

27 November 2006

## CITY HIGHLIGHTS 60 PROJECTS TO ENHANCE NEIGHBOURHOODS

The City of Sydney has pledged to undertake more than 60 individual projects to improve facilities and quality of life in scores of neighbourhoods outside the CBD.

The various projects are identified in eight draft plans drawn up as part of the completion of Phase Two of Council's Local Action Plan strategy, which was launched in August.

The eight plans span the **North West** (Glebe, Forest Lodge, Pyrmont), **City West** (Pyrmont and Ultimo), **City East** (Darlinghurst, East Sydney, Elizabeth Bay, Kings Cross, Potts Point, Rushcutters Bay, Woolloomooloo), **Inner East** (Centennial Park, Redfern East, Surry Hills, South and West Paddington, Darlinghurst, Moore Park), **Inner West** (Camperdown, Chippendale, Darlington, Erskineville, Eveleigh, Golden Grove, Macdonaldtown, Newtown), **Inner South** (Redfern, Waterloo) and **City South** (Alexandria, St Peters, Beaconsfield, Rosebery, Zetland and Green Square).

The project "hit list" swells to about 100 when proposed improvement plans for Sydney's CBD (Chinatown, Dawes Point, The Rocks, Haymarket, Millers Point and Walsh Bay) are included.

Lord Mayor Clover Moore MP said she expected the plans to be finalised early next year. Once Council had given approval, the agreed actions would be forged into City programs and services.

"The projects are part of an exciting program of improvements and enhancements that will, in many cases, be complete or underway by the City during the next four years," Ms Moore said.

"The draft plans for each zone were prepared from the comprehensive level of feedback received as a result of the City's unparalleled program of public consultation.

"This program – the most extensive in the 164 year history of the Council – took in community forums, household surveys, focus groups, round table trouble shooting, briefings, surveys and one-on-one discussions.

"Each draft has been made available to households in each individual zone – as well as posted on the City's website – for further comment.

"Light rail was identified with increased parklands, heritage protection, traffic management and transport alternatives as a lead suggestion emerging from the community during Local Action Plan consultation."

Ms Moore said the Local Action Plan strategy grew out of Council's Strategic Plan, which commits the City to work with local communities to identify, promote and enhance the distinctive character of Sydney's City of Villages.

"This is all about making a difference through community partnerships, creative problem solving, targeted services and adequate funding," she said.

*city of villages*

“Our massive level of public consultation undertaken identified what residents believe should be preserved and improved within their particular neighbourhood.

“Our City of Villages acknowledges the rich mix of suburbs, neighbourhoods and locales - all of them offering unique features and qualities - that make up the wonderful City of Sydney.

### LIST OF PROPOSED AND SUGGESTED PROJECTS

#### ***North West (Glebe, Forest Lodge and parts of Pyrmont)***

The significant qualities valued by residents: “diversity” and “village atmosphere”, “trees and architecture” and “proximity to the City”.

#### **Priority project: revitalising the village centre of Glebe Point Road**

Some of the suggested projects that will work together to revitalise Glebe Point Road and the community heart for Forest Lodge, Glebe and Camperdown include:

- Footpath widening and repaving for pedestrians
- Traffic calming and cycle tracks
- A community partnership for public art
- Encouragement of street cafes
- Interpretative signage rationalisation
- Burying overhead wiring
- More environmentally sustainable lighting improvements
- Special event and marketing co-ordination
- Village pride loyalty card program
- Heritage incentives scheme for building owners
- Changed Resident parking scheme to improve parking issues

#### **Other projects suggested by the community**

- An Urban Design Study as a first step in improvements to St Johns Road Street and Ross Street.
- Habitat restoration projects for the Orphan School Creek Gully, providing walking trails and improvements to adjoining parklands.
- Completing a continuous foreshore walk along Glebe’s Harbour Foreshores and waterside parks.
- Transforming Wentworth Park to a regional park and village green for Glebe, Pyrmont and Ultimo,
- Meeting the needs of all in the community through a new community Centre.
- A Village Pride Program, to work on a range of community initiatives from safety and clean streets to brand and tourism strategy.

- New North West website - a web page linked to City of Sydney website to help people in the community connect with each other, access local information and promote the Glebe area.
- Adopt a street - greening Glebe's parks, laneways and streets by involving the community in partnerships.
- Creating an expanded network of parks and green space in the public domain of Glebe, Forest Lodge and Camperdown.

### ***City West (Villages of Pyrmont and Ultimo)***

The significant qualities valued by residents: "proximity to the City"; "closeness to the harbour"; "variety of housing"; "community atmosphere" and "trees and parks".

#### **Priority project: transforming Harris Street to a true "high street."**

Following on the work of the City's Pyrmont Infrastructure Review, a series of projects will be progressed to comprehensively renew Harris Street by:

- Active street frontages.
- Calming traffic and improving pedestrian and bicycle safety.
- Branding the villages of Pyrmont and Ultimo as the creative crucible of the global City.
- Encourage heritage restoration.
- Exploring opportunities for more café and local meeting places along Harris Street.
- Improved street cleaning, footpath widening, lighting and landscaping.
- Revised parking controls and enforcement to address current issues.
- A public art or creative lighting program to transform blighted expressway spaces such as under the freeway.
- Improved retail mix to meet community needs for "the butcher, the baker and the candlestick-maker."
- Economic development strategies to establish a hub for creative start-up businesses in media and design.

#### **Other projects suggested by the community**

- Unlocking Wentworth Park's full potential as a grand urban park for the communities of Pyrmont, Ultimo and beyond.
- New waterfront parks and new community facilities for the old water police site and a new green are now being delivered at Jackson's Landing and The Knoll. Underway.
- Improved connections along the foreshore walk connecting Pyrmont to the Blackwattle Bay.
- Improved pedestrian connections from Wentworth Park to the CBD.

- A study to explore opportunities for community, residential, retail and office use, for Council's no longer used depot at Wattle and Fig Street. Council's aim would be a major green space, possibly rooftop, as part of any redevelopment as well as creating safe, inviting links to Wattle Street and Wentworth Park.
- A continuing focus on meeting the changing community service needs of the people of Pyrmont and Ultimo.
- A Pyrmont and Ultimo village website, as part of a new network of City of Villages websites. The web page to provide a portal to community services information. A way to promote community events and arts, sport and cultural programs; and promote involvement in community partnerships.
- Stronger links with stakeholders including the ABC, The Powerhouse Museum and the universities of the Ultimo education precinct.
- Involve the creative media and design industries in working on a brand and identity for Pyrmont and Ultimo, consultatively across the age range and profile of the community.
- A Good Neighbour strategy to manage the impact of Star City on the quality of life, working in partnership with police and the Star City management.
- Council to advocate for additional public transport to improve resident commuter transport access and for safer pedestrian links through to Darling Harbour.
- Improved amenity, safety and maintenance for Ultimo and Pyrmont neighbourhood Street parks.

### ***City East (Villages of Darlinghurst, East Sydney, Elizabeth Bay, Kings Cross, Potts Point, Rushcutters Bay and Woolloomooloo)***

The significant qualities identified by residents: "The cosmopolitan atmosphere, the art deco buildings, the tree-lined streets of many neighbourhoods, the proximity to central Sydney and the harbour, the diversity of the community, and the compassionate and friendly nature of the community, making it a place where people say hello on the street."

#### **Priority projects:**

- Expand the village greens and safe walking pathways from Potts Point through Woolloomooloo to the CBD
- Revitalise Fitzroy Gardens and Sir Lawrence Hargrave Reserve
- Enliven the café and restaurant hub of Stanley Street
- Redevelop the Heffron Hall/Burton Street Tabernacle as a community hub

#### **Other projects suggested by the community**

- Further foreshore enhancement to provide a green space buffer from the roadway near Harry's Café de Wheels.
- Traffic controls, truck routes and traffic calming, waste collection, in Macleay Street and other residential main streets of City East

- Partnerships with the community to encourage greening, cleaning and community watch in shared lanes and streets
- Community participation in the different neighbourhoods aimed at community building through a range of community initiatives from safety and clean streets to, community events, brand, local business and tourism strategy
- Education program to encourage responsible pet ownership and to educate the community about the benefits of pets.
- Explore options for revitalising Taylor Square by holding a Saturday artists' market near Taylor Square or along Forbes Street by the National Arts School.
- Web page linked to City of Sydney website to help people in the community connect with each other and access local information.
- Program of cultural events which could include outdoor film screening, string quartets, jazz in the square, carols in the park and street theatre.
- Revitalised outdoor dining to reclaim William Street as a pedestrian-friendly main street and boulevard.

### ***Inner East (Communities around Centennial and Moore Parks: Redfern East, Surry Hills, South and West Paddington, Centennial Park and southern fringe of Darlinghurst)***

The significant qualities valued by residents: *“diversity of community, neighbourliness, proximity, access to parks, tree-lined streets and heritage buildings, and the ability to walk not drive.”*

#### **Priority project: creating a lively Oxford Street retail and cultural precinct**

- Oxford Street's distinctive character and culture will be strengthened through projects extending from Hyde Park to Centennial Park.
- Continued liaison and coordination with Darlinghurst Business Partnership, Paddington Chamber of Commerce, COFA, the National Arts School, Object Gallery and Woollahra Council.
- New public art to celebrate the area's gay and lesbian community, heritage character and vibrant cultural life.
- Restoration of Council-owned properties on Oxford Street restored for local shopping needs; Paddington Reservoir and Walter Read Reserve restored in the civic precinct opposite the Paddington Town Hall and the Chauvel Cinema; community cultural events around Taylor Square, with landscaping to improve safety and amenity at Gilligan's Island; and a \$5 million upgrade in Paddington, with improved footpaths, more trees and street furniture.
- Linked projects in side streets such as Darlinghurst's Foley Street transformed into an attractive City lane; Surry Hill's Mary Place Memorial to a lesbian woman who suffered assault restored; and community activities in the new St Margaret's precinct.

- Marshall Street reserve near the Academy Twin Cinema upgraded and the Barcom Avenue park redevelopment completed.
- Continued Council support of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade and Festival.

### **Priority project: enhance southern Crown Street, from Cleveland Street to Shannon Reserve and the new library and community facilities.**

- The active Crown Street precinct in Surry Hills will be improved through initiatives such as tree planting, lighting, seating, footpath improvements, shared zones and public art, both along Crown Street and on immediately adjacent side streets.
- This project will build on strong support for Crown Street as a village main street, with a mix of distinctive stores, cafés, restaurants, entertainment and local shopping. It will improve gathering spaces, such as the upgraded Shannon Reserve, pedestrian and cycling access to the City's new \$14 million library, and child care and community facilities on the corner of Crown and Collins Streets.
- Council will investigate calming traffic through pedestrian shared zones and footpath widening, particularly at the intersection of Crown and Devonshire Streets.
- A focal point will be the busy Cleveland, Crown and Baptist Street intersection, in front of the Surry Hills/Redfern shopping centre, an important local shopping and meeting place for the people of Surry Hills and East Redfern. The project will explore opportunities to increase pedestrian access and safety, improving landscape and calming traffic.

### **Other projects suggested by the community**

- Local traffic management study to investigate traffic calming throughout Surry Hills, particularly through restoring two-way traffic on Albion and Foveaux Streets, extending 40 kph speed limits, and more shared zones.
- Review traffic calming, speed limits, parking and truck routes around Fox Studios and the sports stadia.
- Landscaping improvements for Edmund Resch Reserve in East Redfern.
- Create a community focal point around the new Harmony Park at Campbell Street through activities to bring people together, an improvement plan for surrounding streets and footpaths, and strengthening the growing design and eatery identity of the adjacent Hollywood precinct.
- Improve walking paths to Centennial and Moore Parks, Central Station and the CBD through upgraded footpaths, more trees, lighting, public art and heritage interpretation.
- Work with neighbourhoods to reclaim laneways by greening, cleaning, lighting and improving safety.
- Investigate community garden activities, particularly near Northcott, to bring young and older residents together to build mutual respect.

- ***Inner West (Villages of Camperdown, Chippendale, Darlington, Erskineville, Eveleigh, Golden Grove, Macdonaldtown and Newtown)***

The significant qualities valued by residents: “social diversity and tolerance,” “vibrancy – never boring,” “proximity and walkability,” “dog friendly,” “village feel of residential areas.”

### **Priority project- supporting a thriving King Street Newtown**

Council has delivered pedestrian and footpath improvements along King Street, including the “Living Colour” floral displays, and will continue a program of staged improvements with a focus on reinforcing the heritage and street life character of King Street.

A series of cultural programs such as the Walking the Street in King Street South.

Staged improvements to be investigated for King Street include:

- Improving lighting and paving reducing the clutter of overhead cables
- Tree planting and landscape improvements
- Street activation through public art and interpretive signage
- Integration of all relevant Council strategies including cycling, pedestrian and disability access.
- A review of parking, reducing clutter and signage
- Branding developed in partnership with community
- Stimulating property owners to improve shopfronts and awnings
- Strengthening the entertainment precinct
- The heritage railway station on King Street is part of a large State government landholding of tram sheds and retail shop fronts on King Street. A major urban renewal opportunity exists by restoring the station and creating a station square, as a hub for a commercial, retail, community and residential development over the station.
- The urban renewal project could link with the University of Sydney and could add a mix of affordable and student housing as well as medium density apartments. Council could take a leadership role in investigating this opportunity with the State Government and other stakeholders, as part of long term planning for the Inner West community.

### **Other projects suggested by the community**

- A ticket booth for local events and meeting place in the heart of King Street.
- A new direction for Sydney Park including play and activities for older children; improving the kiosk and adding a café; a park for dogs to run free; a new playground for children with disabilities and picnic shelters.
- New playground and paths in Sydney Park with a focus on the park as a place for outdoor fitness. The addition of a fitness circuit and running track, and exercise stations to meet the recreation needs of local residents.

- Advocate to State Government authorities for the provision of safe pedestrian links, across busy roads from Chippendale to Victoria Park and Prince Alfred Park.
- Upgrading the training facilities for South's Juniors at Erskineville Oval and removal of clutter to open the park for casual recreation. Installation of a bike path for children.
- Partnership with the community to encourage greening, cleaning and community watch in the area's shared lanes and streets.
- Establishment of a representative group for Newtown and the Inner West to work on a range of community building initiatives including brand, economic and tourism strategy.
- A web page portal linked to City of Sydney website to help people in the community connect with each other and access local information about services, events, culture and heritage.

### ***Inner South (Villages of Redfern and Waterloo)***

The significant qualities valued by residents: "proximity to the City"; "Aboriginal culture"; "heritage buildings"; "diversity of people"; "community spirit" and "trees and parks".

### **Priority project: a community precinct focussed on Redfern Street, Regent Street, Raglan Street and Redfern Park Precinct, as the heart of the local community**

- An urban design and traffic study for the Redfern Street, Regent Street, Raglan Street and Redfern Park Precinct including links from Redfern Park to the station
- Completing the redevelopment and revitalisation of Redfern Park
- Enlivening Redfern Street
- Traffic calming and improved pedestrian and bicycle access
- Encouraging heritage restoration
- Exploring opportunities for cafés and local meeting places along Redfern Street
- Exploring identity for Redfern to celebrate Indigenous Australians and Redfern as "their place"
- Improving street cleaning, footpath widening, lighting and landscaping
- Revising parking controls and enforcement
- A public art program to reflect the Indigenous and European Australian experience in Redfern
- Supporting the Redfern Chamber of Commerce to encourage improved retail mix to meet community needs
- Economic development strategies working with the Redfern-Waterloo Authority to create jobs
- Social planning strategies working with the Redfern-Waterloo Authority for community building

- Establish gathering areas for the Waterloo community by strengthening the vitality of areas such as Danks Street and Elizabeth Street.

### **Other projects suggested by the community**

- Unlocking Prince Alfred Park's full potential as a grand urban park for the communities of Redfern, Waterloo, Surry Hills, Chippendale and Darlington by extending it to across the rail lines.
- Ensuring the community receives vital community services information and promotes community events and arts, sport and cultural programs; and involvement in community partnerships.
- Community transport plan and cycle plan, and advocate for additional public transport to improve resident commuter transport access.
- Improving the Crown, Cleveland and Baptist Streets intersection, at the busy Surry Hills/Redfern shopping centre, as an important meeting and shopping place.
- Improving lighting, amenity, safety and maintenance for neighbourhood parks.
- A festival celebrating Indigenous culture and Greek, Russian and Middle Eastern food in Redfern Park, and a farmers' market in Prince Alfred Park.
- Capturing the history and experiences of the people of Waterloo and Redfern in public art and interpretive signage.
- A program of exhibiting the work of Indigenous, community and emerging artists in vacant shopfronts as part of the wider cultural program and precinct renewal strategies.

### ***City South (Villages of Alexandria, parts of St Peters, Beaconsfield, Rosebery, and Zetland and the Green Square precinct)***

The significant qualities valued by residents: "proximity to the City and airport"; "friendly neighbours"; "single storey worker's cottages and row houses"; "industrial warehouses and factory character" "community spirit" and "trees and parks".

### **Priority projects: pathways and access to improved recreational facilities**

Council consultation with the communities of City South identified open space as the most valuable aspect of the area.

Residents also expressed a distinct desire to enhance access and links between the parks, recreation facilities and major destinations.

To turn that desire into reality the City will investigate, plan and build a growing network of pathways as well as enhance existing routes.

Over a four year period the City will commence a series of projects to establish clearer and more sustained travel routes to Sydney Park, Perry Park, Erskineville Oval, Redfern Park, Waterloo Skate Park and youth centre, Redfern Community Centre,

# Media Release

## CITY OF SYDNEY



Alexandria Basketball Stadium, Victoria Park, Prince Alfred Park and ES Marks Athletic Track, as well as the facilities provided by the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust.

The network of safe walking and cycling paths will improve the neighbourhood by providing separation from the heavy transport of the roadways of the industrial south. It will link places for sport, leisure and recreation as well as provide better links to Central Station, Broadway and the CBD.

There will be a concentration on safety and amenity, with an accent on planting trees and installing new lighting, seating and more pedestrian and cycle-friendly crossings along this network.

The network will be designed in parallel with medium to longer term links that will be formed as part of the Green Square urban development and its major destination points such as the Southern Area Pool and Leisure Centre.

The City is planning to deliver this leisure centre – which will cater for all ages as a place for meeting friends, family and neighbours, for fitness, relaxation and therapy – in the medium term.

The network will also be designed in consideration of the longer term Alexandra Canal Connections project that has been under consideration for some time.

The City believes the Canal Connections project - which envisions cycle and walking paths linking the surrounding communities to the new Aquatic Leisure Centre and beyond - can be produced in stages over an eight to 10 year period.

Progressive changes will include safe, accessible, well lit pedestrian and cycle links, possibly public art to reflect the industrial history of the area, tree planting, park improvements and the establishment of a park and waterside cafés.

### **Other projects suggested by the community**

Many ideas and suggestions came from the community and Council is responding with suggested projects reflecting your values and aspirations.

- Perry Park, Maddox Street, Alexandria Sports Park – unlocking the full potential of Perry Park as an active sports area with expanded facilities.
- Erskineville Park, multi- purpose use – further work to create a regional recreation precinct with circuit tracks and sports facilities, as well as places for barbecues and passive recreation.
- A tree planting program for the streets of the suburbs of the south – continuing the theme of natural planting of eucalypts, hills figs, paper barks and melaleucas.
- Lighting the parks – improved amenity, safety and maintenance for neighbourhood parks.
- Community cultural program in the parks – a festival celebrating the diversity of local culture, middle eastern and Greek culture and a regular fresh food farmers' market.
- Industrial heritage as public art – a project to identify landmark industrial buildings and sites for adaptive re-use, public lighting or improvements such as external painting to create distinctive industrial markers.

# Media Release

## CITY OF SYDNEY



- Botany Road improvements project – urban design improvements including tree planting, improved access, parking review and better pedestrian crossings.
- City South-Green Square precinct community information exchange - improved access to community services information. What's on? Where is it? Where to find services? Install community notice boards as a way to promote community events and arts, sport and cultural programs.
- Green Square safe streets program – improved safe access pedestrian crossing and traffic management at a series of local hotspots including Rosebery/Epson Street round about, the Green Square Station at Botany Road, the intersection of Primrose and Hayes streets, Beaconsfield Street/William and Collins Street.

**Media Contact:** Josh MacKenzie on 0402 351 459

---

For more City of Sydney media releases go to [www.sydneymedia.com.au](http://www.sydneymedia.com.au)