

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY



Inclusive Tennis Festival Image: Katherine Griffiths

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Led by the US Government but with ripple effects seen globally, policies that promote diversity, equity and inclusion are increasingly under attack. **In the face of this upheaval, Council recently reaffirmed its commitment to the policies and strategies that contribute to a city that offers all people opportunities to realise their full potential and enjoy a great quality of life.** Over the past 20 years, guided by expert advisory panels, we have improved accessibility across facilities, supported refugees, championed the LGBTIQA+ community, stood against racism and hate, and increased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recognition, employment and procurement. The City has been a leader in gender inclusive employment, with women comprising 51% of leadership roles and a gender pay gap favouring women. We are currently developing a new anti-racism framework and updating our Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan. *The City remains steadfast in resisting regressive pressures, ensuring Sydney remains a city for all.*



Image: Clinton Weaver

Zumba class Image: Annabel Osborne

PYRMONT COMMUNITY CENTRE IS OPEN AGAIN!

The Pyrmont Community Centre has been officially re-opened following a \$12.2 million upgrade that delivered four wonderful spaces including a new community space for large gatherings and a beautifully landscaped courtyard. As part of the refurbishment we have added a lift, making the building fully accessible for all people, a gym with new equipment, and upgraded outside school hours care facilities and play equipment. While the gym, exercise and wellness classes are the most popular activities, others attend to learn a skill such as crochet or to meet friends at storytime or at the community dinners. *Since 2004, the City has invested over \$500 million in our community and recreation facilities to ensure they provide affordable access to a range of lifelong learning, creative, cultural, health and wellbeing activities.*



Artist impression of the new PCYC Image: Bridge Housing, Architecture AND and DIM Studio

KEEPING THE PCYC IN REDFERN

Operating from the NSW Government owned site at 638 Elizabeth Street since 1952, the South Sydney Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) has provided a range of activities and support services for young people in the local community. **We called for the retention and redevelopment of the PCYC as part of the Government's housing redevelopment on the site, which it has committed to.** Council has now provided a \$5 million grant to Bridge Housing in partnership with PCYC NSW for the new community facility, which will be called Redfern Place, as part of the redevelopment. *The facility will provide fitness, health and wellness programs as well as social enterprise ventures, with a focus on engaging all members of the community.*

OUTDOOR DINING IS HERE TO STAY!



Surry Hills Image: Adam Hollingworth

Waiving outdoor dining fees was one of the first things we did when the pandemic hit Sydney. We did this to make it easier for restaurants, bars and cafes to operate while encouraging physical distancing and fresh air. **Since November 2020, we have approved nearly 1,000 outdoor dining applications on the road or footpath. We've created an estimated 13,000sqm of new space for outdoor dining, supporting over 800 businesses.** The total value of support we have given businesses by waiving footpath and on-street outdoor dining fees since November 2020 is around \$20 million, and its real value to our city is immeasurable. Three-quarters of participating businesses have said as a result they have taken on extra staff, and more than a third have seen a 20% increase in turnover. **Council has now committed to waiving the fees permanently, so the outdoor dining revolution is here to stay!**

PUBLIC FAVOURS BOLD VISION FOR SYDNEY AFTER DARK

The City works hard to support a thriving night time economy and ensure our residential areas remain great places to live. To support hospitality businesses and take advantage of the NSW Government's "vibrancy reforms", the City has proposed new rules to manage sound from entertainment venues and introduced areas called Special Entertainment Precincts. With strong community support for these changes, Sydney's nightlife is on track for a boost.

WHAT'S CHANGING WITH SOUND RULES?

- New or significantly changed venues will need to test and limit noise so residents aren't disturbed.
- New apartments near live venues will also need to include proper soundproofing.
- It'll be easier for eligible venues to stay open longer, with extended trial periods for late-night trading.

WHAT ARE SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT PRECINCTS?

- These areas come with benefits from the NSW Government, like cheaper liquor licence fees and longer hours for liquor licences.
- The City can set sound levels that fit the character of each area, helping support live music where it makes sense.
- Businesses in these areas won't always need a development application to trade later.



Oxford Art Factory Image: Sarah Rhodes

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

We're aiming to grow Sydney's nightlife while keeping the city a great place to live. By focusing on whole precincts—rather than just one or two streets—we can spread the benefits across more neighbourhoods and avoid issues like overcrowding or noise hotspots. The City will now carry out studies to design a tailored sound management plan for each precinct. These plans will be shared for public feedback before any final decisions are made. **We'll also create a plan to review how the precincts are working, and check in on their progress 12–18 months after they begin.**



Image: Katherine Griffiths

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June 2025

SYDNEY CITY NEWS

Moore Park golf course Image: Mark Fitzsimmons, Blue Sky

THE CASE FOR MORE PARKLAND AT MOORE PARK

Since the NSW Government committed to returning 20 hectares of the Moore Park golf course to public parkland, there has been a coordinated campaign against the plan.

We have seen opposition from the Eastern Suburbs councils, a "compromise" put forward by golfers, and even Peter Dutton weighing in with an election pitch for voters in Wentworth.

Government is not about doing what's easy, or backing down in the face of opposition from vested interests. It's our job to interrogate the status quo and ensure we're providing for the community as best and as equitably as we can.

The three councils that border Centennial Park have all passed resolutions opposing the conversion. But here on the Moore Park side, where we have shouldered the brunt of increased housing density in the area, we desperately need walking access to open parkland.

It has been the policy of successive State Governments to increase housing in the Green Square precinct and by

2040, up to 80,000 more people will be living within 2km of Moore Park. There is no equivalent urban renewal area in the east.

The City is creating 40 parks and playgrounds as part of the Green Square urban renewal, but small parks don't provide the same opportunity as large green spaces to stride out, picnic, play sport or connect with nature.

We are not going to solve the housing crisis without more housing and we can't expect people to live well in higher density without improved public amenity – including access to parkland and recreational space.

There are 12 other golf courses in the inner city and eastern Sydney area. And the golfers' alternate plan doesn't create new space for the community, it seeks to further commercialise and wedge additional uses, including a multi-storey car park,

into existing public parkland. It maintains exclusive, fenced use of the public land opposite our greatest densities.

Our area has changed since a golf course was built at Moore Park in 1913. As a community we need to have an open and honest conversation about how we best share public assets. Great swathes of the parkland have been lost to road widenings and professional sports facilities.

This is a wonderful opportunity to return the public land to open public use. I commend the Premier for putting community interest over vested interest.

Clover Moore
Lord Mayor of Sydney
Clover Moore AO



Lord Mayor Clover Moore and Cllr Adam Worling Image: Penny Clay

COMMEMORATING ANZAC DAY IN THE CITY

This Anzac Day we reflected on 110 years since the Gallipoli campaign. We honour all Australians who have served and sacrificed in times of peace and war. **The City is the official custodian of the Cenotaph in Martin Place and 18 local monuments and memorials, which we maintain through our public art conservation management program.** We work collaboratively with the State Government and RSL NSW to deliver annual events like the Dawn Service and March, and provide veteran's themed banners to line city streets. We also support the annual Coloured Diggers' March, which commemorates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who served in armed conflicts. **Lest we forget.**

LEADING THE WAY ON CLIMATE ACTION, CITY GREENING AND REDUCING WASTE



Solar panels on the new Perry Park Recreation Centre Image: Paul Patterson

In human history, 2024 was the hottest year globally and we are feeling that change locally, with six of NSW's hottest years on record occurring in the past 10 years. Leading Sydney to a decarbonised future is a key priority. We have made huge strides already by cutting operational emissions by 76% since 2006, purchasing 100% renewable electricity and setting ambitious new targets. The next five years are crucial.

THE PLAN KEEPING SYDNEY'S NET ZERO AMBITIONS ON TRACK

Our new Environmental Strategy 2025-2030 sets targets for our own operations and the local area to reduce our carbon footprint, improve water health and increase sustainable use of resources. **Unanimously endorsed by Council, the Strategy is focused on the next five years to reach net zero emissions by 2035, with plans to cut operational energy use by 30%, get off gas in our operations and help renters access programs for better efficiency.** To reduce costs and help support the grid in peak times, the City is aiming to reduce its operational energy use by nearly a third by 2030, by greatly improving efficiency in buildings. It will do this by eradicating costly gas in its properties and using less harmful refrigerants in air conditioning units. In the local area, 65% of households are renting and limited in what they can do to electrify the places where they live. **The City of Sydney will also continue to support local communities doing their bit in reducing emissions, which are down 41% since 2006.**



SWITCHING OFF GAS FOR AN ELECTRIC FUTURE

We have also recently consulted on plans to make new developments all electric in an effort to cut emissions, create healthier homes and ease cost-of-living pressures. Continuing with residential electrification is vital to meeting the City of Sydney's carbon reduction target by 2035. With gas prices projected to keep increasing due to shortages and network charges, each new household would save around \$626 a year in energy bills in an electrified development. **Electric systems are more efficient, use less energy, and with just one connection and daily rate, save occupants on additional gas service charges.** Replacing gas cooktops with electric induction appliances would offer significant health benefits. Exposure to pollutants from gas cooktops has been found to have a similar health impact as passive smoking. **The City of Sydney is considering several options to move away from a reliance on gas, such as requiring appliances in new developments to be electric under planning controls.**

RESILIENT SYDNEY



RESILIENT SYDNEY STRATEGY 2025-2030

Launch event Image: Abril Felman

Launched in 2016 as part of the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities program, Resilient Sydney aims to enhance the city's capacity to withstand both chronic stresses, like climate change, and acute shocks, like natural disasters. The first Resilient Sydney Strategy (2018-2024) was developed through extensive collaboration with 33 local councils, state and federal governments, businesses, academia, and communities. **We have just launched the second strategy (2025-2030).** Over 2,000 community members and 200 organisations were engaged, highlighting the depth of local knowledge that has strengthened resilience planning. This approach leverages the unique knowledge of local councils to connect with higher levels of government and lead resilience efforts. **Working together, in genuine partnership, will ensure Greater Sydney is a place where all communities thrive.**



Westmoreland St, Glebe Image: Brendan Read

SYDNEY BEST IN AUSTRALIA FOR GREEN SPACES

A recent study analysed the world's 100 most populous cities to determine which offer the most green space attractions which are considered the most popular. Sydney ranked 16th internationally, the highest in Australia. **Since 2004 we have invested nearly half a billion dollars in park upgrades and new parks, including \$50 million to transform the former tip at St Peters into Sydney Park, now a 40-hectare oasis.** Over the next 10 years, we will upgrade or create 60 parks across the City. A major project will be the conversion of 20 hectares of Moore Park Golf Course into public parkland. **Across the City, we have planted more than 17,500 trees. We have ambitious targets to increase green cover to a minimum of 40%.**



Free tree giveaway, Sydney Park Image: Katherine Griffiths

WITH RESIDENTS HELPING

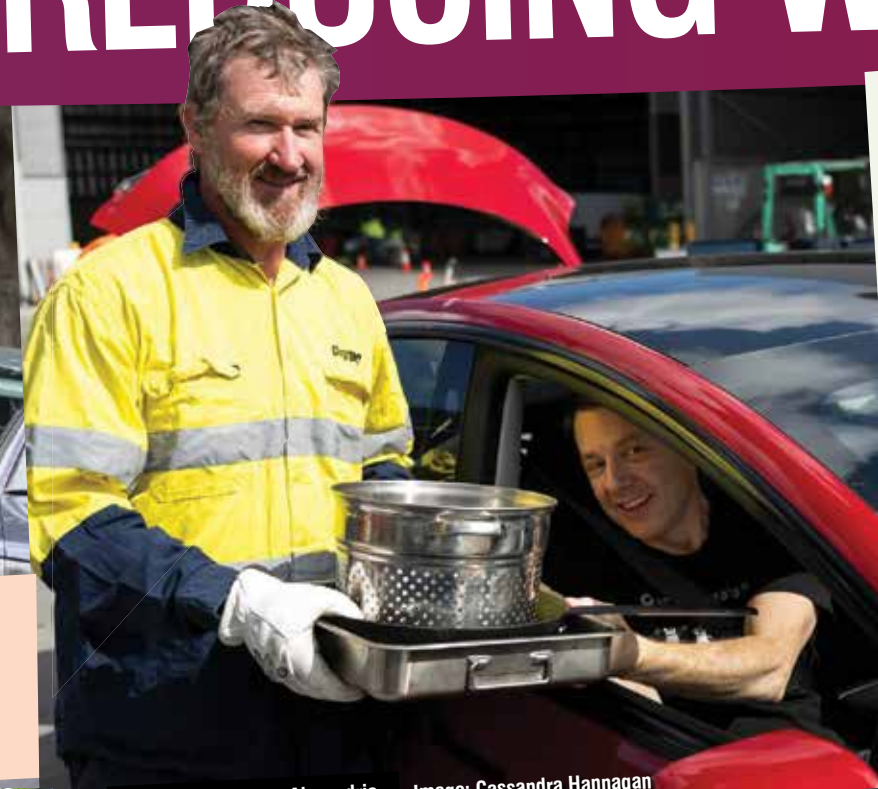
Last month we gave away 1,000 small, medium and large native and exotic trees to locals to take and plant at home. **Last year, we planted more than 840 trees in our streets and parks as we continue our work to green our city, improve air quality and give birds and animals more habitat, but we're running out of space to plant, which is why we need residents to green private land.** Some of the species available included weeping bottlebrush, heath banksia, red flowering gum, lemon myrtle, Chinese hibiscus, silk and lemon trees. We're always looking to create more planting opportunities. **With ambitious targets and innovative solutions, we're looking at practical ways to green roofs, walls and our extensive network of laneways and narrow streets. We have also proposed planning tools to ensure we're greening equitably across the City.**



Living Colour planter boxes in Sydney Square Image: Chris Southwood

AND GREENERY WHERE WE CAN'T PLANT

The City's seasonal mobile planter displays enliven streets and public spaces with high impact, creative and colourful flowers where permanent planting isn't possible, such as paved areas, or above services. **Council recently funded the mobile planter program for another three years, including seasonal displays at 20 sites, Christmas displays, over 400 hanging baskets on smart poles, the Kings Cross green wall and planters along the George Street light rail corridor year round.** We use recycled non-potable water to water the displays and recycle suitable plants after the display through giveaway programs for schools, community and day care centres, and customer service centres. **Annual plants that aren't in good enough condition to give away are separated into green waste that goes into compost and soil, which is reused in future displays along with the plastic pots.**



Recycle It Saturday, Alexandria Image: Cassandra Hannagan

RECYCLING TRICKY ITEMS

In addition to weekly yellow recycling collections, you can access one of our specialty recycling services for tricky items, like dropping off small electronics at libraries and community centres. **Residents from the City of Sydney, Woollahra and Waverley council areas turned out in force to support our Recycle It Saturday event in February, where for the first time we accepted unwearable textiles.** Rather than stained or torn clothes and bedding being dumped in landfill, we sourced a specialist recycler so the fabric is mechanically shredded and remade into useful bags, socks, yarn, underlay, insulation, furniture filler and rugs. We also piloted a new furniture reuse stream, which collected 35 items to be rehomed to families in need or resold in charity stores. **Altogether more than 900 people dropped off a combined 17.8 tonnes of material for recycling.**

The next Recycle It Saturday will be held on 23 August.



Soft Landing's mattress recycling facility

MATTRESSES COLLECTED AND RE-USED

Recently Council recontracted Soft Landing to manage the collection and processing of mattresses from the kerbside, apartment buildings and council depots. Soft Landing is a not-for-profit organisation that creates meaningful employment opportunities for local people, and council depots. **Between 2019 and 2025, we've recycled 2,500 tonnes of food scraps, converting them to electricity, fertiliser and compost, saving almost 2,500 cubic metres of landfill and preventing 4,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.** In January, we started a trial with food waste innovators Goterra involving black soldier fly larvae, or maggots, which convert food scraps to fertiliser for gardens and farms and protein for animal feed. **Staff will now progress planning and give the waste processing industry confidence to invest in new facilities to meet this demand.**



Image: Katherine Griffiths

AND FOOD ORGANICS COLLECTION FOR ALL

Council recently committed to ensuring all residents in the City have access to food scraps recycling by 2030. **Food scraps make up 40% of household waste so this will save tonnes of landfill and reduce emissions.** Already we provide food scraps recycling for nearly 20% of the local area. Between 2019 and 2025, we've recycled 2,500 tonnes of food scraps, converting them to electricity, fertiliser and compost, saving almost 2,500 cubic metres of landfill and preventing 4,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. In January, we started a trial with food waste innovators Goterra involving black soldier fly larvae, or maggots, which convert food scraps to fertiliser for gardens and farms and protein for animal feed. **Staff will now progress planning and give the waste processing industry confidence to invest in new facilities to meet this demand.**