

Community Recovery Plan

Quarterly Report #1



OzHarvest supermarket in the Waterloo Estate provides hampers, groceries and other essential items to vulnerable residents. The supermarket was made possible following a \$1 million City of Sydney grant. July 2020.

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Where are we now?

State of the city update

- **City of Sydney Local Government Area (LGA) economic output (GDP):** The economic output within the City of Sydney LGA for the 3 months to September 2020 is 5.6% lower than the output for the equivalent period to September 2019. This is a slightly better result than the earlier estimated annual decline of \$10 billion by December 2020 - at a loss of about \$40-50 million a day – representing a decline of 7.2%, to an estimated annual output of less than \$130 billion. Source: <https://economy.id.com.au/sydney/covid19-quarter-impacts>.
- **JobKeeper:** According to the Taxation Office, over 20,000 businesses with a registered head office in the City of Sydney have applied for the JobKeeper payment. This is the highest number for any LGA in Australia.
- **Employment:** The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Payroll Tax Data Index for early September shows a decline of about 10% since February/March which is only exceeded Australia-wide by City of Melbourne with a decline of 15%. In comparison, the other capital city councils have declined between 5-7%.
- **Workforce:** Transport authorities indicate that transport patronage is 45% down on numbers in 2019. It is estimated that daily workforce numbers are less than 40% of 2019 levels, with people working at home, if employed.
- **Industry impacts:** Given the City economy’s reliance on tourism (both international and domestic) and visitors, industries most affected by decreased employment between September 2019 and September 2020 (the latest available data) are:
 - Arts and recreation services: economic output decreased by 42%
 - Accommodation and food services: economic output decreased by 53%
- **Spend:** Spend data indicates that for the period from March to the end of September (compared to the same period in 2019) in the City of Sydney LGA:
 - Total retail spending decreased by 36%
 - Total retail spending by international visitors decreased by 77%
 - Total retail spending by domestic consumers decreased by 30%
 - Spending at eating places decreased by 49%
 - Spending on accommodation decreased by 77%
 - Spending at clothing stores decreased by 13%
- **International students:** Current estimates indicate there are 143,730 international students in NSW with a further 51,643 students offshore awaiting the reopening of borders. It is understood that the universities in the City have budgeted (perhaps optimistically) for a 40% decrease in international student commencements for Semester 1 in 2021 and a 20% decrease in Semester 2. It is estimated that approximately 40% of existing international student enrolments are still residing in Australia (albeit with limited income support and/or employment in casual jobs). This decrease in numbers also impacts on local businesses and shops servicing the resident community.

Confidence

- **Business confidence:** Not surprisingly, given the above, business confidence declined significantly through the pandemic period. Between February and the end of September, the Index of Business Confidence has fallen by 18.2% and by 22.6% compared to September 2019. That said, it should be noted that it has edged higher in NSW since July.
- **Consumer confidence:** Consumer confidence has similarly declined significantly by 12.3% from February to the end of September and by 17.5% compared to September 2019 (held up in part by income support measures).
- **Recent trends: a new phase of recovery?** With the decline in new Covid-19 cases in NSW indicating greater success in addressing the health crisis, in recent times, there has been an early tentative increase in confidence levels:

- Consumer confidence in Sydney is now at its highest level in more than 3 months. By far the largest contribution came from the sub-index in 'current economic conditions' which has jumped almost 20% over the latter part of September (albeit from a low base)
- This is reflected in spending in the City which (while still substantially down compared to a year before) is significantly less than the full pandemic decline in total retail spend and spending by domestic consumers (-21% compared with -29%). This is notable in eating places (-34% compared with -49%).

However, this is only the beginning of the economic road to recovery with a long way to go. Notably spending on visitor accommodation (because of few international visitors) is still down by more than 82%.

Summary of the plan

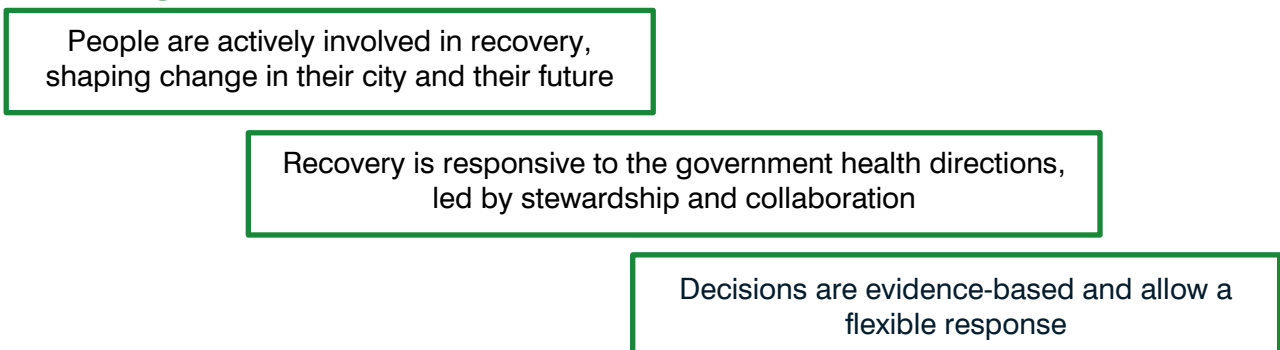
Recovery goals

- Recovery is inclusive and equitable
 - Recovery supports a resilient economy and community wealth building
 - Recovery is a catalyst for a green and sustainable future
 - Recovery is strengthened by a robust and diverse cultural sector
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Action Areas



Guiding principles



How are we going?

Measurement and evaluation framework

What we want to achieve

The measurement and evaluation framework for the recovery plan has been developed to monitor the progress of implementation. By combining the City's internal operational data, information gathered in community engagement and external data sources, the framework also aims to track the economic recovery in the City across sectors, understand the wellbeing and needs of our community and measure the effects and influence of the City's actions.

Principles of evaluation

The framework has been developed in line with the principles of evaluation in the adopted recovery plan: practicality, consistency, relevance, trend/change capture, timeliness, adaptability, and accountability.

What we will capture

Two to three key measures have been identified for each action of the recovery plan to answer three questions: how much did we deliver, how well did we do it, and what difference did we make. While bespoke measures are required for some actions, most of the measures are standard across the action list to allow data aggregation so that the framework can provide a meaningful summary at higher levels – e.g. the action area level or the whole recovery plan level.

Progress on evaluation

Progress so far

Measures for each action are being developed in consultation with action owners from across the organisation and reporting frequencies agreed. This time-consuming process is still underway.

At the time of writing, 47 of the 57 actions have established measures, of which 41 have been tested and are being refined. All measures will be finalised in November and data collection can commence.

The first report of the evaluation framework will be available in January 2021.

What we have done

This section provides an overview of activity under each of the recovery plan actions to 30 September 2020:

	Total Actions	Actions Underway
Business as usual/transformed actions:	39	39
New actions:	18	15
Recovery plan total actions:	57	54

Action Area 1

Safely manage public places and streets to support community life and business

People can move in and around the city safely because space is re-allocated and businesses can successfully reopen.

What we are doing to support recovery

- 1.1 Prioritise our business concierge service to support businesses to open and operate safely – 376 contacts to business concierge service July-September.
- 1.2 Continue the acceleration of the capital works program to upgrade city streets, parks and playgrounds – Parks renewal stimulus package: LGA North. \$1.37M of \$2.4M of accelerated landscape works completed by 4 head contractors (plus subcontractors/suppliers also supported):
 - Prince Alfred Park swing replacement
 - Cook and Phillip Park decomposed granite replacement
 - Victoria Park playground spinner replacement
 - Turfing, infill planning and infrastructure renewal across various LGA North sites.

Additional projects underway:

 - Infrastructure, planting and returfing packages in northern parks
 - Ada Place wall deconstruction and fence installation
 - Prince Alfred Park rainbow pathway
 - Sandringham Gardens Drainage Works

What we are doing to support recovery

- Parks renewal stimulus package: LGA South. \$1.28M of accelerated landscape works commenced:
 - Turf projects in Rosebery, Waterloo, Redfern
 - Rubber soft-fall projects in Rosebery, Darlinghurst, Elizabeth Bay, Surry Hills, Erskineville, Redfern, Darlington
 - Landscape projects in Waterloo, Woolloomooloo, Fitzroy Gardens, Selwyn Street closure
- SSROC called for member Councils to submit “shovel-ready” capital works projects that require substantial funding and which represent an economic development opportunity as well as yielding community benefit. SSROC will use this list as the basis for advocating for stimulus funding from the NSW Government. The City submitted the following projects relevant to this action for consideration:
 - Johnston’s Creek sports field facilities - \$5M
 - Pyrmont Community Centre reconfiguration - \$4.5M
 - Huntley St Recreation Centre - \$9M

1.3 Clean public places and streets to a high standard

- Waste collections and street cleansing have continued as per weekly run schedules.
- As more people were working from home, residents in multi-unit dwellings were offered additional collections.
- Cleansing operations were increased in areas identified with high pedestrian traffic flows; including transport hubs, hospitals, schools and commercial businesses such as grocery shops, medical centres and pharmacies. Additional focus on cleaning of egress points, walkways, handrails, seating and street litter bins in these areas.
- Where areas were identified as ‘hot spots’ by NSW Health, cleansing crews attend the immediate area to the identified premises removing any illegal dumps, steam cleansing footpaths, street furniture and emptying and cleaning street litter bins.
- Additional mobile street litter bins have been provided outside hospitals and testing venues to assist with the removal of additional waste generated by people attending for testing.

1.4 Promote safe alternatives to single-use items to address emerging waste issues

- The issue of single-use has been raised with accommodation and entertainment sector through the Sustainable Destination Partnership.
- The City called for grant applications to progress this issue through the Knowledge Exchange grant program, however no applications to specifically address the issue were received.

What we are doing to support recovery

- 1.5 Communicate that Sydney is safe, clean and open for business
- Weekly meetings with NSW Government (dept of customer service and dept of health) to ensure coordinated approach to delivery of timely and clear public health alerts on City channels.
 - Content articles on City of Sydney News promoted via City’s social channels and to 14,118 weekly email digest subscribers including:

	Page Views
• Public health alerts as required:	4,900
• Covid-19 – how we’re responding:	71,259
• Become a Covid-safe small business:	528
• New rules for Sydney businesses:	1,414
• Going out in Sydney – tips for a safe night:	763
• Face mask recommendations:	1,558
• Theatre in a pandemic – inside Giant Dwarf:	332
• You are welcome in our city this summer:	592
• Extension of fee waivers:	181
 - The City’s creative hoardings program continued throughout Covid-19, providing an ongoing creative opportunity for artists and contributing to the feeling of the City as welcoming and open for business.

- 1.6 Work with NSW Government on city management initiatives such as mobility and transport, temporary footpath widening, cycleways, change signal timing, lower speed limits, travel demand planning and reprioritisation of roads
- 6 Pop-up cycleways installed at following locations:
 - Pitt St, from King St to Reiby Place, CBD
 - Henderson Rd, Eveleigh
 - Dunning Ave, Rosebery
 - Moore Park Rd to Fitzroy St
 - Pyrmont Bridge Rd, Pyrmont
 - Sydney Park Rd, Erskineville
 - Supported by “share the path” information sessions and double the number cycling in the city courses.
 - Advocacy to Minister for Transport and Transport for NSW to achieve 40km zones on Oxford St, Moore Park Rd, Pyrmont Bridge Rd and in Pyrmont, Ultimo, Darlington, Camperdown and west Paddington.

Other actions we will take

- 1.7 Review and determine if current fee waivers should be extended to continue to support activation of space for community life, cultural participation and commercial use while maintaining accessibility
- Fees waivers extended to March 2021:
 - Health and building compliance activities including relief of food administration and inspection fees to over 1,500 food businesses since the commencement of the pandemic, cooling tower risk management plan administration fees to approximately 600 businesses in respect of the submission of certification of cooling towers for their buildings and annual fire safety statement administration fees to over 2,100 businesses

Other actions we will take

- Footway dining, market permits and filming fees on grounds of hardship.
- Return of venue hire and banner fees for bookings that have been unable to proceed.

– Value of fees waived:

- Waived inspection, registration, application and administrative fees relating to Health and Building regulatory and compliance activities, such as: food premises, temporary food events, mobile food vendors, swimming pools/spas, cooling towers and annual fire safety statements:

	Q1 20/21	Since commencement
Fees waived	\$149,677	\$240,776

- Waived filming fees, markets rental fees and venue hire cancellation fees:

	Q1 20/21
Filming fees foregone	\$102,463
Market rental waived	\$ 51,161
Venue hire cancellation fees waived	\$314,886

- Waived footway dining fees:

	Since commencement
Fees waived	\$735,067

– Rent relief on commercial properties extended to December 2020.

Rent relief on commercial properties (excluding QVB):

	April – September 2020
Total rent relief forecast	\$5,393,713
Total rent deferral estimate	\$5,400,000

1.8 Invest in the pedestrianisation and activation of south George Street

– George St South pedestrianised from Bathurst St to Rawson Place, creating 9,000m² of additional car-free space in the city centre. Completed with assistance of \$1M contribution from NSW Government.

– The City has held ongoing conversations with businesses and property owners on the newly pedestrianised section of George Street since the initiative was announced. The formal consultation on the permanent closure is underway.

Community feedback has indicated a high level of support from businesses, residents and other stakeholders and interest in opportunities to use the space both now and in the long term.

The initiative is viewed as a positive step in the recovery by providing space for physical distancing, creating new outdoor space for businesses to utilise, improving the look and feel of the street for people and a project that will help reinvigorate the southern CBD.

Action Area 2

Provide equitable access to the essentials for safe and comfortable daily life for all residents

Address rising inequality within our community by advocating for and supporting access to essential services for all. This includes housing, food, community services, digital resources and skills development.

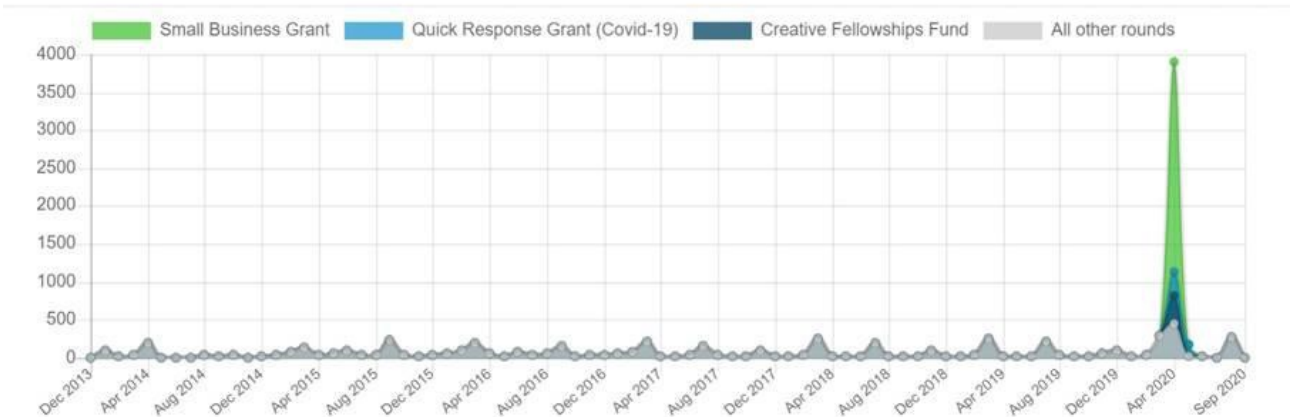
What we are doing to support recovery

- 2.1 Direct existing grant support towards addressing emerging community issues and funding those most in need
- A rolling program of Covid-19 relief grants was released to the community for specific areas of need across the community, cultural sector, and small businesses. The City received the equivalent number of grant applications during a 6 week period in May and June as the preceding 6 years. In total, for these Covid-19 relief grants programs:

• Grant applications received:	4,077
• Grant applications supported:	767
• Value of support requested:	\$47,073,499
• Value of support invested:	\$10,678,092

Applications Submitted

Month



- Increasing the Community Service Grants by \$1.5M to assist organisations to meet the current priority areas of digital inclusion, food security and social connection to support our vulnerable residents (up to \$50,000 per grant). In total for this program:

• Grant applications received:	240
• Grant applications supported:	56
• Value of support requested:	\$7,923,322
• Value of support invested:	\$1,959,132

What we are doing to support recovery

- Increasing the City’s Quick Response Grants by \$500,000 (up to \$5,000 per grant). In total for this program:
 - Grant applications received: 490
 - Grant applications supported: 113
 - Value of support requested: \$2,265,285
 - Value of support invested: \$509,767

- 2.2 Continue to provide online and face-to-face programming with a focus on supporting health and wellbeing, digital literacy, social inclusion, reskilling and employment
 - Provided 391 sessions of virtual community groups online for 11,822 people following closure of libraries and community centres.
 - The City has pivoted many of its face to face community programs to online including:
 - Children’s Storytime and Rhymetime
 - House and building histories guides and Sydney’s Aldermen biographies updated as online resources
 - 3 History Week events delivered online, plus online history talks “The Things We Keep”
 - Online curatorial tours of Sydney Town Hall
 - Fortnightly lunchtime webinars
 - Online book and movie clubs
 - Meals on Wheels activity pack project

- 2.3 Manage community spaces, services and facilities to ensure safe, equitable and affordable access and participation
 - Community venues reopened with reduced capacity and utilisation under Covid-safe plan requirements.
 - Customs House, Surry Hills, Darling Square and Green Square libraries are open with limited operating hours and services under Covid-safe plan requirements. Books are quarantined for 72 hours upon return. Newtown, Waterloo and Ultimo libraries remain closed.
 - Several of the City’s community facilities were made available for NSW Health pop-up testing clinics due to increased Covid-19 activity in the local area including Kings Cross community centre, Rushcutters Bay Park and East Sydney Community & Arts Centre.

- 2.4 Increase utilisation of internet and digital access and participation through City libraries and community facilities and explore opportunities to support digital training and advocate for subsidised internet access beyond our own facilities
 - Customs House, Surry Hills, Darling Square and Green Square libraries provide computer access with 45-minute limit.
 - Adobe software skills classes are being offered online

- 2.5 Work with other government agencies and organisations working in the homelessness sector to support those at risk
 - Formed the Sydney Rough Sleeping Covid-19 Taskforce with the Dept of Communities and Justice, health services and the homelessness sector to disseminate health information and support rough sleepers into temporary accommodation

What we are doing to support recovery

of or experiencing homelessness

- Seven-day coverage provided by the City’s homelessness unit and public space liaison officers who continue to engage with people experiencing homelessness. Staff are providing rough sleepers with the most up to date information from NSW Health, along with information about service provision and accommodation available:
 - People engaged in temporary accommodation information pop-ups: 1,543
 - People supported to access temporary accommodation: 353
 - Local household supported to access long term housing: 90

2.6 Continue to leverage the City’s existing Supported Accommodation, Affordable and Diverse Housing Fund to create more affordable housing

- A review of fund policy and guidelines has been initiated to ensure it meets the requirements of the community in context of the pandemic and future community needs. Changes will be considered at the November Council meeting.
- A number of grants were awarded from the fund in February and March 2020 as follows:
 - Wesley Mission Edward Eager refurbishment - \$1M
 - Affordable housing opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, St George Community Housing - \$150,000
 - UTS First Nations residential college - \$1M
 - Housing All Australians economic study - \$10,000

2.7 Advocate to federal and state governments for increased investment in social and affordable housing as well as no forced evictions and tenants' rights

- Jointly with Sally Capp Lord Mayor of Melbourne, the Lord Mayor presented to the Federal Inquiry into Homelessness in Australia and called on the federal government to establish a “Capital Cities Housing First Fund” to deliver social housing and support services in capital cities as the economic crisis threatens to place more people into housing stress.
- The Lord Mayor was interviewed on ABC Radio National advocating to state and federal governments to commit investment in social and affordable housing which will also help to stimulate the economy.

2.8 Prioritise the provision of food security services for our vulnerable communities through partnerships, networks, grants and existing services

- Partnered with over 60 agencies to provide 100,000 meals and 10,984 food hampers across the LGA. Continue to provide 7,800 meals and 1,420 hampers every week.
- Delivered 16,741 Meals on Wheels meals to 247 residents and continued service uninterrupted.
- Team of redeployed City staff delivered 4,101 meals and 182 online shopping vouchers as part of the City’s temporary home meal delivery program to vulnerable residents, 56% of whom were under 65.

What we are doing to support recovery

- Launched a free supermarket in Waterloo that has supported 4,700 people since July.
- \$734,869 provided to 18 not for profit agencies and businesses as Covid relief grants to provide food support to the community.

Other actions we will take

- 2.9 Work with charities to support their fund-raising to provide ongoing services to people in the local area
- \$1M donation to OzHarvest to support vulnerable residents with food security.
 - Launched major #feedsydney fundraising campaign for OzHarvest, including directly to City of Sydney staff. Every dollar donated provides 2 meals. \$72,000 raised so far towards a goal of \$200,000.
 - Working with volunteer and non-government agencies to link offers of donations and volunteers with organisations requiring additional support.
- 2.10 Advocate to the federal government for the continuation of financial and other support packages and broadening access to assistance
- Letters sent to Prime Minister and Premier advocating for a permanent increase to Jobseeker and greater support for non-residents experiencing food insecurity.
- 2.11 Connect impacted international students to accommodation and mental health support services
- Connecting impacted international students to accommodation and mental health support services through delivery of 13 projects to date, and the roll out of the City’s Covid relief grants including:
 - Covid-19 adaptations to “My Legal Mate” app to provide on-demand, individualised legal assistance, resources and information, including accommodation information from Redfern Legal Centre to international students in the LGA.
 - International student case management to provide culturally appropriate casework services for students
 - City Migrant Organising project by Sydney Alliance to coordinate community responses including emergency relief, advocacy, social isolation and redeployment of resources.
 - Establishing a network of grants recipients to encourage collaboration, promotion and leveraging services and resources for international students.

Other actions we will take

- 2.12 Advocate to the NSW Government to direct energy efficiency support to low-income residents and strata communities in the local area
- The City is collaborating with NSW Government to ensure energy efficiency stimulus, incentives and support include strata and low-income communities.
 - The City is finalising a partnership with Energy Savings Scheme to trial increased financial incentives for owners corporations to retrofit buildings.
 - The City is advocating for changes to strata legislation to drive improved building performance and cost-savings (note a Sustainability Infrastructure Bill to amend the Strata Schemes Management Act is currently with NSW Parliament).
 - The City is promoting utility bill-support programs to our residents.

Action Area 3

Strengthen community cohesion to build the resilience of local communities

Communities are connected, engaged and empowered to manage their own recovery and ready to respond to shocks and emergencies.

What we are doing to support recovery

3.1	Provide grants that facilitate community engagement in City owned spaces and public places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The City is providing rent relief for childcare centre providers until 31 March 2021 for an approximate value of: <table border="0" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Q1 20/21</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Since Commencement</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">\$327,000</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$654,000</td> </tr> </table> 	Q1 20/21	Since Commencement	\$327,000	\$654,000
Q1 20/21	Since Commencement					
\$327,000	\$654,000					
3.2	Provide residents with links to support services and practical assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provided information and referral pathways to residents in a range of formats online and in print with links to relevant health, safety and support contacts. – Established community hotline which received 300 calls. – Established welfare check-in service for vulnerable groups with 4,573 check-in calls made. – Distributed 23,000 free, reusable masks to social housing residents boarding houses and rough sleepers. 				
3.3	Support the provision of health and safety information to residential strata owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The City is leveraging the significant government, community and strata networks developed through the Smart Green Apartments program and work delivered under the Residential Apartments Action Plan to provide resources and support focused on pandemic management for high density strata communities via 4 e-newsletter publications to a database of 2,895 people. – The City conducted an engagement program with 107 owners corporations via a survey to understand key issues of owners during the pandemic and what information and practical support they require. – The City hosted a webinar for 483 attendees on safe and harmonious apartment living during Covid-19. – The City participates in a working group convened by NSW Government to discuss ongoing issues for strata and community schemes in the context of Covid-19. The group creates tailored pandemic management collateral for start communities through the Fair Trading website. 				

What we are doing to support recovery

- 3.4 Advocate to ensure environmental sustainability is of high importance in fast-tracked urban renewal programs
- Advocacy has continued to NSW Government for environmental outcomes aligned to City targets in the following renewal projects:
 - Pyrmont Place Strategy
 - Waterloo Estate
 - Waterloo Metro Quarter
- 3.5 Coordinate local emergency response through Local Emergency Management Committee
- The City waived parking fees for essential workers and converted on-street parking for pop-up cycleways and workzones, foregoing revenue totalling \$584,942 in quarter 1 20/21 and \$1,003,583 since commencement, as follows:
 - Free on-street parking

	Q1 20/21	Since Commencement
Hospitals:	\$181,001	\$314,404
Cycleways:	\$ 49,723	\$ 52,179
Workzones:	\$ 15,665	\$ 31,863
 - Free Goulburn St car park parking

	Q1 20/21	Since Commencement
Police:	\$252,000	\$449,775
Health:	\$ 3,468	\$ 5,236
Charity:	\$ 136	\$ 136
 - Free Kings Cross car park parking

	Q1 20/21	Since Commencement
Police:	\$ 31,660	\$ 67,740
Health:	\$ 27,642	\$ 50,490
Charity:	\$ 23,647	\$ 38,760
- 3.6 Work with the Resilient Sydney network to share best practice and establish cross boundary recovery initiatives
- Community Recovery Plan presented to Resilience Officers across the greater Sydney network.

Other actions we will take

- 3.7 Empower communities to manage their own recovery by strengthening local connections through networks, events and forums, for example supporting community celebrations at the end of the pandemic
- The City’s grants programs were designed to deliver resilience outcomes for communities, along with providing relief and immediate support. Examples include:
 - The Social Outfit received a grant to adapt their programs to be Covid-safe. They are now teaching refugees and new migrants valuable skills that are important in the new economy, including making three-layered face masks.
 - WEAVE received a \$30,000 grant to adapt their work with the most vulnerable young people during the pandemic. The grant was used to set up a youth podcast group to support young people with their

Other actions we will take

mental health and to donate 40 laptops and tablets to vulnerable people and groups across Waterloo, Redfern and Woolloomooloo.

- Sydney Street Choir received a grant to help purchase internet-enabled tablets that will allow members to continue to sing and participate and feel connected during the crisis.

- Wear it Purple day promoted online to foster supportive, safe, empowering and inclusive environment for rainbow young people, which is particularly important in context of impacts of the social isolation caused by the pandemic.

3.8 Facilitate capacity building workshops with the community sector and community led organisations to support their planning for the reopening of their services

- The City hosted a series of workshops with 70 agencies involved in food relief to discuss learnings, gaps and future collective impact to support food relief. The intention is to be future-focussed and develop ideas that can be implemented over time, for example in future grants programs.

3.9 Explore with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community the idea to facilitate a culturally sensitive commemorative event due to the impacts on participating in *Sorry Business* during the pandemic, and to provide an opportunity for support, collective reflection and acknowledgement for community members who have passed away.

- The City supported the local Aboriginal community to host two community wakes in Redfern Community Centre. City staff assisted families in developing the required Covid-safe plans and were present on the day to assist with monitoring safety requirements and support community members.

3.10 Celebrate the work of the community groups and volunteers including at the annual Lord Mayor volunteer thank you event

- No activity scheduled in quarter 1

Action Area 4

Protect and empower the cultural sector by prioritising the role of local creativity, cultural spaces, talent and knowledge

The resilience of our cultural sector is strengthened through involvement in recovery efforts, sustaining diverse cultural practice, protecting creative spaces and thriving community participation.

What we are doing to support recovery

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>4.1 Direct existing grant support to sustain cultural organisations and stimulate development opportunities for local creatives</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A Cultural Fellowship Fund provided support to an artist or group of artists auspiced by a cultural organisation. In total for this program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant applications received: 366 • Grant applications supported: 99 • Value of support requested: \$5,979,851 • Value of support invested: \$1,238,580 – Cultural Sector Resilience grants provided support to creative businesses with fewer than 20 employees. In total for this program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant applications received: 202 • Grant applications supported: 104 • Value of support requested: \$3,115,041 • Value of support invested: \$1,770,613 |
| <p>4.2 Advocate to federal and state governments for targeted support for culture and no net loss of cultural space</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – SSROC called for member Councils to submit “shovel-ready” capital works projects that require substantial funding and which represent an economic development opportunity as well as yielding community benefit. SSROC will use this list as the basis for advocating for stimulus funding from the NSW Government. The City submitted the following project relevant to this action for consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Recital Hall facility renewal and creative industry stimulus - \$7.5M |
| <p>4.3 Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural practices and knowledge sharing</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 648 Barani Barrabugu booklets distributed and website regularly updated |
| <p>4.4 Continue work to maximise opportunities for cultural sector in City owned spaces and community venues</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The City is providing rent relief for creative spaces, short-term empty property, creative accommodation grant and live/work Waterloo and William St tenants until 31 March 2021 for an approximate value of: |

What we are doing to support recovery

	Q1 20/21	Since Commencement
	• Creative spaces: \$43,593	\$ 87,186
	• Other cultural: \$72,718	\$145,436
	• Other social: \$34,195	\$ 68,390
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – All tenants are being provided proactive contract management support through a challenging period for the creative industries – Programming at Ideas Lab (Darling Exchange) transition to online so that workshops in lasercutting, tinkercard and fusion 360 could continue to be offered. – Further activity is being planned in quarter 2 as part of CBD activation program in partnership with NSW Government. 	
4.5 Enable diverse local cultural infrastructure and activation through the City’s Open and Creative planning reforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Open and Creative planning reforms, a set of measures to make it easier for small businesses to trade later, or host performances and shows were endorsed by Council. The NSW Government will now consider the reforms through the gateway approval process. 	

Other actions we will take

4.6 Facilitate opportunities for collaboration and capacity building to ensure cultural sector resilience and sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Weekly Youth Curator programs were transitioned online and produced four Art and Maker videos with accessibility features for the Deaf and hard of hearing community. 	
4.7 Continue to explore opportunities for making space for culture in partnership with public and private sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – No activity scheduled in quarter 1 	
4.8 Set up a working group comprising representatives of the cultural sector to agree sites for pop-up or future cultural activity and prepare a report to Council to approve these sites as Covid-19 recovery activity sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Working group established with representatives from Sydney Festival, Belvoir Theatre, Sydney Opera House, Bangarra Dance Theatre, Anzarts Institute, supported by City staff. Group met 3 times and agreed sites most appropriate for Covid-19 recovery activity are Martin Place and Cathedral Square, as well as sites for roving performances throughout the CBD. – Activity to commence in quarter 2 as part of CBD activation program in partnership with NSW Government. 	

Action Area 5

Rebuild the visitor economy through promotion of our vibrant and safe city with activated main streets and nightlife

People in the city are supported to safely return to a 24-hour Sydney through a phased and integrated approach, with government and industry working together.

What we are doing to support recovery

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| <p>5.1 Use our communications channels to promote shop local and visit local to residents, workers and visitors</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Adapted What’s On to support online events, including temporary re-brand to What’s On(line). – Leverage What’s On as primary event platform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events submitted: 2,615 • Page views per month: 111,000 • Sessions per month: 70,000 • Email subscribers: 30,642 – The 365 days of local economies partnerships with local publications have continued throughout the pandemic to support local businesses. – Visit local campaign to commence in quarter 2 as part of CBD activation program in partnership with NSW Government. |
| <p>5.2 Continue to invest in local festivals and major events that demonstrate Sydney’s vibrancy and encourage local Sydneysiders and others from around the state and country to visit</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Activity to commence in quarter 2 as part of CBD activation program in partnership with NSW Government. |
| <p>5.3 Continue to partner with Business Events Sydney to build the pipeline of business meetings for Sydney</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Regular contact maintained with Business Events Sydney. No specific activity scheduled in quarter 1. |
| <p>5.4 Continue to engage with the accommodation and entertainment sector to ensure sustainability is promoted and prioritised</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Two meetings and a consultation were held with members of the Sustainable Destination Partnership (SDP) to help inform the City’s workplace for 2020/21. The workplan will focus on best practice waste management, uptake of renewal energy, elimination of sing-use items, reducing food waste and importing water efficiency. The SDP and its members are committed to promoting the city to attract visitors to aid in economic recovery. |

What we are doing to support recovery

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| 5.5 | In line with health advice, welcome people back to Sydney through roaming ambassadors, maps and digital services | – Activity to commence in quarter 2 as part of CBD activation program in partnership with NSW Government. |
| 5.6 | Advocate to state and federal governments for ongoing support for international students while they continue to be impacted by the pandemic | – 9 advocacy actions undertaken including successful advocacy for the removal of barriers for international students to access the Study NSW Crisis Accommodation Package. |

Other actions we will take

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| 5.7 | Engage local creatives in the City’s programs and work with others to do the same to activate precincts to support local businesses, sustain local culture and drive footfall on main streets | – Activity to commence in quarter 2 as part of CBD activation program in partnership with NSW Government. |
| 5.8 | Partner with Destination NSW to develop a local and domestic visitor marketing campaign for Sydney, with focus on the cultural offering over the 2020–2021 summer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “Love Sydney” campaign launched by Destination NSW to promote “play-cations” to Sydneysiders and intrastate visitors. – Summer marketing campaign to commence in quarter 2 as part of CBD activation partnership with NSW Government. |
| 5.9 | Encourage and facilitate the return of international students back to Sydney in partnership with education sector | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Contributed to delivery of 3-week micro and 2-week nano digital industry project experiences for Covid-impacted international students through the City’s Knowledge Exchange program. The increased co-investment from UTS, USyd and UNSW has helped to deliver 670 projects against a target of 335 and ensure Sydney remains relevant as a study destination. – Presentation to Global ICEF Monitor webinar on topic of the ongoing promotion of cities and regions as study destinations. – Online youth leadership conference as part of the International Student Leadership and Ambassador program. |

Action Area 6

Support businesses and organisations to innovate and adapt, so that industries can evolve and grow

Connecting people to new ways of thinking and working, harnessing their creative capacity to solve problems, pivot and transform through skills development, new models and partnerships so more businesses can share in the benefits.

What we are doing to support recovery

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| 6.1 | Facilitate dialogue with heavily impacted sectors to support their recovery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Regular and ongoing engagement with stakeholders from all impacted sectors to ensure City staff remain informed and involved in supporting recovery. |
| 6.2 | Direct existing grant support for organisations, businesses and industry, including those dominated by women, to assist them to innovate, adapt and grow | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Small business grants were offered to businesses, including those in the night-time economy and live music sector to adapt in the wake of the pandemic. In total for this program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant applications received: 2,779 • Grant applications supported: 395 • Value of support requested: \$27,790,000 • Value of support invested: \$ 3,950,000 |
| 6.3 | Continue to support collaboration across the innovation precincts within the Camperdown Ultimo collaboration area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The City’s CEO convenes monthly meetings of the Camperdown-Ultimo Collaboration Area Alliance which represents all major partners in the precinct and represents the City on the Tech Central industry advisory group. – City staff from the economic strategy team are contributing to the development of an economic strategy for Tech Central within the collaboration area. – The Alliance is considering the opportunity for the collaboration area as a centre for excellence for medtech and pharma. This strategy will build on the significant assets and expertise in the precinct, while addressing biotech infrastructure gaps including wet labs where Sydney lags Brisbane and Melbourne. |
| 6.4 | Implement the Central Sydney planning strategy to support a pipeline of development and investment certainty | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Central Sydney planning strategy was placed on exhibition for public submissions which are currently being assessed prior to the final strategy being submitted to Council for adoption. |
| 6.5 | Continue to use City procurement to support local businesses and a shift to a circular economy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ongoing implementation of City’s sustainable procurement practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elimination of single-use plastics • Green label consumable products |

What we are doing to support recovery

- IT hardware life-cycle impact
- Sustainability key performance measures
- Actions towards a circular economy include:
 - Increasing recycled content in construction (steel, concrete, reuse of fitouts, design for end-of-life, civil works maintenance contract)
 - Sustainable design technical guidelines
 - Alternative waste recycling suppliers
 - Uniforms tender with other capital city councils
- The City has enhanced the returnable schedules of procurement documentation in relation to governance, environmental outcomes, First Nations suppliers, corporate social responsibility and local buy.
- Activation of the City of Sydney local suppliers database comprising:
 - 13,000 potential suppliers
 - 300 vendors who have NSW Government contracts
 - LGA SME businesses whose activity may align with potential goods and services for Council (downloaded from Australian Business Register and sorted through over 76,000 businesses)
 - 600 Supply Nation Certified Indigenous Businesses
 - 40 Cooperatives (class of social enterprise) as recommended by Co-ops NSW
 - B Corporations - social enterprises interested in City of Sydney opportunities
 - LGA incubators as a gatekeeper to all Startups

6.6 Continue to support communities and businesses to accelerate their uptake of renewable energy to stimulate the green economy

- The City of Sydney LGA now has 14.4MW of solar PV installed. The City continues to support the provision of solar feasibility reports, case studies and promote solutions (onsite and offsite) through the Residential Apartment Buildings, Commercial Office and Accommodation and Entertainment sector plans.
- Through Smart Green Apartments the City has supported the installation of 606kW and continues to work towards the identified potential of 2.01MW in the cohort.
- The City’s renewables promotional campaign around our own power purchase agreement won a Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance award.

6.7 Continue to assist businesses and apartment buildings owners’ corporations to implement retrofits for increased efficiency

- Owners corporations from the Smart Green Apartment program have implemented energy efficiency upgrades, reducing emissions by 18,897 tonnes CO₂e and reducing owners corporations bills by a total of \$2.69M.
- Through the City’s partnership with Sydney Water 2,676 individual apartments have had their water

What we are doing to support recovery

fixtures and fittings retrofitted within 12 buildings. These upgrades have achieved water savings of more than 622ML and have saved owners corporations approximately \$1.15M in reduced water bills.

A further saving of 442/kL/day has been identified with 35 participants in the City’s water program funded by Sydney Water.

- Through the City’s Building Tune-Up program engagement we have encouraged businesses to access the City’s environmental performance grants for building assessments.
- An online learning module to embed cost efficiency through food waste avoidance has also been developed through Love Food Sydney.

6.8 Prioritise investment in City projects that provide significant local green economy benefits

- SSROC called for member Councils to submit “shovel-ready” capital works projects that require substantial funding and which represent an economic development opportunity as well as yielding community benefit. SSROC will use this list as the basis for advocating for stimulus funding from the NSW Government. The City submitted the following project relevant to this action for consideration:
 - City Centre Water Recycling Scheme - \$3M

Other actions we will take

6.9 Produce skills development programs to enhance innovation, collaboration, digitisation and e-commerce

- An EOI to secure an operator for the City’s Business Innovation Space in Circular Quay Tower is progressing and once finalised, will be a proactive step towards supporting the startup community.

6.10 Advocate to federal and state governments to invest in green economy as major generator of jobs

- No activity scheduled in quarter 1

