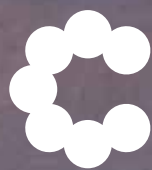




Year in Review 2022



Committee
for
Sydney

**Thank you to our
members and
partners. You helped
us make a huge
impact in 2021–22.**

Chair's message

The Committee for Sydney is focused on the future of Sydney. We think about the city, its people, its environment and its economy, and we suggest policies and actions for a more liveable, sustainable, equitable and prosperous city.

Much of our work involves long lead times and quiet advocacy over many years. For example, in our Sandstone Megaregion paper in June 2018, we began advocating for a six cities approach that became government policy in the last 12 months.

Similarly, our work on climate and resilience has been building over several years and now forms part of a wider and more sensible debate about Sydney's sustainable future. This kind of long-term thinking and advocacy is essential and helps keep the focus on Sydney's future beyond the major disruptions of the last few years and beyond the electoral cycle.

While much of our work focuses on the long term, we also devoted significant resources in the last year to Sydney's immediate issues – pandemic recovery, natural disasters, housing affordability, labour shortages, and CBD and high street renewal. In this work we sought to address current challenges and to identify opportunities to do things better.



Whether our work is slow burn or immediate, it is always good to see the Committee's ideas being taken up and to know that the Committee has the credibility to participate in, influence and support the critical debates about Sydney's future. This credibility reflects the strength and commitment of our executive team and the incredible support of our members. Thanks to everyone who has supported the Committee's work this year, and helped it to do its best for Sydney.

Michael Rose AM



CEO's introduction

Sydney is back. In fact, it never left. The crowds on the footpaths, and the return of social life in all its forms have reminded us how much humans love connection, and that's what cities provide.

We have emerged from the darkest days of the pandemic into a new normal that holds a lot of promise for Sydney, even as we grapple with some intractable problems.

For those who wondered if cities would be ok, the answer has become clear: yes.

But maybe not all cities. The places that were under significant stress before Covid-19 will have a harder time coming back. Sydney was on a roll, and it is again.

At the same time, Sydney will be changed, and the post-Covid social changes will take years to play out.

We have tried to stay one step ahead on the pandemic, talking about recovery first, and this year shifting our focus to the long-term rebuilding effort. That means positioning Sydney for a leading role among world cities, and telling our story to the world. It also means facing our problems honestly, and laying out a pathway to truly solve the big issues like housing affordability.



2022 was a year of hard work, big impact, and steady growth for the Committee. We were able to channel the intelligence and drive of 150 of Sydney's leading organisations who want to make a difference for Sydney. We were able to hold some of the most interesting conversations and lead some of most important debates. We were able to move our agenda forward on transport, planning, climate resilience, cultural renewal and economic expansion. This Year in Review highlights some of those accomplishments.

We are grateful to the members of the Committee for their willingness to invest in our work, and to show up through all of the drama of the past few years, to make Sydney the greatest city in the world.

Gabriel Metcalf





Sydney experienced a year of transition in 2022. The election of a new federal government, NSW moving away from Covid-19 restrictions, and an increasingly tight contest between NSW Labor and the Coalition in the leadup to what could be a pivotal 2023 state election. In this period of change, the Committee's advocacy work has been nimble. After successfully advocating for NSW to live with Covid-19 and reopen our economy, we are now focused on policies that will help Greater Sydney bounce back strongly post-pandemic.

Covid-19 reopening and recovery

After a false start late last year, the NSW Government has now all but moved away from relying on public health orders to manage Covid-19 cases in the community. While many aspects of our lives are thankfully returning to some level of normalcy, there is still much to do. The work now turns to sorting out what the long-term changes will be to our society.

Key wins

- High rates of vaccination leading to treating Covid-19 as an endemic disease
- Reopening international borders and resuming international student intake
- Migration intake boost under new federal government.

Sandstone Megaregion

In 2018, we made a strong case for a closer relationship between the cities of Newcastle, the Central Coast and Wollongong, and the three cities of Greater Sydney, in our Sandstone Megaregion report. In 2022, this six cities vision took a significant step towards becoming a reality, with the NSW Government's strategic planning body, the Greater Sydney Commission, expanding its focus as the newly minted Greater Cities Commission.

Key wins

- NSW gets first Cities Minister
- Greater Sydney Commission takes on new six cities remit as the Greater Cities Commission
- Better connection, more housing and jobs form basis of government's Six Cities White Paper
- Fast Rail: NSW matches the \$500 million promised by Federal Labor – still a long way to go to fund this mega project, but a step in the right direction.

Revitalisation of Sydney CBDs

Sydney's return to work patterns have largely followed patterns around the world, with working from home for at least part of the week here to stay for the foreseeable future. While business in our local high streets and town centres have benefited from this trend, our major CBDs are continuing to face serious challenges. Our advocacy focus has remained a positive one: rather than forcing people back to their offices through mandates, we have urged governments and businesses to instead focus on making the experience of being in CBDs as enjoyable as possible.

Key wins

- Central Station revitalisation plan released, including more open space and residential, commercial and retail development
- Parramatta CBD Planning Proposal approved, allowing for urban transformation from Parramatta to Sydney Olympic Park
- Sydney Metro's Hunter Street station to be developed as a jobs and tourism precinct
- Progress on precinct revitalisation, including Bays West and Pyrmont strategies
- NSW Government committed to redevelop Circular Quay
- Pedestrianisation of George Street extended down to Circular Quay
- New public square on Macquarie Street in Sydney CBD to be built, better connecting the city centre and its iconic cultural institutions.

Climate change and resilience

Sydney had its wettest year on record, with repeated flooding events in Sydney and across the state forcing policymakers to finally shift their thinking around building in flood-prone areas. While major questions remain around the raising of Warragamba Dam, NSW is moving in the right direction on reducing development in its most at-risk areas with the Committee at the forefront of this important debate. We have worked with government on the state's net zero commitments, offering pragmatic solutions that would help Sydney meet its decarbonisation obligations, increase decentralised energy, and ensure households and businesses continue to enjoy reliable and affordable energy.



Key wins

- NSW introduces flood buyback scheme, adopts disaster adaption plans for all towns and discourages further development in flood prone areas, as part of response to flood inquiry
- NSW Government accelerates development of grid scale renewable energy
- NSW Sustainable Buildings State Environmental Policy (SEPP) introduced
- Australia's emission reduction targets enshrined in law, adopting a carbon budget and reinstating an independent Climate Change Authority
- Commonwealth signals intent to set fuel efficiency standards to encourage greater uptake of electric vehicles
- NSW Net Zero Cities Action Plan released.

Major infrastructure

NSW continued its infrastructure boom this year with significant milestones and commitments. But rising debt, supply chain constraints and ballooning labour costs have put pressure on new infrastructure spending. We have urged government to stay the course with its infrastructure pipeline, which is a key ingredient in ensuring Sydney remains one of the world's most liveable global cities.

Key wins

- New long range transport plan released
- Parramatta light rail stage 2 confirmed with \$602 million budget commitment

- Construction begins on Western Harbour Tunnel
- Progress on delivering already committed Metro lines (including major contracts awarded for the Western Sydney Airport Metro and West Metro), but little progress on further expansions, with the highlight being budget funding for a business case to extend the airport line to Glenfield.

Women's workforce participation

The centrepiece of this year's state budget is an expansion of childcare and early childhood education to remove a crucial barrier to greater workforce participation by women. This was followed up by the Australian Government's childcare reform agenda and its intention to go even further as part of its efforts to boost female workforce participation.

Key wins

- Boost to female workforce participation with a \$5 billion NSW budget investment to create an additional 47,000 childcare places every year, for the next decade
- \$1.3 billion over the next four years to provide fee relief for all NSW families with children between the ages of three and five in pre-school or long day care
- \$4.5 billion federal package to provide more childcare fee relief to more than a million families.



Culture

After a devastating two years under repeated lockdowns and restrictions, Sydney's cultural scene is revving back up with a number of exciting new events in the pipeline, alongside revamped facilities and city activations.

Key wins

- Construction of the Art Gallery of NSW's Sydney Modern expansion complete
- Enmore Road becomes state's first special entertainment precinct
- At long last, the Aboriginal flag now flying permanently above Sydney Harbour Bridge
- In a major coup, Sydney secures tech, film, music, education, and culture festival South by Southwest
- Western Sydney to host new music festivals: HallyuPopFest Sydney, SOUND WEST and ValleyWays
- City of Sydney 'Sydney Streets' program becomes permanent following NSW Government's Festival in your Streets program
- Extension of temporary outdoor dining rules until December 2023, allowing the creation of parklets.

Active transport

Active transport has gone from a 'nice to have' to an integral part of the state's policy formulation, with the NSW Government appointing its first ever Active Transport Minister. While there is still much to do to put Sydney on the global map for active transport, key announcements this year have put us on the right track.

Key wins

- NSW's \$950 million active transport budget to be doubled over the next five years
- New 91 kilometre waterfront path from Sydney Opera House to Parramatta Park, including a second Bay Run around Hen and Chicken Bay
- Plans for a new network of cycleways across the Eastern Harbour City announced, with 30 proposed cycleway corridors (250km of bike path)
- Construction of a new cycleway linking Kingsford and Centennial Park to begin
- First \$40 million of the Get Active NSW Program allocated to 55 different active transport projects across the state.



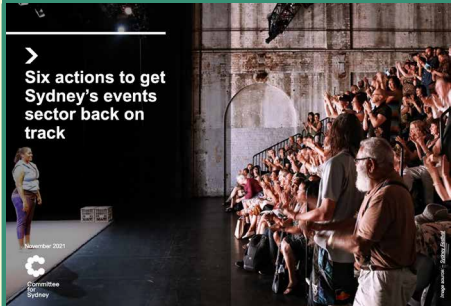
Research

Policy paper

Exporting Australia's sunshine to the world, and transitioning our fossil fuel economy

Oct 21

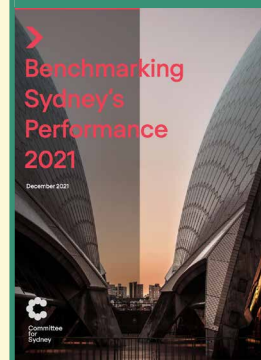
Policy paper



As Sydney works to reopen and recover, we analysed obstacles and opportunities for Sydney's hard-hit events sector.

Nov 21

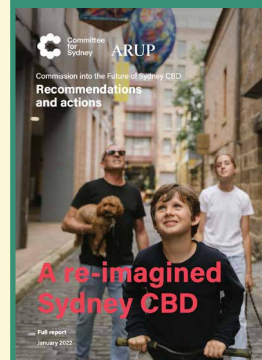
Report



At the end of a second year of pandemic, our Benchmarking Sydney report set the city's performance against the rest of the world, giving us the opportunity to see our city as global investors see us.

Dec 21

Report



With Arup, we brought together some of Sydney's leading thinkers to explore how citizens, businesses and government could create a more resilient, inclusive and creative Sydney CBD.

Feb 22

Policy paper



Policy paper



Mar 22

Apr 22

Policy paper

Stopping the cycle of disaster in Sydney

Policy paper

Priorities for the next Australian Government

Policy paper

We can learn from Lismore now

May 22

Jun 22

Policy paper

What does the change of government mean for Sydney?

Policy paper

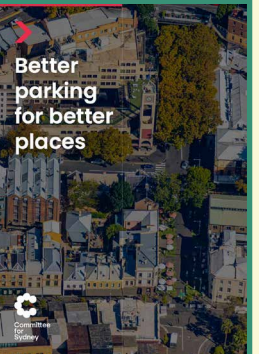
NSW Budget 2022: Big reminder of the economic headwinds facing our state

Jul 22

Policy paper

Overcoming Australia's labour shortages

Report



An ambitious review of car parking policy throughout Sydney, with significant implications for town and city centres.

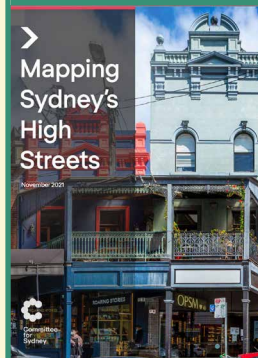
Aug 22

Submission



We put forward 12 ideas for inclusion in the update to the Future Transport Strategy.

Report



This timely report mapped Sydney's high streets in detail, with a database of key physical characteristics and a rating for each street.

Policy paper
It's time to set our own carbon budget in NSW

Policy paper



Submission



Policy paper

Real talk on the cost of living

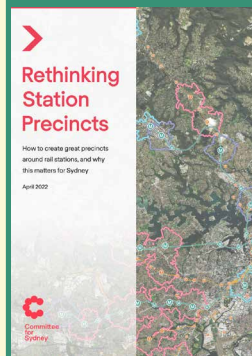
Submission

Pymont Peninsula Place Strategy

Policy paper

Running out of money is a choice: thoughts for the next NSW budget

Report



A major report on the potential of Sydney's rail infrastructure boom to address the city's greatest challenge, delivering nearly half the housing needed over the next 20 years

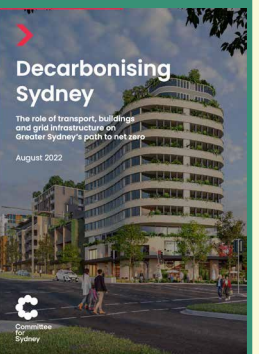
Policy paper

What the latest census numbers mean for Sydney

Policy paper

It's time to move people out of the path of the floods

Report



This major research project showed Sydney is not on track to meet its net zero obligations, but five key moves including widespread uptake of electric vehicles and electrifying homes could get us there.

Events and communication



Denise Ora, CEO of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, at a Committee event.

Our program continued to be an agenda-setting and value-adding resource for members and key stakeholders. Highlights included hosting political leaders from across the aisles of state and federal politics, our half-day leadership conference the Sydney Summit and our first gala Sydney Awards ceremony. These complement the private boardroom events, member briefings, workshops and roundtables that continue to help shape our research and advocacy:

- **Sydney Awards**, a major awards program celebrating the people who make Sydney the best it can be

- **Sydney Summit**, a half-day leadership conference, including a keynote from Treasurer Matt Kean MP
- **Future Cities**, a spotlight on Sydney's emerging and fast growing centres, starting with Liverpool
- **Member briefings**, taking a deep dive into key challenges for Sydney

Of the 241 external speakers who shared insights with the Committee this year, 51% were female. We continue to diversify the perspectives at our events, too – with more speakers from western Sydney, as well as cultural, age and discipline diversity in our programming.

The Committee's communication program aims to build understanding and support for the ideas that will move Sydney forward, with strong growth on media and social channels, and great feedback from members on our email products:

- **The Sydneysider** – a fortnightly email newsletter on key insights for Sydney urbanists
- **Sydney Media Today** – a daily email for members, summarising and linking through to the key news of the day.



Decarbonising Sydney report launch.



Hedayat Osyan, Sydney Award winner.



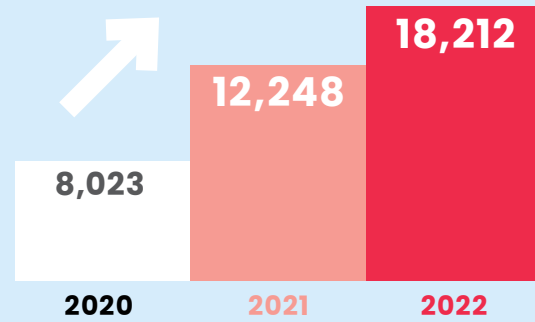
Sustainable Cities Index launch.



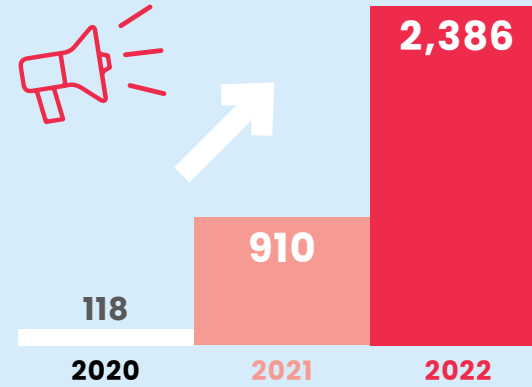
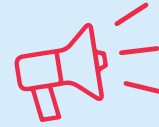


Events and communication

Social media



Media



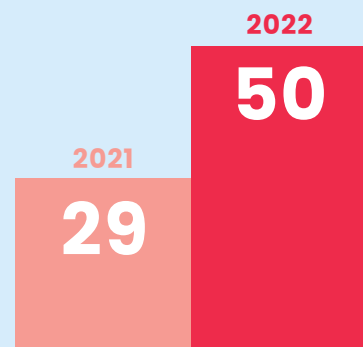
84

events

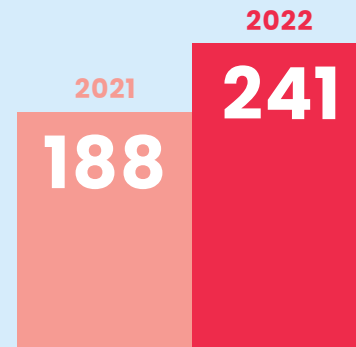
with **82** free to members

141

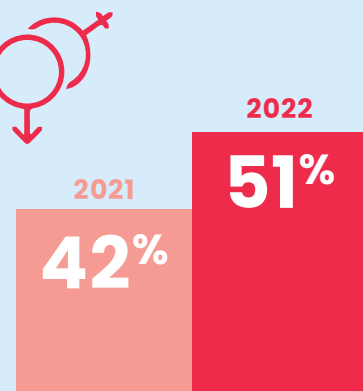
member organisations
represented as speakers



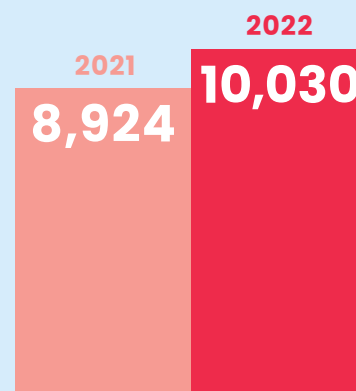
events in-person



speakers



Gender split of speakers



Total event audience

Partners and sponsors

Innovation Fund Partners

Innovation Fund Partners provide core financial support for the Committee's full annual research program. We are excited to work with eight partners and thank them for their leadership in this space.



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Global Pathways Partner



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Western Sydney



Office host



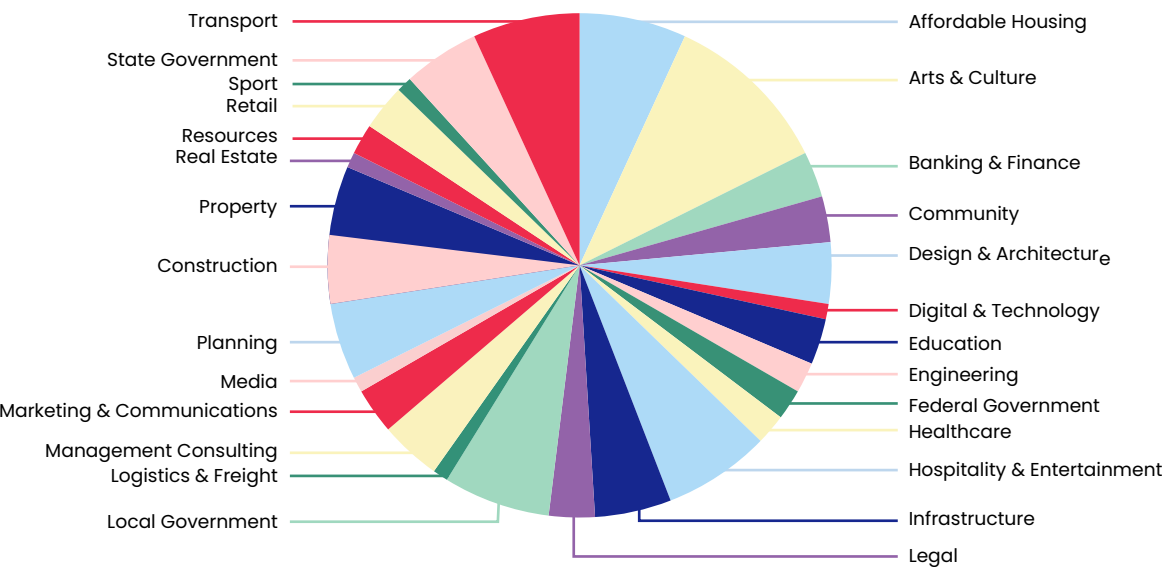
Sydney Summit Media Partner

The Sydney Morning Herald
INDEPENDENT. ALWAYS.



Members

Members by industry



Members are essential to the Committee's output and impact.

We are funded by a group of Sydney's leading organisations spanning industry, government, education and cultural institutions. Our differences are our strength, our passion for Sydney is our driving force.

We are proud to represent our 160 members and work with them to develop innovative ideas and solutions to make our city the best place in the world to live, work and play. These organisations represent more than 280,000 jobs in NSW and 670,000 jobs in Australia.

Overwhelmingly, their number one reason for supporting the Committee is to help shape the future of Sydney.

2022 performance feedback

- Quality of research: **90% rated this as strong or very strong**
- Quality of events and briefing program: **93% rated this as strong or very strong**
- Usefulness as a source of information for you: **84% rated this as strong or very strong**
- Ability to influence debate and media discussion: **90% rated this as strong or very strong**
- Ability to influence government: **83% rated this as strong or very strong**

Members



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| AECOM | Brookfield Australia Investments Limited |
| AFL NSW and ACT | Buildcorp |
| Afterpay | BVN |
| Airbnb | Campbelltown City Council |
| Allens | Carla Zampatti |
| Amazon | Carnival |
| Aqualand | CBRE |
| Arcadis | Cbus Property |
| Architectus | Celestino |
| Art Gallery of NSW | Charter Hall |
| Arup | City of Canterbury Bankstown |
| Aurecon | City of Parramatta |
| Ausgrid | City of Sydney |
| Australian Museum | City West Housing |
| Australian National Maritime Museum | Coles |
| Australian Turf Club | Connect Macquarie Park Innovation District |
| Bangarra Dance Theatre | Corrs Chambers Westgarth |
| BaptistCare | Cox Architecture |
| Bates Smart | Crown Resorts |
| Bayside Council | CSIRO |
| BESydney | Deloitte |
| Blacktown City Council | Destination NSW |
| BlueCHP | DEXUS |
| Bridge Housing | EG |



Endeavour Energy	Landcom	SEC Newgate Australia	Transurban
Entertainment Quarter	Leamac Property Group	SGS Economics & Planning	Tyro
Ethos Urban	Lendlease Development	SMEC	Uber
Evolve Housing	Link Housing	South Western Sydney Local Health District	University of NSW
EY	Liverpool City Council	Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils	University of Technology Sydney
Gadens	Macquarie Group	St George Community Housing	University of Wollongong
Georges River Council	McKinsey & Company	Stockland	Urbis
GHD	McConnell Dowell	Stonehaven Australia	Warren and Mahoney
Gilbert + Tobin	Mecone	Struber	Western Sydney Airport
GML Heritage	MinterEllison	Sydney Airport	Western Sydney University
GoGet	Mirvac	Sydney Community Foundation	Westpac
GPT Group	Monogram Partners	Sydney Dance Company	Willoughby City Council
Grimshaw Architects	Mott MacDonald	Sydney Festival	Woolworths
Hames Sharley	Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences	Sydney Fringe	WSP Australia
HASSELL	Museum of Contemporary Art	Sydney Harbour Federation Trust	WT Partnership
Hatch RobertsDay	NAB	Sydney Living Museums	
Hoyne	NBN Co	Sydney Local Health District	
Hume Community Housing Association	News Corp Australia	Sydney Opera House	
Inner West Council	Night Time Industry Association	Sydney Symphony Orchestra	
International Convention Centre Sydney	NRT Group	Sydney Theatre Company	
Investa Office Management	NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet	Sydney Water	
Ipsos Australia	NXT Building Group	Thales	
ISPT	Origin Energy	The Star Entertainment Group	
Jacobs	PAYCE Consolidated	The University of Sydney	
JLL	Plenary Group	Toga	
John Holland Group	Port Authority of NSW	Tract	
Keolis Downer	Poulos Brothers	Transdev	
Kinesis	PwC	Transport Asset Holding Entity NSW (TAHE)	
KPMG	Royal Botanic Gardens Trust	Transport for NSW	
Laing O'Rourke	Salter Brothers		

Executive Committee

Michael Rose AM, Chair

Sue Horlin, Deputy Chair – Managing Partner Sydney, PwC

Professor Attila Brungs – Vice-Chancellor & President, UNSW

Lisa Chung AM – Non Executive Director, Australian Unity, AVJennings

Doug Ferguson – Chair NSW and Head of Asia and International Markets, KPMG

Susan Ferrier – Group Executive People and Culture, NAB

Kevin George – Executive General Manager Office, Dexus

Nicholas Gray – Managing Director Tech Networks and New Channel Partnerships, News Corp Australia

Lyn Lewis-Smith – CEO, BESydney

Tom Mackellar – Managing Director Development, Lendlease

Larry McGrath – GM NSW & ACT, McConnell Dowell

James Rosenwax – Regional Managing Director NSW and ACT, AECOM

Sam Stevens – Executive General Manager Corporate Affairs, Origin Energy

David Thodey AC – Chair, Tyro and Xero

Gabrielle Trainor AO – Director, Western Parkland City Authority

Brian Tyson – Managing Partner, SEC Newgate Australia



If you are interested in learning more about the Committee, or joining as a member, please reach out to Hannah Jamieson, Director of Engagement and Development, at hannah@sydney.org.au

We’d love to talk.



**Committee
for
Sydney**

Keep in touch

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