**Sam Kernaghan**

Sam Kernaghan has been the Director of the Resilience Program at the Committee for Sydney since 2021. Sam leads work on climate risk, decarbonisation, critical infrastructure resilience, and circular economy. Prior to joining the Committee Sam co-founded the Resilient Cities Network, a global not-for-profit headquartered in Singapore.

Education

2000 University of Sydney, Bachelor of Political Economic and Social Sciences (Honours) Dean’s list of academic excellence

2006 Macquarie University Graduate School of Environment, Master of Environmental Management (Distinction)

2012 Cambridge University, Cambridge Program for Sustainability Leadership (Distinction)

Research exemplars

At the Committee, Sam has led research on reducing flood risk, and led the development of *Decarbonising Sydney –* a report which sets out the pathway for Sydney to meet its 2030 and 2050 carbon reduction goals, co-created a plan to make Sydney “Nature Positive”, and is focused a plan to adapt to climate and economic risks facing vulnerable communities across Sydney. Major research reports and shorter policy statements include:

* [Decarbonising Sydney – the role of transport, buildings and grid infrastructure in Greater Sydney’s path to Net Zero](https://sydney.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Committee-for-Sydney-Decarbonising-Sydney-August-2022.pdf), 2022
* [Six steps to decarbonise the six cities region](https://sydney.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Committee-for-Sydney-Six-steps-to-decarbonise-the-six-cities-November-2022.pdf), 2022
* [Priorities for a Net Zero Sydney](https://sydney.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2021-09-Priorities-for-a-Net-Zero-Sydney.pdf), 2021
* [Nature Positive Sydney: Valuing Sydney’s Living Infrastructure](https://sydney.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Committee-for-Sydney-Nature-Positive-Sydney-February-2023.pdf), 2023
* [We can learn from Lismore now,](https://sydney.org.au/policy-library/we-can-learn-from-lismore-now/) 2022
* [We need to talk about Sydney’s drinking water](https://thefifthestate.com.au/columns/spinifex/we-need-to-talk-about-sydneys-drinking-water-security/), 2022
* [Stopping the cycle of disaster in Sydney](https://sydney.org.au/policy-library/stopping-the-cycle-of-disaster-in-sydney/), 2022
* [Its time to move people out of the path of floods](https://sydney.org.au/policy-library/its-time-to-move-people-out-of-the-path-of-the-floods/), 2022
* [Warragamba Dam: To raise or not to raise… That is the question, or is it?](https://sydney.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Committee-for-Sydney-Warragamba-Dam-To-Raise-or-Not-June-2021.pdf) 2022
* [Ten ideas for the next Greater Sydney Region Plan](https://sydney.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Committee-for-Sydney-Ten-ideas-for-the-next-Greater-Sydney-Region-Plan-December-2021.pdf), 2021

Prior to the Committee, Sam has been the lead or contributing author on the following research:

* Kernaghan et al. (2020) [Manchester Briefing on COVID-19 Lessons for a Resilient Recovery](https://resilientcitiesnetwork.org/urban_resiliences/manchester-briefing-18/)
* UNESCAP (2019) [The Future of Asian and Pacific Cities 2019](https://www.unescap.org/publications/future-asian-and-pacific-cities-2019-transformative-pathways-towards-sustainable-urban#:~:text=Publications-,The%20Future%20of%20Asian%20and%20Pacific%20Cities%202019,Pathways%20Towards%20Sustainable%20Urban%20Development&text=The%20cities%20of%202030%2C%202050,in%20their%20wider%20ecological%20contexts.)
* World Bank (2017) [The CityStrength Diagnostic: Promoting Urban Resilience](https://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/996471525721935888/CityStrength-diagnostic-methodological-guidebook)
* Arup / Rockefeller Foundation (2014) [City Resilience Index](https://www.arup.com/perspectives/publications/research/section/city-resilience-index)
* Kernaghan, S., da Silva, J (2014) [Initiating and sustaining action: Experiences building resilience to climate change in Asian cities, Urban Climate](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212095513000564#b0120)
* Yanez and Kernaghan (2014) [Visions of a Resilient City](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Sam-Kernaghan/publication/274349067_Briefing_Visions_of_a_resilient_city/links/561d8e2308aec7945a2534fb/Briefing-Visions-of-a-resilient-city.pdf), International Council of Engineers Urban Design and Planning Journal
* Kernaghan and da Silva (2013). [Towards Mainstreaming: Sustaining city action on urban climate change resilience](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212095513000564). Journal of Urban Climate Vol. 7
* Collier, Hambling, Kernaghan, et al. (2014). Tomorrow's cities: A framework to assess urban resilience. Proceedings of the ICE - Urban Design and Planning. 167. [10.1680/udap.13.00019.](https://www.icevirtuallibrary.com/doi/full/10.1680/udap.13.00019)
* Rockefeller Foundation (2012) [NYS 2100 - Recommendations to Improve the Strength and Resilience of the Empire State’s Infrastructure, New York](https://www.preventionweb.net/publication/nys-2100-commission-recommendations-improve-strength-and-resilience-empire-states)
* da Silva, J., Kernaghan, S., & Luque, A (2012) – [A systems approach to meeting the challenges of urban climate change. International Journal of Urban Sustainable Development](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/19463138.2012.718279)
* Parker, Kernaghan and Hawley (2012). [Mainstreaming Urban Climate Change Adaptation: Engaging Early ‘Adopters’.](http://www.ufz.de/export/data/403/43501_Viewpoints7_May2012_save.pdf) UGEC Viewpoints; VII May 2012
* Brown, A and Kernaghan, S (2011). [Beyond Climate-Proofing: Taking an Integrated Approach to Building Climate Resilience in Asian Cities](https://static.sustainability.asu.edu/docs/ugec/viewpoints/ugec-viewpoints-6.pdf). In UGEC Viewpoints VI: Volume 6, November 2011

Advisory boards

Greater Sydney Extreme Heat Taskforce

Greater Cities Commission Environment Peak Reference Group

Recent guest lecturing and keynote presentations

* Green Building Council of Australia (2023) TRANSFORM Conference - Resilient Cities Keynote: The Economic Case for City Wide Resilience
* University of Adelaide (2022) Integrated Natural Hazard Risk Management Course – Guest Lecture: Politics of Disaster Risk Management
* VIVID Sydney (2022) Keynote: Changing the Risk Equation for Sydney
* NSW Upper House Inquiry (2021) Select Committee on the Proposal to Raise the Warragamba Dam Wall – Expert Evidence
* Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia (2021) Annual Conference Resilience Panel: Finance, Government, and Practical Action
* National University of Singapore (2019) Masters of Urban Planning Degree Course – Guest Lecture: A Brief History of Urban Resilience
* 7th Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (2019) Keynote: Building Resilience across the Asia Pacific