

Thank you to our members and partners. You helped us make a huge impact in 2023-24.

Cover image: Victoria Cross Station. Source: Sydney Metro



Chair's message

Sydney is home to the idea of the tall poppy – and as Sydneysiders we spend a lot of time focussed on the negatives of our city. So, it's important to look up and see just how much progress is being made.

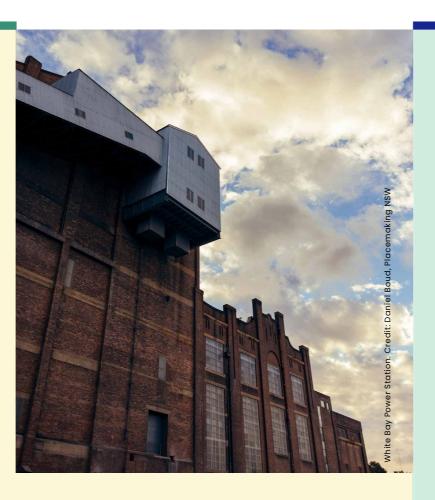
In just the past year, Sydney has opened the Sydney Metro City and Southwest at the same time as finalising testing on Parramatta Light Rail. We saw the reopening of White Bay Power Station as a major cultural centre, with the incomparable Biennale of Sydney using the space in unique and exciting ways.

Action to address the housing crisis has included rezoning for hundreds of thousands of new homes that will come online over years to come, alongside the largest investment in social and affordable housing in the state's history.

This is all built on the foundation of a harmonious, multicultural, well-educated community - drawn from across the world, and from the longest living civilisation on the planet.

These people – and the projects they produce – were the focus of our Sydney Awards this year, where we celebrated the vibrant, diverse, complex, capable achievements of this city with our guest, the Prime Minister.

It's certainly true Sydney faces deep challenges. But we need to remember our city isn't successful despite these



challenges, but because of how we respond to them - with bold projects led by incredible people.

The Committee for Sydney continues to be an independent voice for our great city, ensuring we balance our efforts to improve the city, and celebrate our progress when it does occur.

Michael Rose AM



CEO's introduction

Sydney stands at a critical junction. To put ourselves on a trajectory to being a vibrant, affordable, productive and resilient city by 2030, we have just five years to make material progress on some of our key challenges.

Sydney is performing fantastically in so many ways, it remains an underlying concern that our city is becoming less equitable and will work less well for generations to come than generations before.

We put a spotlight on our annual Sydney Summit in February, and advocated strongly for changes that will improve the lives of future generations, including wellbeing budgeting, national urban policy, rental reform and action on climate change.

In this context, the role of the Committee for Sydney has never been more critical. This time last year we identified three urgent intergenerational challenges facing Sydney - housing affordability, addressing climate change and lacklustre innovation and economic productivity. I'm pleased to say we've seen wins on all these fronts.

Our research, convening and advocacy has driven key public debates over the last year, including:

- A landmark commitment to deliver 8,400 social homes over the next four years
- The Sydney Metro opening shows how transformative major public transport infrastructure can be



- · The Sydney biomedical accelerator and advanced manufacturing research facility under construction
- · Bulk recommendations from Committee reports adopted into state policies, with key new plans addressing disaster mitigation, consumer energy, biodiversity, 24 hour, visitor and cultural economies.

I'm so proud to present our year in review, and invite you to get involved in the year to come to address the big issues facing Sydney.

Eamon Waterford



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After the disruption of the Covid-19 years, Sydney's stepped up to major infrastructure delivery and a serious effort to grapple with reform across a range of domains, particularly housing, climate and culture. Despite some trepidation, the community has supported these reforms.

With a new state government nearing its halfway mark, the Committee's research and advocacy work has been deep, effective and responsive to these changes, and we are seeing the long-term benefits of that work across our policy portfolio.

Housing crisis

Housing unaffordability continues to be a major equity and economic challenge in Sydney. The Committee has led efforts to unlock bold solutions, with a strong focus on ensuring the quality and sustainability of housing and the public spaces in-between.

Our work has made the case to government to pull a variety of levers, from rental reforms through to more housing around transport, ensuring we ease housing affordability, while continuing to do density well.

Major moves

 Landmark \$5.1 billion commitment for 8,400 social homes over the next four years, as called for in our Chronically Unaffordable Housing report – a major

- step in increasing the supply of muchneeded, truly affordable housing stock for Sydneysiders who need it most
- The TOD SEPP is in force, and is the first time the government has introduced an inclusionary zoning scheme – while further work is required for a more inclusive and effective broad-based scheme, it's a great first step.
- commitment from the government to end no-grounds eviction in full by end of year, after we joined calls for the one reform that will materially improve the lives of the third of Sydneysiders who rent for the better immediately
- Changes to the Housing SEPP to allow a 30% bonus in height and GFA for developments that include at least 15% affordable housing

Cultural potential

With post-covid impacts biting at the grassroots level, Sydney's seen a major reset on culture and the nightlife. The Committee's research and advocacy has helped shape policy development, and we have worked with our members to ensure the opportunity for reform is taken up with gusto.

Our work on making Sydney a great city for live music, bringing more culture to people's everyday lives and well received briefings on public art and creative production space have helped spur action.

Major moves

 Reboots of Sydney's 24 Hour Economy Strategy, Visitor Economy Strategy and the state's first ever Cultural and Creative Industries Strategy, as well as the creation of Sound NSW, follow strong advocacy from the Committee, with major vibrancy reforms and initiatives underway

- City of Sydney and Create NSW join forces to test feasibility on Australia's first Creative Land Trust to provide affordable creative workspace, with the Committee asked to deliver the project
- Major new openings at Art Gallery of NSW, Artspace, Sydney Opera House and White Bay Power Station, with work underway at Powerhouse Parramatta and Ultimo
- All inner west town halls now open as free cultural and creative spaces, with more frequent street festivals and performances on the way thanks to grants for permanent power, water and safety features in public spaces, as championed in our Everyday Culture report
- Record funding boost for community sports associations and clubs across
 Sydney, with the Sydney Marathon set for World Major status after its biggest ever attendance

Mobility and infrastructure

The opening of Metro City was an unforgettable moment for Sydneysiders. It's been a significant step up for Sydney, and it is critical that we continue to plan for future lines.

But in recognising difficult budgetary conditions, the Committee has turned our attention this year to focus on critical yet often overlooked transport modes. Relatively cheap dedicated infrastructure for buses and bikes will better connect Sydney to itself, breakdown inequities of access across our city and leverage the record investment made in metro and light rail.

The Committee has been shaping key reviews of government on these modes, and reform more broadly to the transport sector.

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Our research and advocacy on tolling, the Bus Industry Taskforce, freight, the Guide to Transport Impact Assessment and e-mobility have been influential.

Major moves

- The transformative Sydney Metro City now connects Metro Northwest to the Sydney CBD and will soon connect with Metro Southwest
- Funding for the construction of Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2 confirmed, with \$2.1 billion allocated to build the new line and stations
- A new Guide to Transport Impact
 Assessment, after more than 20 years, reflecting changes in the ways people move around
- Bus Industry Taskforce Review, Independent Toll Review and Freight Policy Reform Program interrogated what is and isn't working and will hopefully lead to much needed policy or investment reforms
- A proposal to legalise e-scooters in NSW with the release of the E-micromobility Action Plan, along with the Draft Key E-Scooter Rules.

Energy transition and climate resilience

The Committee's work on climate risk, decarbonisation and nature has paid dividends with the establishment of an independent NSW Net Zero Commission and bulk recommendations from our reports adopted into state policy, including the NSW State Disaster Mitigation Plan, NSW Consumer Energy Resources Strategy and NSW Biodiversity in Place Framework.

There remains significant work with government to translate plans and strategies into action across Greater Sydney, including the local government led Heat Smart City Plan and updated Resilient Sydney strategy that will be finalised at the end of 2024.

Major moves

- NSW key budget moves reflect ongoing multi-year funding allocations to accelerate regional renewable energy zones (\$3.1 billion) and continue repairs to disaster affected roads across state (\$3.3 billion)
- NSW's first State Disaster Mitigation Plan supported by a \$525 million investment in the Resilient Homes Program to undertake voluntary buybacks of homes at risk of flooding in the Northern Rivers, and \$159.3 million for the infrastructure betterment fund to rebuild and improve resilience of state and local infrastructure to natural disasters
- NSW's first Consumer Energy Resources
 Strategy, including \$238.9 million over
 four years to enable more energy
 efficient housing and enable more
 effective use of rooftop solar and battery
 storage across NSW. \$87.5 million over
 four years will make energy saving
 upgrades to social housing properties
 starting to move the needle on the
 125,000 home social housing portfolio
- NSW Net Zero Commission established as agency responsible for independent expert advice to ensure NSW is on a clear path towards net zero and enable NSW to be more resilient to a changing climate
- NSW Government Architect's Biodiversity in Place Framework provides a practical

guide to bring nature back into our cities, towns and suburbs, and the NSW Government 'Plan for Nature' is another key move to setting nature on a path to recovery (although this legislation does not apply to metropolitan Sydney).

Future-focused economy

Sydney's maturation as a global city has been reinforced by its recognition as one of the 20 most significant global financial centres. With deep, highly educated labour market, strong network of innovation districts and employment centres, Sydney is poised for economic transformation.

This requires a clear vision for what type of economy we want to be in the future and how will It ensure prosperity for all rather than exacerbate already existing spatial and demographic inequalities.

Major moves

- Continued investment in world-leading R&D facilities including construction on the Sydney Biomedical Accelerator at University of Sydney, funding and approval for an RNA Research and Pilot Manufacturing Facility at Macquarie Park, and the first stage of the Advanced Manufacturing Research Facility at Bradfield nearing completion
- The NSW Government is making progress on its Innovation Blueprint, with an increasing focus on industry policy
- The 2024 QS University Rankings reinforced Sydney's high calibre university sectors, home to 11 public universities in the global top 200, two in the global top 20 – University of Sydney and University of NSW.

Stepping stones to a fairer Sydney

It's been a tough year for many in Sydney, cost-of-living pressures, record high rents, rising interest rates, and global conflict is undermining social cohesion.

Our work has been influential in delivering record investment in social housing, reform for renters and a wellbeing framework for design, services and infrastructure across Sydney, as well as responding to the gendered violence crisis.

Major moves

- Key housing moves like the budget's centrepiece \$5.1 billion social housing, and landmark rental reforms deserve a second shout-out because they will go a long way in improving gender, spatial and intergenerational equity across Sydney
- We've been advocating for a wellbeing budget framework in NSW by 2027, and the government has taken this step even sooner, with the announcement of a draft NSW Performance and Wellbeing Framework as part of this year's budget
- Gender-responsive budgeting being trialled to further promote gender equity across all spending, with a commitment that gender impact assessments will be integrated further into the budget process over time
- A \$245.6 million package to enhance support for domestic, family and sexual violence victim survivors.

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Research

Report

State of the City 2024

Report

Life in Sydney 2024



Policy paper



Event recap

Parramatta **Road Summit**



Oct 24

Nov 23

Policy paper

Feb 24

Mar 24

Report

May 24

Jun 24

Report



Policy paper

Blacktown

Policy paper

Can the latest planning reforms bring on density done well?





Burning

Money

Report



Policy paper

NSW budget 2024-25 review

Event recap

Bankstown +10



Jul 24



Submissions

- Western Sydney public transport (September 2023)
- Planning system and climate change (October 2023)
- Parking space levy regulation review (November 2023)
- Ausgrid revised regulatory (January 2024)
- NSW Government pre-budget (March 2024)
- Bradfield masterplan (March 2024)
- Short term rental accommodation (March 2024)
- Community improvement districts (March 2024)
- Community energy resources (March
- National adaptation plan (April 2024)
- NSW innovation blueprint (April 2024)
- Moore Park South (April 2024)
- Wilson Street cycleway (April 2024)
- Toll review (May 2024)
- Guide to transport impact assessment (May 2024)
- Visitor economy strategy review (June 2024)
- Rosehill Racecourse (July 2024)
- National towards net zero for transport and infrastructure (July 2024)
- No grounds evictions (August 2024)
- E-mobility inquiry (August 2024)
- Residential tenancies amendment (August 2024)
- Draft national urban policy (August 2024)
- Draft performance and wellbeing framework (August 2024)
- Disaster adaption planning guidelines (August 2024)
- Freight policy reform consultation (August 2024)
- Essential worker housing in Sydney and NSW (September 2024)
- Performance and wellbeing framework (October 2024)
- Freight policy reform interim directions (October 2024)

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The Committee had one of our busiest years yet, tackling the city's key policy challenges including housing unaffordability and delivering urban density well, building a long-term pipeline of transport infrastructure, backing creative culture and environmental resilience, and the future economy.

Drawing on our network of political, business, community and government leaders, globally renowned urbanists and influential researchers, our robust program of events and workshops, media engagement and digital communications helped shape the conversation and find solutions to these important debates.

The program included two major annual events and two deep dives into major growth centres across greater Sydney, and this year we added an additional half-day summit and a lunch with the NSW Treasurer:

- Sydney Awards, a major awards program celebrating the people who make Sydney the best it can be, with keynotes from Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and NSW Deputy Premier Prue Car
- Sydney Summit, a half-day leadership conference, focussed on intergenerational equity with keynotes from NSW Treasurer Daniel Mookhey and Jacob Ellis from the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

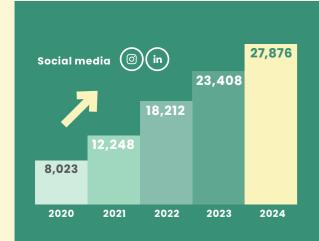
- Our +10 series went from strength to strength, putting a spotlight on Sydney's fast-growing centres Blacktown and Bankstown, while a half-day conference made the case for transforming Parramatta Road from Sydney's least favourite road to a pedestrian friendly precinct that could attract billions of dollars of investment
- Complementing these programs, the Committee hosted a post-NSW budget deep-dive with NSW Treasurer Daniel Mookhey, 21 targeted boardroom events, workshops, 24 member briefings, walking tours, online events, policy advisory councils and roundtables that drive our research and advocacy work forward.

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 leaders and policy changemakers
- Sydney Media Today a daily email for members, summarising and linking through to the key news of the day
- Highly engaged social media communities on LinkedIn and Instagram, with a strong voice in the media on issues of significance for Sydney.

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COMMITTEE FOR SYDNEY — 13



Media coverage 2,360

with **78** free to members

events

5,605

Total event audience

(incl in person, online, video audiences)

speakers 393 298 2023 48% female / 52% male

(36% of speakers from government)

Hotter Out West, the Western Sydney creatives bringing the party to the other side of the bridge



Meet the Young Sydneysider of the Year finalists making a splash

These three young Sydneysiders have made enough of a splash in their city to receive a nod as finalists in the Sydney Awards. Vote for your People's Choice winner.

Awards to celebrate Sydney's best and brightest

much by its people as its pro- jects, Prime Minister Atthony Albanese will declare tonight. The Harbour City's most in- spiring people will be celebra- ted at a gitty Sydney Avards gala at Crown Barangaroo this evening, with the Committee for Sydney's VIP guests to include powerbrokers and	dustry,
movers and shakers across fra	Six aw nnounces in a ecognisi ade ex- ons to t ig to s wdneysi Mr All eynote endees t astructi







Burning suburbs

West to cop cost of heat

News 5

CITY LIVING POLL

Sydneysiders back need for new builds in older suburbs





Where Sydney's million new



jobs by 2050 will come from

NEWS 07

A city of beaches,











Sydney should act now to prevent young people, middle class from being priced out of housing, NSW treasurer says

Sydney Summit as it happened: City's leaders, decision-makers present big ideas for future

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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 eleven partners and thank them for their leadership in this space.



























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Resilience Program Partners

Sydney

WATER







Sydney Awards

Daily Telegraph

Sydney Summit Major Partner





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Sydney Award Event Sponsors















Sydney +10 and Parramatta Road sponsors













EG









Event and briefing series sponsors







Committee for Sydney

office hosting



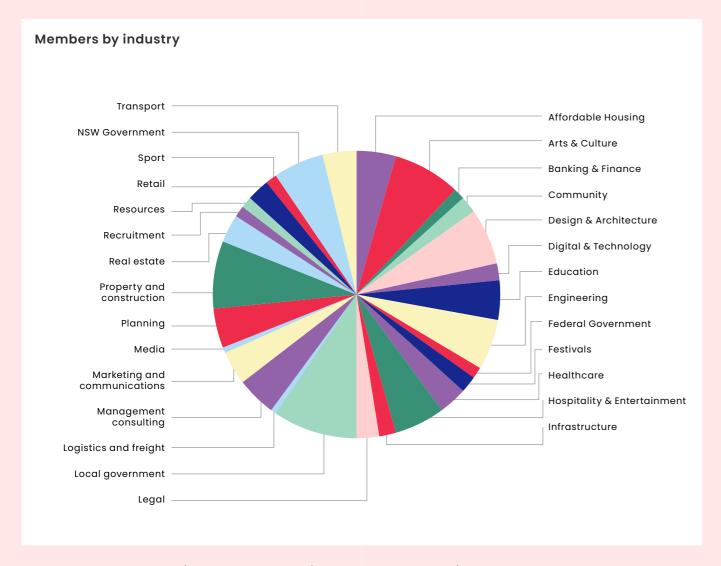








Members



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 more than 150 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.

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

Members



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Aqualand

Arcadia Landscape Architecture

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Atlas Economics

Aurecon Group

Ausgrid

Australian Catholic University

Australian Museum

Australian National Maritime Museum

Australian Turf Club

Australian Unity

Bangarra Dance Theatre

BaptistCare

Bastion Reputation

Bates Smart

Bayside Council

BDO

BESydney

Billbergia

Blacktown City Council

Block, Inc.

Boyden

Bridge Housing

Buildcorp Group

Built

Burwood Council

BVN

Campbelltown City Council

CBRE

Celestino

City of Canterbury Bankstown Council

City of Parramatta

City of Ryde

City of Sydney

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City West Housing **Connect Macquarie Park Innovation District Corrs Chambers Westgarth Cox Architecture Crown Resorts** Deloitte **Destination NSW** Dexus EG **Endeavour Energy Entertainment Quarter** Ethos Urban **Evolve Housing** Frost* Collective **Georges River Council** GHD Gilbert and Tobin **GML** Heritage GoGet **Greater Sydney Parklands Grimshaw Architects** Hassell **Hatch Urban Solutions** HDR Hoyne **Hume Community Housing Association** ICC Sydney Inner West Council

Investa Office Management Ipsos Australia & New Zealand **ISPT** Jacobs JLL **JOC Consulting KPMG** La Perouse Aboriginal Alliance Landcom Lendlease Development Lifeline Australia Link Wentworth Housing **Macquarie University** Maddocks McConnell Dowell McGregor Coxall McKinsey & Company Mecone Mirvac **Monogram Partners** Mott MacDonald Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences Museum of Contemporary Art Museums of History NSW NBN Co News Corp Australia Night Time Industries Association NRT Group

NSW Ports NXT Building Group Orchard Talent Group Penrith City Council Placemaking NSW Plenary Port Authority of NSW PwC SEC Newgate Australia SGS Economics and Planning Councils (SSROC) Stockland Strathfield Council Suncorp Group SXSW Sydney **Sydney Dance Company** Sydney Festival Sydney Fringe Sydney Local Health District Sydney Opera House Sydney Symphony Orchestra **Sydney Theatre Company**

Sydney Water Sydney Writers' Festival Taronga Zoo The University of Sydney Toga Group Transdev Australasia Transport Asset Holding Entity (TAHE) NSW **Transport for NSW** Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Transurban **Tribal Warrior** Uber South Western Sydney Local Health District Uniting NSW ACT Southern Sydney Regional Organisations of University of Technology Sydney **University of Wollongong** St George Community Housing UNSW Urbis Ventia Venues NSW **Vicinity Centres Sydney Community Foundation** Warren and Mahoney **Waverley Council** Western Sydney University Westpac **Sydney Harbour Federation Trust** Willoughby City Council Woolworths **WSP**

Executive Committee

Michael Rose AM – Chair, Committee for Sydney

Gabrielle Trainor AO – Deputy Chair, Committee for Sydney

Lisa Chung AM – Chair, Australian Unity and AV Jennings, Non-Executive Director, PwC Australia

Christine Covington – Board member, Consultant and Head of Gender Equality, Corrs Chambers Westgarth

Matt Crocker – Director, Origination, Plenary, Deputy Chair, Biennale of Sydney and Sydney Institute of Marine Science

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

Leonie King - CEO, City West Housing

John Lehmann – Managing Director, The Australian, NSW, ACT, The Daily Telegraph, The Sunday Telegraph & Prestige Titles, News Corp Australia **Lyn Lewis-Smith** – CEO, Business Events Sydney

Tom Mackellar – CEO Development , Lendlease

Larry McGrath – General Manager NSW & ACT, McConnell Dowell

James Rosenwax – Regional Managing Director NSW and ACT, AECOM

Kate Russell – CEO, Supply Nation

David Thodey AC – Chancellor, The University of Sydney, Chair, Ramsay Healthcare and Xero

Brian Tyson – Deputy CEO Global, Head of Region APAC, Chair Australia, SEC Newgate Australia

Seckin Ungur – Partner, McKinsey & Company

Professor George Williams AO – Vice-Chancellor and President, Western Sydney University



If you are interested in learning more about the Committee, or joining as a member, please reach out to Hannah Jamieson, Chief Operating Officer, at hannah@sydney.org.au

We'd love to talk.

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Keep in touch

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