

8.1. MM01: Welcoming Cities

In North Sydney, we celebrate our multicultural and diverse population.

While we celebrate our multiculturalism and diversity, we also recognise the need to continue fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone, particularly migrants, refugees, and people seeking asylum. During the recent community engagement for the Next 10 Years Council consulted on the development of a Social Inclusion Strategy. The Discussion Paper noted that:

Inclusivity is one of the principles of the North Sydney Vision 2040 Community Strategic Plan. This means we value our individual differences - whether they relate to age, ability, income or background - and embrace the diversity of our community and their culture, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and beliefs. We know that an inclusive, diverse North Sydney is stronger, more resilient and a place where people want to live, work and visit.

On 9 August 2024 I met with a representative of Welcoming Cities who issued an invitation to North Sydney Council to join the Welcoming Cities network.

Welcoming Cities, an initiative of Welcoming Australia, is a national network of councils committed to an Australia where everyone can belong and freely participate in social, cultural, economic, and civic life. Welcoming Cities provides a framework and support system to help councils achieve these goals.

There are over 250 member cities worldwide, including 80 in Australia, representing a mix of metropolitan, regional, and remote councils.

Welcoming Cities allows councils to benefit from knowledge sharing, evidence-based research and case studies, and access to frameworks to measure and assess inclusivity. The network also recognises success in members, accredits best practice and facilitates cross-sector partnerships.

There is no cost to join Welcoming Cities.

I therefore recommend:

1. THAT Council becomes a member of the Welcoming Cities network.

**COUNCILLOR ZOË BAKER
MAYOR**