

# Blacktown +10

Blacktown's economic, social and  
urban trajectory over the next decade





# Special thanks

This analysis led by SGS Economics & Planning as part of the Committee for Sydney's series of deep dives into Sydney's high growth urban centres.



## Innovation Fund Partners

We would like to thank our Innovation Fund Partners for their support of the Committee for Sydney's research. They are future focused and outcome driven leaders of change.

Their combined investment underpins our annual research program and together with our members, enables us to grow our impact and output – striving to create a better Sydney that offers unparalleled opportunity and quality of life for everyone.



# Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of our land. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present. We recognise sovereignty was never ceded. This was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

# Blacktown: State of play

In **2021**, Blacktown local government area (LGA) was home to

**397,000** residents

**121,000** jobs

Source: ABS Census, 2021



By **2033**, Blacktown LGA is projected to have

**445,000** residents

**157,000** jobs

Source: TfNSW, 2022



# 01

# Social

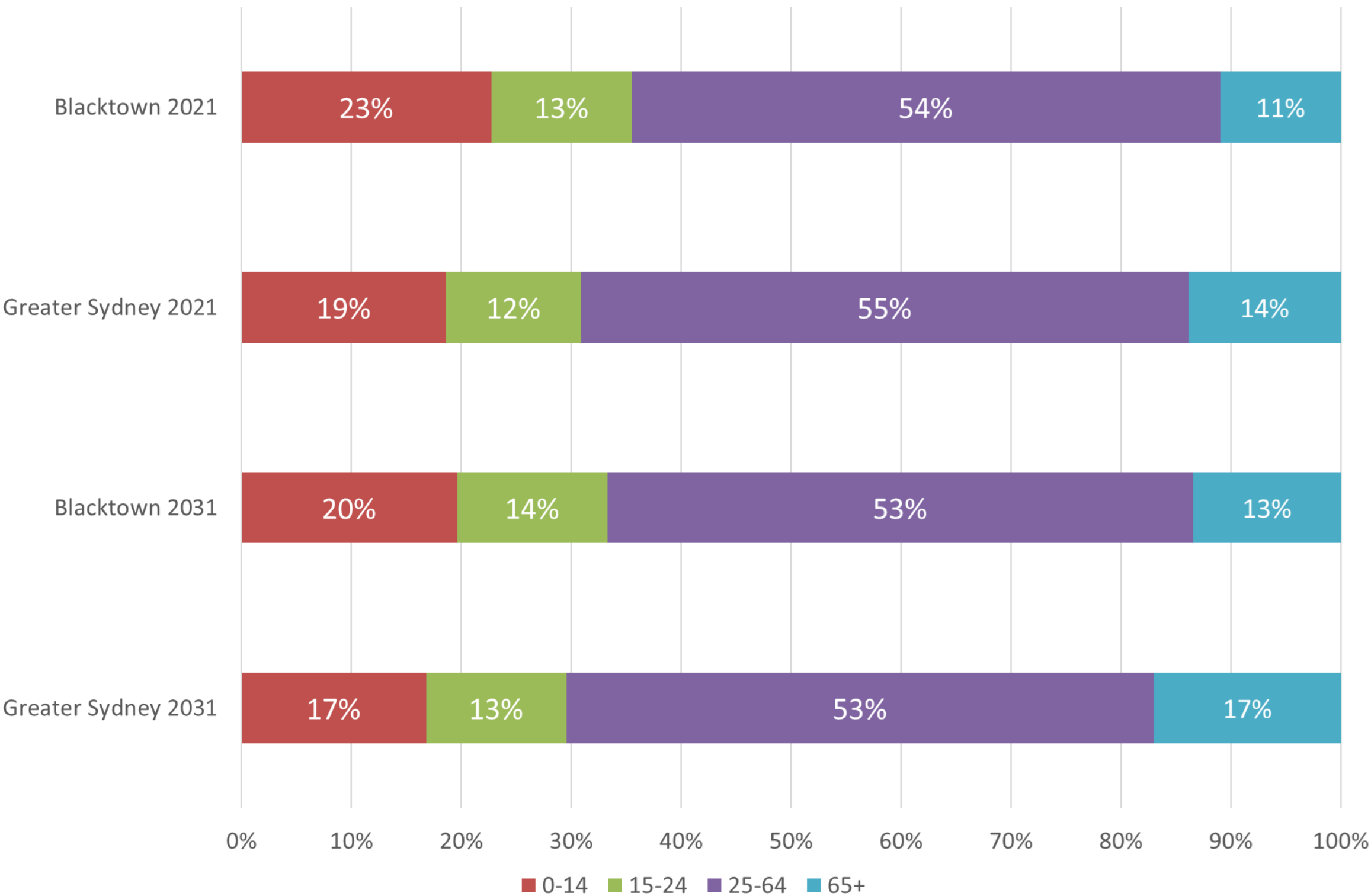
# Population by age

Blacktown has a higher proportion of younger people than Greater Sydney overall now and projected in 10 years' time.

Blacktown LGA, like the rest of Sydney, will experience an ageing of the population but maintain a higher proportion of younger people.

These younger populations will need to be supported with education infrastructure, while also supporting older residents with health care, all while providing appropriate housing choices for all members of the community.

AGE PROPORTIONS BLACKTOWN LGA and GREATER SYDNEY: 2021-2031



# Cultural diversity

3.1%

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in Blacktown compared to 1.6% in Greater Sydney.

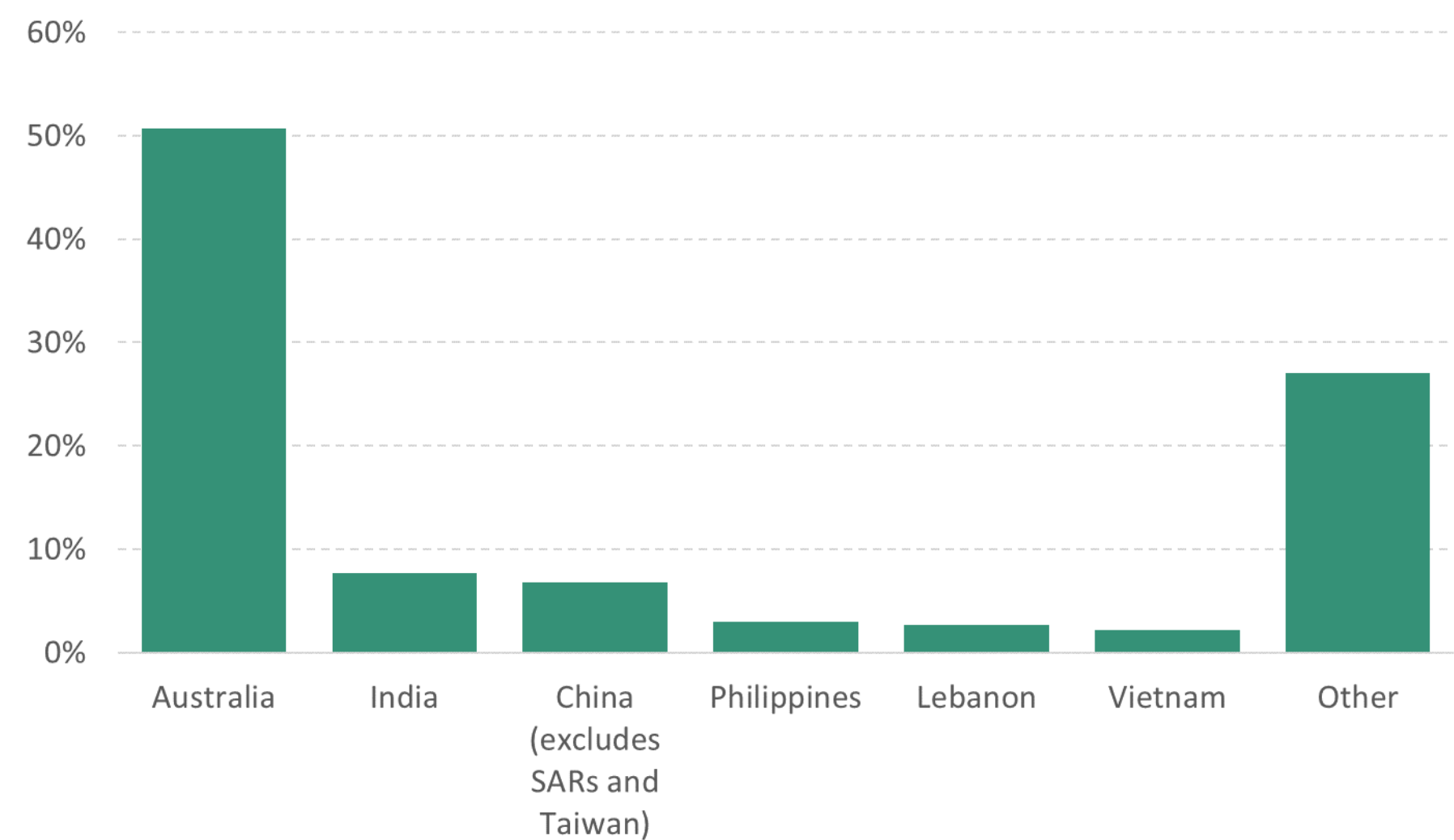
46.8% of residents

in the LGA were born overseas

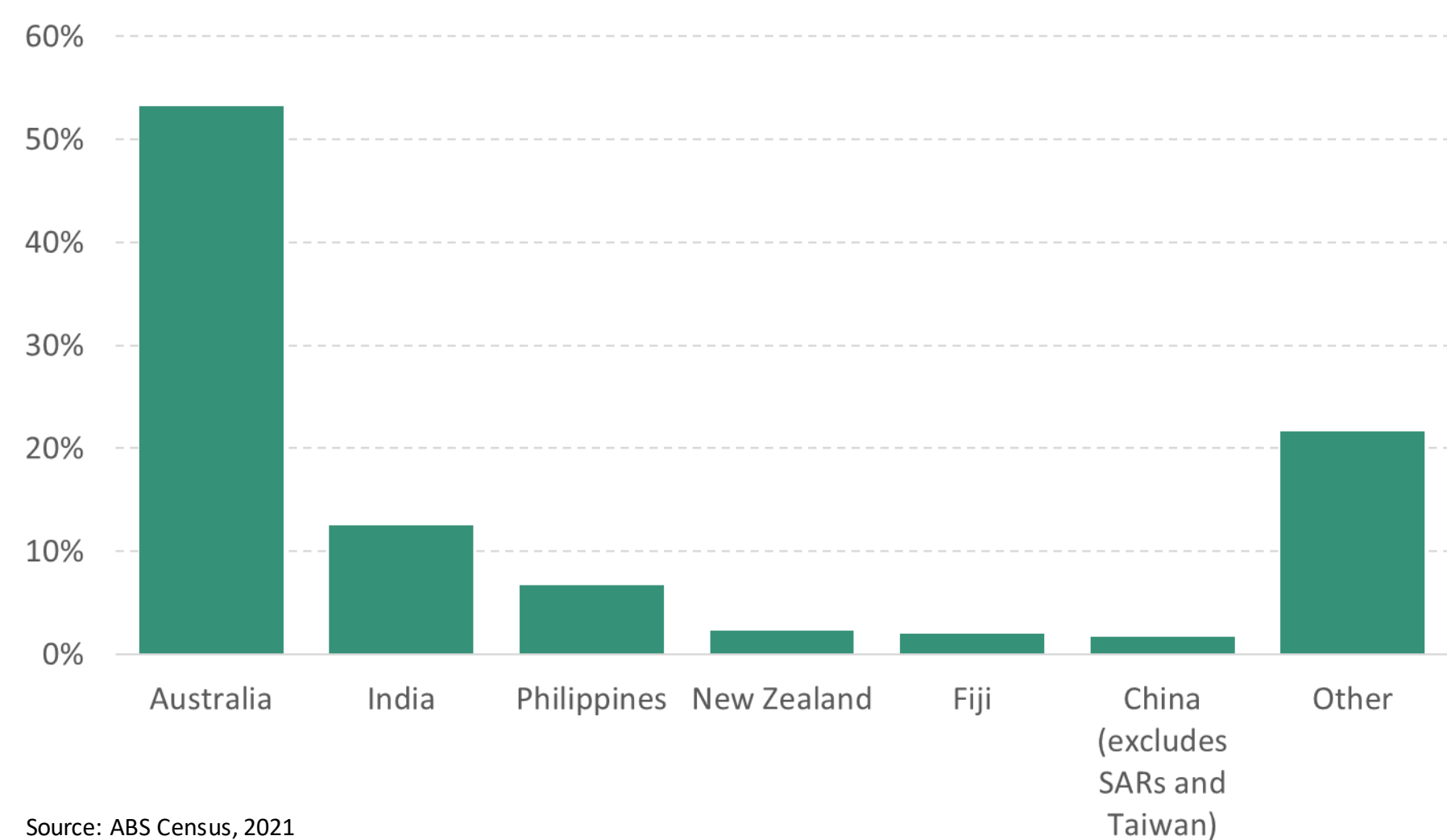
49.3% of residents

more broadly in Central River City with the composition of this culturally diverse community reflecting different backgrounds.

COUNTRY OF BIRTH – CENTRAL RIVER CITY 2021



COUNTRY OF BIRTH – BLACKTOWN LGA RESIDENTS



Source: ABS Census, 2021

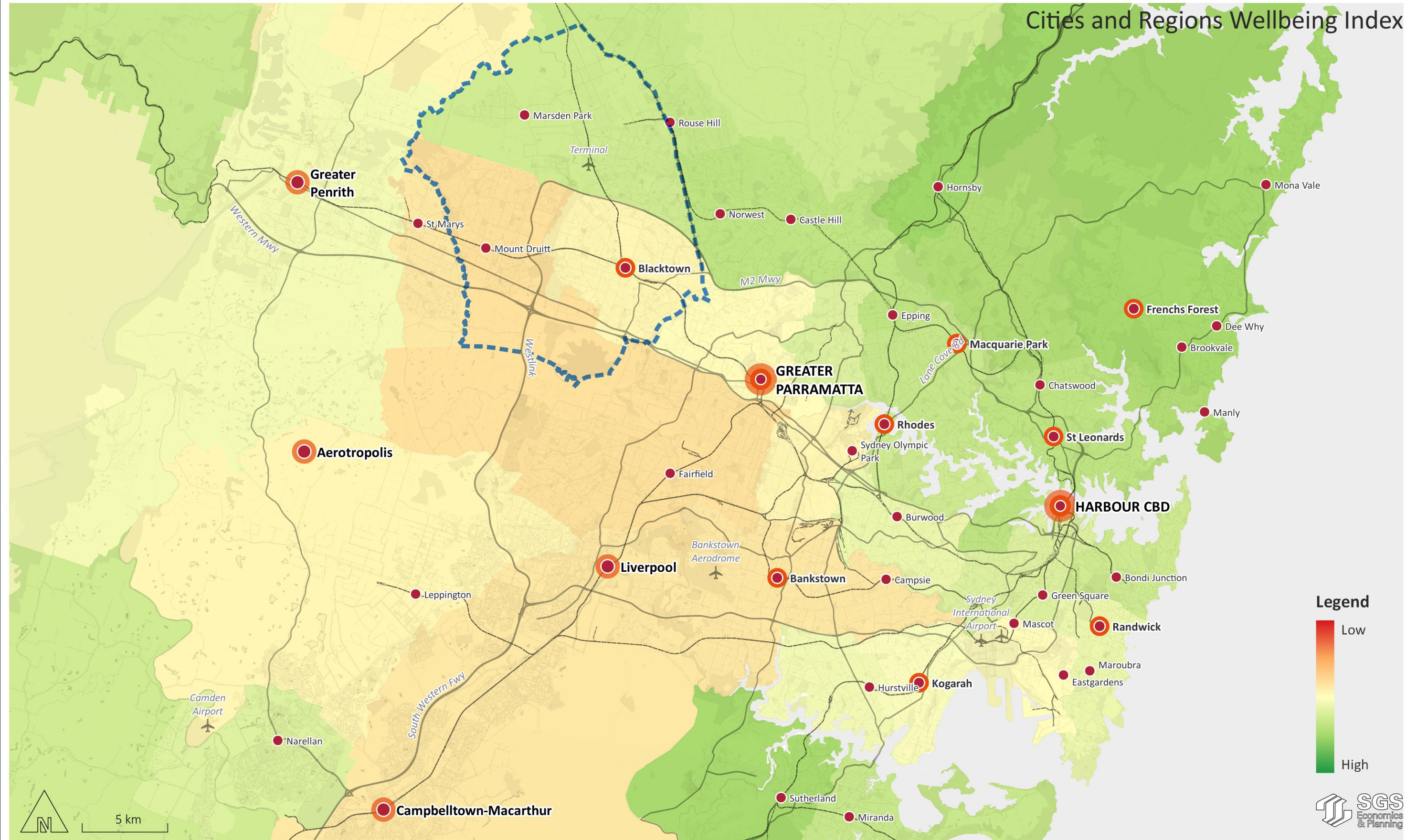


# Wellbeing across Greater Sydney

**Varied wellbeing outcomes in Blacktown compared to Greater Sydney – northern part of the LGA around Marsden Park and Schofields higher due to engagement, knowledge and skills, housing and health outcomes.**

**Lower wellbeing to the southwest, around Mount Druitt, due to lower incomes and educational attainment and participation in the labour force.**

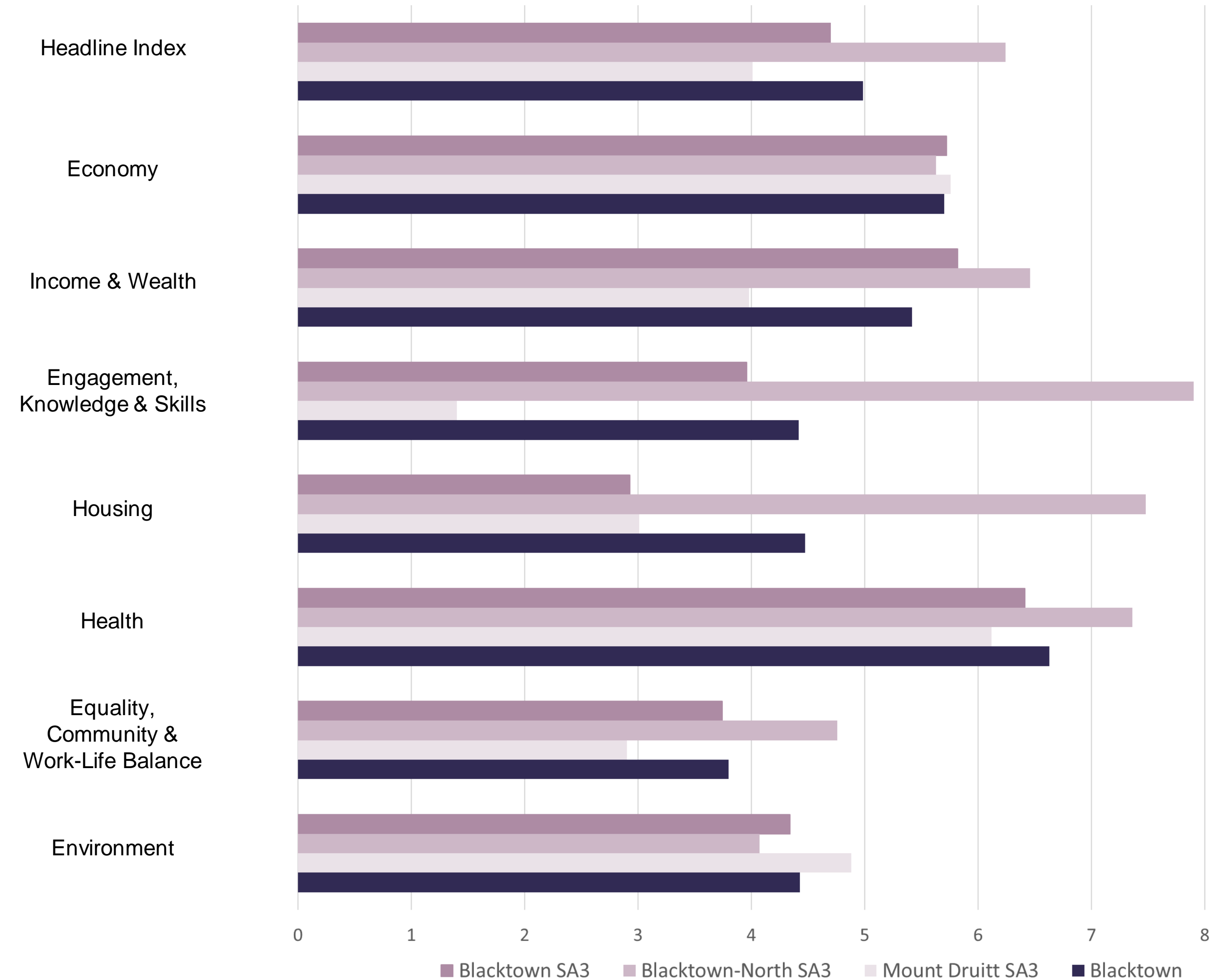
**Moderate wellbeing around Blacktown centre, with poorer housing outcomes.**





# Blacktown – wellbeing score

Wellbeing scores by category highlight the lower wellbeing outcomes for the Mount Druitt area across income, engagement and housing and equality.



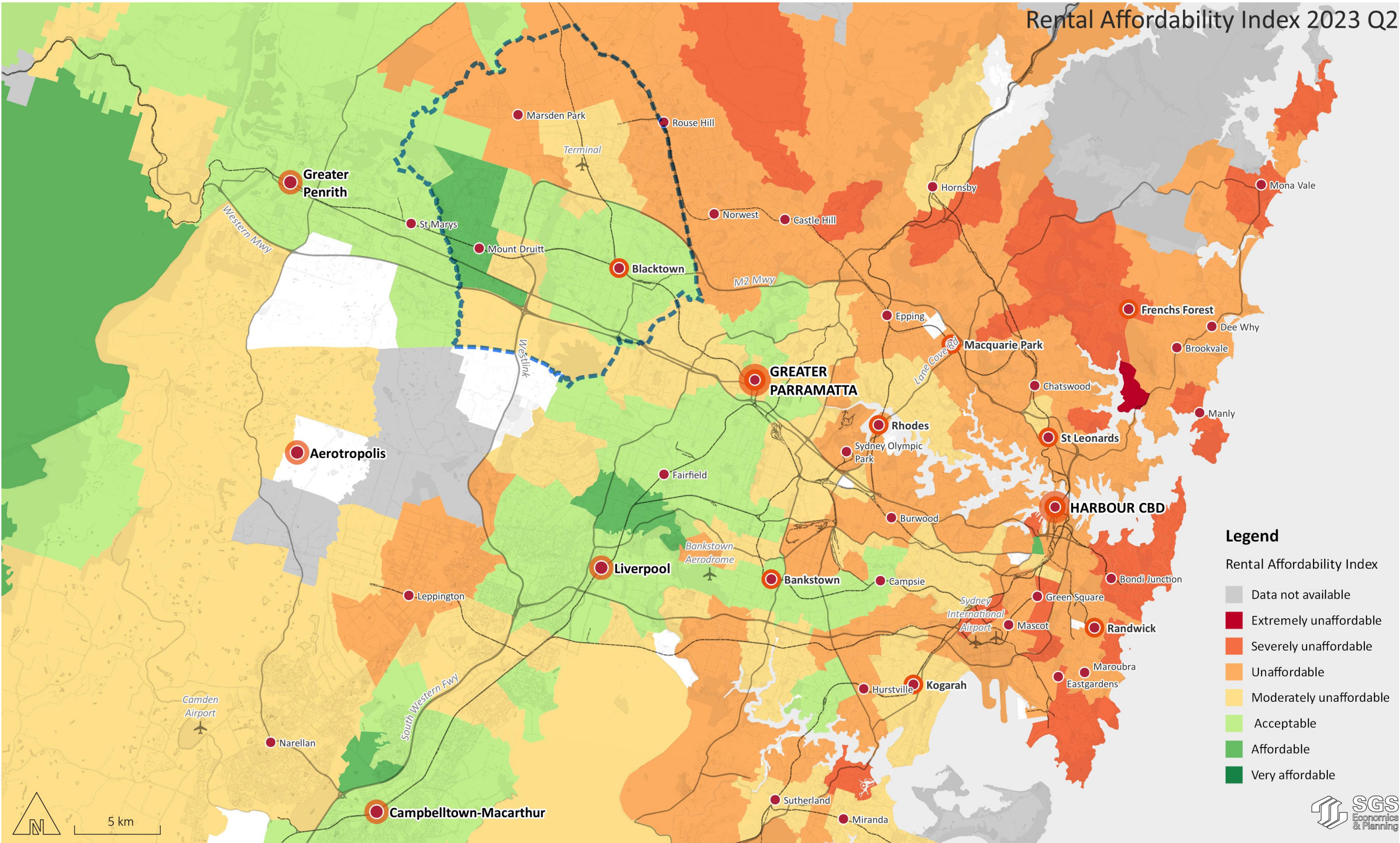
Source: SGS, 2023

Source: SGS, 2023



# Rental affordability across Greater Sydney

Conversely to wellbeing, better rental affordability in areas of lower wellbeing, with many areas on Blacktown being affordable compared to very high unaffordability across Greater Sydney,







# 02

## Built environment

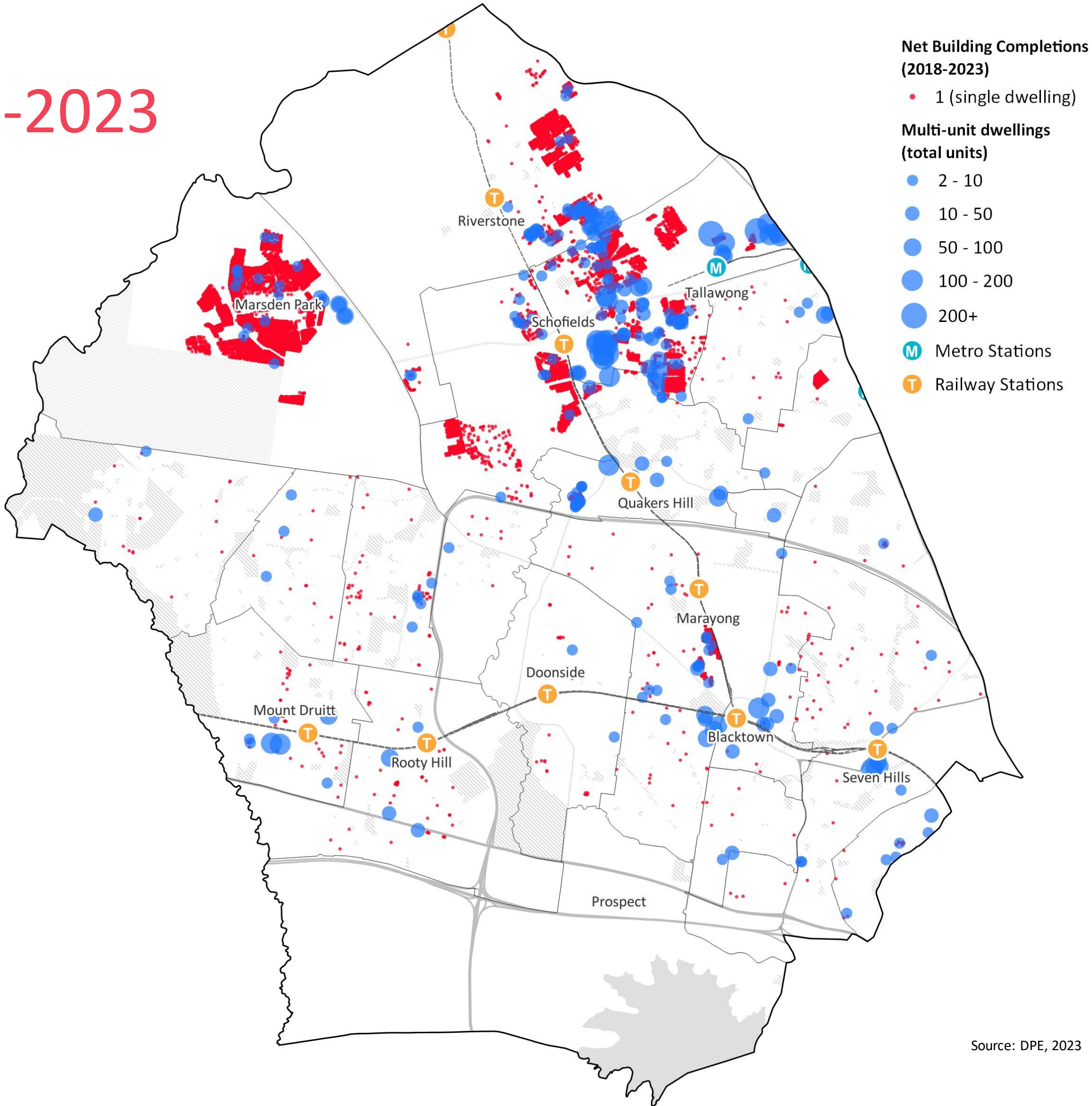


# Net building completion 2018-2023

Most recent building completions, particularly multi-unit dwellings, occurred in the LGA’s north, in the corridor between the existing Sydney Trains network between Schofields and Riverstone and the Sydney Metro Northwest station at Tallawong, representing developments close to high quality public transport.

Marsden Park has had a large amount of detached housing development and while undergoing significant growth, it is not yet supported by railway infrastructure. As a result, the current population are reliant on private vehicles as a mode of transportation.

Areas around major centres such as Blacktown and Seven Hills have had new multi-unit dwellings developed.

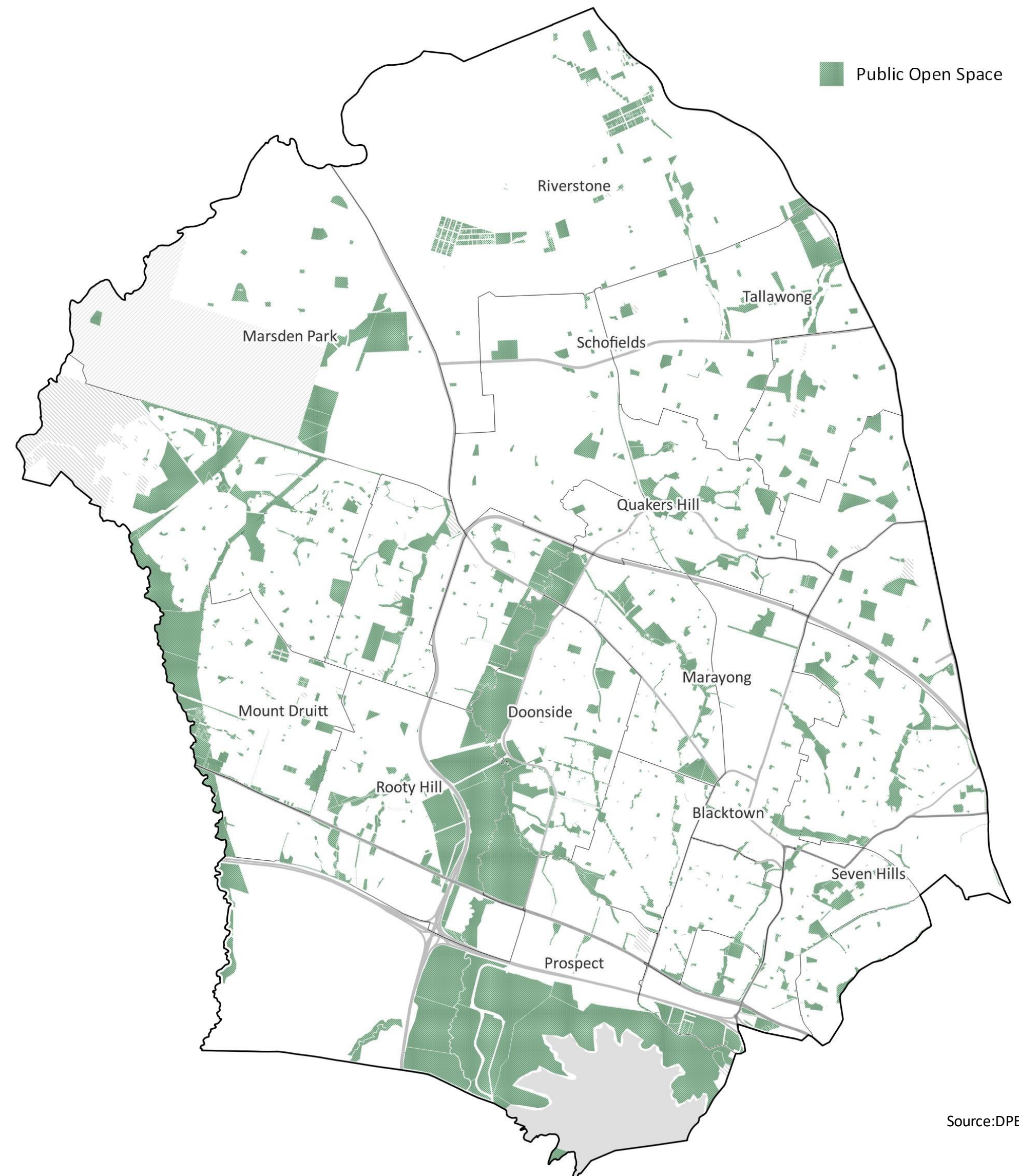




# Open space

Provision of open space is clustered in southern parts of the LGA around Eastern Creek and Prospect Reservoir.

There is a lower level of open space provision around the key areas of housing development, and providing this as part of neighborhood planning will greatly increase amenity and reduce potential urban heat island effects.





# 03

# Economy





# The Blacktown economy

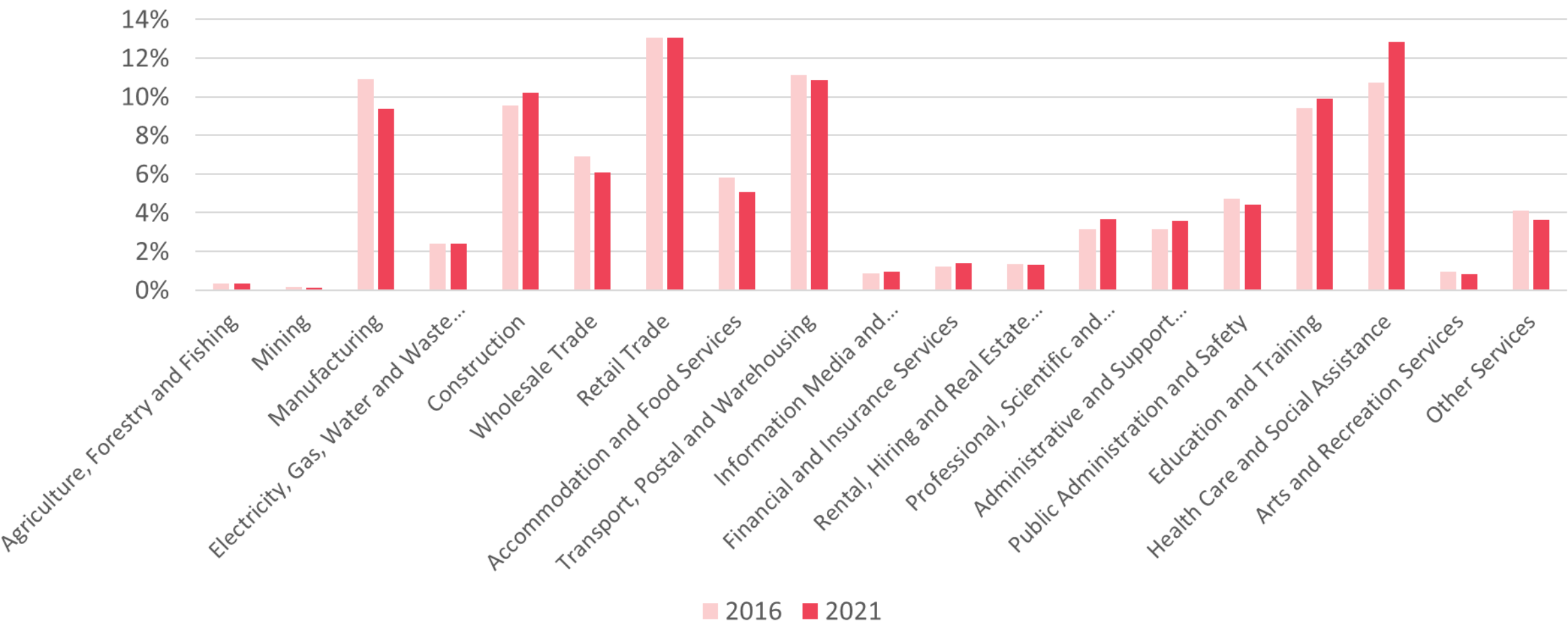
14%

Jobs in Blacktown increased by 14.4% between 2016 and 2021, with healthcare and social assistance increasing most at 36.5%. In 2021, retail trade was the largest industry, making up 13.1% of jobs.

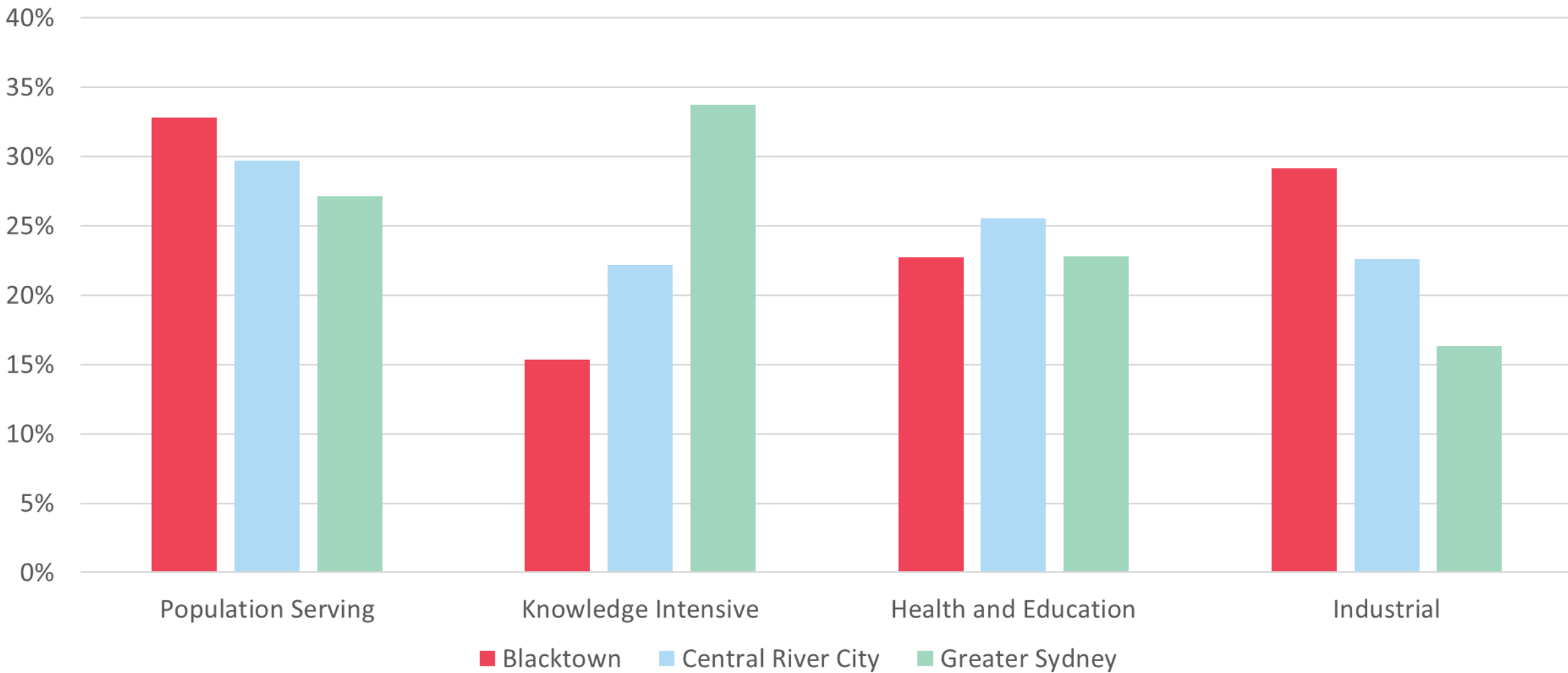
62%

Population serving and industrial jobs such as retail trade, construction and manufacturing make up 61.9% of Blacktown’s jobs, with a lower proportion of knowledge intensive jobs compared to the rest of Sydney.

CHANGE IN INDUSTRY COMPOSITION BLACKTOWN LGA, 2016 - 2021



COMPARISON OF INDUSTRY COMPOSITION – BLACKTOWN, CENTRAL RIVER CITY AND GREATER SYDNEY, 2021

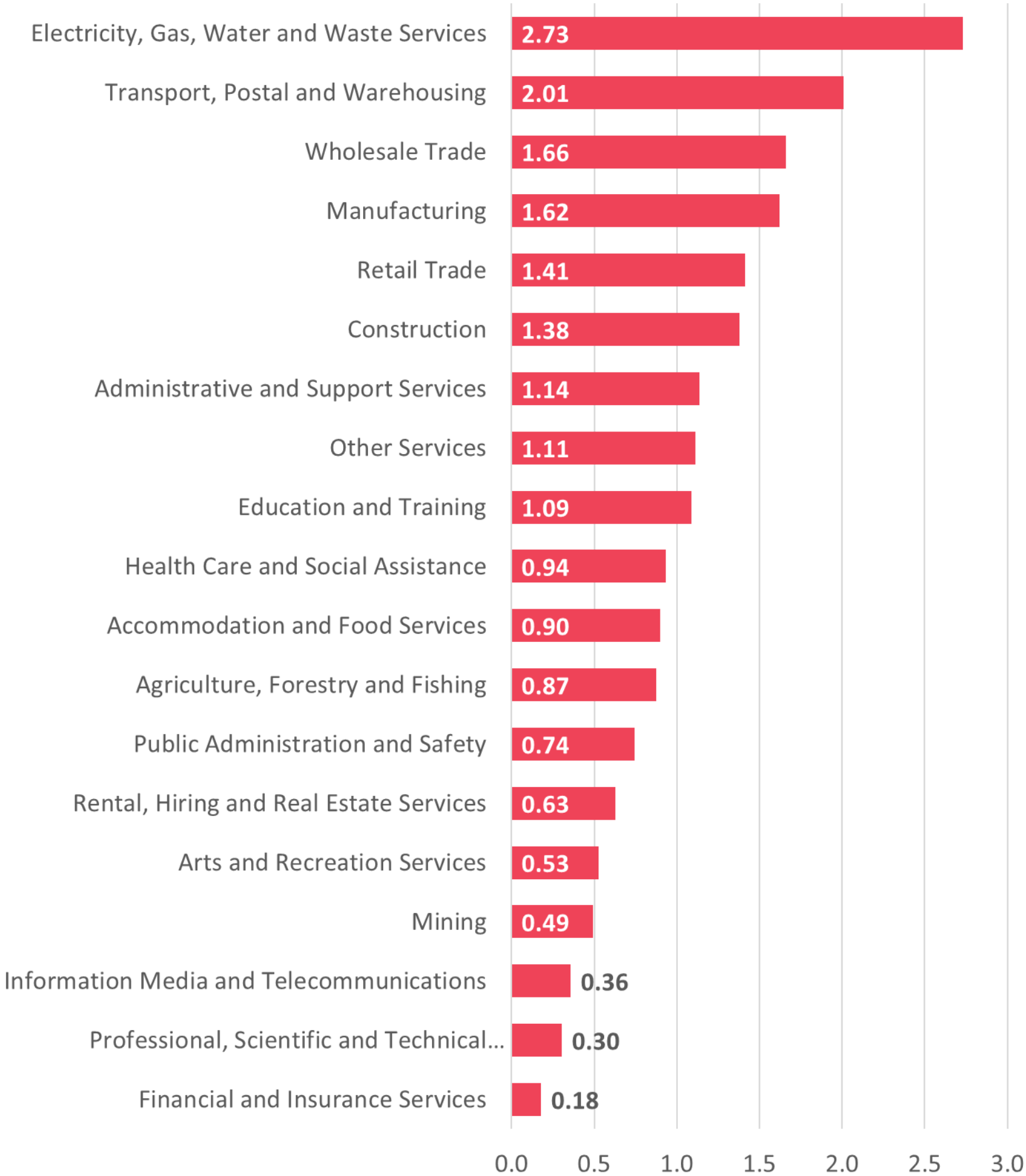


# The Blacktown economy

Blacktown specialises in industrial and population serving jobs compared to Greater Sydney, including electricity, gas, water and waste services, and transport, postal warehousing and retail trade.

The entropy score (which measures economic diversity, with a higher score indicating more diversity) for Blacktown is 2.54, while for Greater Sydney it is 2.46, indicating that the industry make up of Blacktown is slightly more diverse than the city at large.

Despite information media and telecommunications not being specialisations for the area compared to Greater Sydney, Blacktown has a large proportion of residents working in ICT occupations, representing 5.5% of workers, compared to 4% of Greater Sydney, indicating an opportunity for these skills to be used locally in Blacktown.



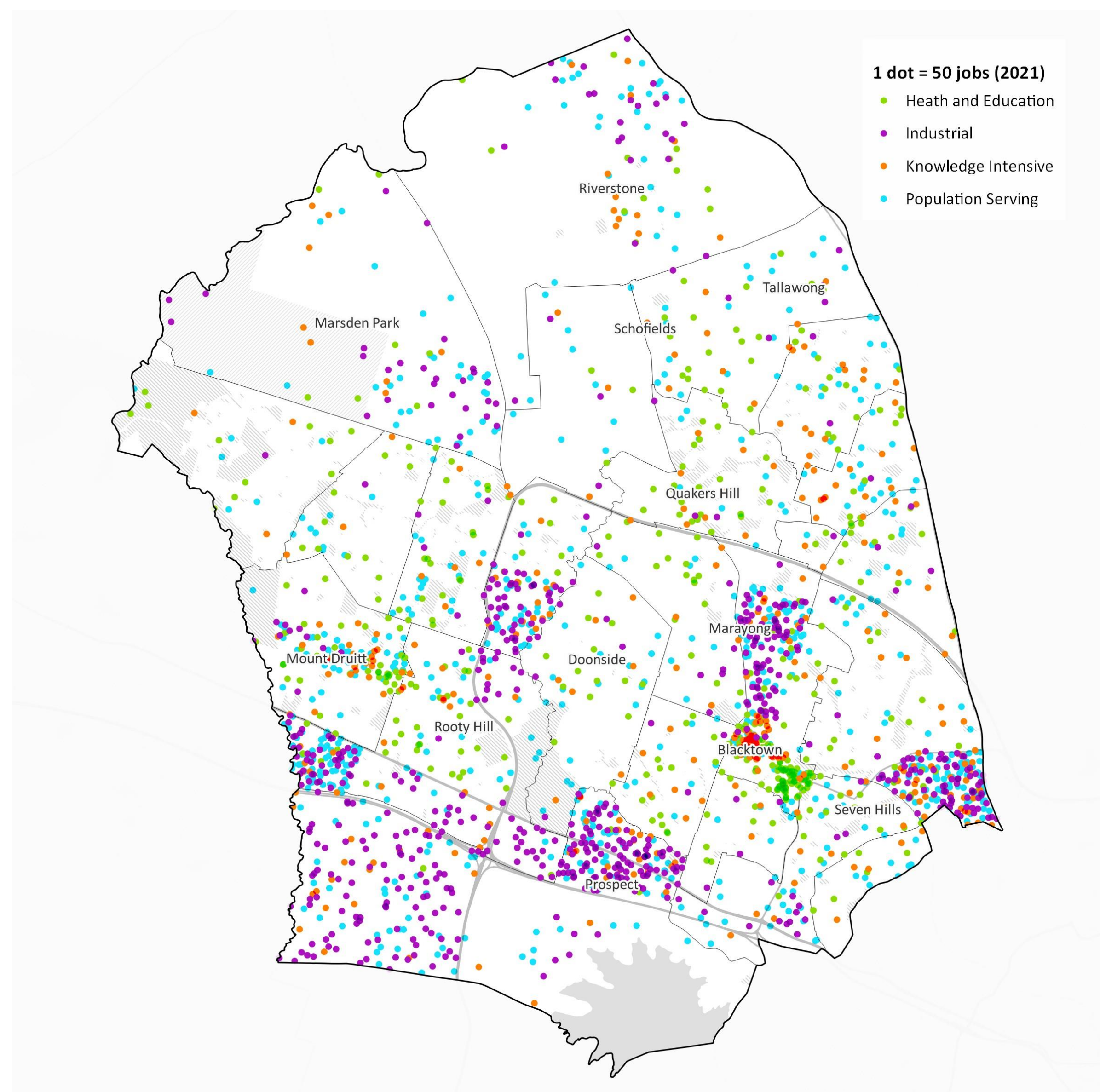


# Blacktown LGA

Job distribution by industry has clear spatial patterns, reflecting land uses, planning controls and key assets such as hospitals and employment precincts.

South of the LGA there are several large industrial/population-serving dominant clusters. This may result in long travel times for resident workers located in the LGA's north, which has experienced recent housing growth.

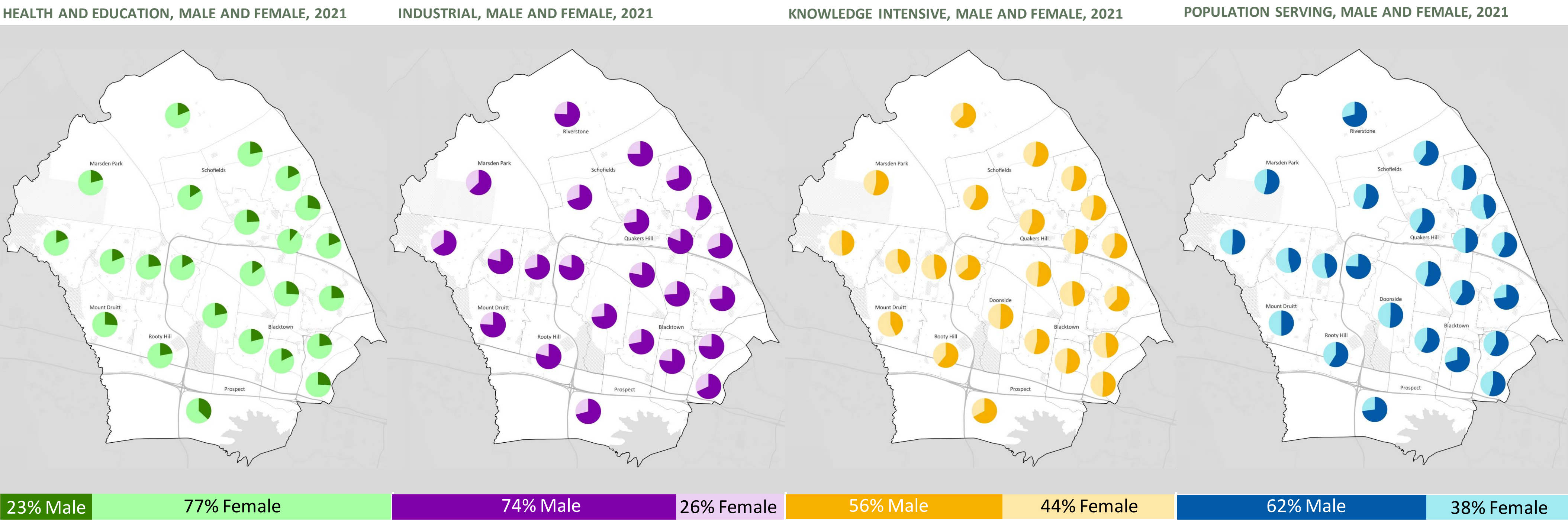
Blacktown and Mt Druitt are hubs for knowledge-intensive and health and education industries. Both contain a hospital.





# Blacktown employment by industry and gender participation

There are clear spatial distinctions when industry is split by gender, with three of four broad industry categories having a much higher proportion of male workers, including in population-serving jobs due to the role of the construction sector. Health and education have a higher proportion of female workers.



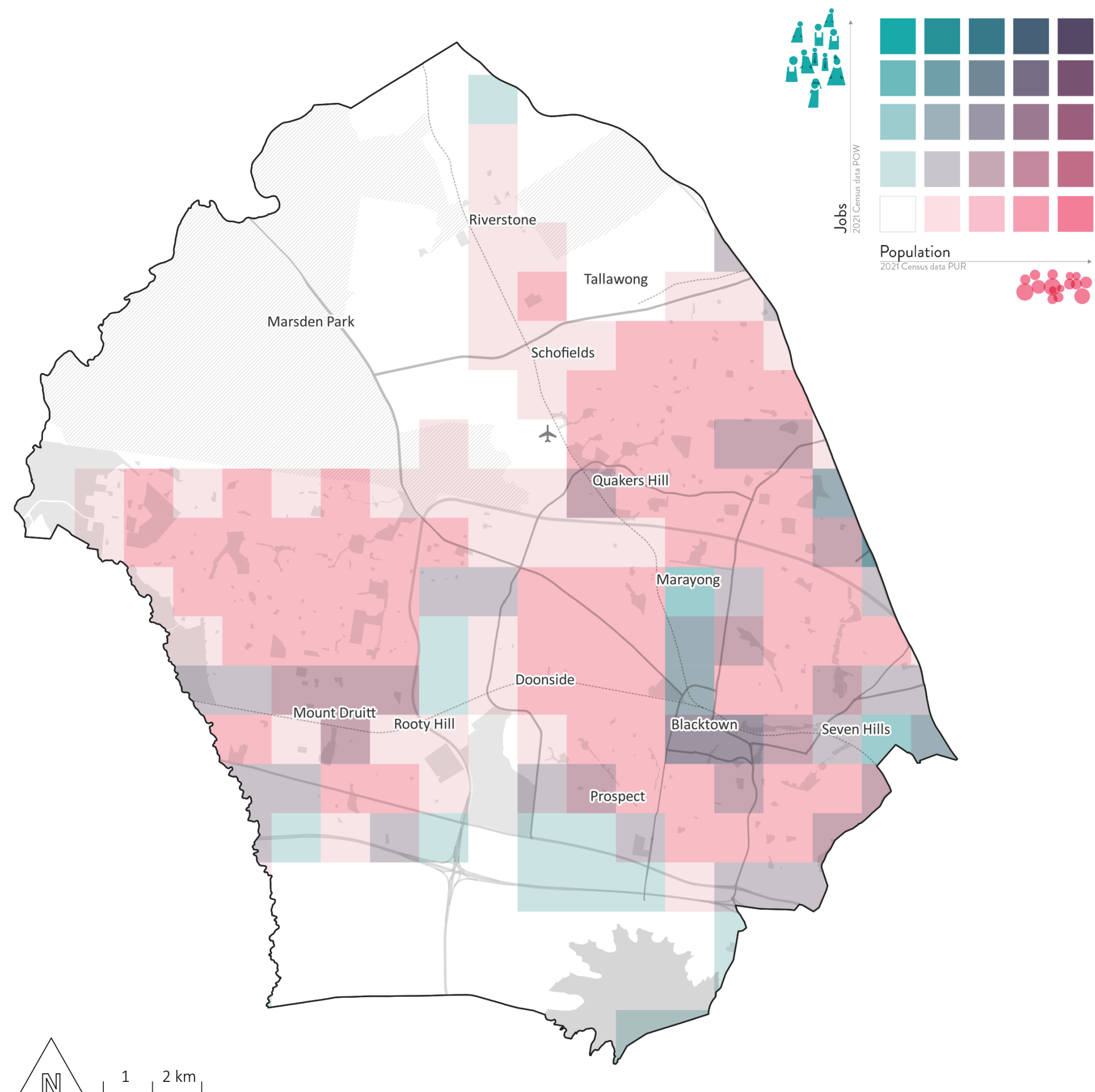


# Where people live versus where jobs are?

Disconnect between where people live and where the jobs are in Blacktown.

Overlap in the southeast around Blacktown, Seven Hills and Mount Druitt.

Lack of jobs close to home for people further north towards Schofields and Riverstone and to the north of Mount Druitt.





## What does this tell us?

- There is a disconnect between where people are living and where major jobs clusters and amenities (like open space) are located.
- What role can active transport play in connecting residential areas to major centres such as Blacktown?
- With a young population, how do we ensure their needs are met? Planning for schools, childcare centres, walkable open space and neighbourhoods – social engagement opportunities in low density suburbs with limited social infrastructure and high-density neighbourhoods – this must be planned for all generations.
- How can localised wellbeing analysis help direct investments – opportunities, education, health services – to ensure the intra-LGA imbalance is addressed and ensure Blacktown is reflective of Greater Sydney?
- What are the pathways to industrial jobs for women – such a big focus for Sydney and Australia in coming decades around advanced manufacturing – what needs to be done to redress this balance to support local jobs?





**Thank you**

[sydney.org.au](http://sydney.org.au)



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