

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF FuturesPlan20 CONSULTATION



Community forums

Community members, Council staff and Councillors who participated in this forum all identified that a well connected community was central to their feelings of health, wellbeing and safety. Participants also noted that feeling connected to the local area was important to their sense of identity and that the community atmosphere in the City of Canada Bay makes it a great place to live.

Our unique natural assets including the foreshore area, parks and open spaces were recognised as significant factors in participants' feelings of health and wellbeing. Preservation and protection of these areas for recreational and cultural purposes has a strong effect on participants' perceptions of their wellbeing and safety.

Traffic and environmental issues, including pollution and noise were identified as factors which detract most strongly from participants' sense of health and wellbeing.

Creating a Green City requires Council and the community to address a range of local, regional and global issues concerning the natural environment. A green city is a challenge and a priority and establishing a balance between the natural and built environment is essential.

Community members, Council staff and Councillors all agree that the great number of parks, accessible foreshore, remnant bushland, trees and waterways make Canada Bay a unique place to live.

Participants noted that high standards of management and maintenance of these areas significantly enhance the natural environment. Respondents also identified Council's waste recycling service as a positive factor which contributes greatly to the local environment.

Aspirations for the future include a cleaner environment generally, less traffic, increased bush care, cleaner water, improved maintenance of parks and facilities and restrictions on development. Participants were also keen to see the development of strategies to address stormwater, noise and air pollution.

Enhancing the built environment and ensuring Canada Bay is a Liveable City now and into the future requires careful planning to ensure all developments contribute to the aesthetic appearance of urban areas.

As part of the consultation for FuturesPlan20, the Built Environment Station sought to identify what aspects of the built environment are valued, what should be maintained, what should be changed and the community's 20 year vision for the city's built environment.

Participants across the consultation groups revealed satisfaction with the accessibility of parks, reserves and foreshore areas. Respondents also mentioned the village-like streetscapes, diversity of housing styles and heritage areas as positive aspects of the built environment which should be maintained.

Future priorities were identified as more modern facilities, better urban design, and development control and planning, ensuring the enhancement and/or maintenance of large setbacks in commercial precincts and restrictions on high density development. Low to medium density development was preferred particularly around foreshore areas, with the suggestion of high density developments to be centred around public transport nodes.

In the City of Canada Bay road networks are used extensively and keeping the city moving is a priority. Council's role is to manage the local road network to facilitate smooth and safe traffic flows for all users including pedestrians.

Activities in the Transport Station focused on encouraging participants to identify transport and access issues into, out of and around the city and to learn their vision for transport in the city over the next 20 years.

Participants identified that the peninsular nature of the area and limited access points create transport issues for people trying to get into and out of the area. Most of the roads identified as requiring improvement were State Roads suggesting that future strategies should be



developed in cooperation with the State Government. Results also showed that while private vehicles are the dominant mode of transport, improvements in public transport services and the provision of dedicated bicycle and pedestrian paths would increase usage of these types of transport.

Creating a Prosperous City focuses on how Council and community investment create economic wealth so that the whole community can enjoy a better quality of life.

The economic growth of Canada Bay is dependent on developing a plan for achieving a long-term commercial vision, and activities in this consultation aimed to stimulate thinking about how the local economy might look in 20 years, what will foster future prosperity and what will make the area appealing to new business and property buyers.

Participants across all three groups identified local employment as the best source of future wealth and prosperity for the area and sought growth in creative, recreational, environmental and health industries to support this employment.

The biggest threats to economic growth were identified as transport and logistical challenges and employment related issues such as the ageing population and difficulty attracting staff.

Local governance is the processes of internal control, financial management and organisational structure within Council which contribute to the creation of an Informed City; fundamental to this are the values of organisational transparency, community consultation and civic involvement, all of which contribute to the governing of our city in a relevant, inclusive and democratic way.

During the FuturesPlan20 consultation the Governance Station sought to identify participant priorities with regard to Council services and facilities and insight into how these may change in 20 years.

Community members, Council staff and Councillors

all showed strong support for Council to continue funding the upkeep and maintenance of the city's parks, reserves and foreshore areas.

Other priorities were identified as community services particularly library services, economic development, infrastructure and roads and traffic management. The consultation provided Council with a useful agenda to consider when allocating future expenditure.

Achieving an Engaged City requires Council to develop communication and consultation methods which are relevant to the range of stakeholders in our city and which disseminate Council messages appropriately and effectively.

The Engaged City Station was designed to explore future consultation opportunities for FuturesPlan20 and to gain feedback on participants' preferred communication and consultation methods.

Results showed that a one size fits all approach to Council communication, consultation and marketing is unlikely to be successful in the long term and that Council needs to move towards greater levels of community engagement and more targeted communication to ensure effectiveness.

Participant responses also revealed that current communication undertakings require ongoing review to maintain effectiveness and that new and increasingly diverse means of communication will need to be considered in the future to ensure Council messages continue to be received.





Community survey

The surveys experienced a good response rate (914 surveys were returned) these responses offered a proportional representative balance between Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) people and people from an English speaking background.

The survey responses also were received from a cross section of life-stages with the majority of responses being from adults 25+. While there were some responses from young people and children (24 and under), more age specific consultation has been planned for these groups.

Specific detailed consultation is also planned for the other target groups in the area, consulting on particular needs and issues specific to their communities.

Question 1: What do you most like about the city of Canada Bay now in 2008?

Well maintained parklands and foreshore areas rated highly in community responses to this question. Access to these presented opportunity for exercise, recreation, lifestyle and aesthetics, all of which promoted a feeling of well being.

Feeling connected as a community was also valued in the responses to this question, this was promoted by the village like centres and the atmosphere that these create. Likewise community services and facilities, diversity and the sense safety they feel in the community were all important to feeling connected as a community.

The geographic location of the City, particularly its proximity to Sydney and the connection and accessibility around the city and to surrounding areas was also valued by the community. Public transport was also raised as a community like.

Diversity in the built environment was also regarded as a valuable asset of the City in with a value placed on the City having a mix of houses and units, a moderate amount of high and medium density development, and a mix of old and new dwellings.

Good Governance and decision making was also raised as being valued by the community.

Question 2: If you could make one immediate change about the City of Canada Bay what would it be?

Elements considered by the community for immediate change were dominated by issues relating to roads and traffic, particularly congestion on the main roads in and out of the City.

The community also identified a desire for immediate changes in relation to high density development. There is a strong community sense of wanting to prevent 'overcrowding' of the area

Maintenance issues around the City also featured as a significant response to the question indicating that this remains a concern for the community and a challenge to be met through service provision. A popular response relating to maintenance was to place powerlines underground.

Better access to community services and facilities, increased access to existing sport and leisure activities along with reduction of anti-social behaviour, opportunities and events for community participation, and access to arts and culture were all suggested improvements by the community leading to a 'healthier' and more 'vibrant' City.

Elements of the local economy, local and global environmental concerns, as well as areas of Council also encapsulate some community responses for change in 2008.

Question 3: How do you want the City of Canada Bay to look and feel in 20 years time?

Community visions for the future of the City were for a good lifestyle through 'cosmopolitan living' with a village atmosphere creating a sense of community, a healthy environment to live in, good community services and facilities, and access to sport and leisure facilities.

Desire for a developed local economy including support for small business and opportunity to work locally were raised.

The community offered keen interest in maintaining diverse housing stock within the City and a balance of built and open spaces, contributing to green city spaces. Heritage preservation, a well maintained city and controlled population growth supported this interest.

Well functioning roads and well functioning public transport were also significant in community responses. Increased frequency of diverse transport options and more transport use were also desirable elements raised within this response.

Environmental sustainability was identified as a community vision for the City, as a leader in sustainable growth and practices which acts locally to protect the highly valued natural assets of the foreshore and parklands.

Same or similar was a moderately high community response to this question. Good City management and planning bears relationship with this in maintaining the feel of the place through well planned and well managed change.

Question 4: What do you see as the biggest challenge the City of Canada Bay faces over the next 20 years?

The most highly perceived challenge for the City of Canada Bay over the next 20 years is in relation to development in particular preventing overdevelopment. Related challenges of increased population density for the city and keeping the green open spaces were also identified.

The demands placed on roads and traffic infrastructure were considered to be of particular challenge, particularly with a growing population. Related to this also was the challenge of developing public transport sufficient to support or ease these demands.

Like wise providing services and support infrastructure for a growing community was proposed as another challenge for the next 20 years within the City. Maintaining a connected community with a village lifestyle, a healthy living environment and provision of sport and leisure facilities, presented a lesser concern.

Environmental stability and the management of environmental factors on both larger scale issues such as pollution and good environmental practice were raised as challenges alongside the challenge of care and sustainability of the foreshore area.

Economic constraints both individual and community wide were regarded less significantly as challenges: housing affordability, prioritising of budgets and funds required for progressive improvements and maintenance of City infrastructure were all raised as elements of this challenge.

Keeping resident's interest a priority, consistent and clearly defined actions and planning, and the nature of political decision making processes were all identified as a challenge being presented for negotiating and governing our City's future.

Question 5: What opportunities do you see for the City of Canada bay over the next 20 years

Lifestyle featured among the top opportunities for the City, opportunities of community connection, friends and family, as well as leisure and entertainment were supplementary to this response; as was access to good services and facilities.

Controlled development and lots of attractive green open spaces were seen as significant opportunities supported by the opportunity of well managed growth, well maintained city spaces and preservation of local heritage areas.

The community perceive there to be an opportunity to develop as an environmentally sustainable community, a leading community within environmentally responsible and sustainable practice.

The City's geographic location as an opportunity, particularly its proximity to the City of Sydney were also regarded to be enhanced by related opportunities for more efficient and diversified public transport options and to overcome the current traffic congestion issues through various control methods.

Increased local employment opportunities were also raised by the community; THAT the report be received and noted. opportunities for business - particularly small business - to grow in the area, tourism and increasing property values all represented opportunities perceived in this area.

Improvements in shopping areas and facilities along with further diversification, encouragement and development of cafes and dining were also identified as opportunities.

Finally, respondents also perceived that opportunities for good management and decision making existed in the City's future, for governing bodies to recognise the potential of the area and with clear vision, to make long sighted planning decisions which preserve social and community fabrics.