



The Committee for
Sydney



2017-2018 PRIORITIES



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



MICHAEL ROSE AM

As Chair of the Committee for Sydney, it is a pleasure to see the organisation continuing to demonstrate its capacity to set and frame public policy debates and to influence real change at a local and national level.

The Committee's role is to be a platform for collaboration and a better civic dialogue between the public, private and not for profit sectors in Greater Sydney. We recognise that cities collaborate to compete and that the best global cities collaborate most effectively. We are determined for Sydney to be the best.

We take pride in our independence and work with decision makers across the political spectrum. Our work is collaborative, inclusive and forward looking. It is underpinned by rigorous, evidenced based policy work that is passionate but balanced and steeped in the experiences and expertise of our members and stakeholders.

The Committee continues to play a central role in an evolving debate on affordable housing in Greater Sydney, acting as a network for constructive policy making between public and private sectors. Our approach has been multi-faceted and includes policy solutions to increase the supply of housing stock, diversify the way that housing is delivered and offer new provision for affordable properties for key workers.

As the architects of some of the integral thinking around the establishment of the Greater Sydney Commission, we have contributed to their emerging District Plans and are working closely with Commissioners to support effective spatial planning in Greater Sydney. We are supporting partners, including many Committee members, involved in the Western Sydney City Deal, an idea that was heavily promoted by us.

Providing world-class public transport links for Sydney remains a priority for the Committee and we support the ongoing construction of major light and heavy rail projects in the CBD and Parramatta. We will also continue to influence thinking around future projects such as the Western Sydney Airport and Sydney Metro West.

The health of Sydneysiders has become a key priority for our work. Our report on *Adding to the Dividend, Ending the Divide* put the health inequalities between east and west Sydney into sharp focus and we are working with state and local governments, as well as health districts, to promote healthier cities and active transport.

The future of Greater Sydney will be supported by a number of urban centres, with more people being able to access their jobs within 30 minutes of where they live. How this becomes a reality was addressed in our *Geography of Time* report, which set out a vision for shorter commutes and greater employment opportunities across the city.

2017 also saw an increased focus on Sydney as a data-driven city, supported by our new Smart Cities Taskforce. Supporting the tech and start-up sector remains a key priority for the Financial Services Knowledge Hub, supported by the Committee, including the publication of our *Scaling the Fintech Opportunity* report.

Finally, an undoubted highlight of the year was the publication of The Sydney Culture Essays, kindly launched by the Premier, which capture the thinking of some of the leading voices in Sydney's cultural life. The essayists tease out the debates and conversations shaping Sydney's cultural landscape, navigating the role of culture for Sydneysiders and communicating our identity and potential to the world.

The Committee's Priorities for 2017/18 focus as always on our understanding of the key challenges and opportunities for Greater Sydney. Our Priorities change when those change and indeed when problems have been solved, we move to the next ones.

In 2017/18, we will maintain a focus on these through our member driven taskforces but also extend our view to areas such as the impact of automated vehicles, attracting global talent and developing an economic strategy for Greater Sydney.



THE COMMITTEE FOR SYDNEY

The Committee for Sydney is an independent think tank and champion for the whole of Sydney, providing thought leadership beyond the electoral cycle. Our aim is the enhancement of the economic, social, cultural and environmental conditions that make Sydney a competitive and liveable global city.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- **Independent** - representing no one interest, so our work and views are seen as unbiased and objective
- **Diverse** - bringing together a broad membership of private, public and not-for-profit organisations passionate about Sydney and determined to help shape its future
- **Strategic** - taking a long-term view above politics and beyond electoral cycles
- **Cosmopolitan** - striving to make Sydney a city for all, embracing and celebrating Sydney's diversity and encouraging broad participation in our own activities
- **Evidence-based** - developing high quality policy informed by global best practice
- **United** - focusing on the greater metropolitan Sydney area, promoting a 'one Sydney' view
- **Active** - making things happen by bringing together disparate interests: in a world where cities compete for talent and investment we help Sydney collaborate to compete.

HOW WE WORK

- **Collaboratively** - with our members at the heart of everything we do, supported by a high capacity in-house team and a committed Board
- **Proactively** - working with member-led, policy-focused Taskforces to design and deliver creative and sustained advocacy
- **Thoughtfully** - gathering intelligence about projects, people and initiatives and sharing it with members and stakeholders
- **Effectively** - providing members with a conduit for communication and a persuasive voice in the public arena
- **Intelligently** - drawing on member expertise and knowledge to shape our thinking and actions to make a real difference for Sydney
- **Persuasively** - creating effective coalitions and networks for change informed by global best practice and evidence
- **Robustly** - advocating for change by looking for shared solutions not quarrels - we never seek headlines or confrontation for their own sake



“I commend the Committee on the role they are playing in intellectual thought leadership for Sydney.”

THE HON. GLADYS BEREJKLIAN MP,
PREMIER OF NSW

OUR FIVE FOCUS AREAS FOR 2017–2018



1. AN INCLUSIVE CITY: MANAGING SYDNEY'S GROWTH AND PROSPERITY

SUPPORTED BY THE PLANNING TASKFORCE AND
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFERENCE GROUP

The population of Greater Sydney is expected to double in the next 40 years. The pressure is therefore to not only accommodate a larger population, but to ensure that Greater Sydney is a more socially just and inclusive city. If we are to build a liveable and productive Sydney for 8 million, it cannot be based on the sprawl model of development – business as usual will simply not be able to deliver a dynamic and sustainable Sydney.

We have to design a future for Sydney which is about 'density done well' – a Sydney of smaller homes, great shared spaces, and bigger lifestyles. We know liveability and productivity go hand in hand in the successful knowledge-based economy of the 21st century city – so Sydney must be shaped by brilliant urban design, have best-in-class land use and transport integration, and adopt sustainable approaches to the delivery of energy and water services.

In a global economy it is the diverse 'city for all' which wins the competition for investment. Such a city breaks down barriers to skilled migration and also removes any unnecessary blockages to the capacity of its communities and districts to contribute to and participate in the success of their city. The Committee's commitment to the future of Western Sydney is informed by this inclusive vision. As the balance of population shifts westwards, making sure Western Sydney has the policy focus and investment it needs is something of significance to all of Sydney.

“Sydney’s ability to move to the next echelon of global cities will, in part, be determined by whether its leadership class will make smart, empirically-grounded decisions--the very agenda identified and led by the Committee”.

JULIE WAGNER, SENIOR FELLOW,
BROOKINGS INSTITUTION,
WASHINGTON DC

IN 2017–18 WE WILL FOCUS ON:

Density done well	Promote best practice in urban design and higher density development in our town centres and suburbs – so as to help ensure that there is greater community buy-in to the growth of Sydney
Delivering three '30 minute cities' in Greater Sydney	Building upon our <i>Geography of Time</i> report to develop policy thinking on making the three cities model in Greater Sydney a reality.
Western Sydney	Continue research and advocacy around Western Sydney's strategic strengths and needs – to enable Sydney as a whole to flourish
City Deals	Continue to provide fresh thinking and practical support for the emerging Western Sydney City Deal.
Stronger, better resourced local government	Support the emergence of stronger local governments as advocates for their communities and as partners with other tiers of government and the private sector. Celebrate and promote innovation within Greater Sydney's local government and create more effective working relationships between local, state and federal governments.
Sydney and the national cities agenda	Continue to provide thought leadership and innovation in the funding and governance of Australian cities so as to help Sydney have the resources, coordination and structures it needs.
From urban sprawl to healthy communities	Build upon the work of our report, <i>Adding to the Dividend, Ending the Divide</i> , to explore the health and equity impacts of Sydney's sprawl model of development – and work to ensure the benefits of a more compact and connected city are shared across Greater Sydney
Supporting the work of the Greater Sydney Commission	Continue to work closely with the GSC into its second year of operation, including contributing to its strategic direction and emerging thinking.
Affordable and social housing	Continue to advocate housing policies and reforms which help to deliver homes for all. A particular focus on expanding the options available for affordable and social housing in NSW.

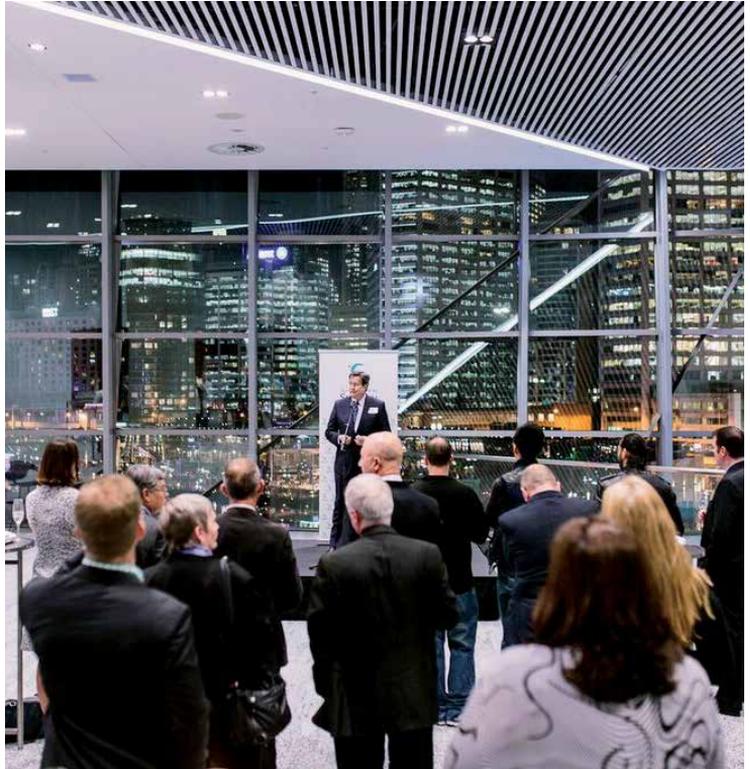
2. A SMARTER, DATA-DRIVEN CITY

SUPPORTED BY THE SMART CITIES TASKFORCE



“Sydney needs an intelligent, independent advocate that can help shape the debate about the future of our city. The Committee for Sydney is this advocate.”

THE HON. LUKE FOLEY MP,
NSW LEADER OF THE
OPPOSITION



Cities everywhere are exploring digital technologies and platforms to improve the way they manage resources, movement of people and goods, delivery of services, and the design and provision of infrastructure. There is renewed momentum for Sydney becoming a ‘smart city’ that is data-driven and responsive. As Australia’s global city and home to the nation’s largest concentration of ICT firms and start-ups, Sydney has a natural advantage in adopting and benefiting from new digital platforms and the Internet of Things.

However, smart cities require smart governance, collaboration between the public and private sectors and imaginative use of digital platforms to engage with residents and businesses and enable them to find shared solutions to urban challenges. The Committee is dedicated to supporting Sydney’s journey to becoming an even smarter and more responsive city.

IN 2017-18 WE WILL FOCUS ON:

Sydney as a Smart City	Further develop our thinking and strategy about Sydney as a data-driven and responsive city
Innovation in procurement	Investigate ways to improve public procurement processes which seek new solutions to urban challenges and provide new commercial opportunities
Benchmarking Sydney	Support emerging government initiatives to create a ‘digital dashboard’ to benchmark Greater Sydney’s performance against key indicators – and provide a new tool of accountability for Sydneysiders
Sharing economy	Support improved regulation of the shared economy and promote greater and more efficient access to under-utilised public and private assets
Celebrating our smart city success	Promoting the most innovative smart city approaches in Sydney through our Smart City Awards.

3. DRIVING SYDNEY'S PRODUCTIVITY AND COMPETITIVENESS



SUPPORTED BY THE PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES TASKFORCE AND THE FINANCIAL SERVICES KNOWLEDGE HUB

As Australia's global city, Sydney is the beating heart of the national economy. Our financial and professional services are the fastest growing sectors in the economy and currently contribute more to Australia's GDP than mining and agriculture. At the same time Sydney's digital economy and creative industries lead the nation in terms of scale, entrepreneurialism and innovation. Sydney is the epicenter of Australia's increasingly urban and data-driven economy.

To maintain global competitiveness we must embrace disruption and lead the way in the development of ICT services and innovation by stimulating collaboration between and within sectors. As the coordinator of the Financial Services Knowledge Hub, an initiative of the NSW Government, the Committee for Sydney is driving collaboration and identifying domestic and international opportunities in financial services.

Our competitiveness is dependent on attracting the best global talent to our private and public sector organisations. Our appeal and growth as a city where the world wants to work requires us to cement our reputation as an innovation and entrepreneurial hub. At the same time we must nurture our local skills base particularly around STEAM education.

IN 2017-18 WE WILL FOCUS ON:

An economic strategy for Sydney's mega-region	Examine the economic eco-system of the Gosford-Newcastle-Sydney-Wollongong mega-region and promote areas for collaboration across geographic boundaries.
The future of work	Assessing the future employment growth areas for Sydney and Australia and working with members to ensure that the future workforce is 'workplace ready'.
Digital disruption - towards the data-driven and responsive city	Explore how private and public sector business models are transforming in the digital era - and how the best cities are creating new business opportunities, better public services, better customer and resident engagement, and improved city performance and management
Women in entrepreneurship	Position Sydney as a city that values and promotes female entrepreneurs
Sydney as a global talent hub	Fresh research to support efforts promoting Sydney to global talent and investment.
The Future of Fintech	Promote Sydney as a hotbed of Fintech talent and innovation in the Asia-Pacific region and build upon our recent <i>Scaling the Fintech Opportunity</i> report.
Exporting professional services	Support the export potential of Sydney's financial, professional and business services
Education as an economic driver	Support tomorrow's workforce in Sydney by ensuring that they have the right skills for the modern economy. Also examine the development of primary and secondary schools to cater for a growing population in Greater Sydney.
Airports as economic drivers	Supporting the role of Airports in shaping Sydney's economic competitiveness, exports and global links, including advocating for the right policy settings and vital transport links to enable their growth.



“The Committee for Sydney’s work over many years has made a real difference to Australia’s cities. As a thought leader and driver of reform, the Committee has helped to create and support productive, accessible and liveable cities across Australia”

THE HON. ANGUS TAYLOR MP,
FEDERAL ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR
CITIES AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

4. KEEPING SYDNEY MOVING

SUPPORTED BY THE TRANSPORT TASKFORCE



Truly competitive global cities have the transport infrastructure to match their aspirations. While Sydney's transport offering continues to improve, we need a step-change in provision if we are to equal the performance and accessibility of our competitors. The momentum towards a modern public transport system for Sydney needs reinforcing as vital to economic success and access to opportunity across the city.

We must have a cohesive and long-term outlook on transport, with integrated public transport, smart systems with real-time data and innovation in new transport modes, to keep Sydney moving. The move towards a denser, more populous city means using our existing infrastructure more efficiently while strategically expanding our public transport network.

IN 2017-18 WE WILL FOCUS ON:

Future transport	Examining and providing solutions to the practical and regulatory challenges of rolling out automated vehicles and their interaction with public transport. Also, examining the use of technology in reducing the number of vehicles on Sydney's roads, including the issue of drones for freight deliveries.
Demand management and road pricing	Promote the adoption of demand management initiatives on Sydney's roads to use our existing infrastructure more efficiently and reduce the impact of congestion
Value capture	Ensure that new sources of funding including value capture methods, are identified for the public transport revolution Sydney needs.
Transit-oriented development	Support building density around transit hubs, to create vibrant and connected communities
Growing our rail network	Ensure delivery of more efficient public transport links in a transformed rail network, with faster journeys between the Sydney CBD, Western Sydney centres and Badgerys Creek - and focus on the potential for high-speed rail connecting Australia's cities
Infrastructure appraisal	Work to improve infrastructure appraisal methods, learning from global best practice, so the right projects for the city are prioritised
Active transport - and innovating how we travel	Promote the walkability and cyclability of our city while also championing new forms of travel, including driverless cars, community transport and collaborative transport modes

5. PROTECTING AND ENHANCING SYDNEY'S APPEAL

SUPPORTED BY THE LIVEABILITY/LOVEABILITY TASKFORCE



Global cities compete across a range of indicators - transport infrastructure, business environment, natural assets and the very freedoms and lifestyles they offer their residents. What must not be forgotten is the important role of the cultural, sporting, leisure and visitor offering in a city's appeal to global talent and investment. Indeed, it is the richness and diversity of what Sydney offers to businesses, visitors and newcomers which helps distinguish us from our competitors across the Asia-Pacific region.

In recognition of this, the Committee has a taskforce specifically focused on promoting and enhancing Sydney's cultural, sporting and natural assets as part of our overall work to attract and retain investment, talent and visitors. At the same time, efforts to promote Sydney externally can only be strengthened by ensuring Sydneysiders themselves support it, and as such the Committee is developing an approach to promote civic pride in Sydney, and reviewing how to maximise the benefits of sports and arts investments for local communities and precincts.

IN 2017-18 WE WILL FOCUS ON:

Night-time economy	Publish the findings of our Night-time Economy Commission and work with members to promote and enhance the night-time offer in Sydney.
Sydney and global competition: benchmarking	Review Sydney's comparative position in key indicators relating to global competition and develop a sophisticated approach to benchmarking its performance
Sports and entertainment precincts	Support efforts to attract major events and maximise the benefits of sport and arts investments and experiences
Cultural tourism	Promote and enhance access to Sydney's broad spectrum of arts and cultural attractions
Protecting Sydney's unique Environment	Maintaining the liveability of Greater Sydney by promoting and protecting green spaces and combatting air pollution.



The Committee for
Sydney



The Committee for Sydney
is proud to have the Sydney
Community Foundation as its
philanthropy of choice

COMMITTEE FOR SYDNEY MEMBERSHIP

The Committee has over 140 member organisations who contribute to the work we do.

Our membership is diverse: including the major corporate sectors driving Sydney's economy; strategically minded local authorities; key NSW Government departments and agencies; not-for-profit organisations; and leading arts and sporting institutions.

Our members help us to develop and deliver our priorities, provide us with the best expertise and ensure that we have a representative geographical spread across Sydney. In turn, we enable members and their staff to engage in broad city discussions and shape the future of Sydney.

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

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