

COMMUNITY PLAN

HUNTERS HILL
2022-2032





Acknowledgement of Country

Council acknowledges the Wallumedegal of the Eora Nation as the traditional custodians of all land and water of the Hunters Hill local government area. Council pays respect to Elders past, present and future and extends this respect to all Aboriginal peoples living or visiting the Hunters Hill local government area.



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Community Plan

OUR VISION

- Treasured history
- Strong community
- Connected together
- Sustainable and healthy living

OUR MISSION

To protect and enhance the integrity, character, liveability and residential amenity of Hunters Hill as Australia's oldest garden suburb - through leadership, partnership, community involvement and the pursuit of excellence.

THEMES
GOALS
STRATEGIES



CONNECTED & ACCESSIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE

Maintain our local infrastructure so people can use, walk, drive, cycle and catch public transport safely and easily.



ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & OPEN SPACE

Protect and sustain our environment so people can enjoy our outdoor spaces and places.



COMMUNITY & BELONGING

Connect people to information and accessible experiences to help them feel included and safe in our community.



CHARACTER, HERITAGE & PLACES

Create a liveable place where everyone can enjoy our heritage, neighbourhoods, thriving village centres, parks, playgrounds and recreational areas.



GOVERNANCE, PARTICIPATION & PARTNERSHIPS

Bring people and local business together to share ideas and engage in collaborative projects.

- Clean and accessible infrastructure is managed and maintained effectively.
- People are connected to their destination through improved public transport systems, linkages and networks.
- Levels of service and community need are reflected in the Asset Management Plan.
- Safe walking, cycling, and active travel is encouraged and supported with improved infrastructure.

- Natural spaces, including our bushland, urban tree canopy, foreshores and waterways are protected and enhanced.
- Improved sustainability is reflected in policies, strategies, programs and projects.
- Community resilience to the impacts of climate change is supported through urban form, infrastructure management and health initiatives.
- Waste, water and energy consumption is reduced and managed efficiently.

- Programs and community groups that promote active living, health and well-being are supported and encouraged.
- Services and facilities meet the needs of all generations.
- Activities and programs are designed to be welcoming, inclusive and promote safety.
- Community, cultural events and activities are coordinated and delivered inclusively.

- Neighbourhoods reflect local character, heritage and create a sense of belonging.
- Healthy urban environments facilitate economic activity and place making initiatives.
- Development application, regulation and monitoring services are streamlined.
- Parks, sportsfields and playgrounds support inclusive and accessible Play.

- The community is aware of Council decisions through transparent and democratic engagement processes.
- Technology based initiatives are used to improve the customer service experience.
- Economic growth is facilitated through collaboration with community, government, sector and business partners.
- A vision of continuous improvement is shared by Councillors and Council staff.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2022-2023 Hunters Hill Community Plan represents a vision and framework to guide the aspirations and needs of the Hunters Hill community over the next 10 years. It is designed to not only articulate a vision for the future, but additionally to outline expected levels of service, financial responsibilities and the ability to respond to future opportunities and challenges. Most importantly, it will address the level of resources that will realistically be available to achieve these aspirations and needs.

The plan does not exist in isolation and is supported by more detailed plans and strategies, including a Delivery Program with a four-year outlook and an Operational Plan with a one-year outlook. Although not outlined within the Community Plan, the Resourcing Strategy, which includes the Long-term Financial Plan (LTFP), Asset Management Plan (AMP) and Workforce Plan (WP) supports the ability of Council to deliver on the aspirations within this Community Plan.

This integrated framework acts as a blueprint and draws the various plans together and understands how they interact to get the maximum leverage from our efforts by planning holistically for the future.

Whilst it is a State Government legislative requirement to develop this plan, Council's role within this process is to provide the platform for the community to have their say and document their responses. These valuable contributions strengthen Council's partnership with all stakeholders and endorse the distinctive and beneficial role of all partners involved.



THE ROLE OF IP&R

The Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework recognises that most communities share similar aspirations: a safe, healthy and vibrant place to live, a sustainable environment, a caring and engaged community, opportunities for employment, reliable infrastructure, and so on. The difference lies in how each community responds to these needs. That is what shapes the character of individual cities, towns and villages.

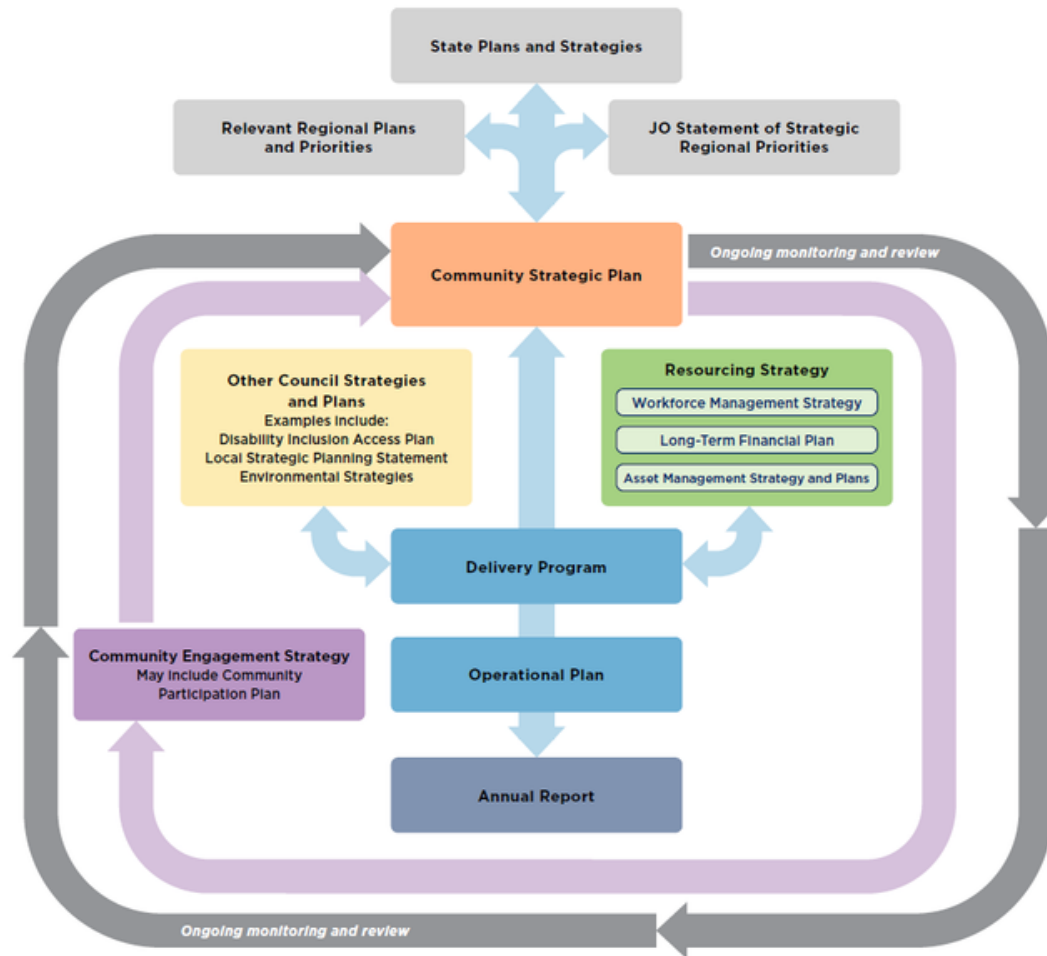
IP&R also recognises that council plans and policies should not exist in isolation and are connected on many levels. The IP&R framework allows NSW councils to draw their various plans together, to understand how they interact and inform each another, and to get the maximum benefit from their efforts by planning holistically for the future.

In essence, the IP&R framework begins with the community's, not Council's, aspirations for a period of at least 10 years. It includes a suite of integrated plans that set out a vision and goals and strategic actions to achieve them. It involves a reporting structure to communicate progress to Council and the community as well as a structured timeline for review to ensure the goals and actions are still relevant.



THE ROLE OF IP&R

The following diagram, provided by the NSW Office of Local Government, outlines where the Community Plan sits within a governance framework. This diagram also provides context of how our various plans, policies and strategies integrate.



VISION

Hunters Hill is renowned for its well preserved heritage buildings, sandstone walls, magnificent tree canopy and bushland, surrounded by its pristine waterways and sandstone seawalls. People enjoy and embrace the lifestyle, restaurants and cafes, and quiet ambience that complement Australia's oldest garden suburb.

Architectural excellence is evident throughout Hunters Hill. New developments have been limited in height to 2 storeys in residential areas, which is compatible with the character of the area.

There is a strong sense of community, residents are committed to the area, know their neighbours and feel a strong sense of belonging to Hunters Hill.

Our Aboriginal heritage and cultural diversity are reflected in a vibrant cultural scene and harmonious community.

The broad needs of the community are provided through a range of facilities, services, and events and our community organisations are flourishing with many residents volunteering their time and participating in a wide variety of activities.

Gladesville is the focal point of commerce and our thriving village centres (Woolwich, Garibaldi, Hunters Hill, and Pittwater Rd) are warm and welcoming, supported by a network of business people and the community.

Our footpaths, walking trails and cycleways are popular as they connect the Municipality and provide access to waterways, foreshores, and open green spaces, and traffic is managed so that people can move around safely. Residents and visitors can get where they want to go easily via an integrated public transport system that is cost effective, comfortable, convenient and accessible.

Ferries are bringing people from all parts of the world to enjoy what Hunters Hill has to offer, and this has led to waters edge improvements around the wharves.

We have upgraded our infrastructure, public facilities, urban spaces and sea walls by taking up opportunities to provide more diverse sources of income. Council has sustainably managed its assets with the support of the community to ensure its on-going financial viability.

PRIORITIES

Determining community priorities was essential in developing the Hunters Hill Community Plan. Through an independent telephone survey of 400 residents, social and print media, online notice boards, letters, emails, phone calls and drop-in sessions, the update to the plan ensured that current community needs were considered.

The areas the community asked Council to prioritise include:

- Footpaths.
- Roads.
- Traffic management.
- Managing development and the development application process.
- Managing parks, playgrounds and open spaces.
- Innovation in sustainability.
- Managing financial sustainability.
- Library services.

In addition to the feedback received through our engagement phase, Council is also committed to finalising the following key projects:

- NSW Public Spaces Legacy Program Grant of \$4.75m to activate Figtree Park via the installation of walkways, an inclusive playspace, seating and planting.
- A new community and sporting facility for Boronia Park to encourage district-level sport and recreation.
- Upgrades to the playing field and amenities at Gladesville Reserve.

'There just isn't enough physical activity space for older people and their families.'

'Our young people who live locally need a place to hang out; currently they all go to the Canopy in Lane Cove.'

'I would like to see a Ryde Rd 50km speed limit extended from the existing village to Farnell St.'

'Our young people who live locally need a place to hang out; currently they all go to the Canopy in Lane Cove.'

'I would like the roads fixed in Boronia Park/Hunters Hill. High St is full of potholes.'

'Historical aspects of the LGA maintained and not destroyed with new housing developments'

'Improving the quality of our footpaths is definitely needed.'

KEY CHALLENGES

The role and function of local government has continued to expand over recent years. This has increased Council's financial burden. Council will need to seek diversification of its income to ensure that the community's key priorities can be delivered. Reliance on rating income will always be important, however, other sources of revenue such as State and Federal grant funding will also be crucial.

There will be additional focus on expanding regional cooperation, resource sharing where appropriate, improvement in the performance of our long term strategic, asset, financial and workforce planning.

We will also need to consider our diverse population, whereby we have an ageing population at one end, but at the same time we have a high proportion of our community that are between the ages of 5-17. This means that we need to ensure the needs of our elderly are met at the same time as providing facilities and services for our younger generation. This imbalance can be managed, but for a small council with limited income it does provide it challenges.

Through community surveys and feedback we understand that our property owners expect an improvement in the management of assets, particularly for roads and footpaths. Through a special variation (SV) to rates to maintain current levels of service and a comprehensive review of our Asset Management Plan (AMP) Council will continue to seek and implement effective ways to improve and manage community assets.



HUNTERS HILL

The Municipality of Hunters Hill has a wonderfully rich and diverse history which precedes Federation and the formation of the Commonwealth of Australia in 1901.

Early French settlers, including the Joubert brothers and Gabriel de Milhau, were influential in gaining the proclamation of Hunters Hill as a separate Borough in 1861 and much of the character of the Municipality has developed since that time.

Situated on a small peninsula that separates the Lane Cove River and Parramatta River, the Aboriginal name for the land is Mocooboola, meaning meeting of waters. Residents take great pride in this heritage and celebrate the Mocooboola Festival annually.

The Municipality includes the leafy suburbs of Gladesville (part), Henley, Hunters Hill, Huntleys Cove, Huntleys Point and Woolwich. Visually, it is easy to see why the area is recognised as Australia's oldest garden suburb, with over 70% of the Municipality declared a conservation area.

Our residents enjoy many lifestyle assets - from the bushland, to Sydney Harbour foreshore and vibrant local villages. The area exudes beauty, both on and off the streets. Boasting many heritage-listed homes, sandstone workers' cottages and waterfront homes, Hunters Hill is home to a community that has been nurtured by generations.

Today, Hunters Hill has a population of approximately 15,000 people and is well-known for its schools, accessible location, open spaces and community spirit. The area brings great value and satisfaction to residents and the wider community.

ABOUT

HUNTERS HILL

Estimated population **15,000**

Families with young children
19.2%

Median age
43

No. of Dwellings
5262

Households renting
24%

Average household size
2.63

Couples with children
38%

Born overseas
26%

Catch public transport to work
18%

Over the age of 50
40%

People who live & work in Hunters Hill
1006

Language at home other than English
19%

Voluntary work
25.9%

THEMES & GOALS



Connected & Accessible Infrastructure

Maintain our local infrastructure so people can walk, drive, cycle and catch public transport safely and easily.



Environment, Sustainability & Open Space

Protect and sustain our environment and so people can enjoy our outdoor spaces and places.



Community & Belonging

Connect people to information and accessible experiences to help them feel included and safe in the community.



Character, Heritage & Places

Create a liveable place where everyone can enjoy our heritage, neighbourhoods, thriving village centres, parks, playgrounds and recreational areas.



Governance, Participation & Partnerships

Bring people and local business together to share ideas and engage in collaborative projects.

OBJECTIVES

Services include:

- roads
- footpaths
- bike paths
- parking
- traffic
- wharves & boat ramps.



CONNECTED & ACCESSIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE

Maintain our local infrastructure so people can walk, drive, cycle and catch public transport safely and easily.

- Clean and accessible infrastructure is managed and maintained effectively.
- People are connected to their destination through improved public transport systems, linkages and networks.
- Levels of service and community need are reflected in the Asset Management Plan.
- Safe walking, cycling, and active travel is encouraged and supported with improved infrastructure.



OBJECTIVES

Services include:

- *sustainability, education & innovation*
- *bushland*
- *foreshores & waterways*
- *resilience*
- *fauna*
- *tree canopy*
- *Indigenous sites & heritage.*



SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENT & OPEN SPACE

Protect and sustain our environment so people can enjoy our outdoor spaces and places.

- Natural spaces, including our bushland, urban tree canopy, foreshores and waterways are protected and enhanced.
- Improved sustainability is reflected in policies, strategies, programs and projects.
- Community resilience to the impacts of climate change is supported through urban form, infrastructure management and health initiatives.
- Waste, water and energy consumption is reduced and managed efficiently.



OBJECTIVES

Services include:

- *aged care*
- *youth*
- *children*
- *families*
- *CALD communities*
- *cultural events & citizenships.*



COMMUNITY & BELONGING

Connect people to information and accessible experiences to help them feel included and safe in the community.

- Programs and community groups that promote active living, health and well-being are supported and encouraged.
- Services and facilities meet the needs of all generations.
- Activities and programs are designed to be welcoming, inclusive and promote safety.
- Community, cultural events and activities are coordinated and delivered inclusively.



OBJECTIVES



CHARACTER, HERITAGE & PLACES

Create a liveable place where everyone can enjoy our heritage, neighbourhoods, thriving village centres, parks, playgrounds and recreational areas.

- Neighbourhoods reflect local character, heritage and create a sense of belonging.
- Healthy urban environments facilitate economic activity and place making initiatives.
- Development application, regulation and monitoring services are streamlined.
- Parks, sportsfields and playgrounds support inclusive and accessible Play.

Services include:

- *development applications*
- *Local Environmental Plan (LEP)*
- *Development Control Plan (DCP)*
- *place making*
- *village centres*
- *community centres*
- *playgrounds*
- *heritage & character*
- *land use.*



OBJECTIVES

Services include:

- *engagement*
- *financial sustainability*
- *technology*
- *government*
- *business and private partnerships*
- *customer service*
- *Councillors and staff.*



GOVERNANCE, PARTICIPATION & PARTNERSHIPS

Bring people and local business together to share ideas and engage in collaborative projects.

- The community is aware of Council decisions through transparent and democratic engagement processes.
- Technology based initiatives are used to improve the customer service experience.
- Economic growth is facilitated through collaboration with community, government, sector and business partners.
- A vision of continuous improvement is shared by Councillors and Council staff.



QUADRUPLE BOTTOM LINE

Our quadruple bottom line is the framework we have put in place to measure our performance across the following 4 pillars; social, environmental, economic and civic leadership. The principles listed under each pillar outline the areas that the community have asked Council to consider, manage and source solutions to.



SOCIAL

- access and equity
- cultural activities
- recreation and active living
- built environment - urban design and planning for growth
- providing and maintaining community facilities
- heritage
- consultation and engagement
- public health and safety
- affordable housing
- education
- transport - community links within the LGA.



ENVIRONMENTAL

- waste management
- water conservation and management
- climate change impacts
- alternative energy
- preserving our bushland
- preserving biodiversity
- environmental impact of development
- environmental sustainability
- land use
- foreshores
- protecting threatened flora and fauna.



ECONOMIC

- economic sustainability
- supporting local and small business and business partnerships
- transport links
- commercial opportunities
- public and private partnerships
- tourism
- NSROC economic profiles and opportunities.



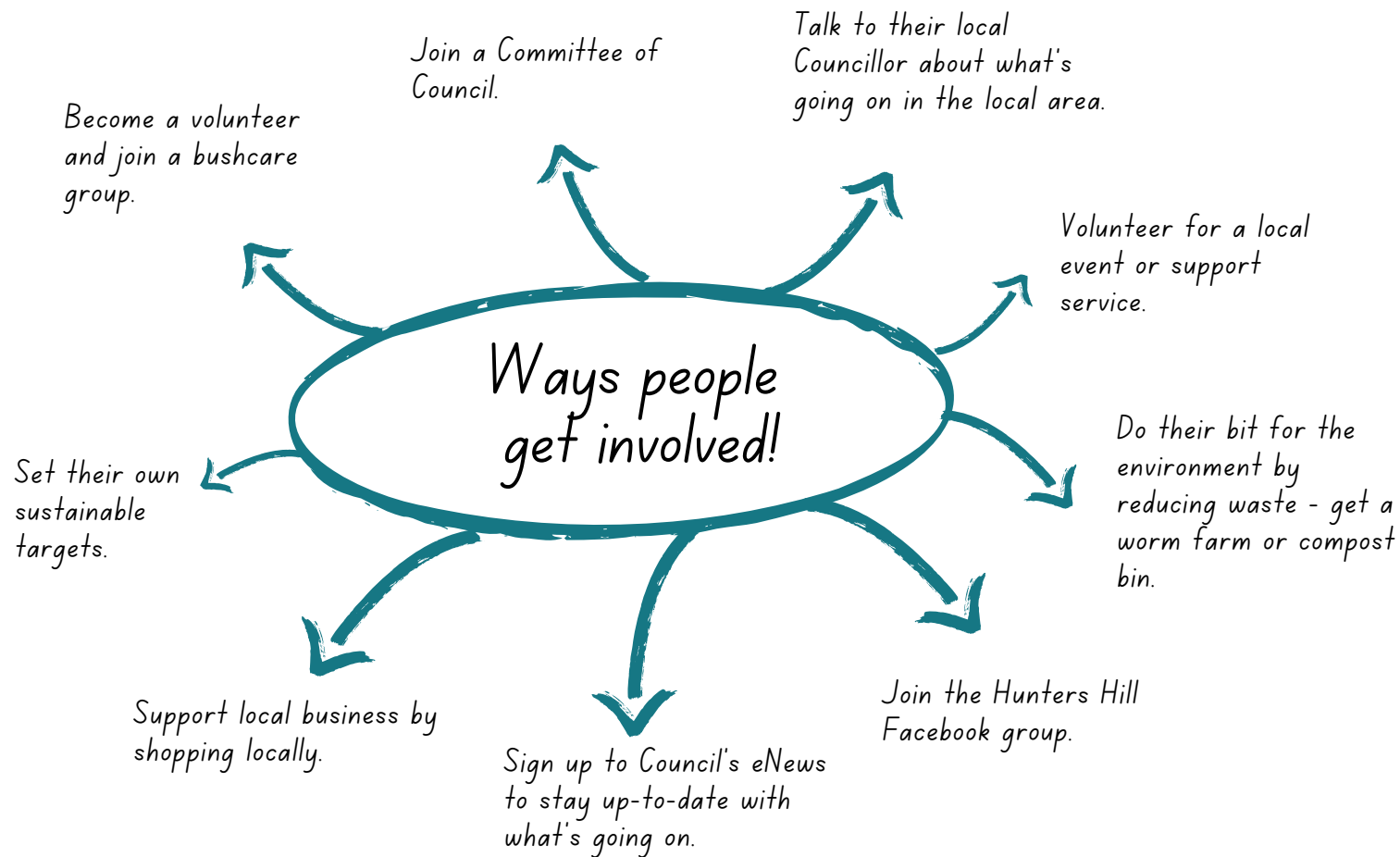
CIVIC LEADERSHIP

- leadership and representation
- levels of service
- consultation and community participation in decision making
- business efficiency and probity
- policy frameworks
- decision making
- allocating priorities
- implementation and monitoring of IP&R
- legislative adherence
- employer of choice and workforce development programs.

HOW THE COMMUNITY GETS INVOLVED

The number of people who volunteer in Hunters Hill is significantly higher than the Sydney average. In Hunters Hill 26% of the community volunteer in some capacity, compared to 16.7% across other council areas. In addition, the local community also support local business, events, projects and programs and are engaged across all of Council's core activities.

So, how do people get involved in Hunters Hill? They.....



SOCIAL JUSTICE PRINCIPLES

Our community is made up of people of many ages, ethnicity's, special interests and individual circumstances. To ensure fair distribution of available resources across the community, social justice principles are paramount when considering fair and equitable processes.

The Hunters Hill Community Plan supports the provision of social justice through the sustainable and equitable provision of a wide range of cultural, recreational and leisure activities, events and support services for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. The plan also reflects the need of community members who may be in more vulnerable situations and aims to address housing equity issues to ensure that low cost and adaptive housing is considered in Council's planning process and policies.

To ensure that every resident had an opportunity to participate and have their voice heard, Council used a variety of engagement tools for resident workshops, online surveys and telephone surveys to ensure the greatest possible catchment of views and concerns. This enabled Council to address access issues relating to services, resources and opportunities within the Community Plan. It also enabled Council to understand some current areas of concern amongst the community such as safety, transport, social connectedness and access to recreation.



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

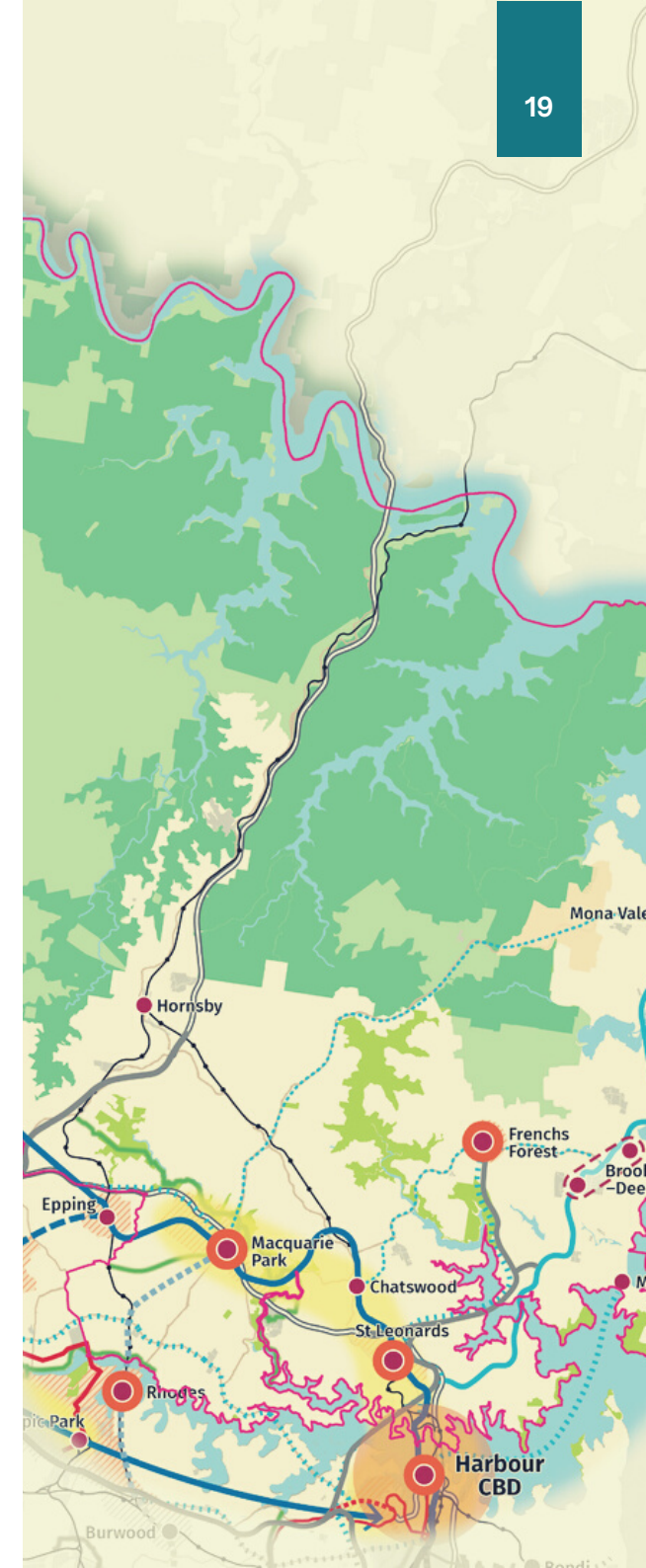
A number of supporting documents have been referenced within the Community Plan and have provided context to the information contained:

- Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) documents
- Disability Inclusion Action Plan
- Local Environmental Plan
- Development Control Plan
- Local Strategic Planning Statement
- Affordable Housing Strategy
- Plans of Management
- Masterplans
- Sport and Recreational Plan
- NSROC Regional Planning Strategy

State Planning documents:

- North District Plan
- Greater Sydney Region Plan
- State Environmental Plans (SEPPs)
- The Future Transport Plan 2056
- State Infrastructure Strategy

Council will continue to liaise with State and Federal Government agencies as well as the Office of Local Government. The Office of Local Government routinely forwards Council circulars to update plans, policies and legislation.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

*'I love the sense of
community and safety
in Hunters Hill'*

Hunter's Hill Council is continually engaging with our local community on a variety of issues, from parks and reserves, plans of management, playgrounds, masterplans and a variety of other key projects. This significant role in community planning has enabled Council to gather and develop the community's ideas, thoughts and aspirations on how Hunters Hill should be managed now and into the future.

The update of the Community Plan has brought together hundreds of community responses about how people feel about living in Hunters Hill, what improvements can be made and what services and facilities the community use and need.

The ongoing research and consultation used to develop this plan incorporates knowledge collected over the past 2 years about the local area and its people.

The CSP has taken into consideration:

- Community and stakeholder responses.
- Local Government planning documents.
- State Government planning documents.

In preparing this plan we:

- Assessed economic, environmental, social and demographic trends and projections.
- Reviewed State Government policies and directions.
- Reviewed other Council strategies, policies and documents.
- Reviewed existing research and community engagement projects.
- Engaged with the community and stakeholders to inform the CSP.



EVALUATION

Performance targets have been established for our goals and strategic objectives. This will enable Council to understand if projects, programs and services are meeting community need and expectations.

Further to this:

- Regular financial reporting to the Executive Team and Council.
- Quarterly budget reviews.
- Annual review of the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP).
- Production of an Annual Report, which is reviewed by the Office of Local Government (OLG).
- Regular community engagement including telephone and online surveys, focus groups, drop-in sessions, and written feedback received via email/letter as well as telephone feedback directed through our Customer Service Centre.

Council's key performance measurement process is via a quarterly report to Council addressing the objectives in the Delivery Program and the actions in the Operational Plan. Each Plan also relates directly to the Long-Term Financial Plan, which includes a long term and annual budget.

Each reporting and measurement mechanism provides reassurance of an embedded process monitoring framework to support the community's vision for the immediate and long term future of Hunters Hill.

