

# Celebrating diversity in our community

## SENIORS' WEEK

Seniors Week took place from 3-12 March and celebrated the contributions made by older members of the community. The City gave seniors free entry to our aquatic and fitness centres throughout the festival and a full program of free film screenings, workshops, performances and excursions.



## YOUTH WEEK

And Youth Week, a festival for young people by young people, featuring a week of free music, special events, art, workshops, talks and more was held from 31 March to 9 April.



## MARDI GRAS

This year's Mardi Gras theme 'creating equality' invited everyone to work together to eliminate discrimination against sexuality, sex, gender identity, race, beliefs, age and ability.

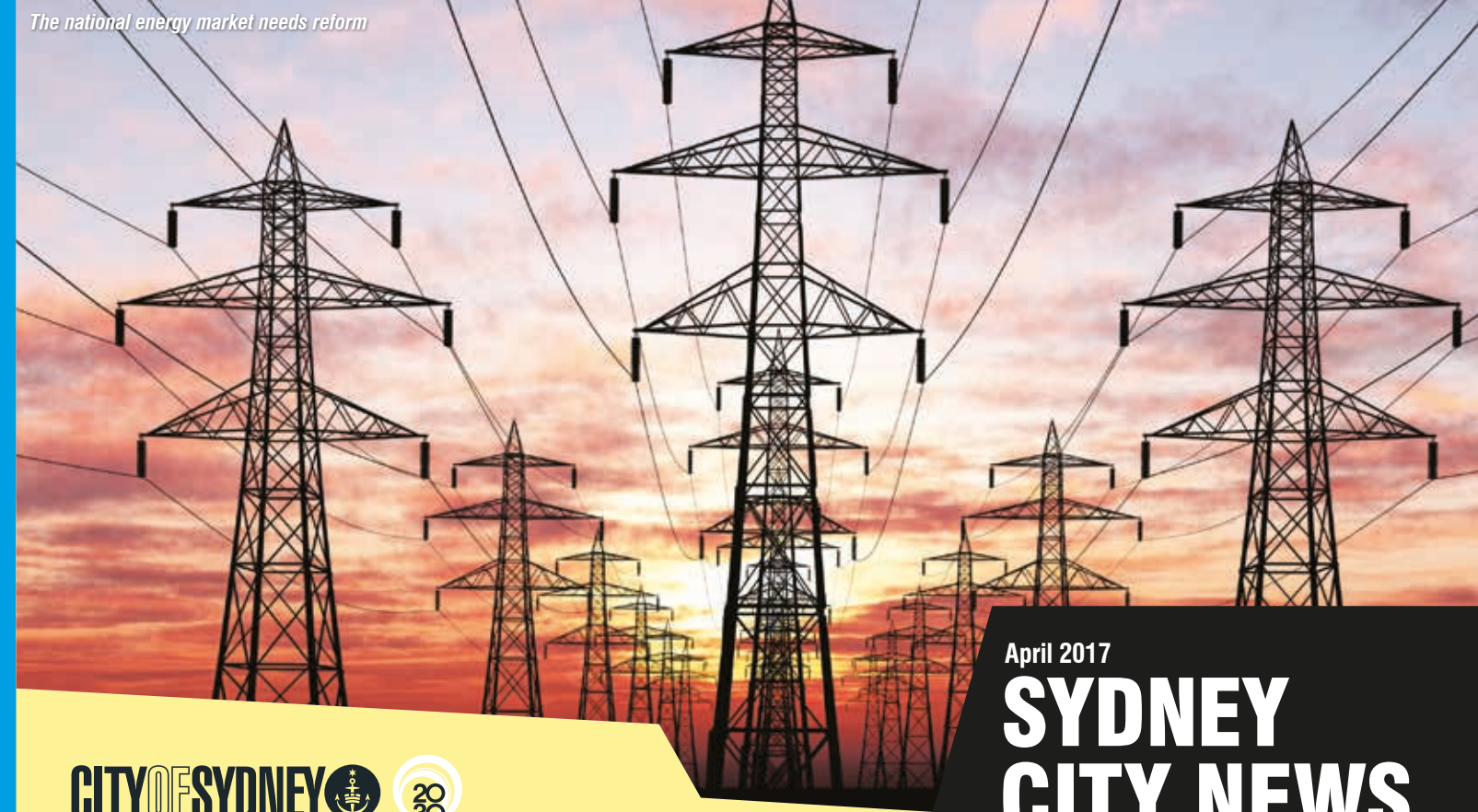
In addition to the famous parade along Oxford and Flinders streets and Fair Day (relocated to Camperdown Memorial Rest Park in Newtown because of the Victoria Park upgrade) there was a range of colourful and fun events.

Highlights included: Stories of Art and Identity, a talk from LGBTQ artists at Customs House library, Sydney's Wet Ones Swim Squad Bootcamp at Prince Alfred Park Pool, Queer Thinking EqualTea Party at the Art Gallery of NSW and Sunderella, a Bollywood inspired play at the PACT Centre for Emerging Artists in Erskineville.

Council staff celebrating at the parade

## LIVING IN HARMONY

The Living in Harmony festival ran from 1-31 March, celebrating our cultural diversity with free performances, workshops, food, film and forums.



April 2017

## SYDNEY CITY NEWS

CITY OF SYDNEY

## Capital city mayors push for local energy distribution

Our energy market rules were built for a different era when power was delivered one-way from big power stations in regional coal fields and distributed to cities. Now these rules, favouring monopoly generation and distribution, have become barriers to new technologies such as solar power, and local distribution between institutions, households and community-owned renewable energy sources.

Local solar power, for example, gets charged the same rates by the grid operator as power transported hundreds of kilometres from remote stations – even though the solar power is usually used by neighbouring buildings, reducing the load on high-voltage poles and wires, saving on costly upgrades.

To make things worse, solar producers are paid a pittance by retailers.

The current result is that while we want to scale up renewables, local solar systems are being inefficiently under-sized to avoid dealing with the grid – and increasingly households are moving off the grid altogether.

We need to cut the energy red tape that's getting in the way of local businesses and community organisations selling and sharing the power they generate locally. Forcing these local producers to pay expensive network charges to export power to the grid simply props up the ageing and inefficient legacy network built to transport coal-fired power.

That's why the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors (CCCLM), which I chair, has made a submission to the Finkel Review urging the Federal Government to align the National Electricity Objective with Australia's climate policy and targets, and lift regulations inhibiting distribution of locally generated power.

If we don't build climate policy into our energy regulations, we face the very real risk Australia won't meet its obligations under the Paris Agreement – or even come close.

We need long-term planning by our energy regulators to ensure we can reach our agreed targets whilst promoting affordable and reliable energy.

The key change we are calling for is for climate change to be included in the National Electricity Objective.

Other jurisdictions, such as the UK, Denmark, New York and California, have shown this is the best way to get the flexible energy market and the long-term planning we need to support investment and uptake of clean energy technologies.

We have the opportunity to shore up electricity supply, put downward pressure on skyrocketing bills and reduce harmful carbon emissions. It really is a no-brainer and that's why the Lord Mayors across the country are united behind energy distribution reform.

*Clover Moore*  
@CloverMoore

## Sydney Rides Festival



Thousands of Sydney workers enjoyed less stress and more productivity by taking part in the Sydney Rides Challenge.

This year's challenge was our biggest ever, with 429 organisations registering, 4,189 participants logging 694,633 kilometres over 42,502 trips. That's a lot of cycling! Most encouraging, 884 participants were new riders.

Companies supporting the City of Sydney event include Westpac, Allianz, Optus, Hilton Sydney and LendLease.

Businesses are championing Sydney's bike-riding boom creating healthier, happier and more productive workforces. They know more and more employees want to ride. They're providing lockers, showers, bike storage and other facilities to support this growing trend.

Riding to work also makes economic sense. More people commuting by bike means less congestion on our roads, keeping the city moving for couriers, buses and business deliveries.

Lord Mayor Clover Moore at C40 conference in Mexico



## City delegation at C40 in Mexico

A City of Sydney delegation led by Lord Mayor Clover Moore participated in the sixth biennial C40 Mayors Summit in Mexico City from 30 November to 2 December 2016.

C40 is one of the world's leading climate change action groups, with a network of 86 member cities across the globe.

C40 Executive Director Mark Watts presented new research in his report 'Deadline 2020' that highlighted the desperate and urgent need for action on climate change and the sheer scale of the challenge. Incremental steps are no longer adequate – we need to do twice as much in half the time.

The City has taken a major step, adopting Environmental Action 2016-2021 – a plan to reach net zero emissions and 50 per cent renewable power by 2050.

We will start a range of initiatives over the life of the plan, including a net-zero emissions building challenge, \$10 million of investment to accelerate the uptake of renewable energy, facilitating a large-scale water recycling project and developing sustainability plans for the commercial office, accommodation and entertainment sectors.



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Online: [cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au) **Your councillors are** Clover MOORE (IND), Kerryn PHELPS (IND), Christine FORSTER (LIB), Linda SCOTT (LAB), Philip THALIS (IND), Jess SCULLY (IND), Robert KOK (IND), Jess MILLER (IND), Craig CHUNG (LIB), Angela VITHOULKAS (IND). **To subscribe to Sydney City News online:** [cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/subscribe](http://cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/subscribe)

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# WestConnex: More cars and more pollution

**WestConnex will have significant negative impacts on people living and working in the city. It will worsen congestion on already busy roads, reduce open space and tree cover and severely impact air quality. Health risks will particularly impact young children and the elderly.**

The St Peters interchange will increase traffic on local roads in Newtown, Erskineville, Alexandria, Waterloo and Redfern – some of the city's most densely populated, liveable villages.

It has been reported that the Roads and Maritime Services is widening Euston Road in Alexandria from four lanes to seven, increasing daily traffic flows from 7,000 to 50,000 cars. And unpublicised plans are being advanced for further widenings and major intersections as part of works that will push traffic through the City east to Moore Park.

Already residents are discovering that they will be living just metres away from seven lanes of traffic. The ad hoc response by

the State Government in this secretive and plan as-you-go project, is to propose installing noise insulation, sealing wall vents and installing air conditioning units in affected apartment blocks.

To make way for this widening, the vast majority of the 827 trees (mainly paperbarks) earmarked for removal from Sydney Park have already been cut down and the eastern edge of the park shaved off.

Our beautiful park, currently enjoyed especially by young families, will be surrounded by fast moving traffic, increasing the threat of hazardous air pollution.

The biggest source of air pollution for city residents is already from motor vehicles. Diesel fumes carry particulate matter or ultra-fine particles that are bad for our health. The World Health Organisation defined diesel fuel as a carcinogen, saying the fumes "belong in the same potentially deadly category as asbestos, arsenic and mustard gas".

It's time for the new Premier to hit pause on the destructive WestConnex toll-road – on track to be one of the most wasteful and expensive road projects ever undertaken anywhere in the world – before it becomes an ongoing nightmare affecting city health, wellbeing and living environment.



Martin Place Cenotaph carefully restored

## Supporting Anzac commemorations and restoring City memorials

**The City is proud to be a major supporter of Anzac Day commemorations and of our restorations of war memorials throughout the LGA.**

This year we are investing \$88,500. This comprises the \$40,000 we invest annually to maintain the Cenotaph in Martin Place and the \$48,500 we are providing for Anzac Day commemorations, which includes installing 180 banners across Sydney. It also includes grants to the Returned and Services League of Australia for the 2017 Indigenous Veterans' Commemoration Service and the Babana Aboriginal Men's Group for the Coloured Diggers March.

That is all in addition to the \$3.1 million we spent restoring the pool of reflection in Hyde Park ahead of the Centenary, the \$173,000 we invested on restoration work on other war memorials and the \$500,000 commemoration artwork, "Yininmadyemi", installed in Hyde Park as a tribute to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander servicemen and women.



City West affordable housing in Green Square

## City bid to increase affordable housing

**Sydney's housing affordability crisis is especially acute in the inner city, driven by high private rental prices, the lack of affordable rental housing, and under-supply of social housing. And it impacts on the need to attract and retain essential workers who run our city.**

The City facilitates affordable housing by levying developer contributions on new developments, but it is restricted by the state government to the areas of Ultimo/Pymont, Green Square and the Southern Employment Lands. These levies provide an income stream for not-for-profit affordable housing developers, and since 2004 have delivered 835 new affordable housing dwellings with an additional 465 dwellings in the pipeline.

The City has now applied to the NSW Department of Planning to expand that levy to all areas in the city and to increase it where possible. It is estimated that approximately 590 additional affordable housing units could be delivered under this expanded levy.

The City will continue lobbying for strong commitment and leadership on this issue from both state and federal governments. Policymakers, along with private and community sectors, must work collectively to solve this crisis.

## OPENING OUR THEATRES to YOUNG PEOPLE

**Young people with a love for the arts can stop dreaming about attending the best performances in Sydney – they will soon be able to get a front-row seat for as little as \$10.**

The City of Sydney is providing one-off seed funding of \$85,000 to a creative organisation to bring a digital 'theatre passport' scheme to life this year, to help create a new generation of theatre lovers.

As part of the new scheme, high school students will have access to unsold seats at theatre, dance and music performances across the city at a fraction of the regular cost.

*The digital theatre passport scheme was one of the great ideas from the City's cultural policy, aimed at helping young audiences develop a taste for Sydney's diverse cultural life.*



Eternity Playhouse, Darlinghurst

## Supporting live music in the city



**The City is committed to doing its part to support live music in local venues and ensuring the live music and performance community continues to thrive through challenging times.**

Since launching our Live Music and Performance Action Plan in 2014, we have completed 29 initiatives, including: a review of regulations around live performances; one-on-one support to over 150 live music and performance businesses; free rehearsal spaces for students and organisations; and

\$2.77 million in small grants to live music and performance projects.

We have a further 20 initiatives underway, including: a review of the City's busking policy; amendments to planning controls; policy development to better manage entertainment noise; targeted funding for programing and venues; and regulatory reform to encourage creative use of venues.

Research commissioned by the City found live music contributed \$353 million to the local community in 2016 alone.

*We will continue to advocate for a strong and successful live music and performance sector as a member of the NSW Government's night time economy taskforce.*



An example of the new hoardings available

## BEAUTIFYING our CONSTRUCTION SITES

**Designs by 10 Australian artists, illustrators and photographers will be made available to property developers to use on temporary hoardings to beautify busy transport corridors and popular public spaces.**

The designs have been selected from more than 520 submissions from across Australia and will be featured in an online 'artwork bank' that developers can access free of charge.

This program will add colour to building sites, making them works of art in their own right. It's also a good opportunity to promote some of Australia's most talented artists, whose work will be seen by tens of thousands of people every day.

*The program was first proposed in our Creative City cultural policy and action plan in 2014 as one of many ideas to bring creativity out of traditional institutions and into the public domain.*