

MAINTAINING VITAL SERVICES THROUGH COVID-19

KEEPING OUR CITY CLEAN



In response to the Covid-19 crisis we immediately increased our cleansing and waste services across the city.

We have focused these increased efforts on cleaning streets and footpaths around hospitals and schools, as well as supermarkets, petrol stations and major “high touch areas” such as train stations.

Knowing that the virus can survive for some days on metal surfaces, we have increased our steam-cleaning and disinfectant pressure cleaning of benches, bins and handrails.

With more people staying home, we have also increased our residential waste collection, especially in large multi-unit complexes. Our trucks have been out on the streets non-stop collecting the hard waste of people who have moved out, or who have discarded

large items to adjust to at-home life. We continue to respond to reports of illegal dumping, to ensure rubbish is picked up in a timely manner.

We have ensured at all times that our staff are safe, changing the way shifts are rostered to ensure appropriate physical distance, and making sure that everyone is using their personal protective equipment.

Our hard working staff have implemented these additional measures to ensure our city remains as clean and safe as possible.

Visit online.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au to book a free bulky or e-waste pick up.

SUPPORTING OUR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Since Covid-19 first hit Sydney, our staff have increased their support for the most vulnerable members of our community.

The City is part of the Sydney Rough Sleeping Covid-19 Taskforce, which brings together the Department of Communities and Justice, state health services and homelessness support organisations to coordinate actions during this crisis.

Our staff are out across the City seven days a week, providing health information, helping get people into temporary or crisis accommodation, and checking in on anyone who is still on the street.

We welcomed the NSW Government’s additional \$14 million commitment for temporary accommodation, which has provided more people with access to shelter. Our staff are helping to make this process as quick and easy as possible. We also welcomed the announcement of the \$36 million Together Home program, which aims to create more social housing with wraparound services to keep rough sleepers off the streets.

We’ve also been working to ensure people who need it have access to safe, nutritious food. People required to self-isolate while in temporary accommodation have at least one meal a day provided, and our \$1 million donation to OzHarvest has ensured that more vulnerable people have access to food.

Also during this crisis, we are providing advice and health information to mobile voluntary services so they can operate safely and support people who are most in need.

This is a challenging and unprecedented time, but the City is working collaboratively with the NSW Government and the homelessness and health sectors to take the action needed to support our vulnerable people.



Image courtesy of Meals on Wheels NSW

ONLINE LIBRARY SERVICES AND COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS



To comply with state and federal regulations about physical distancing, the City had to close our libraries and community centres. But these important facilities for learning, play and social connection are operating online and in June we began a phased approach to re-open some of our libraries and community centres in line with new NSW public health orders.

Our library and community centre teams worked hard to bring as many of our regular services as practicable online, and are hosting a range of virtual courses and workshops.

We changed our processes to allow residents to become a library member online and to access the available range of e-books, audiobooks, film and television content and educational tools.

We also transitioned our “WhatsOn” website to promote interesting and educational virtual events and wellbeing programs, ensuring people could still connect, stay active, experience cultural activities, and learn new skills during isolation.

Visit whatson.sydney.gov.au for information about online courses and events.

And visit cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au or call 9265 9333 for up-to-date information about our services and facilities.

MORE SPACE FOR WALKING AND CYCLING IN SYDNEY...

Physical distancing requirements during the coronavirus pandemic have brought into acute focus our need for more space for walking and cycling in the city.

It’s also reminded us how important high quality open spaces are for our mental and physical wellbeing.

In May, NSW Planning Minister Rob Stokes announced a new fund to help transform local streets and extend public spaces. This announcement was welcomed by the City of Sydney and we are currently working with the NSW Government to find opportunities to do this.

Before the pandemic, walking accounted for 92 per cent of trips within the city centre, however only one-third of road space in the city centre is currently set aside for pedestrians. Footpaths are already overcrowded, and the need for passing space has been heightened as people attempt to maintain physical distancing.

... INCLUDING GEORGE STREET PEDESTRIANISATION EXTENDED

Minister Stokes and Lord Mayor Clover Moore also announced in May that a car-free George Street would be extended further south to Central Station.

George Street light rail has transformed the heart of our city. It has created much more space for pedestrians and provided a calmer, more appealing environment for workers, visitors and residents.

When the coronavirus crisis passes, George Street will once again be a place to linger, gather and enjoy busking, which is also good for the shops, cafés, bars, restaurants and all businesses along the route.

... AND NEW CITY CYCLEWAYS

Residents in the City of Sydney already ride bikes at double the rate of greater Sydney, but the coronavirus crisis has seen many more people take up cycling everywhere.

And notwithstanding our physical distancing restrictions beginning to ease in late May, it was clear that our public transport network could not cope with the additional demand.

We worked with the NSW Government to announce an additional six safe pop up cycling links: Pitt Street north in the CBD; Moore Park Road and Fitzroy Street in Moore Park and Surry Hills; Pyrmont Bridge Road and Bridge Road in Pyrmont and Glebe; Henderson Road, Railway Parade and Bridge Street in Eveleigh and Erskineville; Sydney Park Road in Erskineville; and Dunning Avenue in Rosebery.

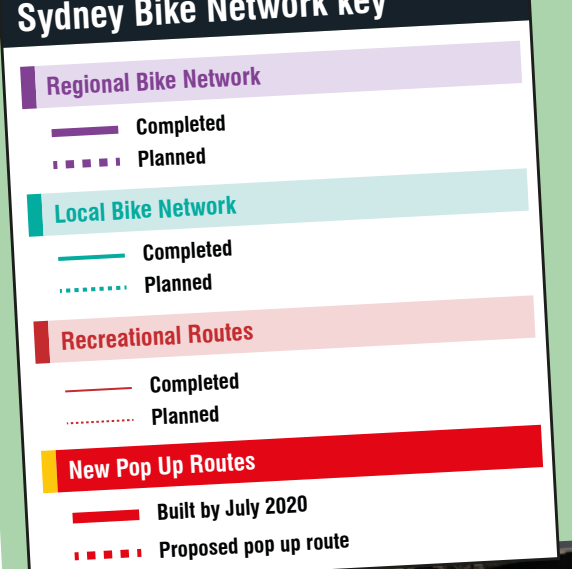
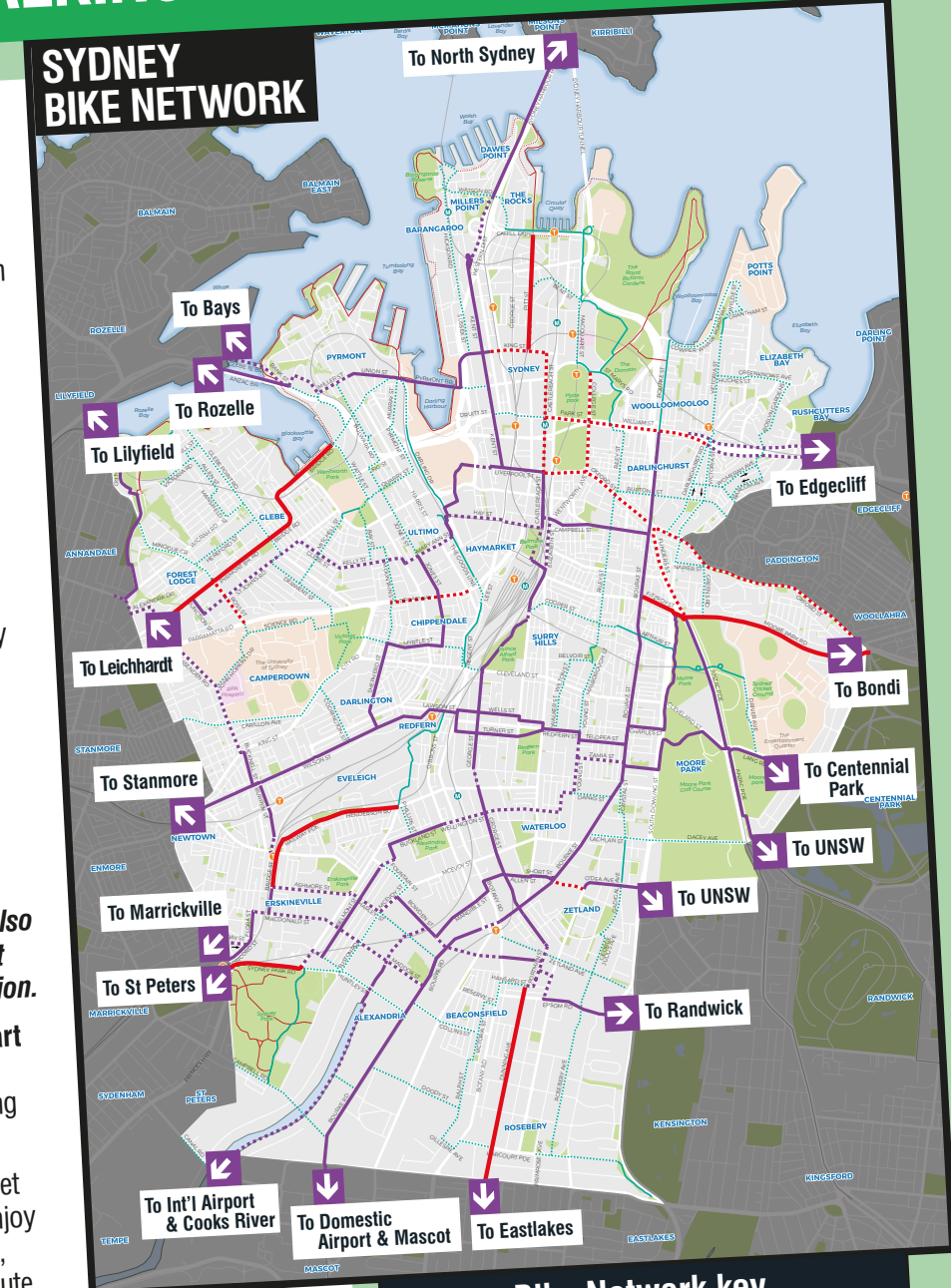
We’re also developing plans to accommodate cycleways and increased space for pedestrians on Oxford Street in Paddington and Darlinghurst, King Street in Newtown, and King, College and Castlereagh streets in the CBD.

We want to make it as safe and easy as possible for more people to ride to and from work, which frees up space on public transport and on the roads for those who are unable to ride or walk.



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

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 Vitoulkas (SBP)



Minister for Transport Andrew Constance and Lord Mayor Clover Moore at Pitt Street in the Sydney CBD announcing the pop up bike lanes

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



George Street during the coronavirus emergency

CITY OF SYDNEY

JUNE 2020
SYDNEY CITY NEWS

SUPPORTING OUR CITY COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

In March, the City began to urgently respond to the impacts of the global coronavirus pandemic. We cancelled or postponed critical events such as the Sydney Climate Action Summit and, in response to physical distancing directives, closed much-loved facilities such as pools, libraries and playgrounds.

Sadly, the distancing measures required to save lives is hurting the livelihoods of many in our community. Overnight, many workers lost their income from the closure of cafés, restaurants and other venues in the hospitality sector, and cultural and arts organisations were seriously affected. Given our own loss of income and retention of payment to our staff, we acted as best we could.

On Friday 20 March, we announced stage one of our Business, Arts and Creative Support Package, which included \$25 million worth of measures to support businesses and reduce the financial impact of Covid-19. We provided rent relief for our tenants, refunded venue and advertising fees for organisations who had to cancel events, committed to covering staff and operational costs for our aquatic centres, and waived outdoor dining fees for cafés and restaurants.

Our Homelessness Unit also worked tirelessly with the Department of Communities and Justice to get people sleeping rough into temporary accommodation and ensure access to food and support for the most vulnerable in our community. Vital services such as Meals on Wheels, childcare and out of school hours care continued.

We issued over 1,000 parking permits and facilitated access to our Goulburn Street and Kings Cross car parks to emergency and health workers, to ensure access to parking near their work.

Then at an Extraordinary Meeting on Monday 30 March, Council unanimously endorsed my Lord Mayoral Minute outlining stage two of our crisis relief package – \$47.5 million of support measures to provide financial relief to small businesses, artists, creatives and organisations working with our cultural community.

This included new grants to help businesses adapt and reinvent themselves by going online or shifting their model to abide by new health and safety restrictions and to support new creative work, as well as helping people navigate state and federal support.

We brought forward capital works to boost employment, donated \$1 million to OzHarvest, and provided rent relief for our childcare providers.

Our strong financial management over the past 16 years enabled us to respond quickly and effectively to this unprecedented health emergency and we will continue to explore ways to broaden our support during recovery.

I hope you are looking after yourself and your neighbours in this challenging time.

Clover Moore

Lord Mayor of Sydney
@CloverMoore
@clovermooresydney

SMALL BUSINESS, CREATIVE AND COMMUNITY CONCIERGE SERVICE

To help respond to the coronavirus crisis, the City of Sydney established a “concierge” advice service to help support and guide businesses, sole traders, creatives and charities about the various support offerings available.

The City Concierge service offered advice on the support available from the City of Sydney, helping members of our community navigate our new grants programs and submit their applications. Our staff were also able to help our community in this difficult time by directing people to appropriate state and federal support packages.

to ask for support, working in consultation with the NSW Government to ensure that our advice was complementary to that offered by other levels of government.

The feedback was so positive that we are now working on a plan to continue this service in the future.

You can always contact the City of Sydney on our 24/7 phone line 02 9265 9333 or visit cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

During the peak of the coronavirus pandemic, our concierge team helped more than 1,500 people who called or emailed



\$72.5 MILLION FOR BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITY & CREATIVE SECTORS



Kathryn Crossley
Petal & Fern



Hamilton Kings
Love Local



Aunt Margaret
Dreamtime Southern X



Melanie Carolan,
Chris Bendall
and Adriane Daff
Critical Stages
Touring

By the end of March 2020, the City of Sydney Council had endorsed \$72.5 million worth of relief measures for our communities impacted by coronavirus, including businesses, cultural and creative organisations, individuals, and the community sector.

This included new grants programs, and at a council meeting on Monday 18 May, Council endorsed 455 successful grant recipients to receive this urgent coronavirus relief.

The package included three new funding initiatives to support cultural and creative organisations:

- **Cultural Sector Resilience Grants**, valued at \$2.25 million, which provided financial support for creative development programs. Recipients include Accessible Arts, who will use their grant to develop online programs, continue operating and maintain staff, and the Sydney Writers Festival.

- **A Sector-Led Crisis Support Fund**, valued at \$250,000, which provided direct donations to existing, locally operated, online platforms, such as Support Act NSW, the Artists Benevolent Fund and the Actors Benevolent Fund, to help provide emergency relief and work and support for their membership.

- **The Creative Fellowships Fund**, valued at \$1 million, supporting artists to develop works and initiatives prioritised by the cultural sector, including the purchase of materials and equipment. Grant recipients include Kat Dopfer for her online project "Loud n' Queer TV", and Jane Slingo for a project called "United We Stream". The resulting works could be presented both during or after the crisis.

The support package also included measures to facilitate business continuity through the crisis, providing financial assistance to help businesses adapt and reinvent themselves by going online or shifting their model to abide by new health and safety restrictions.

The Small Business Grants Program, valued at \$2 million, was established to help support a diverse range of businesses with innovation and adaptation grants to modify their operating model to produce income and supply products or services to address a current or emerging demand in the market, develop online and

e-commerce capabilities, undertake training and professional development and invest in capital works. Businesses such as Abbey's Bookshop and Indigo Project Psychologists were successful grant recipients, alongside many cafés, bars and restaurants such as Bart Jr, Bloodhound, Wild Flour Café and Mamak.

Other city initiatives include:

- Bringing forward the delivery of **\$23 million in future years' capital works** projects to stimulate employment and advance City upgrades.

- **Lowering developer contributions** for small construction works under the draft central city plan to promote specified economic activity and jobs.

- Increasing the City's **Quick Response Grants and Community Support Grants** by \$2 million.

- **Providing additional rental support** worth \$1 million for the City's Accommodation Grant Program tenants, live-work artists and childcare tenants, by waiving all rent for the next six months.

- **Donating \$1 million to OzHarvest** to help maintain staffing levels and adapt their service model to meet increased food security needs of vulnerable communities through the crisis.

- **Free access to City parking stations** for essential service workers like police, doctors and nurses.

And importantly, we set up a "concierge" advice service to help small businesses and cultural and arts bodies to navigate the various offers of help. Over phone or email, our staff provided advice about support available from the City, as well as the NSW and Federal Government where appropriate.



Marc Kuzma
Claire's Kitchen



Wendy Murray
The New View's
Poster Project

SIX WAYS WE ARE TACKLING SYDNEY'S HOUSING CRISIS

The NSW Government is primarily responsible for providing housing and addressing homelessness, but for many years the City of Sydney has demonstrated an unwavering and ongoing commitment to creating more affordable housing in our city.

It is a myth that market and supply alone will solve our housing affordability crisis, because despite approving residential development worth more than \$25 billion over the last 12 years, housing prices have continued to increase much faster than the average income.

We believe that social and affordable housing is not only the key to solving homelessness, but crucial to ensuring our city remains diverse, inclusive, equitable, and workable.

So far, we have contributed to the delivery of 896 new affordable homes, with an additional 969 in the pipeline. We have also contributed to the supply of 151 social housing dwellings, with an additional 46 in the development pipeline.

The following are six ways that the City of Sydney is helping to create more affordable and social housing:



Affordable housing in Green Square



Harold Park, Glebe

2 SELLING OUR LAND TO COMMUNITY HOUSING PROVIDERS

By selling City-owned land at a below market rate, we've provided a subsidy of over \$17 million to community housing providers, which has enabled the following projects:

- **Harold Park, Glebe** – 78 affordable homes were built when we sold land we owned there to City West Housing. This sale also created the initial Affordable and Diverse Housing Fund of \$10.35 million.

- **11 Gibbons Street, Redfern** – we sold our old Council depot to SGCH to enable 160 affordable and social housing units to be built in the heart of Redfern. Importantly, there will be some dedicated housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

- **Portman Avenue, Green Square** – on the site of the old South Sydney Hospital, land was sold to City West Housing to create 104 social and affordable housing units in the heart of Green Square.

- **Botany Road, Green Square/Ashmore** – Around 300 units will be built on land that was leftover during construction of a new road between our urban renewal areas, Green Square and Ashmore (located in Erskineville and Alexandria).

1 COLLECTING LEVIES FROM DEVELOPERS

In areas permitted by the NSW Government, we collect a financial contribution from developers that we can then put towards affordable housing projects.

These levies apply in Green Square, Ultimo/Pyrmont, and the Southern Employment Lands, with 685 units built as a result and an additional 312 in the pipeline.

This also includes affordable housing projects in Wigram Road, Harold Park; Pyrmont Bridge Road, Glebe; Carriageworks Way, Eveleigh; Wattle Street, Pyrmont; and Portman Avenue, Zetland.

In 2018, Council applied to the NSW Government to expand this levy scheme to all parts of the local government area. There has been no response so far, but if allowed it is estimated the additional levies could fund more than 1,000 new affordable housing dwellings.



Artist's impression of the UTS Indigenous Residential College by BVN Architects

3 SUPPORTING OTHER AFFORDABLE HOUSING WITH CITY OF SYDNEY GRANTS

The City of Sydney was proud to support the first university Indigenous Residential College with a \$1 million grant.

The UTS college will house 250 students and have Indigenous identity and culture at its core, with access to arts and community spaces. Scholarships will be available to meet accommodation costs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, as well as ongoing mentoring and leadership development.

This grant is part of our continuing support to help First Nations communities achieve economic and educational opportunities in our city.

4 CREATING THE AFFORDABLE AND DIVERSE HOUSING FUND

In 2015 we created the Affordable and Diverse Housing fund using the proceeds of our sale of land at Harold Park, which gave us \$10.35 million to provide funding for city housing.

In March this year, we added \$10 million into this important fund and renamed it the *Supported Accommodation, Affordable and Diverse Housing Fund*, to ensure its wider support for different projects.

The Fund has so far contributed to the delivery of 42 affordable homes that are rented to people on low incomes, with a further 72 in the pipeline. These include:

- **HammondCare Darlinghurst** – a care home for older people who are at risk of homelessness, with a women's only floor that opened in March 2020. It was supported by a \$1.5 million seed funding grant from the City, which in turn inspired other philanthropic investments.

- **Foyer Central by SGCH** – which is supported by a \$3 million grant from the City of Sydney and is currently under construction. Foyer Central will support young people who are at risk of homelessness and with additional support services, such as help finding employment, provided by Uniting NSW.

- **Wesley Edward Eagar Centre** – We supported the redevelopment of this centre with a \$1 million grant to upgrade its rooms and facilities, so it can better give dedicated support to the vulnerable in our community.



New HammondCare aged care home



Artist's impression of Foyer Central, Chippendale



Wesley Mission Superintendent and CEO,
the Reverend Keith V Garner AM



Current William Street resident Shireen Taweel

5 PROVIDING ARTISTS WITH AFFORDABLE SPACE TO LIVE AND WORK

In 2013, we opened our first inner city subsidised studio program for artists and creatives, with six one bedroom apartments on William Street, giving artists somewhere to live and work at an affordable rent for 12 months.

Our current batch of artists in the William Street Creative Hub are: **Aslam Abdus-Samad, Jules Orcullo, Tulleah Pearce, Genevieve Felix Reynolds, JD Reforma and Shireen Taweel.**

Following the success of the William Street program, we opened a new creative live/work space in Waterloo in 2016. Located within the Waterloo Library grounds, this self-contained apartment is currently home to dancers **Amy Zhang and Jackson Garcia**, along with curator **Tian Zhang** and musician **Adam Rothwell.**

As part of our support to creatives during the Covid-19 crisis, we have introduced rental waivers for all our creative live/work tenants.



The seven shortlisted teams discussed their creative concepts with a panel of experts at the 2019 Sydney Architecture Festival

6 RUNNING THE ALTERNATIVE HOUSING IDEAS CHALLENGE

Last year, we launched the *Alternative Housing Ideas Challenge* to call for new ideas to solve Sydney's housing crisis.

The Ideas Challenge was open to anyone who had new ways to deliver, finance, build and manage affordable alternative housing. We heard from a diverse mix of people, including local and international architects, students, bankers, property developers and academics.

We received over 1,000 registrations from all around the world, and from those, an expert jury chose seven ideas to progress to the next stage. Proposals range from smart homes that can help to look after ageing residents, to community land trust models.

To find out more information about the seven proposals, visit: cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/alternative-housing