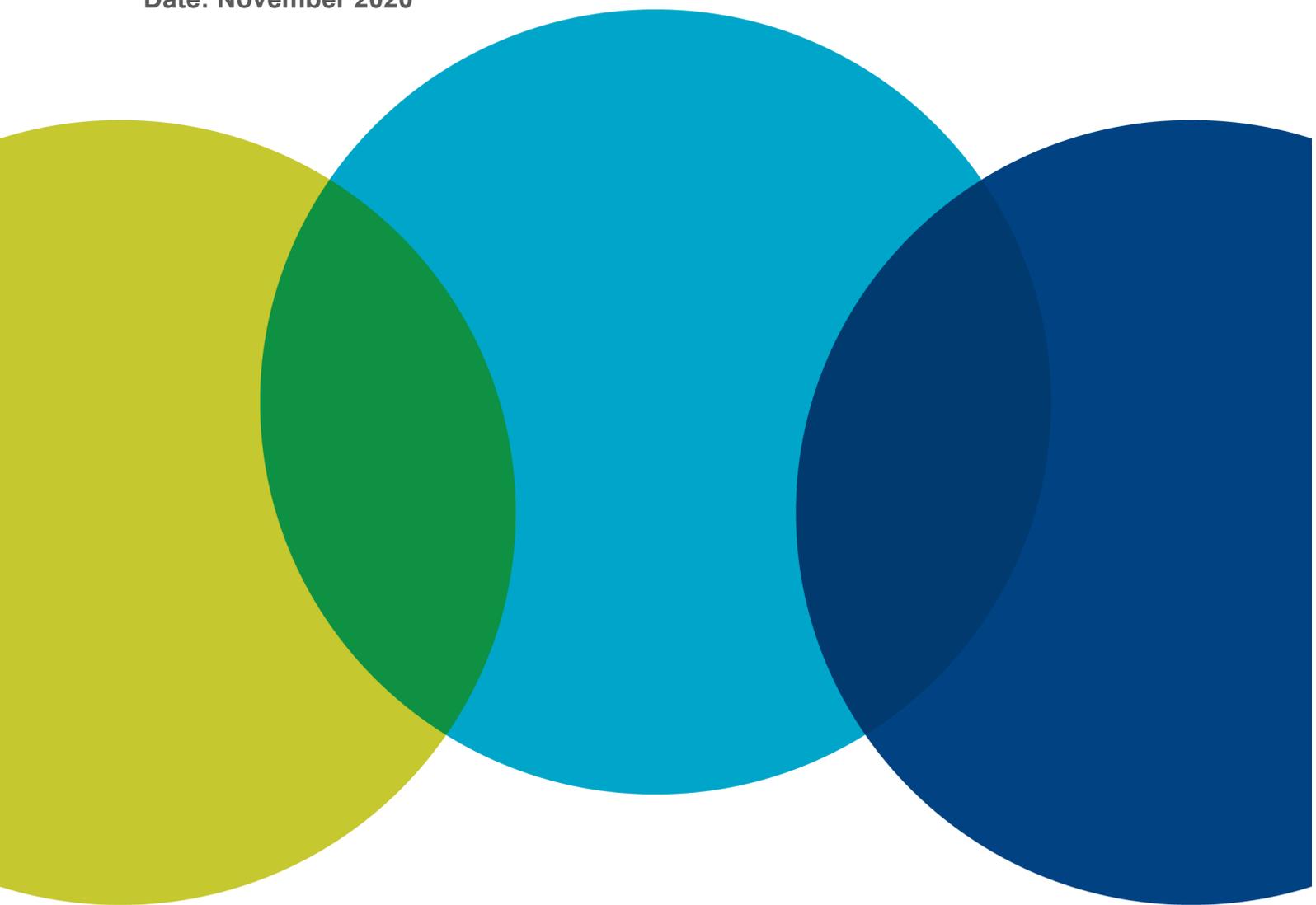




Consultation Outcomes Report

**Place-based Infrastructure Compacts for the
Western Parkland City**

Date: November 2020



Executive Summary

The Greater Sydney Commission (the Commission) has sought community and stakeholder input and feedback on the development of draft Place-based Infrastructure Compacts (PIC)s for the Western Parkland City. This information will help the Commission finalise its recommendations to the NSW Government for consideration.

The Commission engaged with a range of stakeholders from July to September 2020 to raise awareness of the project and ensure a breadth of views were captured. This engagement program involved:

- briefing the Commission's Youth Panel on the Western Parkland City PICs to gather their feedback;
- briefing the Commission's social, industry, environmental peak panels on the Western Parkland City PICs to gather their feedback;
- briefing the major landowners on the Western Parkland City PICs to gather their feedback;
- hosting four focus groups to provide representative views from the community. The groups had a diversity of age, gender, housing status, ethnicity and life-stage; and
- hosting two online deliberative forums to provide representative views from the community. The groups had a diversity of age, gender, housing status, ethnicity and life-stage.

During the consultation period:

- 28 participants provided feedback via four focus groups; and
- 17 participants provided feedback via two online deliberative forums.

While there were a variety of views expressed by stakeholders, common themes that emerged during the consultation were:

1. **Living in the Western Parkland City** – Stakeholders were interested in retaining the key attractions of life in the Western Parkland City, such as affordable housing, access to green and open space and lower density living. There was some concern about safety and crime levels, and particularly the negative perception of Western Sydney.
2. **The prospect of a changing city** – Stakeholders recognised the need for change and investment in transport infrastructure to support a growing population, however there was some concern around the cost of this infrastructure and who would be paying. There was a focus on the provision of mental health services and welfare facilities, particularly in light of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. **The vision for the Western Parkland City** - Stakeholders were excited about the prospect of greater job opportunities in the Western Parkland City and a stronger tertiary education presence. They welcomed the idea of broader life opportunities for residents and a focus on education and training, in addition to liveability, connectivity and accessibility.
4. **Objectives of the Western Parkland City PICs** – Stakeholders were generally supportive of the objectives of the PICs, delivering jobs, skills and innovation across the city. There was strong support for sustainable development and transport connectivity. Stakeholders raised the importance of inviting communities into the conversation, and the need for the PICs to work alongside existing and future plans and strategies.

5. **Sequencing principles** – Stakeholders highlighted the need for the development of transport infrastructure and affordable housing to be the priority, with consideration also required around sustainability and natural disaster resilience. The possibility of co-locating social infrastructure when planning precincts was raised, as was the idea of a circular economy.
6. **Future scenarios for the Western Parkland City** – Stakeholders indicated strong support for Scenario 2 and Scenario 3 due to the level of transport infrastructure, educational opportunities and sustainable development. The key focus was maintaining affordable housing and access to green space, while also creating resilient communities.

In addition to this initial consultation, local councils within the Western Parkland City area were engaged as the project developed over an 18-month period through:

- Western Sydney City Deal Implementation Board;
- Western Sydney City Deal Senior Leadership Group; and
- the Western Sydney PIC project's Collaboration Working group.

Introduction

From July to September 2020, the Greater Sydney Commission (the Commission) sought community and stakeholder input and feedback on the development of draft Place-based Infrastructure Compacts (PIC)s for the Western Parkland City.

The PIC model is a collaborative way for government agencies, utility providers and local councils to support growth in jobs and homes with planning for infrastructure needed to create great places. In developing the PICs for the Western Parkland City, over 30 State Government agencies were involved.

Listening to stakeholders has always been an important part of the Commission's work, and engaging early on in the process is an important part of the Commission's Community Participation Plan. This report provides a summary the feedback received during this consultation period.

The Commission reached out to a range of stakeholders for consultation to increase awareness of the PIC model, understand views and to gather feedback. Stakeholders were encouraged to review and provide feedback on three project scenarios that were developed for the Western Parkland City.

The engagement approach was designed to provide opportunity for stakeholders to find out more about the PIC model, ask questions as well as capture their views and insights. These included:

- The Commission's Youth Panel – A session was held for members of this group to build their understanding of the Western Parkland City PICs and provide them the opportunity to ask questions and raise concerns for consideration;
- The Commission's Social and Environmental Peak Panels and broader industry peaks – Sessions were held for members of these groups to build their understanding of the Western Parkland City PICs and provide them the opportunity to ask questions and raise concerns for consideration;
- Four focus groups – Participants of these sessions reflected representation by age, gender, housing status, ethnicity and life-stage and were living either within the Western Parkland City or intending to do so in the near future; and
- Two online deliberative forums – Participants of these sessions reflected representation by age, gender, housing status, ethnicity and life-stage and were living either within the Western Parkland City or intending to do so in the near future.

This report outlines the engagement process and what the Commission heard and includes:

- A summary of engagement activities;
- Key themes heard during the engagement period; and
- A summary of key themes from community research.

Feedback received was used to help develop the draft report for the Initial PIC area release for public feedback in November 2020.

Summary of engagement activities

Peak panels

A total of eight round table sessions were held with the Commission's Social and Environmental Peak Panels and broader industry peaks during the feedback period. These round tables were an opportunity for the Commission to present the PIC model, the outcomes of its application to the Western Parkland City and the three project scenarios to these representative groups and seek their feedback on key issues and concerns.

Youth panel

A round table session was held with the Commission's Youth Panel during the feedback period. This round table was an opportunity for the Commission to present the PIC model, the outcomes of its application to the Western Parkland City and the three project scenarios to this representative group and seek their feedback on key issues and concerns.

Focus groups

Four focus groups were conducted and reflected the broad population in and around the Western Parkland City area. Participants were recruited to provide representation by age, gender, housing status, ethnicity and life-stage and were living either within the Western Parkland City or intended to do so in the near future. A total of 28 participants took part in the four focus groups.

The aim of this research project was to:

- provide participants with information on the Place-based Infrastructure Compact model and the challenges of growing jobs and homes with the provision of infrastructure and services;
- gain feedback on the three future scenarios for the Western Parkland City;
- identify any differences in opinion about the future scenarios; and
- collect suggestions for principles to be used to sequence growth in the Western Parkland City.

This research was qualitative and does not provide a large enough representative sample from which to draw conclusions about the population. However, it does provide a further opportunity to understand residents' views on the topic, and to use their feedback to inform ongoing development of the approach.

Online deliberative forums

Two online deliberative forums were conducted and reflected the broad population in and around the Western Parkland City area. Participants were recruited to provide representation by age, gender, housing status, ethnicity and life-stage and were living either within the Western Parkland City or intended to do so in the near future. A total of 17 participants took part in the two online deliberative forums.

The aim of this research project was to:

- provide participants with information on the Place-based Infrastructure Compact model and the challenges of growing jobs and homes with the provision of infrastructure and services;
- gain feedback on the three future scenarios for the Western Parkland City;
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This research was qualitative and does not provide a large enough representative sample from which to draw conclusions about the population. However, it does provide a further opportunity to understand residents' views on the topic, and to use their feedback to inform ongoing development of the approach.

Landowner meeting

Round table briefing sessions were held with landowners through already established forums coordinated by a peak group, Urban Development Institute of Australia. These round tables were an opportunity for the Commission to present the PIC model, the outcomes of its application to the Western Parkland City and the three project scenarios to these representative groups and seek their feedback on key issues and concerns.

Feedback

Key themes

The Commission’s analysis of the feedback provided during the engagement period found that although there were differing views expressed by different stakeholder groups, several common themes emerged. These are detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of Key Themes

| Key Themes | Feedback received |
|---|--|
| Living in the Western Parkland City | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders were positive about the range of easily accessible amenities available; Stakeholders considered the access to green spaces a significant benefit for the city; Concern was expressed around the negative perceptions of Western Sydney held by residents from other parts of Sydney; Support was expressed for the diversity of Western Sydney’s population and the strong feeling of community; Need for a more connected public transport network; and Need for affordable housing. |
| The prospect of a changing city | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern around increasing housing density and the pressure being put on infrastructure; Support for the Place-based Infrastructure Compact and the research involved to plan for the city; Concern that the government’s ability to predict population growth is not always accurate; Concern about the effects of COVID-19 and how this will impact the city; Consideration required around providing social housing and services to support people who have been affected by the pandemic; More focus needed on moving policy to resilience; and Discussion around how different factors will contribute to the success of the Aerotropolis, and what is going to make it the place to be. |
| The vision for the Western Parkland City | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong support for the vision of the Western Parkland City; Excitement about the investment, growth and opportunity to come, including jobs and the thirty-minute city; Concerns about the cost of this level of infrastructure investment and who will be paying; Need for focus on education and training; Uncertainty around how development can be delivered while also maintaining green spaces. Strong support for the provision of open space, green infrastructure and living infrastructure; |

| Key Themes | Feedback received |
|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some confusion around the language and acronyms used in the vision and concern that this cannot be easily understood by the community (including terms such as aerotropolis, polycentric city and urban cooling). Potentially a need for a common acronym register; • Need for consideration around the provision of open space and the standards that would be applied for parks and leisure; • Need to balance the level of infrastructure required with visual appeal, walkability and liveability; and • Potential to tap into local housing strategies and <i>A Housing Strategy for NSW</i> for land use forecasts. |
| Objectives of the Western Parkland City PICs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the provision of safety, housing affordability, education facilities and green spaces; • General support for creating areas rich with Aboriginal places and cultural expression, however some differing opinions on the necessity and how this objective would be realised; • Support for sustainable development; • Support for jobs, skills and innovation across the city; • Strong support for transport connectivity and the 30-minute city; • Confusion around the meaning of digital connectivity; • Need for discussions around active transport; • Support for the focus on accessibility; • Consideration required around the provision of mental health services, welfare facilities and local health facilities; • Consideration required around maximising heritage and culture; • Importance of inviting communities and stakeholders into the conversation and taking a “people lens”; and • Need for the PICs to work alongside existing plans, such as the district plan, local strategic planning strategies and SEPPs, in addition to concurrent government work and broader strategies |
| Sequencing principles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for the development of transport infrastructure and affordable housing to be the priority; • Consideration required around sustainability and natural disaster resilience; • Support for ensuring all areas have access to the range of schools, hospitals, police, ambulance, community care, and social services that they need, and opportunities to co-locate these when planning precincts; • Support for ensuring all areas have good utilities; • Support for providing diversity in housing, with typology allowing for all levels of density; • Support for all areas of government working together to coordinate how an area is developed; |

| Key Themes | Feedback received |
|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The idea of a circular economy was a key point of discussion, and the need to know where to start with sequencing. Consideration required around how the PIC works with master planning; and Need for plans to align with local infrastructure. |
| Future scenarios for the Western Parkland City | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mixed feelings about the level of transport infrastructure in Scenario 1 – this was seen as a move in the right direction but ultimately insufficient; Concern about the development of the airport and potential noise and pollution impacts; Strong support for ‘Thriving Aerotropolis’ and the level of transport infrastructure and changes provided; Excitement about the educational opportunities available in ‘Thriving Aerotropolis’; Support for the environmental and sustainable development aspects of ‘Thriving Aerotropolis’; More explanation required about how the plans integrate bushfire resilience; Strong support for ‘Thriving Metropolitan Cluster’ scenario and the diversification of the developments across a range of locations – this was seen as reducing congestion and spreading the benefits; Concern about more widespread high-density housing; Need to maintain affordable low-density housing, access to green spaces and strong communities; and Support for focus on agribusiness, employment lands and integrated logistics hubs. |

Key themes by stakeholder group

A summary of the key views expressed by each stakeholder group is outlined below.

Peak bodies and industry groups

The key themes raised within these sessions included:

- Connectivity of transport to address equity of access across the Western Parkland City.
- Ensure the benefit of the new metro is realised beyond announced station areas (100 + years);
- Better utilisation of existing transport corridors.
- Ensuring freight movement and connectivity (rail and road) for businesses and minimise the impact of land-use conflict (24/7).
- Ensuring active transport is understood as an expectation and requirement from the outset, and public transport is accessible for all abilities and ages ie getting to the stop/station not just at the stop/station.
- The impact of Covid-19 on projected growth figures, as well as on private and public investment decisions particularly in the higher education sector.

- Support for accessibility to green space as well as consideration of wellbeing as opposed to resilient (mental health).
- Support for the role of future industries and economy in the Western Parkland City including circular economy and alternative service providers in utilities.
- Ensuring housing supply and diversity of housing is considered including affordability with accessibility; social housing and services (the impact of historic movement).
- Opportunity to connect high school to training into the high value and knowledge intensive jobs of the future in Western Sydney.
- Key role of community/cultural groups as part of settlement process and the preparedness of non-government services to support predicted growth under the scenarios.
- Ensuring future plans support for current and announced precincts in delivery of supporting infrastructure eg Mamre Road.
- Consideration should also be given to the disbenefits – risk and trade-offs – for the future Western Parkland City.
- Consideration given to the public domain beyond key catalytic infrastructure; a balance of beauty with development and ensure sightlines to the landscape.
- The impact/conflict between development and place outcomes eg potential for food deserts as only fast food options available in close proximity to where people live.

Focus groups and online deliberative forums

The key themes raised within the focus groups and online deliberative forums included:

- Participants were excited about the vision for the Western Parkland City and the level of investment, growth and opportunity to come.
- Participants welcomed the prospect of greater connectivity in the Western Parkland City, and the increased volume and range of local employment opportunities.
- Strong support for improvements in public transport in the Western Parkland City.
- Concerns about the cost of infrastructure and the potential sacrifice of green spaces and sustainability when delivering the level of development required.
- Concern that the current ways in which the process is communicated can create barriers through the use of terminology that is not readily understood by the majority of residents.
- When presented with the three different Scenarios, participants welcomed 'Thriving Aerotropolis' and 'Thriving Metropolitan Cluster' scenarios and favoured them over 'Growing Parkland City' scenario.

Next steps

The feedback captured within this report was used by the Commission to develop the draft PICs for the Greater Penrith to Eastern Creek area, Western Sydney Aerotropolis Growth Area and the Austral to Glenfield Corridor. Community and stakeholder feedback will help inform the Commission's recommendations to the NSW Government for its consideration and response.

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