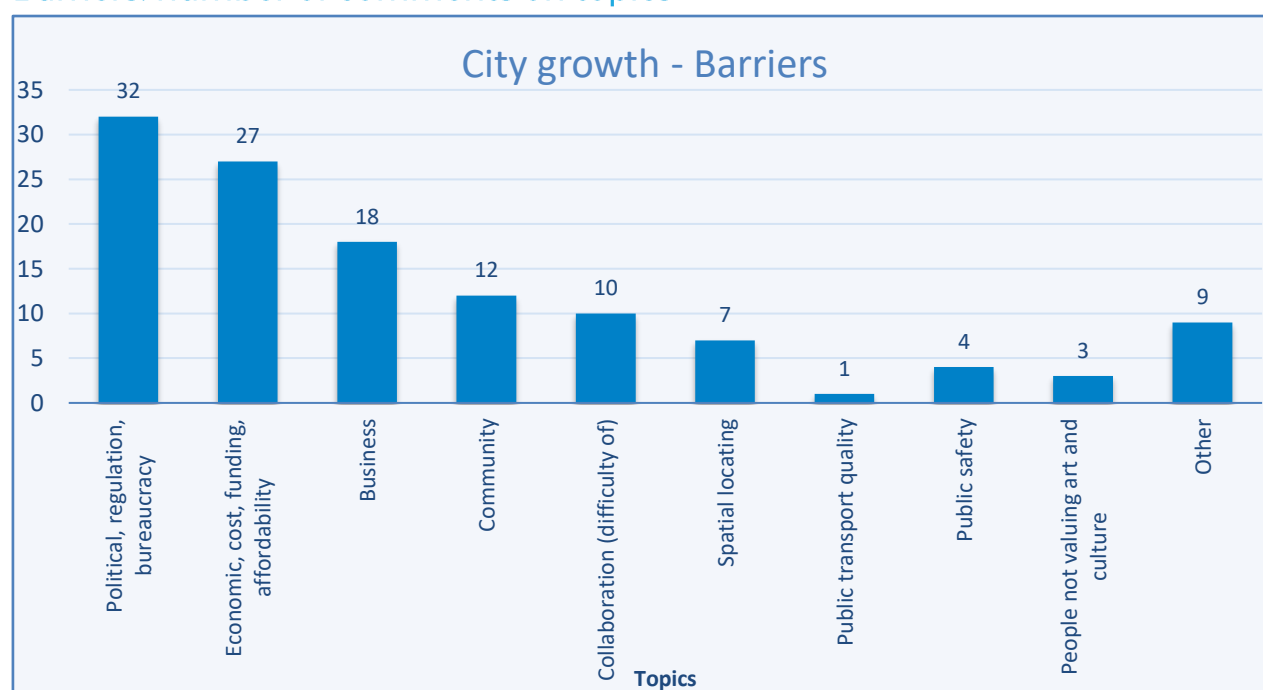
Actions: number of comments on topics



Results

- *Official support and action* were the most commonly suggested actions.
- Another commonly suggested action was *space provision*

Barriers: number of comments on topics



Results

- *Political, regulation, bureaucracy* barriers were the most commonly suggested.
- Other commonly suggested barriers were *economic, cost, funding, affordability*.



How we live within our environment

What we heard

High impact

Water

- **Conservation actions** suggested included replacing ageing infrastructure and the implementation of smart water use (including education on the topic). Barriers identified were cost and the monopoly on water services.
- Actions to implement **indirect potable water reuse** included exploring options for a Sydney reservoir, public education, commercial recycling, and political advocacy. Barriers identified were cost, space, negative perceptions of science, and lack of technology.

Waste

- **Avoidance of waste** actions suggested educating the population about more efficient ways of operating. Barriers were identified as manufacturer opposition.
- **Circular economy** actions included promoting these to the commercial sector, and introducing targets, while barriers to this were viewed solely in the form of resistance from the commercial sector.

Energy-off-site renewable energy

- Actions to consider included exploring options for wind-farm operators, while barriers identified included the issue of gaining sufficient buy-in to make wind-farming viable.

High impact-easy to implement

Water

- **Water recycling** – actions considered easy to implement included incentivising the practice and encouraging rethinking to more clearly understand uses for grey water and the means by which water can be reused. Barriers were considered to be the lack of political will, outdated planning and the costs of infrastructure.
- **Water conservation** actions included initiatives to reduce water use – such as restrictions and the provision of public fountains to reduce water bottle purchases. Barriers included awareness, the difficulties in changing culture around water, and costs.
- **Water desalination** was considered an idea worth revisiting to test its suitability. Cost was identified as a barrier to this process.
- **Indirect potable use** was supported as an initiative; participants viewed this action as one worth implementing. Barriers were foreseen in community attitudes being difficult to shift, awareness, and associated costs.

Waste

- **Reducing and reusing** actions included banning single use plastic items, mandating longer warranties on products, shifting the onus to manufacturers to tackle waste, and implementing recycling stations, which could perhaps also supply employment opportunities. Minimising landfill was thought to be aided with the incineration of some refuse. Barriers to the reduction and reuse of waste included concern for profits over the environment, lack of commercial incentive, cost, and “business as usual” mentality.

- Actions to **expand product stewardship** were suggested; these included legislating to ensure end-of-life considerations by manufacturers, incentives to recycle, and stronger leadership on these issues. Barriers were cost, and the availability of alternatives.
- **Circular economy** actions included using technology and partnerships (commercial-government-community) to develop and instigate start-to-end-of-life monitoring and recycling for products. Promoting a shared sense of purpose in the need for a circular economy. Barriers were lack of systems to support this style, complacency and cost.

Energy

- Actions to support the development of **E-transport** included increased research and development, phasing out diesel buses, incentivisation and e-vehicle infrastructure. Reported barriers were politicking and cost.
- **Waste-energy resource recovery** actions were viewed as the responsibility of the Government and leadership was deemed necessary for this to be implemented. Barriers, again, were cost and lack of knowledge about the possibilities and benefits.
- **Renewable energy** for off- and on-site renewables were viewed as achievable with the following actions: collaboration with tech companies and local Governments, Government subsidies for solar panels, better understanding of the opportunities (and costs of not implementing), and the creation of efficient systems to achieve goals. Barriers were local opposition to wind farms, and questions about reliability.

Environmental standards

- Increasing environmental standards was only proposed under high impact ideas that were easy to implement and did not easily fit into the themes of waste, water or energy because they were applicable to all.

High impact-hard to implement

Water

- **Recycling** actions favoured were the implementation of domestic and commercial recycling as a standard feature. Rainwater capture was supported, as were incentives to implement systems. Barriers were the cost of retrofitting, lack of investors, and overcoming community attitudes.
- **Water conservation** actions were around promoting a conservative mindset when it comes to water use. Education and targets were recommended. Barriers to this were infrastructural, systemic (i.e., at policy levels) and investment related.
- **Indirect potable use** actions supported changing policy, updating infrastructure and encouraging neighbourhood use. Barriers were cost, community perception (e.g., around water quality) and managing inflows.
- **Desalination** actions were cautions about reliance on this method, and support for it's a future-proof solution. Barriers were related to community fear around new processes.

Waste

- Actions around the **avoidance of waste** included legislating to reduce waste at the point of manufacture, eliminating single-use plastics, public education, collaborating with business owners, making recycling a profit-making endeavor, and systemic inclusion of infrastructure to promote waste reduction. Barriers to these actions included cost, public and commercial

resistance, manufacturers passing the costs to consumers, and difficulties in enacting embedded lifestyle changes.

- **Refurbishments and retrofits** were seen as being able to be enacted through the following actions: using roofs for water capture, legislating businesses, incentivising, low-cost loans for building upgrades and addressing outdated legislation.
- **Expand product stewardship** actions were around encouraging producers to embrace a triple bottom line approach which encompasses sustainability as well as profit. Barriers to this were identified in the context that producers will naturally concern themselves with profit over much else.
- **Local or regional recycling processing** was viewed as achievable through Government investment. Difficulty to implement and cost were the identified barriers.

Energy

- **E-transport options** were supported through the following actions. E-public transport (buses), charging stations as a matter of course in new developments, supporting a transition to e-transport with appropriate time frames and incentives, and exploring hydrogen cell technology as an option. Barriers to these actions were foreseen in the form of complacency and inaction, lack of affordability and financing options, and difficulties in providing infrastructure.
- Actions to **reduce car use** were also raised (such as encouraging bikes, and carless CBDs). Barriers to this were viewed as ensuring alternatives exist for those who currently use cars (such as the elderly and those with children or a disability), and managing the transition to minimise impacts.
- Actions to support **waste-energy resource recovery** were around making it profitable, accessible and easy to use. Barriers included NIMBY-ism, and, finding appropriate financial and raw material resources to implement it.
- Actions to produce **off- and on-site energy** included leadership from Government, exploring renewable natural gas (e.g., biomethane from waste sites), and programmes to promote initiatives to the wider public. Barriers to these actions were seen to be landlords being preoccupied with profit (and so not enacting initiatives), lack of leadership, and lack of sun in the city (due to overshadowing) leading to ineffective solar power, and lack of support and incentives.

Low impact

Water

- **Desalination** was supported as a low impact, easy to implement action. Barriers to this were that it was perceived that desalination ought to be used only as a last resort.

Waste

- No low impact ideas were recorded.

Energy

- **On-site renewable energy** actions included greater implementation of solar and wind in new developments, and as a standard feature.
- **Waste-energy resource recovery** actions included using compost and food waste as energy sources. Barriers included challenges of waste separation and that the costs may not compete with those of solar energy.

Low impact-easy to implement

Water

- **Desalination** powered by renewables was a supported action. Costs were the only barrier raised.
- **Indirect potable use** actions included addressing public concerns about the potability of recycled water. The sole barrier was health concerns.
- **Water conservation** actions raised included changing domestic behaviours around water, reducing evaporative losses and leakage losses. Barriers were around the age and cost of replacing infrastructure.

Waste

- **Waste avoidance** was viewed as achievable through increasing the number of reuse centres and the repurposing of materials such as cloth and furniture. Barriers to this included cost of implementation.
- Actions to deliver **indirect potable use** included addressing public concerns about the potability of recycled water. The sole barrier was health concerns.
- **Water conservation** through changing behaviour and installing water-saving devices into infrastructure were actions considered by participants.

Energy [no low impact-easy to implement ideas were presented]

Low impact-hard to implement

Water

- A holistic review of water use in order to **identify opportunities to reuse water** was requested.
- Desalination of water was only to be undertaken when all other avenues of natural water sources were unavailable.

Waste

- Turning organic waste into biogas was suggested as a way to reduce waste to landfill.
- Increasing efficiency in recycling through local/regional sorting stations was considered.
- Reducing waste in grocery stores through giving consumers more choice in order to avoid packaging was suggested.

Energy

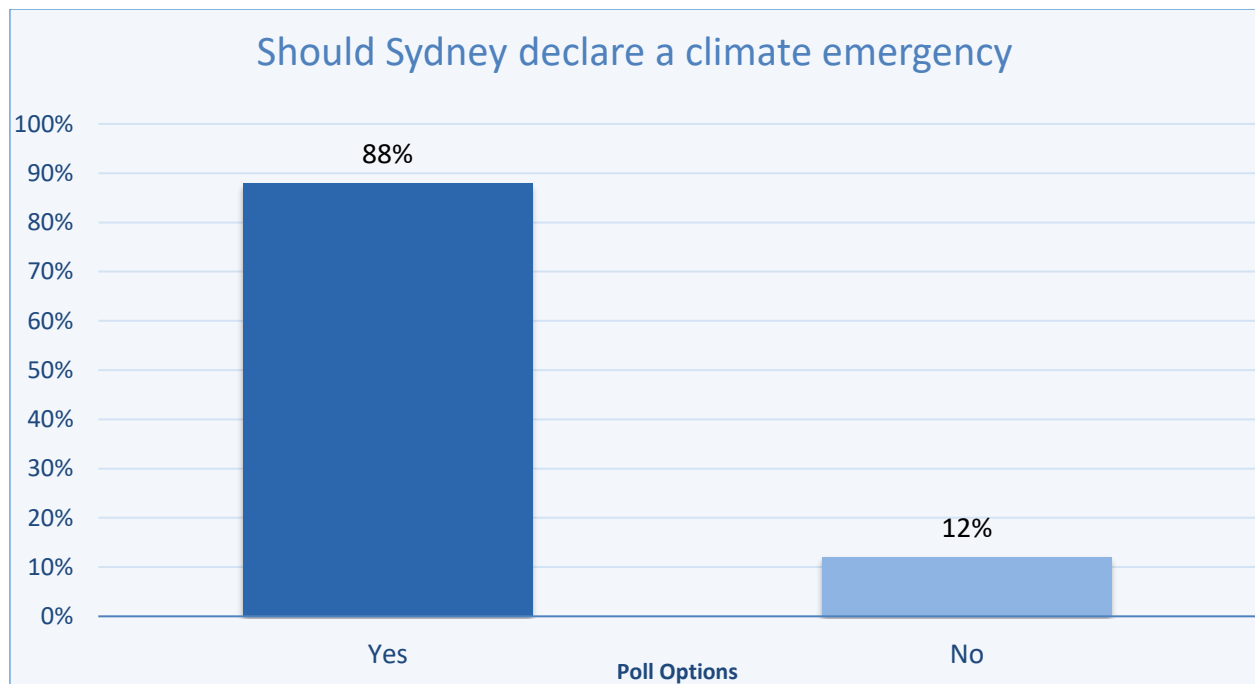
- Actions to support **off-site renewable energy** included offering discounted energy 'through an incubator'. The barrier identified was in relation of the ability of the incubator to produce energy.

Topic Poll: Should Sydney declare a climate change emergency

Participants responded to: Many cities and countries are redefining climate change as a climate emergency. Should Sydney do the same?

What was said

- The vast majority of participants supported declaring a climate emergency – 88%



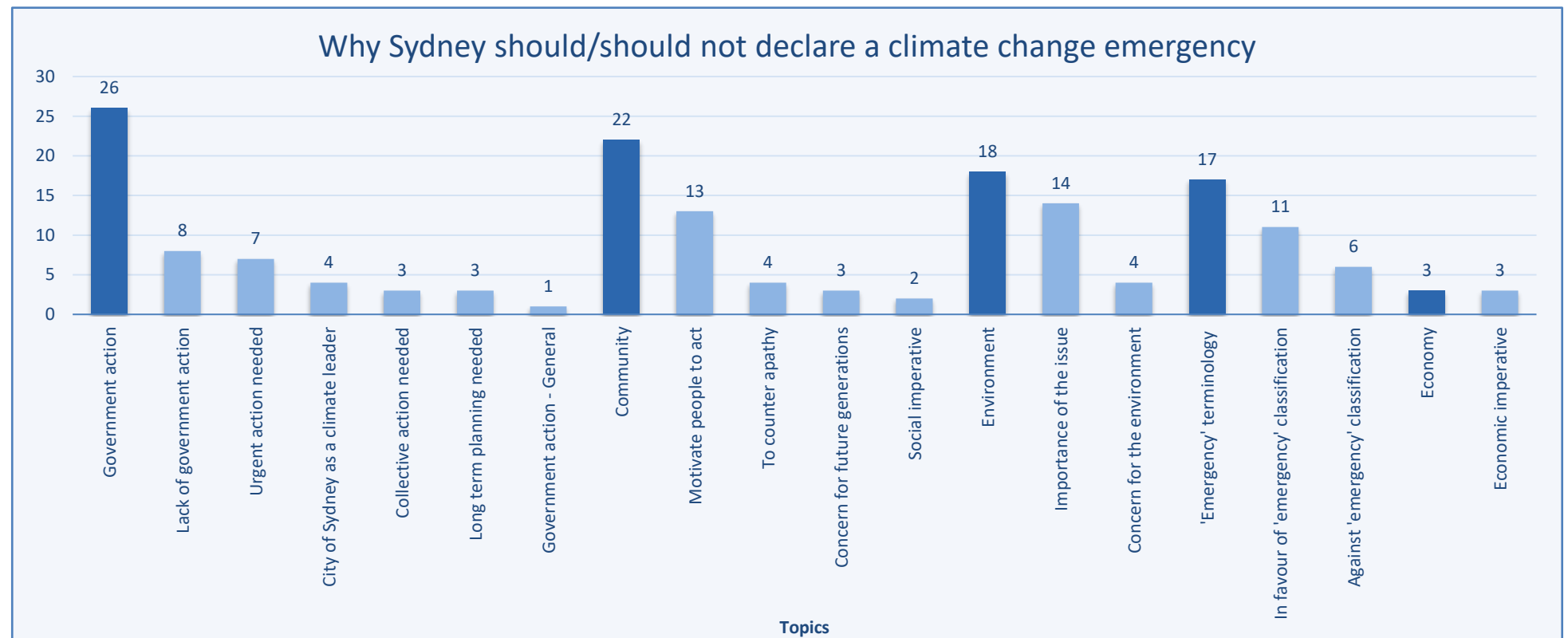
Topic Poll: Why declare a climate change emergency

Participants responded to: Tell us why you do or don't think Sydney should define climate change as an emergency.

What was said

- **Government action** was the most popular topic discussed; participants spoke about **lack of Government action** and the need for **urgent action**.
- **Community** was the second most popular topic discussed, particularly: **motivating people to act** and **countering apathy**.
- **Environment** was the third most popular topic discussed; participants were **concerned for the environment** and noted the need for **emergency action**.

Number of ideas on topics



Comment discussion

Government action (26)

Government action was a key consideration for a considerable number of participants as to whether Sydney should declare a climate emergency. Of these responses, a third were concerned about lack of Government action on climate change, while other comments desired increased action in this area. A small number wanted the city of Sydney to be a leader in addressing climate change. A few supported collective and long-term planning from authorities on climate change.

Community (22)

A moderate number of participants felt that an emergency declaration would spur community action and motivate individuals to act on the issue. A small number stated that declaring a climate change emergency was a social imperative and needs to be done in order to support future generations.

Environment (18)

The environmental importance of the issue was highlighted in a moderate number of comments. These participants noted their concern for the natural environment and their subsequent support for an emergency declaration.

Emergency terminology (17)

A moderate number of participants argued over the use of the term 'emergency' in relation to climate change. Several were in favour of the term, as they believed it would incite urgent action, while a small number of participants felt the term invoked unnecessary panic and negativity.

Economy (3)

A few participants commented on the economic imperative to act on climate change and declare an emergency.

Why declare a climate change emergency

(50 most popular words: the size of the word is relative to the number of times it was used by participants)



Table Discussion

Description of table exercise

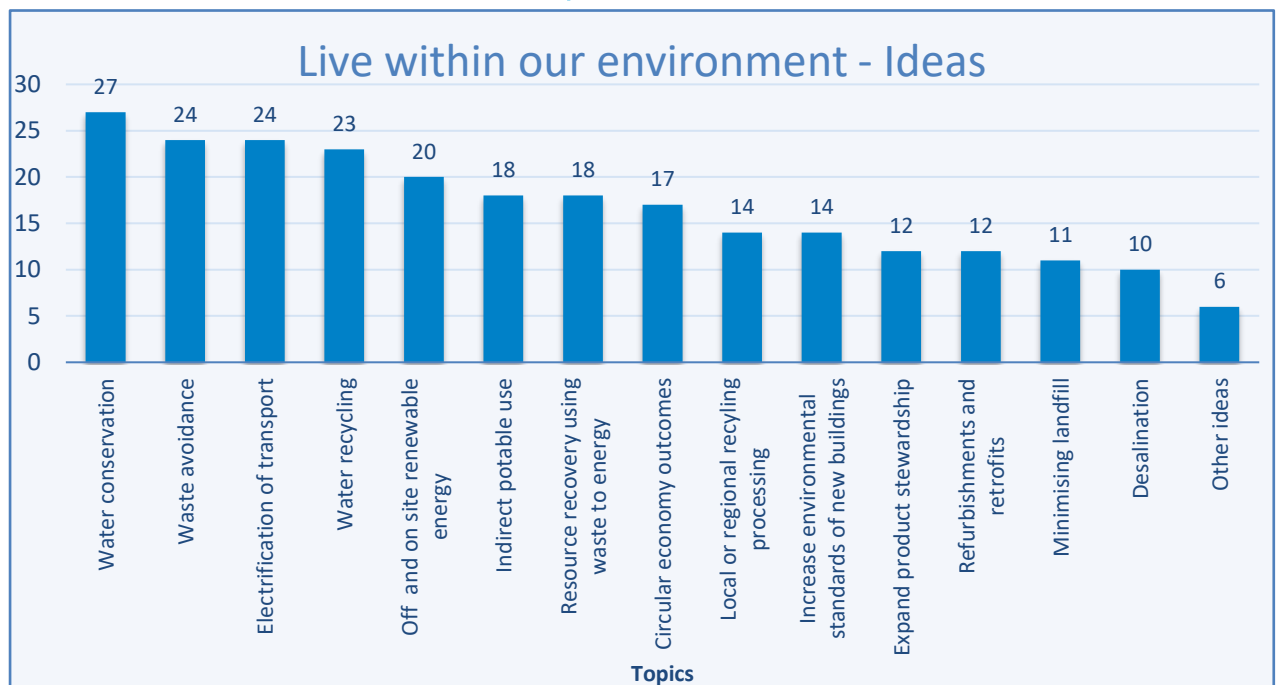
Participants were asked the following question:

'How we should respond to these sustainability challenges in the future?'

Each table was provided with cards pre-populated with ideas. The ideas related to water, waste and energy. Participants were asked to identify the actions to be taken and the barriers to each idea. Actions and barriers were discussed, recorded and plotted on an impact and ease of implementation matrix.

The matrix categories were defined as: High Impact – easy to implement, Low impact – easy to implement, High impact, Low impact, High impact – hard to implement, Low impact – hard to implement.

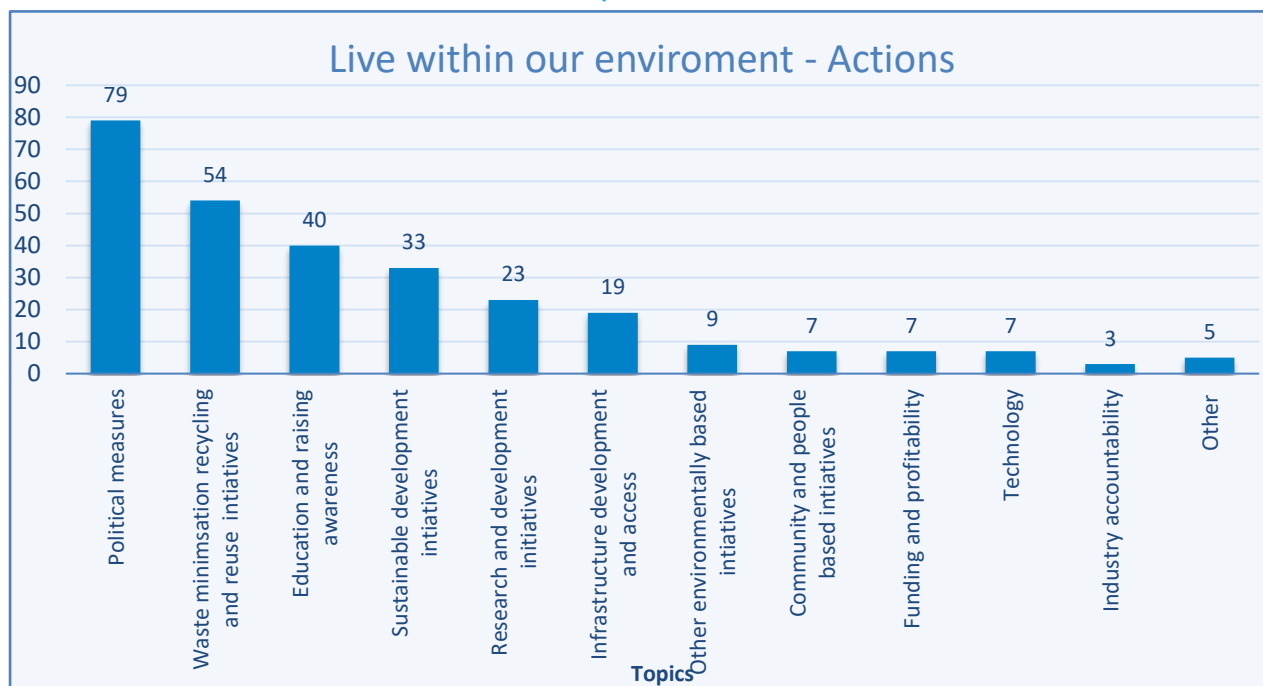
Ideas: number of comments on topics



Results

- Water conservation was the most commonly suggested idea.
- Other commonly suggested ideas were: waste avoidance; electrification of transport; and, water recycling.

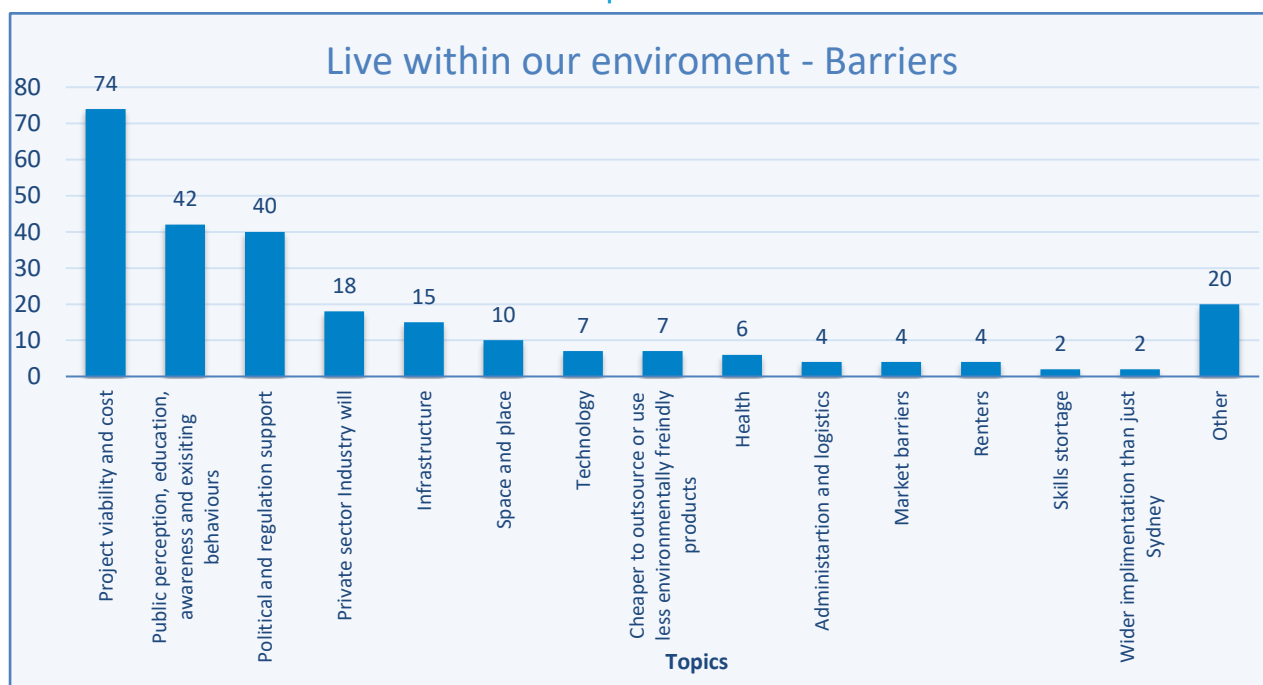
Actions: number of comments on topics



Results

- Political measures were the most commonly suggested actions.
- Other commonly suggested activities were: Waste minimization recycling and reuse initiatives; education and raising awareness; and, sustainable development initiatives.

Barriers: number of comments on topics



Results

- Project viability and cost barriers were the most commonly suggested.

Other commonly suggested barriers were: public perception, education, awareness and existing behaviours; and, political regulation and support.

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