

GOOD NEWS FOR SYDNEY PEDESTRIANS

Improving pedestrian safety in Sydney

Transport for NSW and the City of Sydney have agreed to jointly develop our next five-year action plan for the Sydney CBD as part of the Sydney City Access Strategy.

With a focus on improving access for pedestrians and cyclists, this will include the **installation of nine new pedestrian countdown timers in the Sydney CBD**, at the following locations:

- King and George streets
- College and Stanley streets
- Castlereagh and Market streets
- Pitt Street and Angel Place
- Park and Elizabeth streets

- College and Park streets
- Macquarie and Albert streets
- Kent and Margaret streets
- Lee Street and Railway Square

Pedestrian countdown timers encourage pedestrians to clear the intersection within the indicated and allotted time.



Pedestrian countdown timers already installed at Martin Place

Transport for NSW is also supporting the introduction of 40 km/h speed limits in appropriate locations where there are large numbers of pedestrians, including Ultimo, Barangaroo, Dawes Point, Millers Point and the Sydney CBD, as well as additional zones in Green Square and Waterloo.

Light Rail Testing

For over a decade, we have advocated for light rail to ease inner city congestion and create more space for pedestrians and cyclists.

The light rail track is now 100 per cent complete and tram testing has been taking place since June, including the first tram to travel along George Street past Sydney Town Hall in 61 years!



When the NSW Government agreed to the CBD and South East Light Rail Project, we responded by committing \$220 million to achieve our vision for a world-class boulevard on George Street, lined with street trees and new street furniture. Soon, the City will be installing new benches and planters in George Street, to replace the temporary concrete blocks.

We've also worked with the NSW Government to achieve better outcomes in Devonshire Street.

We look forward to seeing light rail up and running in the coming months and we will continue to advocate to the NSW Government for mass transit options in Green Square.

For more information, visit sydneylightrail.transport.nsw.gov.au

Tram testing outside Sydney Town Hall, July 2019

Alexandria to Moore Park connector scaled back

Following years of community opposition to the Alexandria to Moore Park connector, which grew out of the destructive WestConnex toll road project, the NSW Government has agreed to scale back its plans.

The Alexandria to Moore Park connector was designed to take tens of thousands of cars directly through Alexandria and our Green Square urban renewal area, impacting quality of life and raising major road safety concerns, as well as threatening investment in the \$13 billion redevelopment. It was also going to destroy mature trees in Waterloo and Moore Park and exacerbate rat running in residential areas like Alexandria.

This scale back is better news for our community. The City of Sydney will continue to work with Transport for NSW on transport solutions for our communities, including mass transit for Green Square and Waterloo. We will also continue our efforts to mitigate the impacts of WestConnex on our local neighbourhoods.



Mature trees marked for removal in McEvoy Street, Waterloo, February 2018



10 YEAR PLAN TO COMPLETE SYDNEY'S CYCLING NETWORK

Bike trips on Kent Street have increased 757 per cent since 2010

Around one million people live within a 30-minute bike ride to the city centre. Not everyone can ride a bike to work or school, but if we can get as many people as possible using active transport, we will further reduce our city's greenhouse gas emissions and congestion. Cycling is also good for air quality and our residents' health and wellbeing.

In Sustainable Sydney 2030, we committed to building a safe and connected, destination-based bike network to make riding a healthier and safer option.

Since 2007, we have created 15.4 kilometres of separated cycleways, 60 kilometres of other infrastructure, shared paths and 40 kilometres of traffic calmed streets.

As a result, bike trips have trebled.

We also support people to ride, with free courses, balance bike classes, cycling maps, bike tune-ups and regular cycling events.

More than 7,000 people now ride to work in the city centre – the equivalent of seven full trains or 116 full buses.

Businesses are also strong supporters of increasing cycling and have invested \$57 million in end-of-trip facilities in their own properties over the last four years, because their staff want to ride to work.



Lord Mayor Clover Moore celebrates Ride2School Day at Darlinghurst Public School



The NSW Government has recently confirmed \$7.5 million in funding for four priority cycleways – Liverpool Street (Sussex to Harbour streets), Saunders and Miller streets in Pyrmont (linking Anzac Bridge and the Union Street cycleway), Chalmers Street (between Prince Alfred Park and Randle Street in Surry Hills), and Lawson Street between Little Eveleigh and Wells streets in Newtown. This is fantastic news for people who want to ride in our community!

Visit cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/cycling for more information.

Our top priority is connecting the bike network within our local area, but we're also working with neighbouring councils on connections for people riding beyond our city boundaries.

Priority connections include:

- Connections to and around Central Station.
- Final designs for extending the King Street cycleway in the inner city, and for the extension of the Castlereagh Street cycleway.
- New cycleways linking Green Square to Randwick and connecting Redfern and Newtown.
- Working with Transport for NSW and Roads and Maritime Services to finalise a step-free design for a bike connection between Kent Street in the city centre and the Sydney Harbour Bridge.
- More safe bike connections to Pyrmont and Glebe.
- Bondi to the city centre along Moore Park Road, which is the NSW Government's highest priority bike link.

Construction of the Green Square to Randwick cycleway along Epsom Road is almost complete and construction of the Wilson and Burren streets cycleway is well underway.



Residents in Green Square ride more than those who live elsewhere in Sydney



Join The Big Adventure at Sydney Park, Alexandria, on Saturday 9 November 2019

SYDNEY RIDES

From September to November, the City of Sydney will present a diverse program of events as part of Sydney Rides 2019.

Now in its eighth year, the program features dozens of family friendly events, with lots of opportunities to celebrate cycling and embark on urban adventures across the city.

Last year more than 20,000 people took part in the Sydney Rides Festival, so head to sydneyrides.com for all the information.

Help shape the future of Sydney. Have your say at SydneyYourSay.com.au

If you require this information in an alternative format please contact:
City of Sydney: 02 9265 9333 council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
Translating & Interpreting Service (TIS): 13 14 50

How to contact the City Visit: City of Sydney, Town Hall House, 456 Kent Street, Sydney Post: GPO Box 1591, Sydney NSW 2001 T: 02 9265 9333 Email: council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
Online: cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au Your councillors are Clover Moore (CMIT) / Jess Miller (CMIT) / Robert Kok (CMIT) / Jess Scully (CMIT) / Philip Thalys (CMIT) / Christine Forster (LIB) / Craig Chung (LIB) / Linda Scott (LAB) / Kerry Phelps (IND) / Angela Vithoulkas (SBP)

October 2019

SYDNEY CITY NEWS



CITY OF SYDNEY

Crisis in building and construction sector

The building defects crisis is undermining confidence in the construction industry and causing heartbreak and financial difficulty for owners and residents of affected multi-storey buildings.

A number of apartment buildings in the City of Sydney have recently made the news due to defects that, in some cases, have left them unfit for occupation due to faults that have occurred in the construction process. These include structural cracks, problems with water proofing, inadequate fire safety and soil contamination.

It is utterly irresponsible that successive state governments have allowed this to occur by removing independent certification and professional supervision of construction sites.

In 1997, as Member for Bligh in State Parliament, I was one of only two MPs to oppose changes to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* that handed over authority to private certifiers to approve certain categories of development.

I told the NSW Parliament that self-regulation would not work, and that public interest would be put at risk by time and cost saving pressures put on private building certifiers to keep the person who pays their wages on side.

These warnings were sadly prophetic. Now the NSW Government must act urgently to reinstate independent onsite construction inspectors, and ensure engineers and similar professionals are adequately accredited.

It is essential that certification of all buildings, particularly multi-storey residential buildings, be carried out by a third party independent of the builder. This would ensure proper checks and balances to protect amenity and the environment, and address the conflict of interest that currently exists when private certifiers are being paid by the building contractor.

It is right that the NSW Government has established a Public Accountability Inquiry into the regulation of building standards, building quality and building disputes.

The City has made a submission to the inquiry and we look forward to seeing its recommendations for independent and professional oversight acted on as a matter of great urgency.

Clover Moore

Lord Mayor of Sydney
@CloverMoore
@clovermooresydney

OUR SUBMISSION TO THE BUILDING STANDARDS INQUIRY

The NSW Government established a parliamentary inquiry into Sydney's building standards, building quality and building disputes in July 2019. The City of Sydney's submission calls for:

- A complete overhaul of private certification including clear regulations and monitoring.
 - A long-term plan to ensure buildings of adequate quality are constructed in the first place.
 - Certification of multi-storey buildings and construction supervision to be carried out by third parties independent of the builder.
- The above will make sure proper checks and balances are in place to ensure quality construction and to protect purchasers and occupants.*



OUR COMMITMENT TO HIGH QUALITY DEVELOPMENT

The City of Sydney has approved over \$25 billion of high quality development over the past 10 years, with 2.3 million square metres of development currently lodged, approved or under construction.

Through mandatory design competitions for major public and private property developments throughout the local area, we've raised the bar for design excellence and sustainability in our city.

Our commitment to design excellence was recently acknowledged at this year's Australian Institute of Architects' NSW Architecture Awards, with our own community projects picking up major awards, as well as private developments processed and approved by the City.

Approved by the City of Sydney, Architectus was awarded a **Lord Mayor's Prize** at this year's **NSW Architecture Awards for Barrack Place** - a 5-Star NABERS rated commercial tower on Clarence Street.

Barrack Place

The **Paramount House Hotel** was designed by **Breathe Architecture** and approved by the City of Sydney. It won an award in the category of commercial architecture.

Paramount House Hotel

Image courtesy of Breathe Architecture. Photographer: Katherine Lu

Lord Mayor Clover Moore with architects **Felicity Stewart** and **Matthias Hollenstein**

The Green Square Library and Plaza won the:

- 2019 NSW Premier's Prize
- John Verge Award for Interior Architecture
- Architecture Award for Public Architecture
- Architecture Award for Urban Design, with HASSELL

Australian architects Studio Hollenstein in association with Stewart Architecture won the design competition in 2012, from 160 entries from around the world. Its bold and exciting design has been embraced by the community, with **more than 213,000 people** visiting the **Green Square Library** since it opened in **September 2018**.

The Green Square Library and Plaza has also won several international awards, including the prestigious, global Architectural Review Library Award 2018. This year, it has received an INDE.Award for The Learning Space category and an International Architecture Award from the Chicago Athenaeum together with the European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies.

Green Square Library and Plaza



Harold Park

Image by Murray Fredricks

The City of Sydney, Government Architects Office, Mirvac Design and HASSELL picked up the **Lloyd Rees Award for Urban Design for Harold Park**.

The 3.8 hectares of new public parkland, located next to the restored Tramsheds food precinct and Harold Park Community Hall, was officially opened in October last year. This redevelopment unlocked formerly private land as the land for new public open space and 78 affordable housing units.

The park's design incorporates elements from the local environment and the area's history, with shelters reflecting the shapes of the nearby sandstone cliff face and patterns echoing the intricate pressed metal ceilings found in nearby late 19th and early 20th century homes (pictured).

The **Lord Mayor's Prize** was also awarded to Mirvac Design, Government Architects Office, HASSELL and the City of Sydney for **Harold Park**.



Playground at Harold Park

Image produced by Doug and Wolf. Courtesy of Woods Bagot



4-6 Bligh Street

voco Sydney Central

One Circular Quay

Image courtesy of Kengo Kuma & Associates and Crone Architects

FIVE STAR, HIGH-RISE HOTELS IN SYDNEY'S FUTURE

A number of high quality, high-rise hotels are currently in development for the city centre.

Under the State Environmental Planning Policy, hotels with a capital investment of more than \$100 million, or if associated with a state heritage item of more than \$10 million, are referred to the NSW Planning Minister for approval as State Significant Developments. However, hotel applicants can request approval from the City of Sydney instead, and we seek to work with the NSW Government to ensure development is within our planning controls.

- The five star, 28-storey **AWH-Yuhu Hotel at One Circular Quay** was approved by the City of Sydney in five months. The hotel applicant requested that the **Planning Minister** delegate approval to the **City of Sydney**. Architects Kengo Kuma & Associates and Crone have designed a stunning tower, located in a prime position between the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Opera House.
- Lord Mayor Clover Moore recently turned the first sod on the 17-storey, 301 room **voco Sydney Central** hotel next to **Belmore Park**. Developers **IHG** and **Linzhu Australia** elected to have their development assessed by the City of Sydney, evolving their design in consultation with city planners to protect **Belmore Park** from overshadowing and create as a striking feature its landscaped, sloping roof and terraced garden façade.
- Following amendments to the planning controls, the City is also collaborating with the NSW Government on the development application for a **five star luxury lifestyle hotel and commercial development at 4-6 Bligh Street**. Global architecture and design studio **Woods Bagot** won the contract to design the 55-storey hotel following a competitive design process.

DEFENDING THE NSW PLANNING SYSTEM

On Tuesday 27 August, Lord Mayor Clover Moore presented the City of Sydney's response to The Star Casino's proposal for a 237-metre high luxury residential apartment and hotel tower at Pyrmont at a public meeting held by the Independent Planning Commission (IPC). Councillor Philip Thalys also addressed the meeting.

The City of Sydney supports the Department of Planning's recommendation that the proposal be rejected.

The Department's report notes that the tower's built form would:

- appear isolated and inconsistent in height and form with surrounding buildings;
- inhibit views from public vantage points;
- adversely impact the character of Pyrmont; and
- overshadow public spaces such as Union Square, Pyrmont Bay Park and Pyrmont Bridge.

At eight times the maximum height allowed on the site, the proposed tower grossly exceeds the planning controls for the area, using the discredited and now defunct Part 3A of the Planning Act.

At stake is the credibility of the NSW planning system and the potential undermining of planning controls for Pyrmont developed in consultation with the local community.

The IPC is expected to make a determination by the end of September.

Visit cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/starcasino for updates.

UPDATE ON WESTCONNEX

The NSW Government continues to make announcements about even more road projects associated with the Government's \$50 billion destructive and environmentally irresponsible toll road project, WestConnex.

In August, WestConnex unveiled new plans for a 300-metre long motorway overpass above The Crescent in Annandale. The two-lane overpass will sit up to eight metres above the intersection of the City West Link and The Crescent, threatening local amenity.

Plans for the new overpass were on exhibition until 18 September. You can view the City's submission at cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/westconnex

Meanwhile, we are working with our communities to try and mitigate the impacts of WestConnex on local neighbourhoods. Last year we prepared a traffic management plan for Alexandria, seeking to protect local streets and reduce rat running. **While the Department has approved 17 of 20 measures, we continue to call for vital road closures and street calming.**



The proposed motorway overpass will sit above the intersection of the City West Link and The Crescent

EXPANSION OF PROFESSIONAL SPORT IN MOORE PARK

With the award-winning Sydney Football Stadium demolished and the replacement structure without a builder, there is a new question mark over the future of the site in Moore Park.

Aerial view of Stage 1 demolition at Moore Park, August 2019



As well as the erosion of parklands and amenity due to continued carparking on public land, the City of Sydney is concerned about public buildings handed over to elite sporting groups for private use. This includes the Royal Hall of Industries, which has now been leased to the AFL, and plans for other public buildings to be privately leased for commercial purposes.

As State Member for Bligh in 1992, now Lord Mayor Clover Moore introduced legislation to preserve the site of the Moore Park Showground as public land for much-needed community sport and recreation. **The site was vested to the Centennial and Moore Park Trust to be properly administered and protected for ongoing public use.**

In August, we made a submission to the Department of Planning as part of their 'State Significant Development' application for the 'adaptive reuse' of the Royal Hall of Industries.

The City objects to the proposed development because we have serious concerns about tree removals and the heritage, traffic, accessibility, environmental and sustainability impacts of the development. We also challenge the proposed land uses as inconsistent with the relevant statutory controls.