

# SUSTAINABILITY

## OVERVIEW

Sustainability is one of four inter-related themes that frame the planning priorities and actions of North Sydney Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS). These themes are introduced in the Greater Sydney Commission's North District Plan in which North Sydney is located.

The theme of Sustainability deals with challenges surrounding the impact human activity has on its natural environment. Identified District wide priorities such as improving water quality, protecting bushland, increasing tree canopy and reducing emissions and waste can be achieved by actions and behaviours at a local level.

The planning priorities will be delivered through the identified actions to guide land use decisions over the life of the plan. The planning priorities will also be monitored and reviewed, with the LSPS updated as required.

This section of the North Sydney LSPS responds to the higher level directions and planning priorities of the North District Plan and expresses them in a North Sydney context.



## PLANNING PRIORITIES

### S1

Protect and enhance North Sydney's natural environment and biodiversity.

### S2

Provide a high quality, well-connected and integrated urban greenspace system.

### S3

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, energy, water and waste.

### S4

Increase North Sydney's resilience against natural and urban hazards.

# LOCAL PLANNING PRIORITY S1

## PROTECT AND ENHANCE NORTH SYDNEY'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY

### URBAN GREENSPACE SYSTEM

#### RATIONALE

##### BUSHLAND & BIODIVERSITY

North Sydney's landscape has changed dramatically, since the Guringai Tribe and Cammerayal Clan cared for and sustained these lands. Today, North Sydney's environment is highly developed and urban with almost all original vegetation and other natural features removed or modified. This has greatly reduced urban bushland, biodiversity and canopy cover and so their protection and enhancement is important.

The North Sydney LGA has approximately 49 hectares of urban bushland the majority of which is on public land. This represents less than 5% of the LGA's total land area.

North Sydney's remnant bushland is generally restricted to the Sydney Harbour and Middle Harbour foreshores. These areas generally comprise narrow strips bordering urban development, with some significantly larger areas of bushland at Balls Head, Berry Island Reserve and Tunks Park.

In 2010, a comprehensive Natural Area Survey identified:

- 12 distinct native vegetation communities and 347 native plant species;
- 2 biodiversity hotspots; and
- 190 native terrestrial vertebrate species, including 4 frog species, 20 reptile species, 148 bird species and 18 mammal species.

The Survey also identified:

- 3 of the 12 distinct native vegetation communities in North Sydney are listed as endangered ecological communities in NSW;
- 2 of the 347 recorded plant species are nationally threatened, and a further 39 plant species are listed as significant at the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Authority regional level; and
- 18 threatened species under Commonwealth or NSW Legislation.

Like other urban bushland areas, North Sydney's bushland has been impacted by a variety of land uses over time and continues to be subject to a variety of pressures and impacts from both within and outside the bushland reserve system. These include: clearing of vegetation, fragmentation of bushland areas, siltation of creeks, introduction of exotic species/weeds, new artificial stormwater lines, dumping, pets and feral animals, leaking sewer infrastructure, tree vandalism and recreational pursuits.

The majority of North Sydney's bushland is zoned *E2-Environmental Conservation* and is protected from inappropriate development. These lands are further protected through various provisions within NSDCP 2013. Section 15 to Part B, relates to development on land located near bushland (land identified within the bushland buffer zone) and covers issues relating to building design and siting, landscaping and stormwater management, cultural resources, threatened species and wetland areas.

Habitat connectivity is essential for the long-term conservation of a diverse range of species and ecological communities. Council has identified the general location of its biodiversity corridors. Whilst this generally corresponds with Council's bushland buffer zone, a review of NSDCP 2013 is required to ensure biodiversity corridors are protected through the development process.

Over the past 25 years, Council has increasingly recognised its responsibility in managing bushland and in recent years has funded effective regeneration work and supported a large and enthusiastic volunteer workforce.

Council's Bushland Management Program provides a structured framework within which to integrate the community in the management of bushlands. Works undertaken are guided by adopted *Bushland*



*Rehabilitation Plans and Plans of Management* and range from bushland rehabilitation, stormwater management, Bushcare volunteer support, Biodiversity education, walking track upgrades, and the Bushcare Community Nursery. The volunteer bush regeneration program is integrated with works of Council staff, contractors and other community groups.

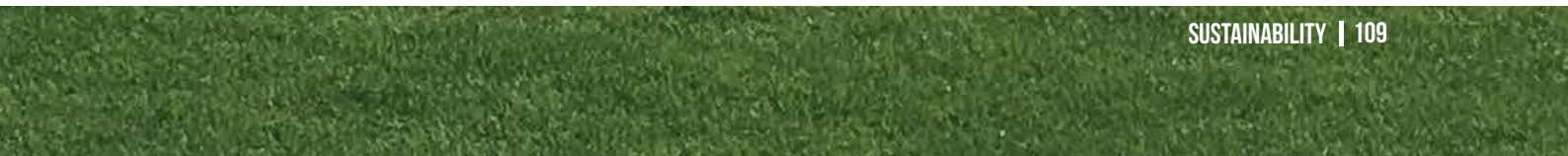
Council recognises the importance of volunteers, and is committed to the long-term support of its Bushcare program. There are currently 12 Bushcare groups active in North Sydney that operate a range of programs including 'Wildlife Watch,' 'Adopt-a-Plot' and 'Native Havens.' As a result of these efforts, previously degraded areas have been rehabilitated to native bushland and the overall quality of bushland in North Sydney has improved significantly. However more work is still required to overcome decades of neglect, and the ongoing impacts of urbanisation.

To support resilient urban ecosystems, North Sydney Council will:

- continue to rehabilitate degraded bushland areas;
- maintain and enhance diversity of species, habitats and ecosystem functions;
- conserve all regionally significant and threatened flora and fauna species;
- protect and increase canopy cover;
- create and manage green corridors – extend the bushland network and improve connections between bushland reserves;
- minimise impacts of adjacent development on bushland.
- protect and conserve sites and items of Aboriginal and European heritage significance;
- provide opportunities for passive recreation pursuits while minimising environmental impacts;
- raise community awareness and provide opportunities for the community to be involved in the protection, management and rehabilitation of bushland.



North Sydney Bushcare Nursery





## WATERWAYS & FORESHORES

The North Sydney LGA is bound to the south by the Sydney Harbour foreshore. This waterway provides significant cultural and recreational opportunities for North Sydney, which are to be protected and enhanced. While the harbour foreshore is iconic, its ecological function has been compromised over the years, as the majority of the foreshore environment has been highly modified.

Much of the Sydney harbour foreshore is managed by the NSW Government through a range of Plans, including:

- *Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005*, which applies to the entire North Sydney LGA;
- *Sydney Harbour Foreshores and Waterways Area Development Control Plan 2005*; and *State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018*, which applies to land within the LGA at the foreshore's interface.

These plans aim to ensure that the catchment, foreshores, waterways and islands of Sydney Harbour are recognised, protected and enhanced as an outstanding natural asset and as a public asset of national and heritage significance.

The NSLEP 2013 seeks to reinforce the aims of the *SREP (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005*, through the aims of the LEP, encouraging the implementation of recreational buffer areas between urban development and the foreshore and minimising any increases in density adjacent to foreshores through appropriate zoning. It also significantly limits the extent of the development on lands which directly adjoin the foreshore.

## WATER QUALITY

The North Sydney LGA contains 18 separate catchments and 1231 sub-catchments that ultimately all drain into Sydney Harbour. Stormwater run-off collects litter and sediments from public and private land and carries it to the waterways, impacting waterway health. However, retrofitting stormwater infrastructure to better manage stormwater runoff from increased urbanisation is challenging and extremely costly.

New development provides opportunities to implement Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) infrastructure. WSUD helps to reduce the impact of urban development and improve the health of waterways by reducing stormwater runoff and removing sediment and pollutants before they reach the city's waterways and foreshore. Systems such as raingardens, swales and wetlands have multiple benefits in addition to reducing land and water pollution.

Council has updated its planning controls and adopted higher standards to improve stormwater quality and reduce off-site stormwater run-off. NSDCP 2013 requires on-site stormwater detention for larger-scale commercial and mixed-use developments to reduce the amount and speed of post-development run-off. It also contains provisions encouraging the uptake of 'green roofs' as a means of improving stormwater flows and quality. Council will continue to investigate opportunities to implement WSUD on public and private land.

Through initiatives such as the Tunks Park sedimentation basin and fishway bypass channel project, Council has reduced sediments from entering Willoughby Bay and helped improve the water quality of Middle Harbour. The vegetation lined bypass channel has also enabled the movement of native fish and species.

North Sydney Council has also implemented the 'Living Seawalls' Project, in collaboration with Sydney-based universities. This includes the installation of 'habitat tiles' at Sawmillers Reserve and Bradfield Park, which will help improve water quality and enhance biodiversity with increased habitat.



## COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Some lands within the North Sydney LGA are identified as being within the 'coastal zone.' These are environmentally sensitive coastal areas identified under the *Coastal Management Act 2016*.

Council is currently working with the Sydney Coastal Councils Group to develop appropriate coastal management practices on a catchment wide scale. This is with the view to addressing coastal hazards, including sea level rise and coastal inundation, through a Coastal Management Program (CMP) in line with the NSW Coastal Management Framework. This would be undertaken in collaboration with the NSW Government.

It is anticipated that the recommendations and actions of any CMP will be implemented through amendments to Council's planning controls.

## WATER BASED RECREATION

Approximately 60% of North Sydney's harbour foreshore land comprises public reserves and parklands, many of which contain a range of facilities and amenities that facilitate water-based recreation. These include wharfs, beaches, rock platforms, foreshore paths, harbour pools, boat ramps, trailer parking and dinghy storage.

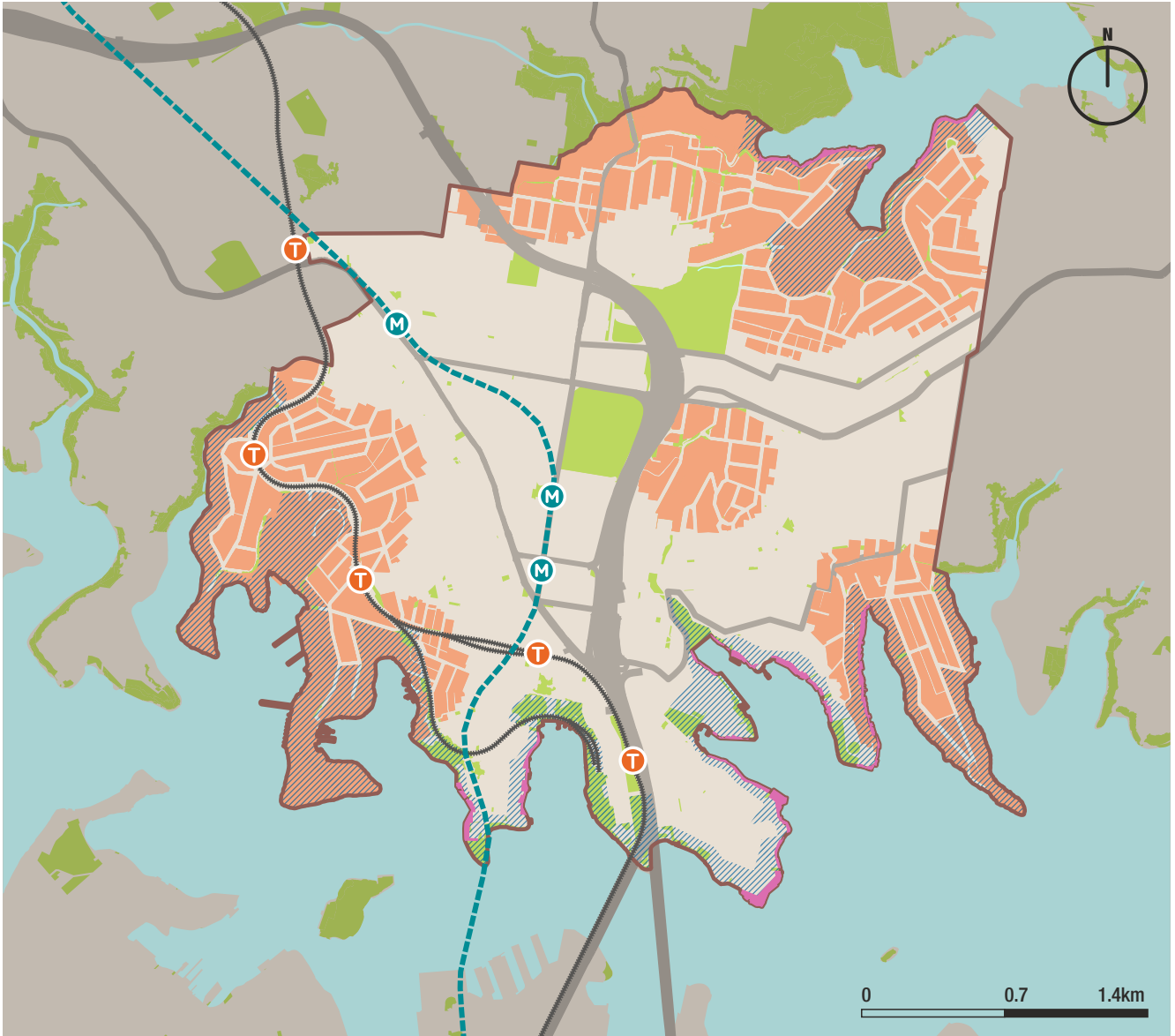
Improving access to harbour foreshore areas and providing opportunities for a range of water-based recreational activities such as kayaking, boating and fishing, while protecting the environmental values of the harbour foreshore has been the focus of Council's work.

The *North Sydney Recreation Needs Study (2015)* was undertaken to ensure the development, management and improvement of recreation facilities respond to existing and future anticipated needs. While Council's Open Space Plans of Management, and more specialised strategies such as the *North Sydney Small Water Craft Storage Strategy (2018)*, ensure the effective and equitable management of Council's and ultimately the wider community's recreation facilities.



Balls Head Reserve, Waverton

# MAP 13 — ECOLOGICAL GRID



## LEGEND

- |               |            |             |                      |   |
|---------------|------------|-------------|----------------------|---|
| LGA Boundary  | Train Line | Open Spaces | Bushland Buffer Zone | Foreshore Building line                       |
| Train Station | Metro line | Waterways   |                      | Coastal Zone (Environmentally Sensitive Area) |
| Metro Station | Main Roads |             |                      |   |

**GREATER SYDNEY  
REGIONAL PLAN**

**OBJECTIVE 25**

The coast and waterways are protected and healthier.

**OBJECTIVE 27**

Biodiversity is protected, urban bushland and remnant vegetation is enhanced.

**NORTH DISTRICT  
PLAN**

**PLANNING PRIORITY 15**

Protecting and improving the health and enjoyment of Sydney Harbour and the District's waterways.

**PLANNING PRIORITY 16**

Protecting and enhancing bushland and biodiversity.

**NORTH SYDNEY  
LSPS**

**LOCAL PLANNING PRIORITY S1**

Protect and enhance North Sydney's natural environment and biodiversity.

**ACTIONS**

- S1.1** – Continue to implement Council's Bushland Management Program guided by adopted Bushland Plans of Management, Rehabilitation Plans and Recovery Plans to protect and enhance the health of North Sydney's urban bushland and biodiversity. **(short – medium term)**
- S1.2** – Review NSDCP 2013 to ensure identified biodiversity corridors in North Sydney are protected through the development process. **(short – medium term)**
- S1.3** – Investigate opportunities to implement Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) on public and private land to reduce stormwater runoff and water pollution and improve the health of waterways. **(medium term)**
- S1.4** – Continue to liaise with adjoining Councils and relevant authorities to adopt a total catchment management approach to manage urban runoff using WSUD principles. **(ongoing)**
- S1.5** – Continue to collaborate with the Sydney Coastal Councils Group and NSW Government to develop appropriate coastal management practices on a catchment wide scale through a *Coastal Management Program (CMP)*, and incorporate the recommendations and actions of any CMP into NSLEP 2013 and NSDCP 2013 where relevant. **(short – medium term)**
- S1.6** – Continue to develop/review/implement Council's Open Space Strategies and Plans of Management to improve access to the harbour foreshore and provide a range of passive and active recreational activities while protecting the environmental values of the harbour foreshore area. **(ongoing)**



# LOCAL PLANNING PRIORITY S2

## PROVIDE A HIGH QUALITY, WELL-CONNECTED AND INTEGRATED URBAN GREENSPACE SYSTEM

### RATIONALE

#### OPEN SPACE NETWORK

One of the most acute areas of need in the North Sydney LGA is increased provision and access of open space. The relatively uneven distribution of parks and reserves in North Sydney means there is a more acute need for open space for passive and active recreational opportunities in some parts of the LGA more than others.

As outlined under Local Planning Priority I1 and L2, Council will continue to investigate opportunities for expanded public open space throughout the LGA, particularly in high priority areas where there is high population density and a lack of reasonably sized, quality open space within walking distance (400m) of an area.

Generally speaking, the areas with the highest population densities in the North Sydney LGA are the areas with the lowest provision of open space. This can be seen in areas adjacent to the Pacific Highway and Military Road, particularly in the St Leonards/Crows Nest, Victoria Cross and Neutral Bay commercial areas, as well as in the high population density areas of Neutral Bay/Cremorne, in St Leonards/Crows Nest and parts of Kirribilli.

It is likely that this problem in distribution will be compounded in the future, as the areas where increases in population density are anticipated (and being planned for) are those areas that are already deficient in open space provision.

In many parts of the LGA there is a severe undersupply of active open space in the form of playing fields. For example, Wollstonecraft and Cremorne, south of Military Road. In this context, the importance of preserving all current open space is critical, as is the need to expand and provide new open space to meet the demand in certain areas.

The challenges associated with acquiring significant areas of land for the provision of new open space, as well as the consideration of alternative options to address these shortages, is outlined under Local Planning Priority I1 and L2.

The *North Sydney Open Space Provision Strategy (2009)*, establishes a set of principles to help guide decision making in relation to the expansion of open space in the North Sydney LGA. The Strategy identifies a number of opportunities for the provision of new open space. These opportunities range from those likely to be achieved in the short to medium term, to more aspirational and visionary strategies including the creation of continuous foreshore access (a long-term objective relying on the redevelopment of individual foreshore sites).

Identified opportunities/strategies for the provision of new open space include:

- acquisition of remaining local open space reservations;
- lease various sites from the State Rail Authority;
- request to obtain all exiting shunting yard land in Lavender Bay for public open space known to State Rail; and
- maintain a watching brief on the strategic acquisition of land parcels to advance the establishment of a continuous recreational trails network.

Given the creation of major new open spaces is unlikely due to the high values and costs of land in North Sydney, Council has focused on the creation of links between its major foreshore parks and reserves. In addition, Council actively seeks opportunities to improve the quality of existing open space to maximise carrying capacity.

Achieving continuous foreshore access has been long-term Council objective. The *North Sydney Foreshore Access Strategy (2007)* establishes a long-term vision for improved foreshore access and identifies missing links and opportunities to extend access through the redevelopment of sites. This includes creating continuous regional recreation trails along the foreshore between North Sydney and adjoining Council areas for walking trails, harbour viewing and nature appreciation.



Identified opportunities for improved open space and foreshore access include:

- Hume Street Park;
- Gore Cove;
- Waverton Peninsula Parklands;
- Balls Head Reserve;
- Berrys Bay (Quarantine Station site, Noakes Boatyard, Sawmillers Reserve to Blues Point);
- Lavender Bay (disused rail land/Sydney Harbour Highline);
- Kirribilli Point;
- Neutral Bay (HMAS Platypus site\*, Customs Marine Headquarters, Captain Cook Cruises);
- Middle Harbour – Willoughby and Long Bay (intertidal access and access connections into Quakers Hay Bay in Mosman LGA).

To achieve this, Council will continue to:

- liaise with relevant Federal and State Government agencies and private landowners to monitor the ongoing status and potential for improved public open space and foreshore access opportunities as identified in the *North Sydney Foreshore Access Strategy (2007)*;
- investigate the potential incorporation of mechanisms within Council's planning policies to facilitate future foreshore access to important missing links such as land dedication, rights of way, easements etc;
- continue to liaise with the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust regarding the redevelopment and management of HMAS Playtpus site;
- liaise with Mosman Council regarding potential for future access connections into Mosman; and
- Identify views and vistas to be conserved and integrate conservation views to relevant planning controls.

\* The potential of the HMAS Platypus site at Neutral Bay to be transformed into a public park with buildings adapted for a range of new uses has been identified under the North District Plan as a Green Grid Priority Project.

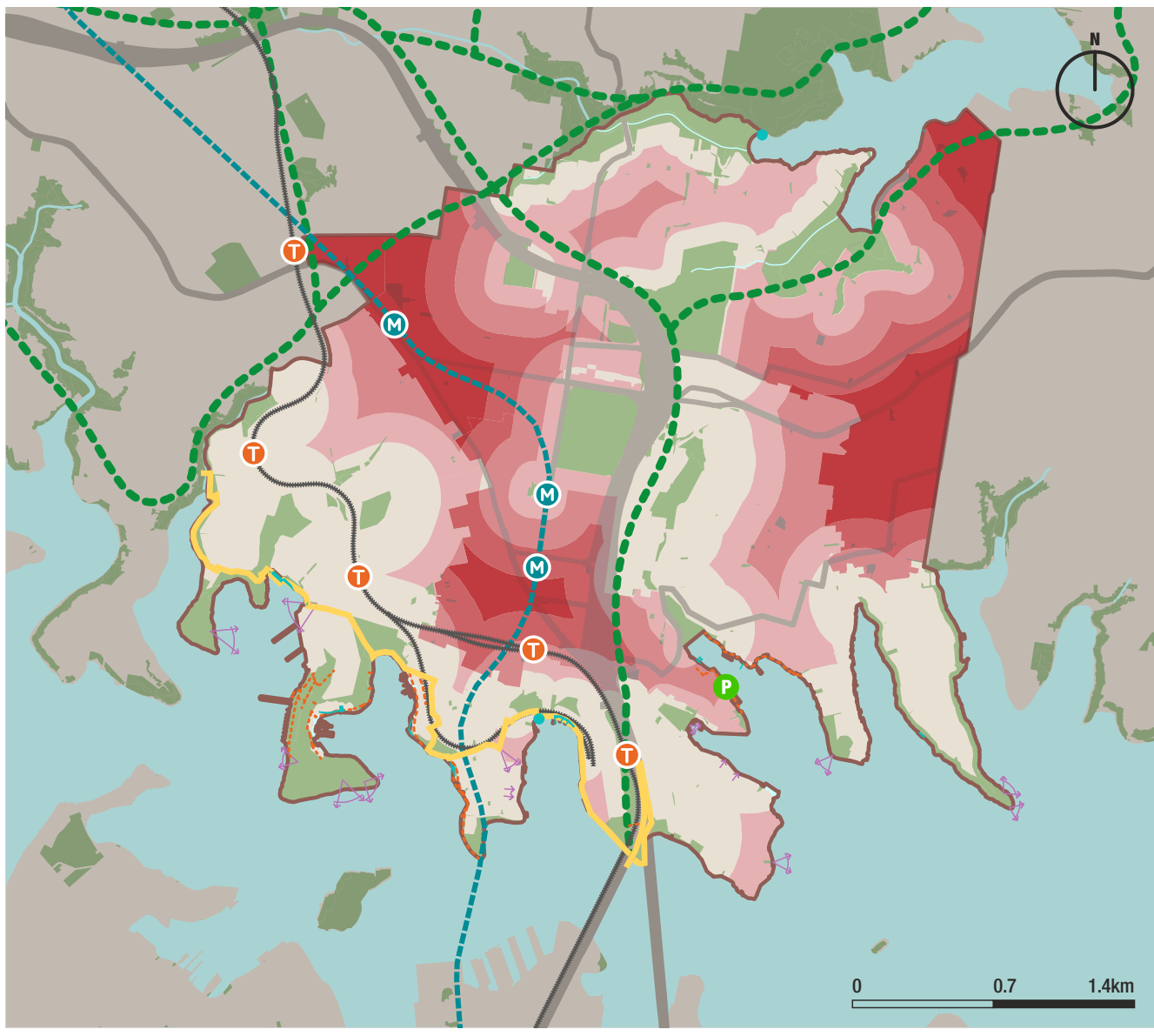


Bradfield Park, Milsons Point



Kesterton Park, Neutral Bay

# MAP 14 – OPEN SPACE NETWORK



## LEGEND

- LGA Boundary
- Train Station
- Metro Station
- Train Line
- Metro line
- Main Roads
- Waterways
- Park or reserve of reasonable size and good quality
- Boat Ramp
- Harbour Circle Walk
- Desired Foreshore Access links
- Green Grid Priority Project\*
- Other Green Grid Opportunities\*
- ← Views and Vistas
- High priority area 1
- High priority area 2
- High priority area 3
- High priority area 4

Priority Area	Level of planned population growth	Proximity to high quality open space
Priority 1	High	>400m
Priority 2	High – Medium	250-400m >400m
Priority 3	Medium – Low	250-400m >400m
Priority 4	Low – No growth	250-400m >400m

\* As identified in the North District Plan



## SCENIC & CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

North Sydney is well known for its excellent viewing points of Sydney Harbour. The LGA is connected visually, and through transport links, to the Sydney Harbour. The Sydney Harbour bridge is visible from numerous public places throughout the LGA, whether glimpsed from a distance or more powerfully dominating the immediate scene.

Visual connections to Sydney Harbour, the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House are crucial to North Sydney's sense of place and the cultural experience of living and working in North Sydney.

An important function of North Sydney's foreshore parks and reserves is as viewing points. Council's Plans of Management seek to ensure that all new works in foreshore parks and reserves take into consideration the potential impacts on views out of and into the parks.

NSLEP 2013 contains extensive E2-Environmental Conservation and RE1-Public Recreation zones throughout the foreshores including Cremorne Point, Berrys Bay, Balls Head and Blues Point Reserve which preserve views and qualities associated with Sydney Harbour and its inlets.

NSDCP 2013 also seeks to ensure the preservation of views and vistas that contribute to the scenic and cultural landscape of North Sydney. These include the preservation of views and vistas from public places to iconic as well as locally significant landmarks.



Lavender Bay



## CANOPY COVER

Vegetation and tree canopy cover are important to climate change adaptation and provide vast liveability benefits. It reduces the urban heat island effect, cleans air and water and assists with effective stormwater management. The liveability benefits include improved amenity and wellbeing, while trees and greening can also increase property values.

It is noted that the GSC's target of 40% canopy cover under the North District Plan is based on the internationally recommended canopy cover target for our climatic zone. However, the North District Plan does not further differentiate this by specific land-use targets.

Council's *Urban Forest Strategy (2019)* sets an averaged target of 34.5% across the entire LGA, in line with international standards and based on prevailing land uses including:

- 15% canopy cover in CBDs (B3 Commercial Core and B4 Mixed Use zones)
- 25% canopy cover in urban residential zones (R3 Medium Density and R4 High Density zones)
- 50% canopy cover in suburban residential zones (R2 Low Density zone).

In 2008, tree canopy cover in the LGA peaked at 33.9% of the total area of public and private land. This declined to 28.5% in 2017. The greatest area of canopy loss since 2008 has been over private, suburban land. In suburban areas canopy cover is at risk due to the pressure for urban consolidation. The increase in dual or multiple occupancy dwellings and reduction in block sizes, contribute to urban heat islands and reduce the previously available backyard space for canopy trees. Locations that traditionally accommodated large trees such as school grounds, are also under immense pressure to expand.

While canopy has remained relatively stable in the heavily built up CBD zone, there has been a loss of canopy over roads due to major infrastructure projects such as the B-Line, Sydney Metro and Powerline clearances conducted by Ausgrid. This loss is of particular concern as roads are major contributors to urban heat and major contributors to pollution.

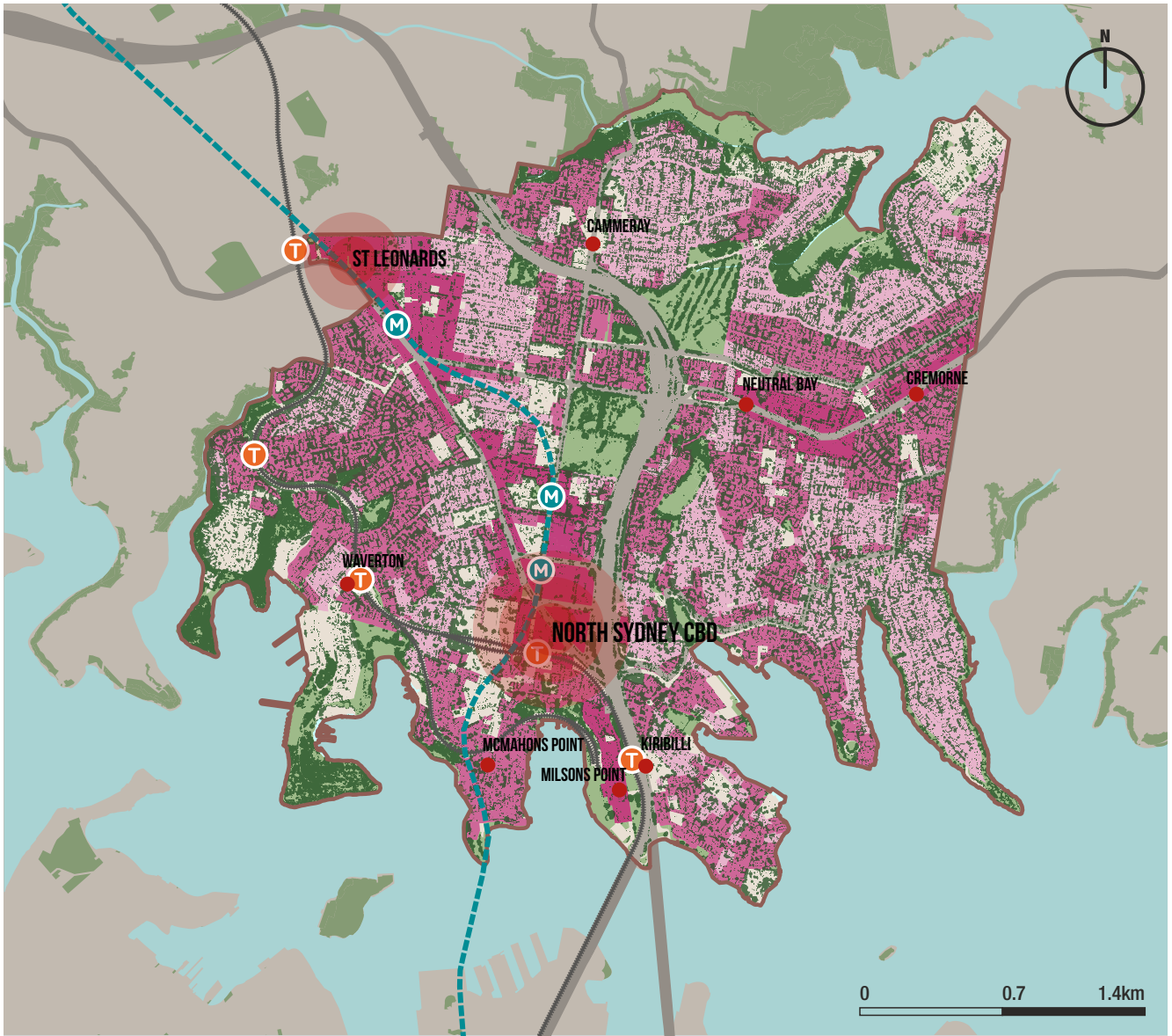
Other potential threats include State government legislation such as the SEPP (Infrastructure) 2007 and SEPP (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) 2017, which allow infrastructure construction, maintenance and expansion with limited input from councils or the community in relation to tree protection.

To achieve the 34.5% urban forest canopy goal and address emerging tree canopy cover issues, Council's *Urban Forest Strategy (2019)* identifies prioritised actions. Key actions include:

- a comprehensive review of Council's existing Tree and Vegetation Management policies;
- review of planning controls to protect vegetation;
- develop and implement an Urban Forest incentives program;
- implement education programs to increase community awareness of urban forest values;
- manage all trees on public land in accordance with Council's Open Space Plans of Management or other Strategic Plans; and
- review in-house procedures relating to Council projects that may impact on Public urban forest.

Council continues to investigate opportunities to expand existing green-links and create green corridors through community-based 'greening' programs such as 'Streets Alive,' 'Native Haven.' It has also supported the establishment of community gardens in Forsyth Park, Milson Park and ANZAC Park.

# MAP 15 – URBAN TREE CANOPY COVER



## LEGEND

- LGA Boundary
- Train Station
- Metro Station
- Train Line

- Metro line
- Main Roads
- Open Spaces
- Waterways

- Metropolitan Centre
- Health and Education Precinct
- Strategic Centre
- Local/Neighbourhood Centre

Tree Canopy Cover 2017

### Vegetation Cover (by land use zone)

- CBDs (B3, B4 zones) – 14.2% canopy cover
- Urban zones (R3, R4 zones) – 33% canopy cover
- Suburban zones (R2) – 26.9% canopy cover



Anderson Park, Neutral Bay



Primrose Park, Cremorne



Tunks Park, Cammeray



Milson Park, Kirribilli

**GREATER SYDNEY  
REGIONAL PLAN**

**OBJECTIVE 28**

Scenic and cultural landscapes are protected.

**OBJECTIVE 30**

Urban tree canopy cover is increased.

**OBJECTIVE 31**

Public open space is accessible, protected and enhanced.

**OBJECTIVE 32**

The Green Grid links parks, open spaces, bushland and walking and cycling paths.

**NORTH DISTRICT  
PLAN**

**PLANNING PRIORITY N17**

Protecting and enhancing scenic and cultural landscapes

**PLANNING PRIORITY N19**

Increasing urban tree canopy cover and delivering Green Grid connections.

**PLANNING PRIORITY N20**

Delivering high quality open space.

**NORTH SYDNEY  
LSPS**

**LOCAL PLANNING PRIORITY S2**

A high quality, well-connected and integrated urban greenspace system.

**ACTIONS**

- S2.1** – Continue to investigate opportunities for the provision of new open space in line with the principles for expansion outlined in Council's *Open Space Provision Strategy (2009)*, giving priority to sites with the highest potential to meet the open space and recreation needs of both the anticipated and existing population. **(ongoing)**
- S2.2** – Continue to liaise with relevant Federal and State government agencies and neighbouring Councils for opportunities to create links between major foreshore parks and reserves and improve foreshore access in line with Council's *Foreshore Access Strategy (2007)*, Open Space Plans of Management and Open Space Masterplans **(ongoing)**
- S2.3** – Continue to prepare precinct-based planning studies that identify opportunities for provision of new and embellished public open space, particularly in high priority/high growth areas **(ongoing)**.
- S2.4** – Implement the *North Sydney Urban Forest Strategy (2019)* to ensure no net loss of tree canopy cover and that canopy cover meets identified targets in the defined land use and land tenure zones. **(ongoing)**
- S2.5** – Continue to advocate for the protection/increase of tree canopy cover (urban forest) across all local and state government projects. **(ongoing)**
- S2.6** – Collaborate with the NSW Government and others to review State Government Policies to enhance the protection of tree canopy cover (urban forest). **(short-medium term)**



# LOCAL PLANNING PRIORITY S3

## REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, ENERGY, WATER AND WASTE

### GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, ENERGY, WATER & WASTE

#### RATIONALE

##### ENERGY – COMMUNITY EMISSION REDUCTION TARGETS

Energy use in buildings makes the largest contribution to North Sydney's greenhouse gas emissions. Commercial office buildings and apartment buildings contribute to 59% of emissions that result from energy used in buildings (refer to Figure 13).

North Sydney Council is committed to a community greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 15% by 2020 from 1996 baseline levels. In 2016-17, the North Sydney community achieved the 2020 greenhouse gas reduction target. The reduction is largely attributed to improved energy efficiency measures across the LGA such as upgraded buildings, businesses and residents switching to LED lighting, improved new building design, more efficient appliances, as well as a reduction in the greenhouse gas intensity of grid-supplied electricity. Council is currently reviewing its community emissions targets to 2030.

Through a range of sustainability program initiatives Council has supported local residents, schools and businesses to reduce their energy consumption. Initiatives include 'Harvest Collective,' 'Futureproof Apartments' program, 'Green Schools Grants,' 'CitySwitch Green Office Program,' 'Environmental Upgrade Agreement,' and 'Better Business Partnership' program, which supports over 150 small-to-medium size businesses adopt more sustainable practices and reduce energy, water and waste consumption.

In 2018, Council commissioned a feasibility study to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in North Sydney. The study revealed that further reductions in greenhouse gas emissions would be met from higher levels of renewable energy purchasing, widespread uptake of rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and an accelerated LED lighting program.

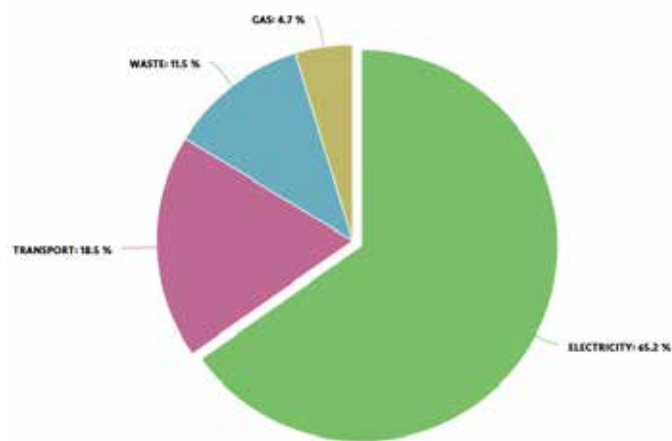
While the interest in renewable energy solution is high, the high proportion of strata homes and renting households in North Sydney are significant barriers to the uptake of renewable energy. Regulatory barriers at policy and energy market levels also make opportunities such as peer-to-peer trading and solar in strata buildings challenging to implement and requiring further resolution.

North Sydney Council uses its planning framework to reduce greenhouse emissions from buildings. However, the energy requirements for residential and commercial buildings under State BASIX legislation and the National Construction Code are considered too low. While NSDCP 2013 requires developments that are not subject to BASIX to incorporate measures to reduce their resource use, the levers available to local governments to impose or incentivise higher energy standards in new developments and support the transition to high performing energy buildings is limited. Council will continue to advocate for and support a State level review and strengthening of BASIX and NABERS requirements to keep pace with technology.

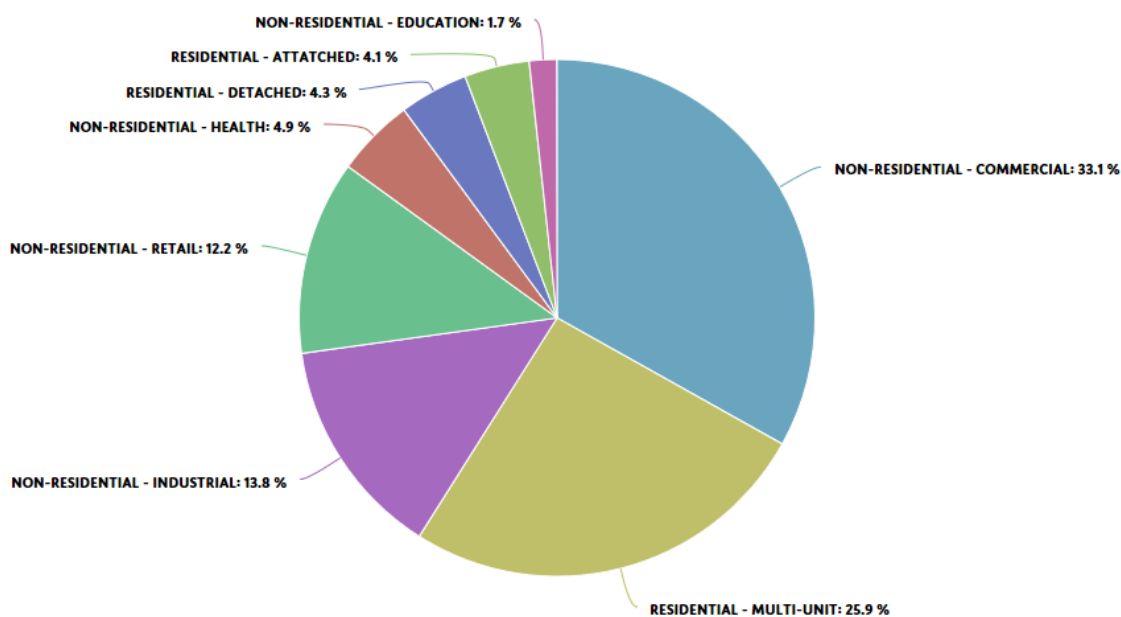
NSLEP 2013 also seeks to minimise resource consumption by concentrating increased density around transport nodes and transport corridors, with reduced on-site parking requirements to ensure the effective take-up of walking, cycling and public transport use (refer to Local Planning Priority P6). The implementation of integrated transport and planning outcomes is being actively pursued through Council's Planning Studies.

As identified in the *North Sydney Council Greenhouse Action and Water Management Plan 2015-2020*, to drive further reductions in community greenhouse gas emissions, Council will continue to:

- investigate flexible financing and funding options (including government grants/ rebates) that will incentivise to the Community to support the uptake of renewable energy generation;
- provide the Environmental Upgrade Agreement (EUA) program targeting the commercial buildings sector;
- identify business educational programs and incentives to reduce energy consumption;
- facilitate forums and educational programs and incentives to increase awareness and uptake of sustainability initiatives to reduce energy consumption;
- investigate opportunities to create a 'Green Precinct' within the municipality; and
- implement the North Sydney Transport Strategy; and
- advocate for and support a State level review of and strengthening of BASIX and NABERS requirements.



**Figure 12:** North Sydney LGA – Emissions by source for 2016/17.  
Source: Resilient Sydney Platform – [www.resilientsydney.com.au](http://www.resilientsydney.com.au)



**Figure 13:** North Sydney LGA – Energy use by sector for 2016/17.  
Source: Resilient Sydney Platform – [www.resilientsydney.com.au](http://www.resilientsydney.com.au)



## ENERGY – COUNCIL EMISSION REDUCTION TARGETS

North Sydney Council is committed to a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to 2020 from 1996 baseline level across all its assets and operations. This reduction will come from the implementation of demand management programs and abatement activities such as increased transport fuel efficiencies, gas and electricity savings, and renewable energy (29%); and the ongoing purchasing of carbon offsets (41%).

Council has made great progress towards its goals for operational improvements. This has been aided by a raft of State and Federal legislation, programs and other external drivers including the Renewable Energy Target (RET), carbon pricing and State based abatement schemes and reductions in the price of 'cleaner' technologies. However, some of these are changing, such as the repeal of the carbon pricing mechanism and review of the RET by the Federal Government.

With the assistance of funding from State and Federal grant programs, as well as funds generated from Council's environmental levy, Council has implemented a number of sustainability projects. These include a cogeneration system at North Sydney Olympic Pool, solar PV and energy efficient upgrades across most Council buildings and facilities, and the purchasing of 50% renewable energy from 'GreenPower' for street lighting and main energy using facilities.

Council is currently reviewing its operational greenhouse gas emissions targets with the aim to become carbon neutral by 2030.

## WATER – COMMUNITY REDUCTION TARGETS

The *North Sydney Council Greenhouse Action and Water Management Plan 2015-2020*, identifies the North Sydney community has the potential to reduce its water consumption by 10% from 2001/02 levels by 2020.

The residential sector (apartments, detached and semi-detached houses) contributes to 73.2% of North Sydney's water consumption (refer to Figure 14).

Current water reduction projections indicate that the North Sydney community is on track to achieve its 2020 water reduction targets however, population increases mean that by 2030 consumption will again be above the target level at a 7% reduction from 2001/02 baseline. Council is currently reviewing its water reduction targets to 2030.

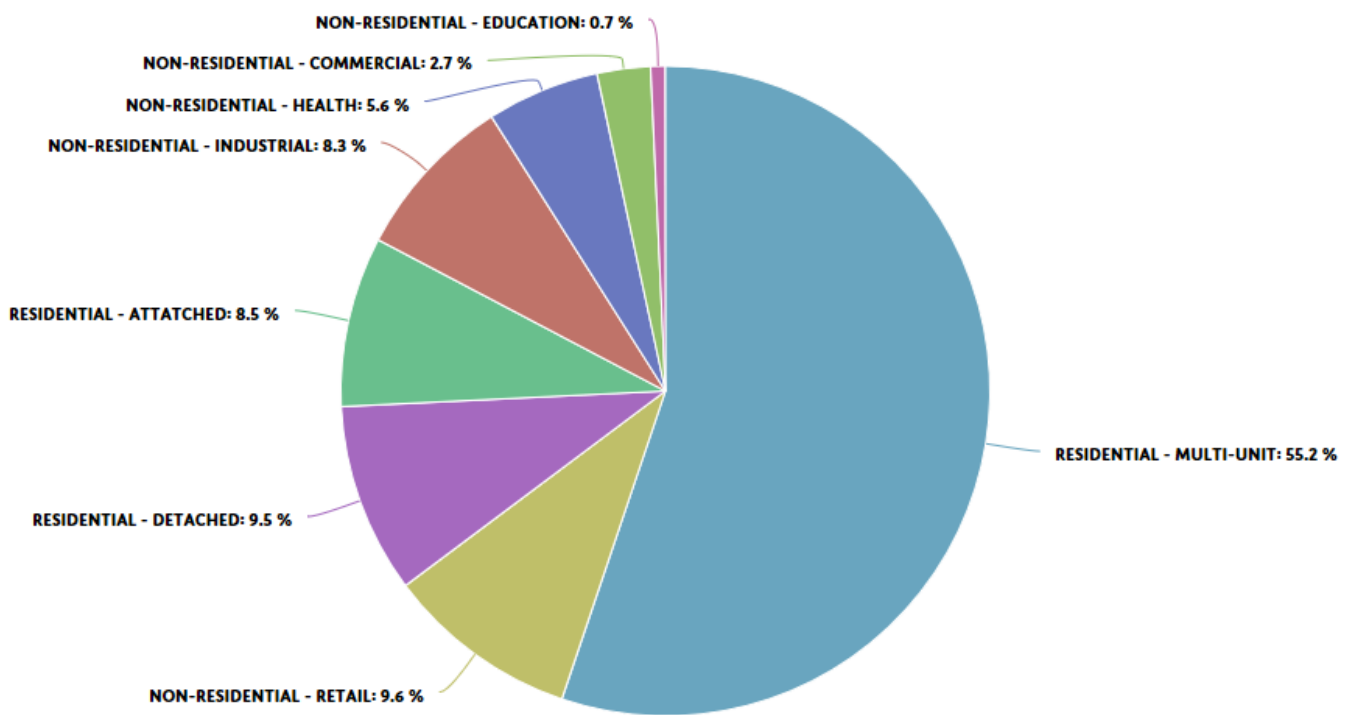
The progress made to date in reducing community water consumption has been mostly through Council's own efforts and commitment, but aided with a raft of State and Federal legislation, programs and other external drivers including State imposed water restrictions and rising water prices.

Identified community water savings opportunities under Council's *Greenhouse Action and Water Management Plan 2015-2020*, include:

- water audit and retrofit projects at older apartment buildings; and
- behavioural change projects for households to reduce water use.

Council will continue to undertake various educational programs and other sustainability initiatives to increase awareness of water resource consumption.

As outlined previously, Council uses its planning framework to reduce water consumption from buildings. However, the targets imposed under State BASIX legislation for water consumption are low. While NSDCP 2013 requires developments that are not subject to BASIX to incorporate measures to reduce water use, the levers available to local governments to impose or incentivise higher water savings standards in new developments is limited. Council will continue to advocate for and support a State level review and strengthening of BASIX requirements to keep pace with technology.



**Figure 14:** North Sydney LGA -Water use by sector for 2016/17.  
Source: Resilient Sydney Platform – [www.resilientsydney.com.au](http://www.resilientsydney.com.au)



## WATER – COUNCIL REDUCTION TARGETS

North Sydney Council is committed to achieving 50% savings in water use from the 2001/02 baseline levels across all its assets and operations. Parks and reserves are the largest water consumer for Council.

Council has undertaken a number of sustainability initiatives and projects to achieve water reductions. These include:

- installation of underground rainwater tanks across most of its facilities; and
- significant investment in the Cammeray Stormwater Re-use Project which harvests, filters and treats up to 90,000kL of stormwater every year from an urban catchment for irrigation of high profile sporting and recreational facilities, including North Sydney Oval, Cammeray Golf Course, St Leonards Park, Tunks Park, Primrose Park and Forsyth Park.

The NSW Government's proposed Western Harbour Tunnel/Beaches Link project, identifies the Cammeray dam to be removed with no plans for its relocation. This would significantly impact Council's ability to achieve its water reduction goals, especially in a drought.

To support further water reductions, Council will:

- monitor and manage water use across its assets and operations;
- identify and investigate further opportunities to use alternative water sources;
- investigate further potential water capture/re-use opportunities;
- conduct regular irrigation audits; and
- continue to review/upgrade amenities in parks and reserves; and
- advocate for the protection of the Cammeray dam to ensure Council continues to achieve its water reduction goals.



Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability, Waverton



## WASTE MANAGEMENT

In North Sydney, waste is generated by residents, businesses and events, as well as during the course of demolition and construction of buildings and infrastructure. Waste contributes to approximately 11.5% of North Sydney's greenhouse gas emissions (refer to Figure 12).

North Sydney Council has traditionally adopted a sustainable approach to the way domestic waste is managed and diverted from landfill, and has strived to achieve the NSW Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA) landfill diversion targets which is currently, 70% diversion by 2021/2022.

Until recently, approximately 60% of the North Sydney LGA's residential putrescible waste stream was re-directed away from landfill through an alternative waste treatment facility sited at Eastern Creek. This waste processing option enabled Council to meet the EPA's landfill diversion rates.

However, a recent decision from the EPA to severely limit the destination outputs from the alternative waste treatment facility at Eastern Creek, means that much of the waste from red-lidded bins will be confined to landfill. This will significantly affect Council's ability to meet the EPA's landfill diversion targets.

In 2018/19, a total 6,013 tonnes of comingled recycling waste was collected; 3,813 tonnes of garden organics was collected and processed into compost; and 17 tonnes of metal were recycled. Approximately 35% of total general waste and clean up was recycled. While a large proportion of waste is being redirected for recycling purposes, the amount of average waste generated per person is increasing.

Similar to other metropolitan councils, North Sydney Council relies upon commercial waste and recycling infrastructure providers to dispose of, process and recycle community waste and recycling. Some of the challenges faced by North Sydney Council include:

- limited commercial waste processing facilities/ infrastructure to divert waste from landfill; and
- limited commercial competition in waste processing to incentivise innovative options for better environmental outcomes and increasing gate fees;

The growing number of medium and high density developments also creates the need for more aggregation points and transfer stations for the smaller trucks required to service these types of developments.

Planning can support targets by influencing the design and construction of buildings and requiring space be allocated for storage and separation of waste and recycling to maximise resource recovery. Section 19 to Part B of NSDCP 2013 provides contains provisions to encourage the minimisation of waste being sent to landfill and ensuring sufficient on-site storage and collection facilities are provided.

While Council can encourage waste minimisation, and ensure its waste and recycling services continue to support the community in their desire to live more sustainably, the key challenge is ensuring the provision of adequate and sizable waste infrastructure (such as landfills, better waste processing options, more domestic recycling facilities, etc).

There are some industrial areas across the Northern Sydney Region that could potentially be suitable for waste facilities in the future such as an Energy from Waste facility or transfer stations. Council will continue to seek opportunities to work with the NSW Government to develop policy that will provide increased certainty to the industry that waste processing infrastructure is being considered on a regional and state wide basis, and delivered in appropriate locations.



Council supports the continued collaboration between Federal and State Government and the commercial waste industry to implement product stewardship schemes to manage problem wastes such as mattresses, paint, oils and tyres.

North Sydney Council has formed an alliance with other regional councils (through NSROC) to incentivise the private industry in investing in innovative and sustainable waste/recycling processing options. This work is critical and ongoing.

Notwithstanding the challenges, Council will continue to work towards reducing the amount of waste going to landfill by:

- providing weekly recycling and waste pick-ups and fortnightly green waste pick-ups;
- continuing to co-ordinate the Artarmon community recycling facility on behalf of 5 other councils, which offers a free drop off facility to recycle problem waste items such as paints, batteries and e-waste;
- providing weekly free waste minimisation/re-use seminar sessions to the residential community (worm farming, composting, pickling, recycling, clothes swaps etc);
- providing waste minimisation programs to small and medium size businesses and commercial tenants via the 'Better Business Partnership' and 'Cityswitch' programs; and
- implementing internal Council waste minimisation policies such as banning single use plastics, sustainable public events and purchasing.

Council will also seek to:

- investigate alternative options for North Sydney residential putrescible waste (red-lidded waste bin outputs) with Alternative Waste Technology (AWT) providers;
- investigate opportunities to encourage the source separation of waste through NSW Government grant funded programs; and
- Work with the NSW Government on the development of a 20-Year Waste Strategy to develop a long-term vision and roadmap for waste and resource recovery in NSW, including the development of new and enhanced policies and programs, and a framework for the delivery of an integrated state infrastructure network.



### CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION

In July 2019, North Sydney Council became the 30th Australian Council to declare a 'climate emergency' in response to the serious risk that climate change poses to the community. North Sydney Council, has agreed to join the City of Sydney, which has called upon the State and Federal Governments to respond to the climate emergency through a range of measures including reintroducing a price on carbon.

Action from all levels of government is essential to reduce climate change risk. Although North Sydney Council has been actively pursuing reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, there are opportunities to accelerate this progress. However, an all of government approach is required to achieve meaningful district and regional outcomes.

**GREATER SYDNEY  
REGIONAL PLAN**

**OBJECTIVE 33**

A low-carbon city contributes to net-zero emissions by 2050 and mitigates climate change.

**OBJECTIVE 34**

Energy and water flows are captured, used and re-used.

**OBJECTIVE 35**

More waste is re-used and recycled to support the development of a circular economy.

**NORTH DISTRICT  
PLAN**

**PLANNING PRIORITY 21**

Reducing carbon emissions and managing energy, water and waste efficiently.

**NORTH SYDNEY  
LSPS**

**LOCAL PLANNING PRIORITY S3**

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, energy, water and waste.

**ACTIONS**

- S3.1** – Continue to review/implement the *North Sydney Council Greenhouse Action and Water Management Plan*, to drive further improvements in commercial and residential building performance and establish a pathway to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions across both the community and Council's assets and operations by 2050 in line with the North District Plan. **(ongoing)**
- S3.2** – Advocate that the NSW and Federal governments respond to the climate emergency through a range of measures, including higher BASIX targets and reintroducing a price on carbon, to incentivise higher resource use standards and support the transition to high performing energy buildings. **(ongoing)**
- S3.3** – Advocate for the protection of the Cammeray dam to ensure Council continues to achieve its water reduction goals. **(Short-medium term)**
- S3.4** – Ensure Council's waste and recycling services continue to support the community in their desire to live more sustainably. **(ongoing)**
- S3.5** – Continue to collaborate with Northern Regional Councils (NSROC) to incentivise the private commercial industry in investing in innovative and sustainable waste/recycling processing options. **(ongoing)**
- S3.6** – Work with the NSW Government on the development of a long-term vision and strategy for waste and resource recovery in NSW, including the development of new or enhanced policies and programs, and a framework for the delivery of an integrated state infrastructure network to ensure waste processing is being considered and delivered in appropriate locations **(short-medium term)**.
- S3.7** – Advocate for the Commonwealth and NSW Government to continue to work with the commercial waste industry to implement product stewardship schemes to manage problem wastes such as mattresses, paint, oils and tyres. **(ongoing)**



# LOCAL PLANNING PRIORITY S4

## INCREASE NORTH SYDNEY'S RESILIENCE AGAINST NATURAL AND URBAN HAZARDS

### URBAN & NATURAL HAZARDS

#### RATIONALE

Heatwaves, storms, droughts, floods and bushfires are natural hazards that can impact the wellbeing of the community, the natural environment and the operation of infrastructure. Climate change can exacerbate these natural hazards. The wellbeing of the community can also be affected by urban hazards such as air pollution and soil contamination. These natural and urban hazards need to be managed to improve North Sydney's resilience and protect liveability and productivity.

#### NATURAL HAZARDS

##### EXTREME HEAT & URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT

Sydney is expected to experience an increase in all temperature variables (i.e. average, maximum and minimum for the near future (to 2030) and an even greater increase in the far future (to 2070).<sup>52</sup> With increased temperatures, the instances of heatwaves will increase, with the days becoming frequently hotter and for longer periods. Impacts will be exacerbated in parts of the city that currently experience the urban heat island effect.

The urban heat island effect is 'localised warming due to the increase in large amounts of paved and dark coloured surfaces like roads, roofs and car parks as a result of urban development. The sun's heat is absorbed, not reflected, and causes the surface and ambient temperatures to rise' (Greening Australia). Changes in land-use has the potential to double the temperature increases caused by climate change in urban environments.<sup>53</sup>

Map 14 illustrates the effects of urbanisation on land surface temperatures across the North Sydney LGA for the Summer of 2015-16, with highly urbanised areas generally 3-9 degrees warmer than vegetated areas along the harbour foreshore.

Strategies to reduce urban heat island effect include:

- increase vegetation and tree canopy cover;
- reduce energy use;
- increase take-up of active and public transport;
- retain water in the landscape by increasing pervious surfaces;
- install vegetated stormwater management systems; and
- use light-coloured, reflective or 'cool' roof materials.

NSDCP 2013 contains provisions to ensure adequate provision of landscaped areas on sites. Further details on Council's planning for increased canopy cover, reduced energy use and increased active/public transport use are contained under Local Planning Priorities S2, S3 and P6.

Council will consider vulnerability to heat within future Council programs and planning controls, including:

- consideration of heat in the design and development of Council assets, open space and facilities;
- investigate verge plantings (green infrastructure) in priority heat areas to provide water retention opportunities, shade and cooling.
- investigate the use of development controls in NSDCP 2013 to address urban heating (including reflectivity of building roofs, increase use and protection of green infrastructure).

<sup>52</sup> Office of Environment & Heritage, 2019, New South Wales Climate Change Snapshot.

<sup>53</sup> Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), 2015-2016, Adapt NSW – Urban Heat <<https://climatechange.environment.nsw.gov.au/Impacts-of-climate-change/Heat/Urban-heat>> accessed November 2019.

## FLOODING

Changes in rainfall patterns have the potential for widespread impacts. Seasonal shifts in rainfall can impact native species reproductive cycles and agricultural productivity, while rainfall changes are also associated with changes in the extremes, such as floods and droughts.<sup>54</sup>

The North Sydney LGA is highly urbanised with limited natural creeks or open surface water bodies to accommodate stormwater. Generally, stormwater from frequent minor rainfall events is managed by conventional pits and pipe systems. However, in less frequent major rainfall events, excess stormwater travels along low-lying areas and ultimately drains into Sydney Harbour.

In 2014, North Sydney Council commenced a comprehensive investigation into flooding with the view to effectively managing flood risks and increasing flood awareness in the community.

Council has completed the *North Sydney LGA Wide Flood Study (2017)*, which comprises the first stage of identifying flood prone land in accordance with the *NSW State Government's Floodplain Development Manual 2006*. The 2017 Flood Study investigates the effects of overland flow of stormwater towards the harbour as well as areas normally associated with flooding where the water level in a creek, river or harbour rises.

The next step in the process is to undertake a Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan to determine the floodplain management measures necessary to mitigate flood risk to property owners and occupiers. This study is currently underway and due for completion in mid 2020. It will likely include the setting of Flood Planning Levels and flood-related development controls which will be incorporated into NSLEP 2013 and NSDCP 2013.

## COASTAL INUNDATION

As outlined under Local Planning Priority S1, some lands within the North Sydney LGA are identified as being within the 'coastal zone'. These are environmentally sensitive coastal areas identified under the *Coastal Management Act 2016*. An objective of the *Coastal Management Act 2016* is to mitigate current and future risks from coastal hazards (which include coastal inundation), taking into account the effects of climate change.

North Sydney's low-lying areas are potentially at risk of coastal inundation, with the risk increasing under climate change scenarios.

Currently, NSDCP 2013 contains provisions that require the consideration of any potential increases in sea level rise. This is to ensure that any new development does not place its occupants at unnecessary risk.

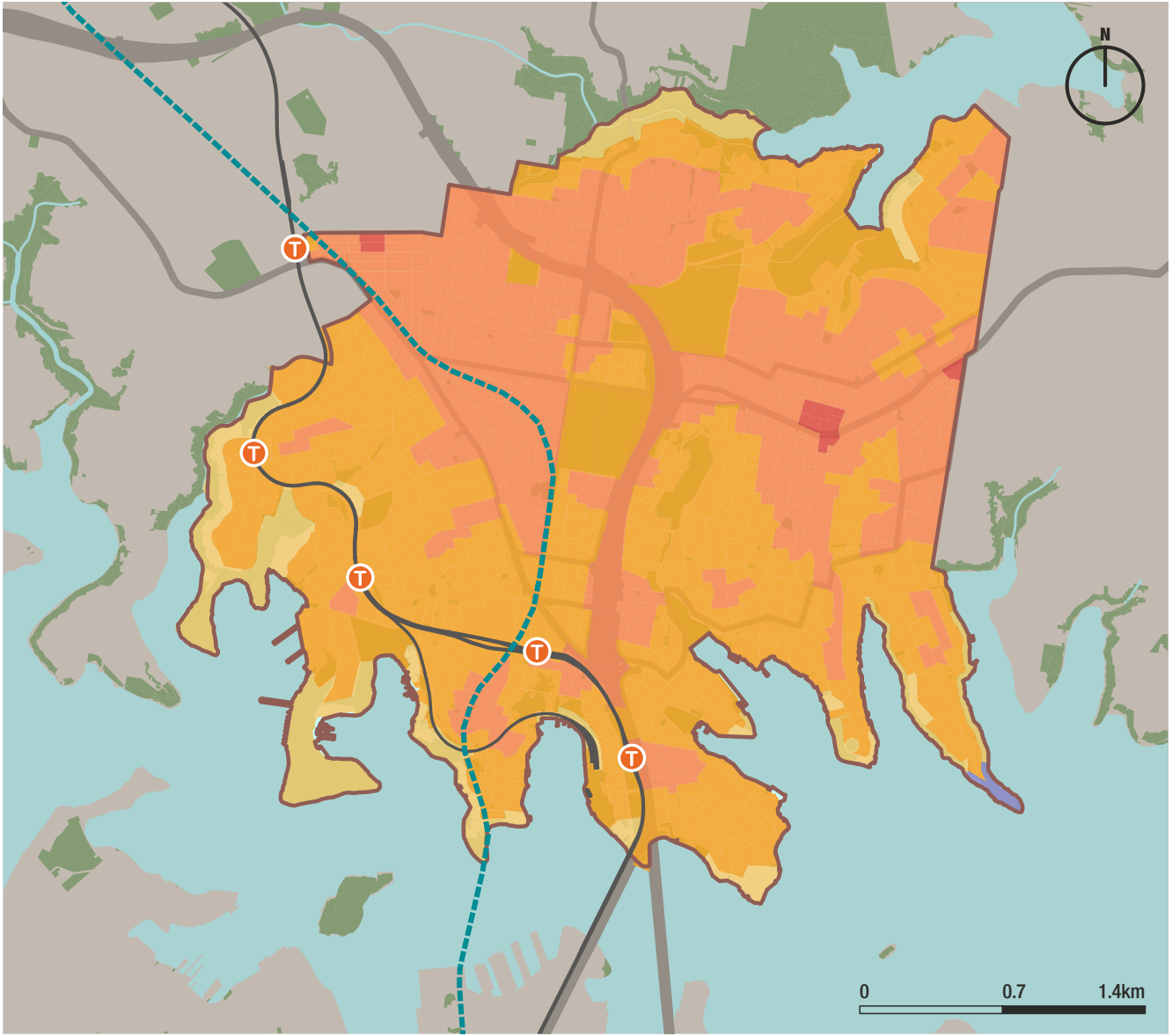
Council is currently working with the Sydney Coastal Councils Group to discuss appropriate coastal management practices on a catchment wide scale. This is with the view to addressing coastal hazards, including sea level rise and coastal inundation, through a Coastal Management Program (CMP) in line with the NSW Coastal Management Framework. This would be undertaken in collaboration with the NSW Government.

It is anticipated that the recommendations and actions of the any CMP will be implemented through amendments to Council's planning controls.

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<sup>54</sup> Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), 2019, Adapt NSW – Urban Heat <<https://climatechange.environment.nsw.gov.au/Impacts-of-climate-change/Heat/Urban-heat>>

# MAP 16 – URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT



## LEGEND

- |               |            |             |                       |                       |
|---------------|------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| LGA Boundary  | Train Line | Open Spaces | <b>Urban Heat Map</b> |                       |
| Train Station | Metro line | Waterways   | Cooler than baseline  | 6 - 9 degrees warmer  |
| Metro Station | Main Roads |             | 0 - 3 degrees warmer  | Warmer than 9 degrees |
|               |            |             | 3 - 6 degrees warmer  |                       |

**SOURCE:**  
<https://datasets.seed.nsw.gov.au/dataset/nsw-urban-heat-island-to-modified-mesh-block-2016>

## ACID SULFATE SOILS

Acid sulfate soils are found in every coastal estuary in NSW. They are formed through natural processes and are generally overlain by other soils. If left undisturbed, acid sulfate soils do not present any risk. However, disturbance of these soils by excavation or drainage can have significant environmental impacts.

Historically, Council had identified the location of acid sulfate soils under the former NSLEP 2001. During the preparation of NSLEP 2013, the DPIE recommended that Council remove provisions relating to acid sulfate soils, due to the majority of land which had been identified as containing acid sulfate soils predominantly comprised disturbed lands (primarily through the reclamation of foreshore land) and was not supported by a comprehensive study to determine the likely extent of acid sulfate soils in the indicated locations.

Notwithstanding their removal from the LEP, there is still the opportunity to address such issues through section 4.15 of the EP&A Act when determining a development application. This should not present a risk issue, given the majority of land that had been originally identified to be affected by acid sulfate soils under NSLEP 2001 being in Council ownership or care.

## BUSHFIRE

Increases in average and severe fire weather are projected to occur in NSW, particularly in summer and spring.<sup>55</sup> Small portions of the North Sydney LGA are identified as containing bushfire prone land. These are concentrated at Balls Head Reserve, Berry Island Reserve, Gore Cove Reserve, Smoothey Park and the southern and western parts of Tunks Park.

While the risk of wildfire damaging property or threatening life is relatively low in North Sydney, hazard reduction activities including modifying vegetation structure, creating fire management access zones, manual fuel reduction, pile burning and broad area burning are carried out as and when necessary.

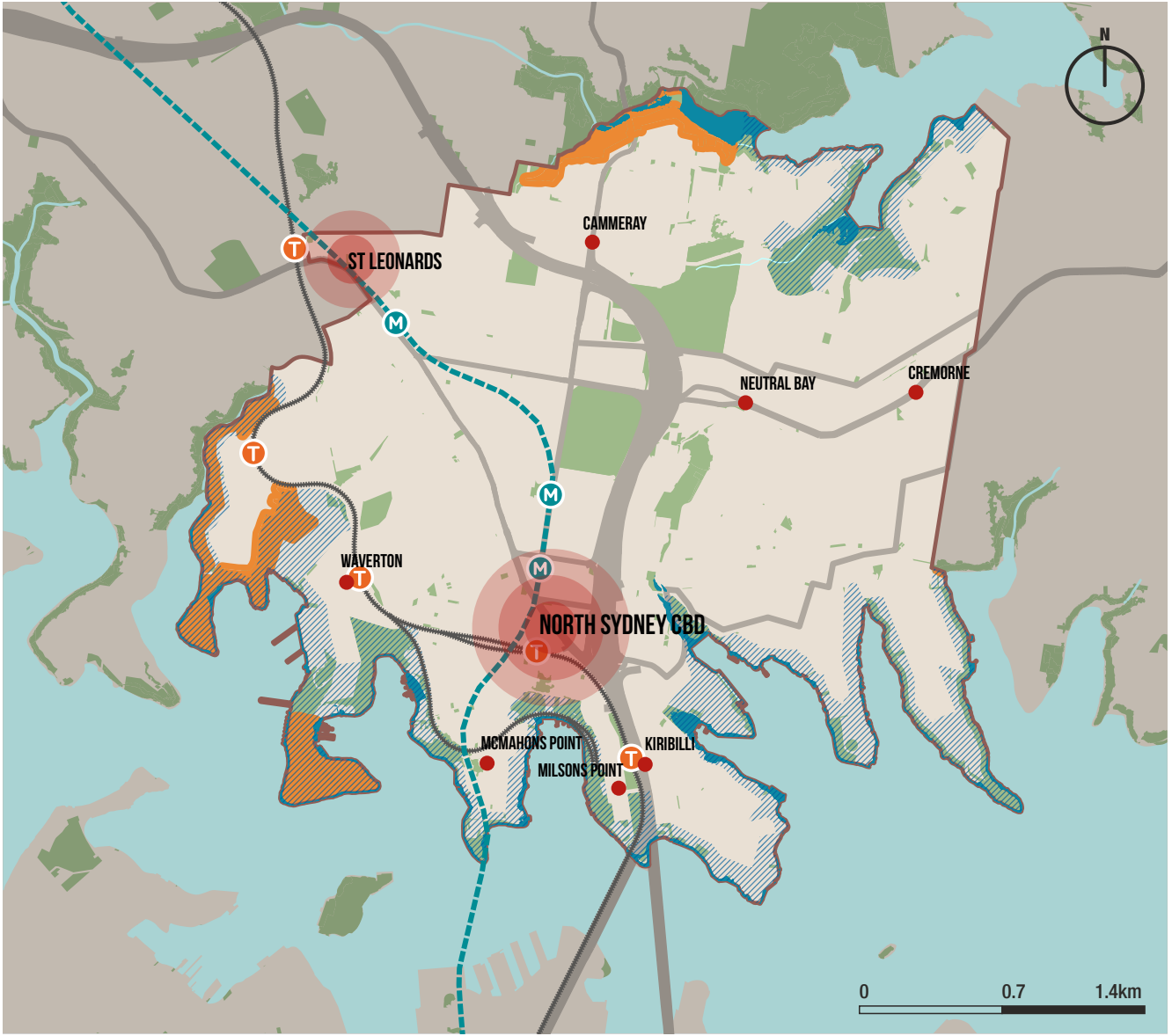
Council, in cooperation with the NSW Fire & Rescue and the Manly-Mosman-North Sydney Bushfire Management Committee, implements controlled hazard reduction burns in relevant bushland reserves in North Sydney. The burns are approved under the region's annual Bushfire Hazard Reduction Program. Future burns in Council's bushland areas will be in accordance with Council's *Bushland Rehabilitation Plans*.

NSLEP 2013 also seeks to minimise the risk to people and property from bushfire by minimising any increases in density on land identified as bushfire prone land, which is consistent with the NSW Rural Fire Services' Planning for *Bushfire Protection Guidelines* and requirements of the EP&A Act 1979. NSDCP 2013 further reinforces the need to consider potential bushfire impacts. It requires development on bushfire prone land to consider the relevant requirements of the Rural Fire Services' *Planning for Bushfire Protection Guidelines*.

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55 Office of Environment & Heritage, 2019, New South Wales Climate Change Snapshot.

# MAP 17 – URBAN AND NATURAL HAZARDS



## LEGEND

- |               |             |                               |   |
|---------------|-------------|-------------------------------|---|
| LGA Boundary  | Metro line  | Metropolitan Centre           | Bushfire Prone                                |
| Train Station | Main Roads  | Health and Education Precinct | Coastal Inundation                            |
| Metro Station | Open Spaces | Strategic Centre              | Coastal Zone (Environmentally Sensitive Area) |
| Train Line    | Waterways   | Local/Neighbourhood Centre    |   |

## URBAN HAZARDS

### SOIL CONTAMINATION

Council has records of land within the North Sydney LGA which have had previous potentially contaminating activities. These records are based on a comprehensive survey undertaken by Council in 1999, which has subsequently been monitored and updated.

Council also maintains records of significantly contaminated land as recorded by the NSW EPA under its obligations under the *Contaminated Lands Management Act 1997* and any subsequent remediation works undertaken to determine the level of risk posed to future use and development.

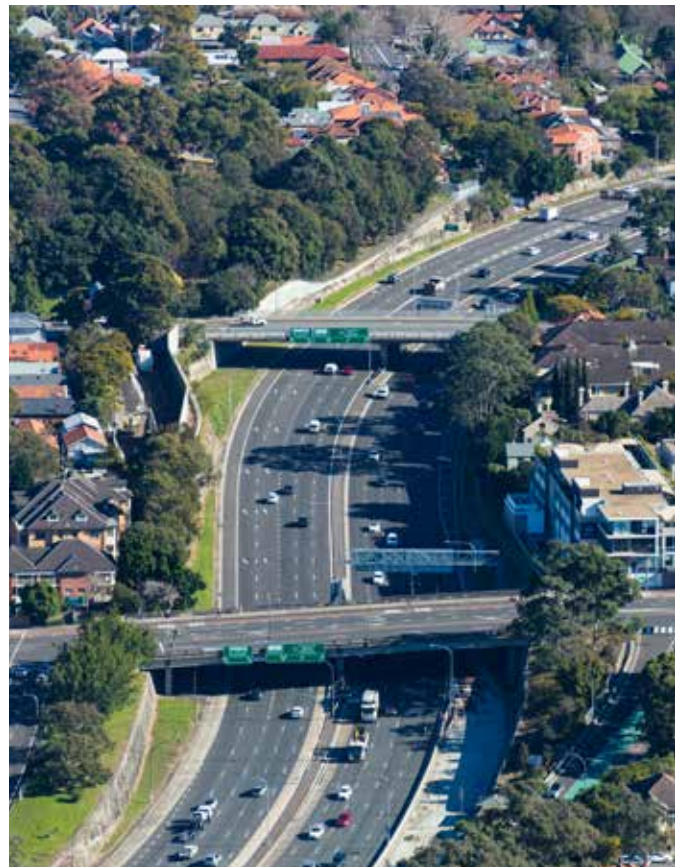
Historically, North Sydney's foreshore areas were generally susceptible to high levels of contamination due to the level of industrial activity associated with ship building and gas works, as well as areas of land historically zoned for industrial activities.

Currently *SEPP No. 55 (Remediation of Land)* provides the basis for consideration of contamination associated with current or former land uses. Additional provisions are also contained within NSDCP 2013 (section 14 to Part B), which require the consideration of contamination at the development application stage. In addition, the NSDCP 2013 contains provisions relating to the handling and management of hazardous materials such as asbestos.

### AIR POLLUTION

The health of the community is impacted by air pollution caused by vehicles and smoke from bushfires and domestic solid fuel combustion appliances, such as wood heaters and open fireplaces.

All burning (including burning of vegetation and domestic waste) is prohibited in North Sydney LGA, except with approval. Council approval is also required for the installation or replacement of a wood heater or open fireplace in North Sydney. This is to ensure all heaters comply with the relevant Australian and New Zealand standards (AS/NZS).



Warringah Freeway, Cammeray



**GREATER SYDNEY  
REGIONAL PLAN**

**OBJECTIVE 36**

People and places adapt to climate change and future shocks and stresses.

**OBJECTIVE 37**

Exposure to natural and urban hazards is reduced.

**OBJECTIVE 38**

Heatwaves and extreme heat are managed.

**NORTH DISTRICT  
PLAN**

**PLANNING PRIORITY N22**

Adapting to the impacts of urban and natural hazards and climate change.

**NORTH SYDNEY  
LSPS**

**LOCAL PLANNING PRIORITY S4**

Increase North Sydney's resilience against natural and urban hazards.

**ACTIONS**

- S4.1** – Consider vulnerability to heat within future Council programs and planning controls to minimise urban heating. **(ongoing)**
- S4.2** – Prepare a Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan to determine floodplain management measures necessary to mitigate flood risks to property owners and occupiers and incorporate measures into NSLEP 2013 and NSDCP 2013 where relevant. **(short – medium term)**
- S4.3** – Continue to work with the NSW Fire & Rescue and the Manly-Mosman-North Sydney Bushfire Management Committee to implement controlled hazard reduction activities to minimise the risk of bushfire. **(ongoing)**
- S4.4** – Continue to monitor, maintain and update contamination records on a site-by-site basis. **(ongoing)**
- S4.5** – Continue to pursue appropriate enforcement actions for unauthorised burning and any excessive smoke generated by wood heaters or open fireplaces. **(ongoing)**



# IMPLEMENTATION & MONITORING





# LSPS IMPLEMENTATION & MONITORING FRAMEWORK

The North Sydney LSPS sets out the long term land use vision for the North Sydney LGA over a 20 year period and the planning priorities and actions required to achieve that vision.

## LSPS IMPLEMENTATION

The actions contained within the North Sydney LSPS have been assigned an indicative delivery timeframe, to allow for ongoing monitoring of the North Sydney LSPS implementation and to assist with future planning:

- short term – 2 years
- Medium term – 3 to 5 years
- Long term – 10+ years
- Ongoing

In order to realise the land use vision for North Sydney, a number of amendments to Council's plans and policies will be required. The North Sydney LSPS, and other associated strategies such as the *North Sydney Local Housing Strategy (2019)* will guide the update of NSLEP 2013 and NSDCP 2013 in order to 'give effect to' the GSC's regional and district plans.

## ALIGNMENT WITH CSP

The *North Sydney Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 2018-2028* identifies the main priorities and aspirations of the community having regard to economic, social, environmental and governance matters. These aspirations are then reflected in Council's suite of strategic plans (land use strategies and plans, economic development strategies, cultural plans), which are translated into specific actions in Council's four-year Delivery Program and annual Operational Plan. Land use priorities identified through this process are proposed to be expressed in the LSPS and implemented through NSLEP 2013, NSDCP 2013 and other mechanisms.






Council will work to ensure the ongoing alignment between the North Sydney LSPS and the CSP (as well as the associated Delivery Program and long-term Resourcing Strategy). The next review of the CSP is to

be conducted within nine months of the next term of Council (i.e. by 30 June 2021), with the election scheduled for September 2020. The EP&A Regulations require the LSPS be reviewed every 7 years. In light of this being the first LSPS, Council endeavours to review this document in line with the next review of the CSP, to evaluate the effectiveness of the LSPS' implementation and monitoring framework.

## LSPS MONITORING & REPORTING

North Sydney Council will report annually on the implementation of the planning priorities and actions identified in the LSPS. Given the areas of commonality this could be done as part of Council's corporate reporting under the Integrated Planning and Report (IP&R) Framework of the *Local Government Act 1993*, and consider the inclusion of key projects into Council's four-year Delivery Program and annual Operational Plan.

Monitoring of the actions within the LSPS will be via traffic light reporting on an annual basis. This will determine if the actions to deliver the long-term vision of the LSPS have been successful or if they need to be reviewed. North Sydney Council has also drafted a series of potential indicators to show progress towards achieving the vision outlined in the LSPS.

TRAFFIC LIGHT	DESCRIPTION
	90%+ of scheduled actions are on track.
	75-90% of scheduled actions are on track.
	Implementation less than 50-75% of scheduled requirement.
	Completed.
	Not yet scheduled to commence.



## PROGRESS INDICATORS

### INFRASTRUCTURE & COLLABORATION

- Percentage of residents and businesses satisfied with the condition, cleanliness and maintenance of local roads, drainage, pedestrian footpaths and cycle paths.

### LIVEABILITY

- Net increase in dwellings in North Sydney LGA;
- Net increase in dwelling types (including social, boarding and seniors housing);
- Percentage of users satisfied with Council's recreation facilities;
- Percentage of residents satisfied with the range of arts and cultural experiences in North Sydney;
- Ratio childcare places to resident population between 0-5 years;
- Ratio of aged care places per 1,000 older residents;
- Homeless count;
- Percentage of residents satisfied with look and amenity of North Sydney;
- Number of historical (Aboriginal and European) sites, items and records.

### PRODUCTIVITY

- Gross Regional Product growth in North Sydney;
- Net growth of commercial floor space in North Sydney CBD and LGA wide;
- Investment in North Sydney;
- Number of businesses by industry;
- Percentage of residents and businesses satisfied with look and amenity of the public domain;
- Number of events held in North Sydney;
- Economic contribution of major events held in North Sydney;
- Number of visitors (international and domestic);
- Number of new small business start-ups;
- Percentage of residents and workers walking, cycling and taking public transport to work;
- Number of registered cars in North Sydney;
- Number of registered car share scheme memberships in North Sydney;

### SUSTAINABILITY

- Condition of bushland;
- Percentage compliance with ANSECC guidelines for water quality at Council's water quality monitoring sites;
- Proportion of North Sydney with tree canopy cover;
- Percentage of dwellings within walking distance of open space;
- Percentage of residents satisfied with maintenance of parks and reserves;
- Number of participants in Council supported sustainability programs;
- Percentage reduction in greenhouse gas emissions generated by community and Council compared to 2016/17 levels;
- Percentage reduction in water use by community and Council compared to 2016/17 levels;
- Percentage of residential recyclables collected compared to 2016/17 levels;
- Percentage increase in residential waste diverted from landfill compared to 2016/17 levels.

# APPENDIX



## COUNCIL'S POLICIES, PLANS AND STUDIES

Crows Nest Placemaking and Principles Study (2016)  
Draft North Sydney Local Housing Strategy (2019)  
Draft North Sydney Visitor Economy Strategy (2019)  
Education Precinct Planning Study (2013)  
Education Precinct Public Domain Masterplan (2014)  
Middle Harbour catchment – Bushland Rehabilitation Plan  
Middle Harbour catchment – Fauna Rehabilitation Plan  
North Sydney Affordable Housing Strategy (2015)  
North Sydney Arts and Cultural Strategic Plan 2015-2017 (2015)  
North Sydney Street Tree Strategy (2016)  
North Sydney Bushland Plan of Management  
North Sydney CBD Land Use and Capacity Strategy (2017)  
North Sydney CBD Central Laneways Concept Plan (2018)  
North Sydney CBD Transport Strategy (2018)  
North Sydney CBD Public Domain Strategy 'Place Book' – Stage 1 (2019)  
North Sydney Community Uses on Council Land Study (2015)  
North Sydney Community Strategic Plan 2018-2028  
North Sydney Delivery Program 2018/19-2020/21  
North Sydney Development Control Plan 2013  
North Sydney Ecologically Sustainable Development Best Practice Project (2013)  
North Sydney Economic Development Strategy (2016)  
North Sydney Family and Children Services Strategy 2018-2024 (2018)  
North Sydney Foreshore Access Strategy (2007)  
North Sydney Foreshore Parks & Reserves Plan of Management  
North Sydney Greenhouse Action and Water Management Plan 2015-2020 (2014)  
North Sydney Integrated Cycling Strategy (2014)  
North Sydney Integrated Traffic and Parking Strategy (2015)  
North Sydney LGA Wide Flood Study (2017)  
North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013 North Sydney Neighbourhood Parks Plan of Management  
North Sydney Open Space Provision Strategy (2011)  
North Sydney Operational Plan 2018/19  
North Sydney Playgrounds Plan of Management  
North Sydney Recreation Needs Study (2015)  
North Sydney Residential Development Strategy (2009)  
North Sydney Resourcing Strategy 2018-2028  
North Sydney Section 94 Contributions Plan (2013)  
North Sydney Small Water-Craft Storage Strategy (2018)  
North Sydney Smart City Strategy (2019)  
North Sydney Sportsgrounds Plan of Management  
North Sydney Transport Strategy (2016)  
North Sydney Urban Forest Strategy (2019)  
Port Jackson catchment – Bushland Rehabilitation Plan  
Port Jackson catchment - Fauna Rehabilitation Plan  
Sydney Metro Planning Study (2016)  
St Leonards/ Crows Nest Planning Study Precinct 1 (2012)  
St Leonards/Crows Nest Planning Study Precincts 2 & 3 (2015)  
Ward Street Precinct Masterplan (2019)

## OTHER POLICIES AND PLANS

A Metropolis of Three Cities (2018)  
Draft St Leonards and Crows Nest 2036 Plan (2018)  
Future Transport Strategy 2056 (2018)  
State Environmental Planning Policy 70 (Affordable Housing Revised Schemes) 2019  
State Environmental Planning Policy (Affordable Rental Housing) 2009  
State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing for Seniors or People with a Disability) 2004  
State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) 2017  
State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007  
Sydney Harbour Foreshores and Waterways Area Development Control Plan 2005  
Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005  
The North District Plan (2018)

## LEGISLATION

Coastal Management Act 2016  
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 Heritage Act 1977  
Local Government Act 1993  
National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974  
NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983  
Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995

# NORTH SYDNEY LSPS & CSP ALIGNMENT

NORTH SYDNEY COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (CSP)  
2018-2028

NORTH SYDNEY LOCAL STRATEGIC STATEMENT (LSPS)

DIRECTIONS		INFRASTRUCTURE & COLLABORATION		LIVEABILITY		
		11 - Provide infrastructure & assets that support growth & change	12 - Collaborate with State Government Agencies & the community to deliver new housing, jobs, infrastructure and great places	L1 - Diverse housing options that meet the needs of the North Sydney community	L2 - Provide a range of community facilities and services to support a healthy, creative, diverse and socially connected North Sydney community	L3 - Create great places that recognise & support North Sydney's district local character & heritage
OUTCOMES						
OUR LIVING ENVIRONMENT	1.1 - Protect & enhance natural environment & biodiversity					
	1.2 - North Sydney is sustainable & resilient					
	1.3 - Quality urban greenspaces					
	1.4 - Public open space & recreational facilities & services meet community needs	■			■	
OUR BUILT ENVIRONMENT	2.1 - Infrastructure & assets meet community needs	■	■		■	
	2.2 - Vibrant centres, public domain & streetscapes					■
	2.3 - Sustainable transport is encouraged		■			
	2.4 - Improved traffic & parking management		■			
OUR FUTURE PLANNING	3.1 - Prosperous & vibrant economy					
	3.2 - North Sydney CBD is one of NSW's pre-eminent commercial centres					
	3.3 - North Sydney is smart & innovative					
	3.4 - North Sydney is distinctive with a sense of place & quality design		■			■
	3.5 - North Sydney is regulatory compliant					
OUR SOCIAL VITALITY	4.1 - North Sydney is connected, inclusive, healthy & safe				■	
	4.2 - North Sydney is creative & home to popular events				■	
	4.3 - North Sydney supports lifelong learning				■	
	4.4 - North Sydney's history is preserved & recognised					■
OUR CIVIC LEADERSHIP	5.1 - Council leads the strategic direction of North Sydney	■	■			■
	5.3 - Community is informed & consulted	■	■			■

Figure 16: North Sydney LSPS & CSP alignment table.

PRODUCTIVITY						SUSTAINABILITY		
P1 - Grow a stronger, more globally competitive North Sydney CBD	P2 - Develop innovative & diverse business clusters in St Leonards/ Crows Nest	P3 - Enhance the commercial amenity & viability of North Sydney's local centres	P4 - Develop a smart & innovative North Sydney economy	P5 - Protect North Sydney's light industrial & working waterfront lands & evolving business & employment hubs	P6- Support walkable centres & a connected, vibrant & sustainable North Sydney	S1 - Protect & enhance North Sydney's natural environment & biodiversity	S2 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, energy, water & waste	S3 - Increase North Sydney's resilience against natural & urban hazards
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