

# AND SUPPORTING CREATIVITY



Artist's impressions of the new creative centre in Bathurst Street

# WITH SOME BIG IDEAS FOR OUR FUTURE



CITY OF SYDNEY

JULY 2021  
**SYDNEY CITY NEWS**

Seventy five affordable housing units were negotiated by the City as part of the Harold Park redevelopment

## CITY OF SYDNEY CREATIVE STUDIOS OPENING SOON ...

The City is committed to reinvigorating our night-time economy post-Covid, and to supporting our cultural and creative communities through grants and engagement opportunities. We also use our planning controls to negotiate new facilities. Our 2000 sqm state-of-the-art creative hub in the Greenland Centre in Bathurst Street has five floors of affordable rehearsal and work space for dance, theatre, music rehearsal and visual arts. It is the result of a voluntary planning agreement between Greenland Australia and the City. We've secured the space on a 99 year lease at a peppercorn rent.



Intersections lights up Surry Hills

## SUPPORTING ARTISTS AND ENHANCING OUR STREETS

*Intersections* by artist Ian Strange is a temporary work and part of the City's Art and About public art series, which makes art accessible to all.

LED rods seem to pierce and intersect a dilapidated terrace in Surry Hills, creating dramatic lighting effects.

The work is the first in the City's Art & About program since the pandemic began last year.

It will be followed by *As One Door Closes, Another Opens* by Sydney artist Will Cooke. It will be presented as a large-scale mural on the northern side of the Top of the Town building in Victoria Street Darlinghurst.



Our town halls reimagined

Artist's Impression

## AND PROVIDING INCENTIVES AND CUTTING RED TAPE

The City is cutting red tape to help reignite our 24-hour economy and create and maintain space for artists and performers.

These changes soften restrictions for businesses and make it easier for unlicensed premises to open later and for a wide variety of small scale cultural events to occur in shops, offices, warehouses and community facilities.

They also make it easier for organisations to establish maker-spaces and to open up city venues, such as Erskineville Town Hall, for live music and performances.

And planning controls are being proposed for the revitalisation of Oxford Street, with extra floor space granted for the provision of creative space. It's estimated that these concessions could add more than 11,000 sqm of new creative space from Whitlam Square to Paddington.

## CONNECTING THE CITY BACK TO OUR WONDERFUL HARBOUR... AND THEN DOWN A PEDESTRIANISED GEORGE STREET TO TOWN HALL CIVIC SQUARE, AND ON TO CENTRAL STATION PLAZA



Artist's Impression of Town Hall Civic Square



Artist's impression of Central Station surrounds

The City has already purchased Customs House at Circular Quay, the whole length of George Street from Circular Quay to Central is being pedestrianised and traversed by light rail. The City has acquired buildings valued at \$300m towards the creation of Town Hall Civic Square and the concept work around people-oriented surrounds to Central Station is beginning.

## AND TRANSFORMING MAJOR STREETS INTO GREEN AVENUES...



Artist's impression of Park Street



Artist's impression of Loftus Street

Ideas have been proposed to green and pedestrianise main streets such as Park and Loftus streets (pictured), Pitt Street in the CBD, and also Broadway and Botany Road. The desired outcome would be reduced traffic, increased pedestrianisation and cycling, with more trees and greenery. Greater investment in public transport, re-evaluations of current usages and some clever planning could see these traffic arteries reimagined and redesigned as more beautiful, safe places for people.

## CREATING A FAIRER CITY FOR ALL

The City of Sydney is committed to community wellbeing, social justice and diversity as important measures of urban liveability.

The demand for social and affordable housing in the city has never been greater, and given the projected health, social and economic impacts of Covid-19, we know that is likely to increase.

We don't want our key workers, our nurses, police officers, childcare workers to be pushed further away from their places of work in our city. While local government isn't responsible for housing, we've taken every opportunity to promote the building of mostly affordable housing, but also social and supported accommodation. The City has collected developer contributions, discounted land sales, and used its Affordable and Diverse Housing Fund to help deliver 1070 new affordable homes, with another 629 in the pipeline.

As well, the City has facilitated the delivery of 801 social housing dwellings, with 116 in the pipeline and a further 75 planned. And City seed funding

has enabled HammondCare to build accommodation in Darlinghurst and the renewal of Edward Eagar Lodge in Surry Hills.

We were the first council in NSW with a dedicated homelessness unit. Over the past four years we've contributed \$4.7 million to the Department of Communities and Justice to deliver specialist homelessness services, with another \$3.6 million to be invested over the coming three years.

We donated more than \$2 million to OzHarvest and other charities during the Covid-19 pandemic and delivered more than 20,000 face masks to Sydney's most vulnerable communities.

Helping create a fairer city that is inclusive and accessible to all underpins our work, whether providing essential community infrastructure and

services accessible to all, housing and homelessness services or free rates for pensioners.

We also celebrate our diverse culture and community loudly and publicly. As a long-time supporter of Mardi Gras, we have just recently granted another \$500,000 to World Pride to help it create an event that invites the world to Sydney. Our Lunar New Year Festival is now the largest such celebration outside Asia. Later this month we will unveil *bara*, a glorious monument to the Eora overlooking Sydney Harbour.

*Clover Moore*

Lord Mayor of Sydney  
 @CloverMoore  
 @clovermooresydney

The new school and community facility for Green Square



## GREEN SQUARE SCHOOL FUNDED

After years of advocacy, funding has been secured from the current State Budget for a new primary school at Green Square! This is a great result for our fastest growing community, which will be home to 61,000 residents by 2030.

We set aside City-owned land on the former South Sydney Hospital site next to Waranara Early Education Centre for a new building housing a school and community centre, and a competition was held to get the best design. So we're very excited to be working with Government to provide the community with a school, and both dedicated and after-hours community facilities.

The City has invested more than \$540 million in infrastructure and community facilities since Green Square was earmarked by the State Government as an urban renewal precinct. This includes a new library, aquatic centre, parks, playgrounds, roads and cycleways.

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# ENABLING HOUSING AND A PLACE FOR EVERYONE ...

Access to affordable and social housing is essential for a diverse, cohesive, and economically successful global city. And although housing is a state government responsibility, the City is playing a leading role in enabling housing supply and affordability through levies, amended planning controls, discounted property sales, and our Affordable and Diverse Housing Fund.

Our work for a fairer city is manifest in many ways ...

## CITY DESIGN FOR WATERLOO PUBLIC HOUSING REDEVELOPMENT SUPPORTED ...



The City's alternative plan for Waterloo's Cooper Street, featuring wider streets and more sunlight

The City's changes to the Land and Housing Corporation redevelopment proposal for Waterloo housing estate has been generally accepted to proceed to public exhibition towards the end of the year.

We wanted to ensure quality streets and public spaces, with maximum access to sunlight, and more sustainable and accessible buildings. And thankfully that's been supported. But we've had limited success so far increasing the proportion of affordable and social housing to private-for-sale housing. We will continue to work to get a fairer housing mix.

The Department of Planning is responsible for consultation and finalising the new planning controls.



Left to right: St George Community Housing Chair Annette Gallard, NSW Housing Minister Melinda Pavey, Lord Mayor Clover Moore, and Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services Alister Henskens at the opening of 11 Gibbons Street.

## SUPPORTING SOCIAL HOUSING

The City has supported 162 new social and affordable housing apartments at 11 Gibbons Street Redfern and negotiated at least 25% of the units as Indigenous housing.

The former council depot site was sold at a discounted rate by the City to St George Community Housing, enabling the development to go ahead.

And we're supporting our social housing tenants through advocacy and face to face meetings. Staff contact up to 2,500 tenants each year to provide assistance, and we host regular meetings bringing tenants and service providers together to solve issues of concern.

More than 51,000 people are on the public housing waiting list, and 5,000 are a priority. So the City helps support the development of social housing, which is not normally the responsibility of local government, where it can.



HammondCare, Darlinghurst



Ironbark Apartments, Harold Park



11 Gibbons Street Redfern



## GROWING AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACROSS OUR CITY

We've made \$17.81 million worth of discounted City land available to community housing providers for affordable housing. This has enabled the delivery of 75 units at Ironbark Apartments in Harold Park and 104 units at the Exordium Apartments at Green Square, amongst others.

Through our Affordable and Diverse Housing Fund, we've committed more than \$10 million to support initiatives such as HammondCare in Darlinghurst, for older people with complex needs, and Foyer Central in Chippendale, providing supported affordable accommodation for young people exiting out-of-home care and affordable housing for low income workers.

And our affordable housing levies in Pyrmont/Ultimo and Green Square have allowed housing providers to deliver 38 social and 859 affordable housing dwellings.

At our request, the State Government has recently extended the levy scheme city-wide, a move that's expected to help create an additional 1,100 affordable homes.

The 76-bed Edward Eagar Lodge



## AND CARING FOR THE HOMELESS

We were the first council in Australia with a dedicated homelessness unit connecting rough sleepers with essential services and we invest more than \$2 million every year to reduce homelessness and its impacts. Through the pandemic we've been working with key agencies to ensure safe accommodation for those sleeping rough.

We've also provided grants and seed funding for vital projects, including \$1 million towards the recent refurbishment of Edward Eagar Lodge in Surry Hills, which offers crisis accommodation and support for people at risk of being homeless.

And, a grant of \$1.5 million towards the construction of HammondCare in Darlinghurst, opened last year to provide residential care for older people, especially older women, who could otherwise be homeless.

# CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES



YOGA AT GUNYAMA AQUATIC CENTRE, the City's newest award winning facility.

Since 2004, we've completed more than 250 community projects, creating beautiful parks, libraries, pools and community facilities for all. And now we're delivering a further 430 new projects as part of our 10 year plan. These facilities offer innovative, efficient and enriching services to every resident, from our library services, to exercise programs, companion pet support, community events, recreational classes and learn to swim sessions.



## PET DAY AT WATERLOO

Introduced our biannual pet days held in Waterloo and Northcott every year, providing discounted and free services for people on low incomes. Our last one attracted 200 social housing residents and 181 companion animals including 132 dogs, 48 cats, and one rabbit.



## SKATING AT SYDNEY PARK

Invested more than \$270 million across the City's open space, sport and recreation facility network since 2005. This includes 132 parks and 61 playgrounds, and three skate parks.



## FACILITIES FOR FUN AND FITNESS

Upgraded or completed 37 sports facilities and fields, including Gunyama Park and Aquatic Centre, and provided programs from swim classes to aqua aerobics.



## SPACES FOR LETTING GO

Developed a network of fitness equipment and accessible outdoor spaces across the LGA, and programs encouraging health and wellbeing, including multicultural performance opportunities reflecting our diverse population.



## LEISURE CENTRES FOR ALL ...

Established 15 popular local community and arts centres, catering for a range of creative, cultural, social, business and educational needs.



## AND LOOKING AFTER CITY KIDS

Increased childcare services and facilities for our young families. We've upgraded parks and playgrounds, built or renewed 24 childcare centres since 2013, and we operate six out-of-school care services.