CENTRAL

DISTRICT

SYDNEY GREEN GRID
SPATIAL FRAMEWORK AND PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES.
PREFACE

Open space is one of Sydney’s greatest assets. Our national parks, harbour, beaches, coastal walks, waterfront promenades, rivers, playgrounds and reserves are integral to the character and life of the city.

In this report the hydrological, recreational and ecological fragments of the city are mapped and then pulled together into a proposition for a cohesive green infrastructure network for greater Sydney.

This report builds on investigations undertaken by the Office of the Government Architect for the Department of Planning and Environment in the development of District Plans. It interrogates the vision and objectives of the Sydney Green Grid and uses a combination of GIS data mapping and consultation to develop an overview of the green infrastructure needs and character of each district.

Each district is analysed for its spatial qualities, open space, waterways, its context and key natural features. This data informs a series of strategic opportunities for building the Sydney Green Grid within each district. Green Grid project opportunities have been identified and preliminary prioritisation has been informed by a comprehensive consultation process with stakeholders, including landowners and state and local government agencies.

This report is one step in an ongoing process. It provides preliminary prioritisation of Green Grid opportunities in terms of their strategic potential as catalysts for the establishment of a new interconnected high performance green infrastructure network which will support healthy urban growth. Future reports should be undertaken to assess the future delivery and implementation strategies of Green Grid projects.
Central Spatial Framework

4 Major Catchments
325,000 Additional People by 2036
3,013 Hectares Open Space
14% of the District is Open Space
The Central district is characterised by a series of sandstone outcrops and formations along the east coast and harbourfront, large aeolian sand dunes to the southern and eastern suburbs and rolling shale hills to the inner-west. Due to development, many of the waterfront locations within the Central district have been disturbed with large areas of land reclamation in former wetlands, estuaries and bays.

The primary water catchments within the district are the Cooks River, Botany Bay, Port Jackson and The Parramatta River. Many of the creeks within the catchments have been channelised or piped so that there are limited natural creek systems throughout the district. These remnant natural systems and drainage corridors often provide open space linkage or environmental rehabilitation opportunities. A large number of parklands within the district are located on reclaimed land in the bays at the heads of these former creeklines and natural waterways. The rocky sandstone outcrops around the harbour form numerous protected bays beaches along with dramatic headlands. Much of the waterfront has been privatised with open space occupying isolated pockets often at the heads of bays or along watercourses. A number of former defence sites have protected some significant open space parcels within these areas.

Industry has historically developed in the flatter more swampy areas to the west of Sydney Cove in the Bays Precinct and Iron Cove and to the south of the district in Botany Bay, along the Alexandria Canal and the Lachlan Swamps. These post-industrial landscapes have provided opportunities for improving open space access within the district. Some excellent examples include new parklands at Ballast Point in Balmain and BP Park at Waverton.

The landscape character of the district is diverse, changing from the dramatic sandstone landscape of cliffs and world famous beaches along the harbour and east coast to the more gently undulating dune landscapes around Botany Bay and the shales of the inner west. These areas have a number of regional parks such as Centennial Park which provides an important water management role for the Botany Catchment. The majority of the Inner West’s regional scaled space is located along the foreshore of the harbour and the Cooks River. A number of the key drainage lines within the area such as the Hawthorne Canal and Johnstons Creek provide opportunities to connect the inner west suburbs to the Harbour.
The Central District is located at the epicentre of the Sydney metropolitan area and contains some of the most densely settled suburbs in Sydney. It contains some of Sydney’s earliest designated open space assets such as Hyde Park, The Royal Botanic Gardens and Centennial Parklands. Open space within the CBD and the surrounding suburbs within the City of Sydney LGA have a key regional focus and provide recreational opportunities for an extensive population beyond council boundaries. Similarly many of the world famous eastern suburbs beaches and Sydney Harbour have large tourist populations that support the economy and the recreation needs of wider Sydney.

The Inner West, Botany Bay and many of the Bays West of the CBD have a more suburban character along with some significant industrial areas. Large scale infrastructure, both existing and proposed, has a significant impact within these areas. These elements will continue to be essential for the future growth of the city and establishing Sydney as a globally competitive metropolis. However with large residential populations and proposed future housing targets the imperative remains to ensure that the same infrastructure also contributes to the livability of these regions.

The CBD

As the largest economic and commercial centre within the city, this is the most iconic area for continued growth and livability within Sydney. Open space planning and development and provision within the CBD has resulted in significant improvements to the quality of open space. Many exemplar projects and initiatives are in place or underway. Additional open space projects are anticipated in the future with the a of large scale projects in construction such as Barangaroo and the Darling Harbour redevelopment. Continued improvement to the connections between the city and its surrounding suburbs will ensure these regional assets can be enjoyed by all.

Sydney Light Rail

One of the most significant strategic projects about to transform the city and its public domain is the Sydney Light Rail project. This has ramifications for the CBD and the City of Sydney but also for Randwick and Kensington. Moore Park and the suburbs of Centennial Park will be key destinations along this new route to the University of New South Wales. This new transport corridor is envisaged to provide an important civic focus for the city and will be great catalyst for the Sydney Green Grid.

Urban Renewal

Major urban transformation projects such as WestConnex, the Bays Precinct and Redfern to Eveleigh will create opportunities to provide additional open space and improve connections to the existing open space network.

Open Space Initiatives

A number of initiatives are already in place that reflect the strategic objectives of the Sydney Green Grid. The Sharing Sydney Harbour Program, City of Sydney’s Greening Sydney Plan and statutory plans such as SEPP56 – Sydney Harbour Foreshores and Tributaries and SREP26 – City West, uphold the principle of increasing public access to, and use of, land on the foreshore.

These strategic initiatives along with the many infrastructure and development projects occurring within the district form an important starting point for the delivery of a Metropolitan Green Grid across Sydney.

THE VARIOUS AND UNIQUE LANDSCAPES OF SYDNEY ARE RECOGNISED AS AN ASSET THAT CAN REINFORCE CHARACTER, IDENTITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE. DELIVERED ALONGSIDE INFRASTRUCTURE AND URBAN RENEWAL AN ENHANCED NETWORK OF OPEN SPACE AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE CAN SERVE TO SHAPE AND SUPPORT NEW AND EXISTING COMMUNITIES.

**CENTRAL DISTRICT**

**1.3 PROJECT OPPORTUNITY CLUSTERS**

The strategic framework provides an overview of regional open space opportunities as a series of project opportunity clusters. It is envisaged that these clusters form a starting point for ensuring the more generalised district strategies and any future project delivery responds to the local strategic context and landscape conditions.

**CD.1.1 THE CBD**

As the global centre of metropolitan Sydney, the CBD sits prominently on the harbour, stretching southwards to Central Station. The CBD enjoys a diversity of open spaces ranging from the iconic Royal Botanic Gardens, the foreshore promenades of Circular Quay, the future Barangaroo Headland Park to pocket parks, playgrounds and inner city civic plazas. The public domain has improved in recent years with initiatives such as the Barangaroo foreshore, dedicated cycleways and the large and small park improvement program. The future light rail project supports the well-connected and diverse network of open spaces. The CBD also has a very large number of visitor attractions, cultural institutions and key destinations which could benefit from being integrated into the Green Grid.

The key opportunities for Green Grid projects in the CBD focus on improving connections into the Sydney CBD from surrounding suburbs.

**CD.1.2 REDfern-WATERLOO, GREEN SQUARE, ALEXANDRIA**

Projects within this cluster will be driven by changes in land use and the needs of a diverse and growing population. Former industrial areas and existing large scale infrastructure will be adapted to accommodate these changes and support new populations. Connections and access to existing major regional open spaces such as Moore Park, Centennial Parklands and Sydney Park will be essential to support the recreational needs and enhance the livability of these areas. With significant transformations underway opportunity to provide additional high quality open space, as well as a connected network to support future growth.

**CD.1.3 PORT JACKSON AND THE EASTERN BAYS**

North of the Oxford Street ridge from Wollongong Road to Point Piper the major green spaces typically follow natural drainage valleys down to the harbour. Trumper Park and Coop Park are primary examples of this and offer significant opportunities for further enhancement. Much of the parkland is highly urbanised with large areas of waterfront in private ownership. Every opportunity to increase or improve foreshore access should be investigated. Many of the bays, parks and gardens along the foreshore are very distinctive and could benefit from better access from surrounding suburbs and public transport nodes. Primary transport connections run in the east-west direction along Oxford Street, William Street and New South Head Road and the partially elevated Eastern Suburbs rail line. There is an opportunity to enhance connections to the harbour foreshores parks, headland parks and Centennial Parklands by improving north-south access for pedestrian and cyclists. There is also a key opportunity to make a significant contribution to public open space, pedestrian links and sports facilities as part of the proposed White City redevelopment. Improved connections between White City and the Rushcutters Bay would greatly benefit surrounding communities.

**CD.1.4 THE EASTERN SUBURBS**

This cluster includes the eastern most suburbs of Sydney from Maroubra to Vaucluse. While the area enjoys a wealth of scenic coastline and beaches, there is an opportunity to enhance the open spaces and active transport connections within the area and between the coast and the city. This area faces challenges regarding the retention of privately owned open space. As land values increase in these areas former tennis clubs and sports courts under private ownership are being sold for development resulting in reduced active sporting opportunities. Any possibility to supplement these losses should be investigated along with the enhancement of existing active public open space to cater for increased demand.

**CD.1.5 THE GREAT COASTAL WALK**

Sydney’s Great Coastal Walk extends from Barrangaroo in the North District to the Royal National Park in the South. While much of the Coastal Walk within the Central District follows the foreshore and coastline, there remains the opportunity to complete missing links south of Coogee, including stretches around Malabar Headland, from Malabar to La Perouse and South Coogee to North Maroubra. There is an opportunity to ensure public access to the coastline around the Malabar Headland irrespective of its potential future proposals.

**CD.1.6 RANDWICK, CENTENNIAL PARK, EASTLAKES**

This cluster is centred around the Anzac Parade urban renewal corridor and Randwick Urban Activation Precinct, incorporating the education and health precincts associated with UNSW, NIDA, Sydney Children’s Hospital, Prince of Wales Hospital and the Royal Hospital for Women. Current plans to deliver the South East Light Rail corridor running from Central Station to Moore Park, Randwick and Kingsford facilitates the opportunity to improve existing public domain, enhance nearby open space and pedestrian/ cycle connections to the transport corridor. As a key destination along the new light rail corridor Moore Park and Centennial Parklands will play a key role for future active recreation opportunities as well as catering to current sporting events demand. Increasing populations in Green Square, Randwick and Redfern will place additional demand on these spaces. Moore Park in particular offers the opportunity for further enhancement and improved pedestrian and cycle connections. Better connections with surrounding suburbs and across major barriers such as Anzac parade and Alison Road are essential.

**CD.1.7 THE COOKS RIVER**

The projects within this area are located within the highly urbanised catchment of the Cooks River.

The Cooks River has had the support of multiple councils within its catchment area and has been the focus of a series of project aimed at restoring the waterway, improving water quality and increasing the recreation opportunities.

The corridor is an important asset for surrounding communities and will become even more important with increased population projections. The Cooks River will benefit from further support to help establish it as a major regional recreational destination. Enhancing the quality of existing spaces along the south east end, continuing restoration work in the north west end towards Campsie and increasing connectivity from all the surrounding suburbs will greatly benefit the local community.

**CD.1.8 THE INNER WEST**

The Inner West includes a number of drainage lines following the shallow valleys. These include Iron Cove Creek, Hawthorne Canal, Whites Creek and Johnstons Creek. Historically many of these creeks have been channelised contributing to poor water quality, increased runoff and low amenity within the region.

A series of restoration projects, where space allows, will greatly improve the quality of the catchment through the naturalisation of the waterways and the creation of linear open space corridors. The continued development of such projects will also improve regional connections from the inner west to open space along the Cooks River and Sydney Harbour.

Urban greening improvements along major transport corridors that bisect the Inner West including Parramatta Road, rail lines and the new Dulwich Hill Light Rail corridor will enhance connectivity. Most importantly new development associated with the proposed urban renewal corridor should be provided with public domain upgrades, civic space and open space. Urban renewal in this precinct provides a unique opportunity to help mitigate access and amenity issues associated with Parramatta Road.

**CD.1.9 PARRAMATTA RIVER AND CANADA BAY**

The Parramatta River is the primary river corridor leading to Sydney Harbour. Its east-west alignment, extensive foreshore areas, wetlands and regional parks establish it as both an important regional destination and linking corridor. The significance of this corridor and its contribution to a connected open space network cannot be understated. This portion of the Parramatta River within the Central District includes the southern foreshore extending from Drummoyne to Rhodes Peninsula. Projects should aim to support work already being undertaken in the corridor establishing the Parramatta River as a key active recreation link and...
regional open space corridor between the city and the west. Opportunities for improved connections and foreshore parkland in association with Burwood should be investigated.

**CD.1.10 THE BAYS PRECINCT**

The Bays Precinct is a strategically important part of Sydney Harbour foreshore, including 80 hectares of Government owned land around Johnstons, White, Rozelle and Blackwattle Bays. The precinct will begin to transform over the short, medium and long term. Proposed changes in land use have the potential to allow for additional public open space, active sports facilities and increased foreshore access and to support the surrounding densely populated inner western suburbs. The opportunity exists to maximise the amount of foreshore access available and to secure high quality open space for future growth.

**CD.1.11 PORT BOTANY AND THE ALEXANDRIA CANAL**

This cluster is characterised by the industrial nature of the Port Botany container terminals, freight rail and handling, Sydney Airport and the adjacent Mascot Urban Activation Precinct. With contaminated lands and some of the poorest water quality in Sydney there is a need to establish projects with increased environmental credentials. Opportunities to establish Sydney’s Global gateway as an exemplar of sustainable development should be investigated.

Public access and connections, balanced with ongoing port operations, could also be improved where possible. Better connections to the isolated Sir Joseph Banks Park are highly recommended.

There is an opportunity to initiate additional projects to support work being undertaken to rehabilitate the Alexandria Canal. Opportunities to utilise the canal as a key active transport link and open space corridor between the Cooks River, Mascot, St Peters, Alexandria and Green Square could be developed further in consultation with Sydney Water.

**SD.1.12 ROCKDALE WETLANDS – GEORGES RIVER TO COOKS RIVER**

This group of projects have a very high conservation value extending from the Cooks to the Georges River along Muddy Creek, through Eve Street Wetlands, Spring Creek Wetlands, Landing Light Wetland, Patmore Swamp, Scarborough Park Ponds and through to Sans Souci. Opportunities include wetland restoration, establishment of bird hides education, interpretation and an improved pedestrian and cyclist environment.

**CD.1.13 BARDWELL VALLEY TRAIL**

This project cluster contains projects from Hurstville to Turella connecting pockets of natural bushland and remnant Turpentine forest and Eucalypt woodland which create a swath of green in the middle of the densely populated area of the district. Projects include conservation management, green skills and interpretation, connectivity and biodiversity.

- Consider open space acquisition of Bardwell Valley Golf Course to provide additional open space in the rapidly growing area.
- Enhance the Two Valley Trail.

**CD.1.14 BOTANY BAY FORESHORE AND COOKS PARK TRAIL**

The Botany Bay Foreshore project is important in its context of linking the Great Coastal Walk to Botany Bay and the coastal projects of the South District. This cluster of projects provides an opportunity to improve connectivity to the foreshore and provide enhancements to the length of Cook Park from Brighton le Sands to Sans Souci.
There are significant health and well being benefits associated with readily accessible, high quality open space. Well designed parks, plazas and streetscapes create highly liveable environments.

The Central District has a wealth of exquisite natural features and key regional open spaces that provide significant recreational opportunities and form the basis for a regional network of open space. The Harbour, the coastline and the Cooks River with their supporting tributaries provide a coherent spatial strategy that defines the landscape quality of the District. Opportunities to improve access to these key assets from existing suburbs and new growth areas will provide benefits for the existing and future population.

A number of initiatives are already in place that reflect the strategic objectives of the Sydney Green Grid. For example, the Sharing Sydney Harbour Program, City of Sydney’s Greening Sydney Plan and statutory plans such as SEPP56 - Sydney Harbour Foreshores and Tributaries and SREP26 - City West, uphold the principle of increasing public access to, and use of land on the foreshore. These programs should continue to be supported alongside the development of up to date local open space planning strategies.
A series of key strategic opportunities have been identified and include:

- Improved access to Sydney Harbour, Parramatta River foreshore and the coast line.
- Undertake local open space studies to increase access to open space at a local level and ensure equity of access to open space across the district.

A series of key project opportunities have been identified and include:

1. Homebush Bay Pedestrian Bridge
2. Improve connections from Burwood to Hen and Chicken Bay Harbour Foreshore Walk and Bayview Park via Burwood Road and the open space networks via Saint Lukes Park and Queen Elizabeth Park.
3. Link the suburbs of Marrickville and Leichhardt with Sydney Harbour via the proposed Iron Cove Greenway which links the Cooks River and Iron Cove Bay.
4. Upgrade Alexandria Canal to promote open space access between Mascot and the Cooks River.
5. Connect Green Square with Moore Park, Centennial Parklands and Sydney Park, St Peters.
6. Link the heads of the open space at Blackwattle Bay, Rozelle Bay and White Bay into the existing open space network.
7. Increase public foreshore access within the Bays Precinct and access from Sydney CBD to the Bays Precinct via the Glebe Island Bridge.
Walking and cycling are becoming increasingly important recreation and transport choices within the city. Greater opportunities for physical activity contribute significantly to improved health within the community, reducing health costs and increasing quality of life. Walking and cycling have some of the highest participation levels out of all recreation types. Opportunities for increasing Sydney’s network of active transport links should provide links between the places people live and work and the places that people want to visit.

The Central district is blessed with many visitor attractions, cultural facilities and places of interest. Key areas of urban renewal will provide the opportunity to improve cycleway and footpath networks linking these assets.

A number of links are already in place such as The Great Coastal Walk linking South Head and La Perouse and the Federation Track which links Circular Quay and Centennial Parklands. Consequently the district already has a strong framework to build on. However, these links connecting regional open space are not equally distributed across the district. Improvements could be made within the Inner West linking the densely populated suburbs to the Harbour and Parramatta River.
1.6 CREATE NEW HIGH QUALITY PUBLIC REALM

SUSTAINABLE REGENERATION HAS THE PUBLIC REALM AT ITS HEART. ESTABLISH A VIBRANT, PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY PUBLIC REALM AT KEY CENTRES, TRANSPORT INTERCHANGES AND URBAN RENEWAL AREAS, WITH PLACES FOR GATHERING AND GOOD CONNECTIONS TO OPEN SPACE.

The public realm offers a starting point for the development of a well used and connected open space network. The opportunity exists to build an open space network with high quality public realm at the centre. Squares, plazas and active streets offer important recreation and open space opportunities particularly within high density areas. Key civic spaces or destinations should be integrated with public transport opportunities and existing development. Existing urban revitalisation strategies such as the City of Sydney’s laneway projects and the new Light Rail Corridor reflect the objectives of the Sydney Green Grid and reinforce the creation of high quality walkable public domain. A number of projects underway such as Green Square Library, the Green Square Aquatic Centre and The Goods Line will also provide opportunities for future links to surrounding communities as they create new destinations within the city.

A series of key project opportunities have been identified and include:

1. Create high quality public domain and civic space at key locations associated with areas of urban renewal such as Parramatta Road and Anzac Parade
2. Create new public space as a benefit of large scale infrastructure projects including proposed South East and CBD Light Rail Extensions and WestConnex motorway.
3. Improve connections across barriers/ major roads (e.g. Parramatta Road, Eastern Distributor, Anzac Parade, Victoria Road, City West Link and New South Head Road) to facilitate access to major regional parks and foreshores;

A series of key strategic opportunities have been identified and include:

Continue laneway revitalisation within the CBD and develop laneway projects in areas such as Bondi Junction, Green Square, Newtown and Burwood, to activate under utilised public spaces. Create new open space to support the Inner West for example new regional parks within the Rozelle Rail Yards corridor and active sports facilities at White Bay Power Station and above White Bay car park.

Continue to promote and support projects that utilise disused and heritage infrastructure.
Identify and minimise disturbance to riparian areas and protect and improve the natural character, ecological integrity, visual amenity and public access to foreshores and rivers (such as parts of Cooks River and Coxs Creek).

The Central District includes the important wetland areas within the Bayside LGA, which support a number of threatened ecological communities (including Sydney Freshwater Wetlands) and habitat for threatened and migratory water birds.

In Sydney Harbour, mangrove litter material forms the basis of detrital based food webs, which support a variety of species from most trophic levels (e.g. algae, barnacles, molluscs, fish).

Seagrass meadows and saltmarsh communities occur within the Sydney Harbour and Botany Bay marine area.
The Central District includes important national park areas including South Head and Nielsen Park within Sydney Harbour National Park and part of Kamay Botany Bay National Park. There are also areas of remnant vegetation and threatened species that are associated with this district. This includes the threatened ecological communities Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub and Themeda Grassland on Seafcliffs and Headlands, and the endangered flora species Sunshine Wattle (Acacia terminalis subsp. terminalis). Endangered populations of Long-nosed Bandicoot and Plum-leaf Pomaderris (Pomaderris pruinfolia) occur within the Central District.

Many areas of high biodiversity are protected in national parks and nature reserves, as well as on privately owned land managed for conservation purposes. The protection of biodiversity in the landscape provides a range of environmental, social and economic benefits. Detailed information on areas of high environmental value will be ground-truthed to improve accuracy.

The Office of Environment and Heritage has also developed a Biodiversity Investment Opportunities Map (BIO Map) for part of Greater Sydney. The BIO Map identifies priority areas for investment in bushland protection and restoration, comprising core areas of bushland and corridors, that are important at a state and regional level for biodiversity.

Implement the ‘avoid, minimise, offset’ hierarchy by striving to avoid and minimise impacts from zoning intensification and development on areas of HEV. This will include avoiding development on ‘protected lands’, prioritising avoiding HEV and threatened species hotspots wherever possible and offsetting impacts on threatened entities where avoidance and mitigation is not possible. Connect biodiverse areas and apply planning and zoning provisions to protect corridors. Corridors aim to provide ecological connectivity, to facilitate the movement and dispersal of native flora and fauna across the landscape. Connecting biodiverse areas is particularly important in the face of climate change. Investigate opportunities to enhance native biodiversity in Green Grid corridors to help expand the urban forest to achieve canopy cover targets.

Engage local communities about the biological assets of their ‘local patch of bush’ to encourage active involvement in the protection and enhancement of bushland and other biodiversity. This will require engagement of local communities about the multiple benefits of their local bush and riparian areas and waterways and action to improve the ecological literacy to deepen the community perception of green infrastructure.

Volunteer and community groups are an important sector in the rehabilitation of native vegetation in urban areas. In recognition of the effort and funding dedicated to these areas, a level of protection should be provided through the planning process by applying appropriate provisions and mechanisms.

NOTE: Ecological Grid values and text provided in consultation with the Office of Environment and Heritage [OEH].
RECREATION
Key features and findings regarding recreational open space planning for both passive and active sports are currently being analysed and will be described in collaboration with other consultancies.

HERITAGE
The Central District contains a diverse array of indigenous, non-indigenous and natural heritage, including important examples of early Aboriginal and European settlement, dwellings, landscape items, archaeological sites and indigenous relics.

The protection of important heritage places and landscapes from the early planning stages is important as these places contribute to the district’s identity and provide a sense of place, history and visual character. They also contribute to the economy through the attraction of visitors. Heritage is a non-renewable resource and the significance of heritage to the community should be appreciated, valued, protected and conserved for the benefit of current and future generations.

Aboriginal cultural heritage is legally protected in NSW. Protecting Aboriginal heritage means far more than looking after sites in parks or artefacts in museums. Aboriginal people need to be consulted on the conservation of the natural environment and the development of areas.

Acknowledge heritage resources as a ‘value addition’ in urban development. This will include identifying significant heritage values and incorporating them into developments, including the adaptive reuse of heritage resources.

Figure C.7: Central District Recreational Grid Plan
The Green Grid Existing Values plans represent a combination of the current values from the Hydrological, Ecological and Recreational Grids. This shows the weighting of valued open space lands across the district and the balance of Hydrological, Ecological and Recreational values across the district.
The list of projects is a compilation of projects derived from the original Green Grid Reports together with the outcome from Greater Sydney Commission’s District Plan Workshops and NSW Department of Planning and Environment Open Space Workshops.

This project list represents the projects identified by various interest groups and governments as potential priority projects. The projects are currently being assessed against the GIS data and work methodology as described previously.

The “Dominant Grid Layer” in the Project List refers to the infrastructure layer of the city that is most concerned with this project, and as a result may have funding allocated to it. This layer only represents the project as it currently exists and is not necessarily correlate to its future vision.

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<td>41. East West Coastal Green Links: Randwick to Coogee</td>
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<td>42. East West Coastal Green Links: Hyde Park to Bronte</td>
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<td>46. Bondi Junction to Bondi Beach Green Link</td>
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<td>47. Cooks River Secondary Green Links: Strathfield to Belmore</td>
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<td>49. Cooks River Secondary Green Links: Burwood to Campsie</td>
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<td>50. Boulevards Streets Green Links from Urban Centres to Botany Bay</td>
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</table>
Figure C.9: Central Green Grid Project Opportunities
The Green Grid projects have been analysed against ten priority criteria. Each project has been given a total score which represents its level of priority in the Green Grid network. The ten criteria are:

- Existing ecological, hydrological and recreational value
- Regional potential to connect to other Green Grid projects
- Super District Scale potential to connect across Local Government Area and District Boundaries
- Projects proximity to development
- Projects with lands currently controlled by the Office of Strategic Lands (OSL)
- Projects identified by Local Council’s as priorities during the Greater Sydney Commission’s Technical Working Group process.
- Projects in regions with open space deficiency as identified in the Government Architect’s Office Open Space Audit.
- Projects that overlap or provide important connections to NSW Department of Planning Priority Precincts.

Each project is given a total score based on the sum of the above values. Of the projects that score 10 or higher (of a possible 12), Priority projects were selected based on relevance to future development requirements and other Greater Sydney Commission and NSW Planning priorities. For each district two or three projects are selected and are highlighted dark green in the project prioritisation matrix. Projects that do not score 10 or higher are defined as other important projects and are highlighted light green in the project prioritisation matrix. From the "other important projects" list a shortlist were selected for inclusion into the District Plans based on their immediate relevance to other Greater Sydney Commission and NSW Planning priorities.

NOTE:

- The Wolli Creek Regional Park and Bardwell Valley Parklands lies on the boundary of the Central and South Districts. For further information refer to the Wolli Creek Parklands Green Grid Project in the South District.

- The Cooks River Open Space Corridor lies on the boundary of the Central and South Districts. For further information refer to the The Cooks River Open Space Corridor Green Grid Project in the South District.
# CENTRAL DISTRICT

## PRELIMINARY PROJECT PRIORITISATION MATRIX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT NAME</th>
<th>COUNCIL VALUE</th>
<th>ECOLOGICAL VALUE</th>
<th>HYDROLOGICAL VALUE</th>
<th>RECREATIONAL VALUE</th>
<th>CONNECTIVITY VALUE</th>
<th>SUPER DISTRICT SCALE VALUE</th>
<th>PROXIMITY TO DEVELOPMENT</th>
<th>OIL LANDS OVERLAP</th>
<th>GSI TWG FOCUS</th>
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CENTRAL DISTRICT

PRIORITY PROJECTS FOR FURTHER SCOPING

A selection of important Green Grid project opportunities have been selected for further scoping. The selected projects represent a mix of priority and other important Green Grid projects. The selected projects also represent a mix of project types including projects with hydrological, ecological, recreational, transport and utility infrastructure values. The projects selected for further scoping may not represent the highest priority projects but aim to further understand the potential issues around different project types.

1. THE GREENWAY AND HAWTHORNE CANAL

The Greenway is a sequence of open spaces that link Iron Cove to the Cooks River. It predominantly follows the Hawthorne Canal, the Light Rail Corridor from Leichhardt North to Dulwich Hill Light Rail Stations. The Greenway creates a connected open space corridor that crosses a number of major east-west barriers including Parramatta Road, the Parramatta Rail Line, Old Canterbury Road, New Canterbury Road and the Bankstown Rail Line.

2. EASTERN BEACHES GREEN LINK

The Eastern Beaches Link projects aim to build on the success of the Coastal Walk and improve east-west connections between the beaches and Centennial Park, Bondi Junction, the Sydney CBD and the inner suburbs.

These projects will primarily be street conversion projects, that will work alongside Transport for NSW to provide improved pedestrian and cycle links as well as improved public domain.

3. MILL STREAM & BOTANY WETLANDS OPEN SPACE CORRIDOR

Botany Wetlands and the Mills Stream extends from Botany Bay and Sydney Airport to Centennial Park through The Australian, Lakes, Eastlakes and Bonnie Doon Golf Courses. The Botany Wetlands are regionally significant as a major recharge source for the Botany Sands Aquifer, and the home of two regionally rare vegetation communities, the Sydney Freshwater Wetlands and the Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub. Public use and access along this corridor is limited, and presents a significant opportunity for improved north-south access and cross district access.
The Cooks River to Iron Cove GreenWay is a 5.8 km long sustainable transport and urban environmental corridor connecting the Parramatta River at Iron Cove to the Cooks River at Earlwood. Following the route of the inner West Light Rail, the Greenway corridor and catchment has a population of 48,000 people and connects the urban villages of Leichhardt, Haberfield, Summer Hill, Petersham, Lewisham, Dulwich Hill, Hurstville Park and Earlwood.

The Inner West communities have been working with GreenWay Councils and other stakeholders to complete the GreenWay trail (cycle and walking track). Currently a total of 2.6 km (45%) of the GreenWay trail is in place, with approximately 3.2 km (55%) yet to be completed.

The Inner West has been identified by NSW Planning & Environment for significant growth in jobs and housing over the next 10 to 20 years. Much of this growth will be located within the GreenWay corridor and its catchment. This includes the Taverners Hill and Lewisham West development precincts which together will accommodate up to 7000 new dwellings and significant commercial and retail space.

Incremental completion of the GreenWay trail will significantly contribute to the quality of life of people living and working within the GreenWay catchment and the many thousands who will live or work in new developments under construction or proposed in the vicinity.

The section of the GreenWay between Old Canterbury Road and Parramatta Road, Missing Links F to J is yet to be completed and forms the basis of this study commissioned by Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils. The GreenWay is a regionally significant green link identified in “A Plan for Growing Sydney” as part of the Sydney Green Grid which provides the strategic framework for an interconnected network of open space across Metropolitan Sydney.

The strategic importance of the GreenWay as a north south connection from the Cooks River to Sydney Harbour will become the first of a number of important north-south corridors that connect the urban centres along these two water bodies. The Greenway is located in a critical position in the Green Grid network. Intersections with the Cooks River, the Bankstown Rail Line, the Parramatta Rail Line, Parramatta Road and the Bay Run give the Greenway the potential to play an important role in the regions active transport and open space network.
POTENTIAL FOCUS AREAS

A. Marion Street, Haberfield
B. Parramatta Road, Taverners Hill Light Rail Station
C. Parramatta Rail Line and Longport Street, Lewisham
D. Old Canterbury Road and Mungo Scott Flour Mills Site
E. Davis Street, Hoskins Park and Waratah Mills Site.
F. New Canterbury Road and Hercules Street, Dulwich Hill
G. Dulwich Hill Skate Park, Bankstown Rail Line and Ewart Street
H. Marrickville Golf Club and Wardell Road, Dulwich Hill

Figure C.11: The Greenway and Hawthorne Canal Potential Focus Areas
The Eastern Beaches Link projects aim to build on the success of the Coastal Walk and improve east-west connections between the beaches and Centennial Park, Bondi Junction, the Sydney CBD and the inner suburbs.

These projects will primarily be street conversion projects, that will work alongside Transport for NSW to provide improved pedestrian and cycle links as well as improved public domain.

This project is a proposal for a cycleway to link the Sydney CBD with Bondi Junction CBD along Oxford Street via Moore Park and Centennial Park. This is a priority route, identified in Sydney’s Cycling Future (2013) as Eastern Suburbs Link (Bondi Junction to CBD).

The link is also identified as part of Priority Route 1: Bondi Beach to Bondi Junction to CBD in the Waverley Council Bike Plan (2013). This is nominated in the plan as ‘Waverley’s highest priority route’. In the 2016-17 financial year Waverley Council received grant funding from RMS to design part of the route: a cycleway along Oxford Street from Bronte Road to York Street. When constructed, this section of the route will connect Bondi Junction CBD with the North Eastern entrance to Centennial Park.
POTENTIAL FOCUS AREAS

A. Bronte Road, Bronte
B. MacPherson St, Bronte
C. Darley Street and Queens Park
D. York Road and Eastern edge of Centennial Park
E. Bondi Road, North Bondi
F. Bondi Junction and Oxford Street Mall, Bondi
G. Oxford Street and Centennial Park
H. Oxford Street, Paddington
J. Moore Park Road, Moore Park
K. Fitzroy Street and Albion Street, Surry Hills
L. Oxford Street, Darlinghurst

Figure C.12: Eastern Beaches Green Link Potential Focus Areas
The Botany Wetlands will become an important public open space that connects Centennial Park to Botany Bay. The publicly accessible open space will transform some golf course lands into public parklands that pass through the Botany Wetlands, an important ecological corridor and historic water supply system for Sydney.

Botany City Council have done a number of investigations, including concepts in the “Botany Bay Vision 2040”. The following descriptions include excerpts from the Botany Bay Vision 2040.

The project aims to restore community access to the Wetlands, starting with cycling and pedestrian connections from Gardeners Road through the golf courses to the Lord St Business park then along the Millpond to Sir Joseph Banks Park.

The Botany Wetlands was Sydney’s third water supply system. It is the only remaining ‘swamp’ system that is substantially intact in its original form. The Wetlands contain ruins of the former water supply system, trees planted in 1869 and a 1915 sewage pump all of which will be well appreciated features in a new park.

Botany Wetlands are the largest freshwater wetlands in the Sydney region and contain some of the area’s remaining indigenous vegetation and significant native fauna.

Sydney Freshwater Wetlands and the Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub are considered endangered ecological communities and protected under both Commonwealth and State laws.

The Botany Wetlands are listed on the Commonwealth Government’s Directory of Wetlands which recognises the most significant Wetlands in Australia. The wetlands also have recognised regional ecological value as native animal habitat and movement corridors including for migratory eels.

The new park with pedestrian and bicycle links would restore internal connections through our City from the Bay through to Gardeners Road and beyond to Centennial Park, making it easy once again to get from Mascot to Botany and Daceyville and to connect to the city.
POTENTIAL FOCUS AREAS

A. Foreshore Road and Joseph Banks Parklands
B. Mill Pond and Botany Road, Botany
C. Mill Stream, Freight Line and Wentworth Avenue
D. Botany Dams and Eastlakes Golf Course, Daceyville
E. Doncaster Ave and Kensington Park, Kensington
F. Doncaster Ave and Randwick Racecourse
G. Alison Road and Centennial Park, Randwick
The Cooks River

The Cooks River Foreshore is a connected sequence of open spaces from Wolli Creek to Strathfield and is an important project for both the South and Central Districts. There is opportunity to transform the corridor into a regionally significant parkland corridor, improve water quality, and provide high quality open space along the highly urbanised catchment. Improving connectivity to nearby centres including Strathfield, Sydney Olympic Park, Campsie, Canterbury, Dulwich Hill, Marrickville and Wolli Creek. This project will also connect to other Green Grid projects including; the Bankstown to Sydenham Open Space Corridor project, The Great Coastal Walk: Botany Bay Foreshores project, the Wolli Creek Regional Park and Bardwell Valley Parklands project and the Rockdale Wetlands Open Space Corridor [F6 Corridor] project.

The Coastal Walk: Botany Bay Foreshores

The Botany Bay Foreshores are an important section of the Great Coastal Walk around the edges of the bay from La Perouse to Kurnell. They connect important existing open spaces and are very popular recreation parklands and walking and cycling corridor. The major missing links include La Perouse to Kyeemagh, Taren Point Bridge to Shell Point. This project links to the Rockdale Wetlands Open Space Corridor and The Coastal Walk Green Grid projects.

The Great Coastal Walk from South Head to La Perouse

Sydney’s Great Coastal Walk extends from Barrenjoey Head in the North District to the Royal National Park in the South District. While the Coastal Walk from Bondi to Maroubra is largely complete, there remains some missing links, including around Malabar Headland, from Malabar to La Perouse and South Coogee to North Maroubra, and from North Bondi to South Head. The Central and South Districts can also be connected by ferry from La Perouse to Kurnell.

Powells Creek and Mason Park, Strathfield

Powells Creek and Mason Park Wetlands are important tributaries into the Badu Mangroves, Bicentennial Park and the Parramatta River. The project is also important open space corridor that links the urban centres of Concord West, North Strathfield, Homebush and Strathfield to Parramatta Road, Bicentennial Park and the Parramatta River Foreshore. The project will provide walking and cycling links, urban greening, stormwater treatment and a mix of open space uses.

Evans, C. and Freestone, R. (2011), Policy Challenges for Metropolitan Greenspace in Sydney, Paper presented to the SOAC Conference, UNSW.


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