



FOR GREATER SYDNEY COMMISSION
FINAL REPORT - OCTOBER 2017

Greater Sydney's Social Capital Its Nature and Value



Greater Sydney's Social Capital: Its Nature and Value

Client: Greater Sydney Commission

Version: 07

Date: October 2017

This material is made available by Cred Consulting on the understanding that users exercise their own skill and care with respect to its use. Any representation, statement, opinion or advice expressed or implied in this publication is made in good faith. Cred Consulting is not liable to any person or entity taking or not taking action in respect of any representation, statement, opinion or advice referred to in this document.

Contents

1.0 A CITY FOR PEOPLE

Introduction

Why Is It Important?

Methodology

2.0 SOCIAL CAPITAL

Defining Social Capital

What Is It?

Evolution of The Social Capital Concept Over Time

Principles of Social Capital

Related Concepts and Terms

3.0 SOCIAL CONNECTORS

What are Social Connectors?

Emerging Social Connectors

Parklets

Green Grid

Co-Working and Remote Working Spaces

Sports Teams as Cross-Cultural Connectors

Parks as 'Living Rooms'

Co-Location of Intergenerational Facilities

Social Infrastructure in High Rise

Social Enterprise

Meet Ups

The Share Economy

Community Gardens

Active Urban Environments

Darlinghurst / East Sydney Social Connectors

Case Studies: Some of Greater Sydney's Special Places

Value of Investing In Social Connectors

Case Studies: Where Has This Been Measured?

4 4.0 WHICH CITIES ARE DOING WELL?

5

5 The Ingredients: Building Social Capital In Cities

5 Case Studies: Strategic and Land Use Planning Frameworks

6 Key Lessons In Building Social Capital In Cities

7

5.0 WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GREATER SYDNEY?

7

7

7

8

9 What's Happening In Greater Sydney?

10

10 Our City Is Growing

10 Migration Out of Greater Sydney

10 Increasing Cultural Diversity

10

10 Cultural Cohesion

10 Housing (Un)Affordability

10 Increasing Youth Homelessness

10

10 Renters vs. Buyers

10

10 Education

10

10 Health

10

10 Communication Across Government Levels

10

10 Why Should We Care?

10

10 Mapping Social Capital

10

10 About the Map Content

10

10 Greater Sydney:

10

10 The 3 Cities

10

10 Three Cities: Social Infrastructure

10

10 Three Cities: Learning

10

10 Three Cities: Street Life

10

10 Three Cities: Shared Economy

10

18 Eastern City District

18 Overall Analysis

18 What Do Different Centres Do Well?

19 Combined Social Infrastructure Heat Map

19 Eastern City District: Social Infrastructure

19 Eastern City District: Learning

19 Eastern City District: Street Life

19 Eastern City District: Shared Economy

22 Overall Analysis

22 What Do Different Centres Do Well?

23 North District

23 North District: Combined Social Infrastructure Heat Map

24 North District: Social Infrastructure

24 North District: Learning

24 North District: Street Life

24 North District: Shared Economy

24 Central City District

24 Overall Analysis

24 What Do Different Centres Do Well?

25 Central City District: Combined Social Infrastructure Heat Map

25 Central City District: Social Infrastructure

25 Central City District: Learning

25 Central City District: Street Life

25 Central City District: Shared Economy

26 Overall Analysis

26 What Do Different Centres Do Well?

26

27 South District

27 South District: Combined Social Infrastructure Heat Map

27 South District: Social Infrastructure

28 South District: Learning

28 South District: Street Life

29 South District: Shared Economy

29

30 Western City District

30 Overall Analysis

30 What Do Different Centres

30 Do Well?

31 Western City District: Combined Social Infrastructure Heat Map

31 Western City District: Social Infrastructure

32 Western City District: Learning

32 Western City District: Street Life

33 Western City District: Shared Economy

33

33 6.0 CREATING AND BUILDING GREATER SYDNEY'S SOCIAL CAPITAL 46

Challenges and Opportunities 47

47 Introduction

47 Social Connectors

47 Fine Grain Fabric and Walkability

47 Challenges

48 Opportunities

48 Place based opportunities for building social capital



"We are at a transformational point. We have an opportunity to shift Greater Sydney's spatial structure in a way that benefits all existing and future citizens".

- Greater Sydney Commission, Towards our Greater Sydney 2056

1.0 A CITY FOR PEOPLE

INTRODUCTION

Sydney is experiencing rapid growth and transformation. Across Greater Sydney, we are shaping and renewing our existing urban fabric and creating new communities where previously none existed.

In 2016, the Greater Sydney Commission reported that Greater Sydney is currently home to 4.7 million people¹. By 2036, Greater Sydney will accommodate 1.74 million additional people and more than 725,000 additional homes². For Greater Sydney to have a sustainable future, the city needs to support communities that are socially cohesive and sustainable and that are creators of social capital.

“Social capital refers to connections among individuals - social networks and the norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness that arise from them”³.

Social capital focusses centrally on our many social connections, and the benefits and resources these bring to the wellbeing of individuals and of the community.

The four key principles of social capital are incidental connections; connections between groups; shared value and community/cultural life; and voice and influence. These are important considerations in city planning and design to facilitate opportunities for communities to develop neighbourliness, a welcoming attitude, cooperation, and trust. These factors contribute to the development of resilience within and amongst communities which provides people with the ability to adapt and respond to change (such as population growth, demographic trends, environmental challenges and economic conditions). These considerations can increase local social capital and social and economic outcomes for all. These principles are explained in more detail in Chapter 2.

This study puts the creation of social capital at the centre of planning for more liveable and socially sustainable communities. It explores how urban planning and community engagement can build positive connections between individuals and groups and in various communities such as Auburn, Bankstown and Redfern.

This study responds to the Directions for a Greater Sydney 2017 – 2056 and identifies ways which *A city for people* and *A city of great places* can be better achieved.

It also responds to the Three Cities vision outlined in *Towards our Greater Sydney 2056* and builds upon the Liveability Framework for Sydney published in 2017.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this study is to provide an analysis of the nature and value of social capital across Greater Sydney. It looks at Greater Sydney's strengths and opportunities to become a more socially cohesive and sustainable city, and the ways we can plan for and design communities that facilitate the creation and sharing of social capital. This study:

- Explores what social capital is and its role in creating socially cohesive and sustainable cities.
- Defines the physical elements of our local areas and cities or “social connectors” which can facilitate the creation of social capital:
 - Social infrastructure
 - Street life and meeting places
 - Sharing spaces and places
 - Education and learning, and
 - Transport.
- Maps (using a desk top strengths based approach), the social connectors that exist across Greater Sydney's three cities and five districts.
- Recommends opportunities to deliver improved social outcomes.

The findings of the research will enable an understanding of what aspects of urban planning and design can support, sustain and build social capital - and what impediments exist in the NSW planning system to creating and building social capital organically across Greater Sydney.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Communities with higher social capital tend to have healthier, highly educated populations that enjoy improved happiness, democratic governance and less crime⁴. Greater Sydney is facing a number of macro and micro challenges across social, cultural, environmental and economic areas, including:

- Strong population growth and migration from overseas.
- Local migration out of Greater Sydney.
- Increasing housing costs both for renters and owners.
- Rapid renewal and growth and increasing demands on social and health services and infrastructure across Greater Sydney's districts.
- Tensions between different and diverse groups of people.
- Differing access to public transport; and
- Differing health outcomes dependent on where you live in Greater Sydney.

Planning to create and build social capital across Greater Sydney will support social sustainability, improve health outcomes, and develop resilience in our communities.

METHODOLOGY

The ideas in this study are drawn from a review of evidence about what makes communities flourish including:

- Review of literature and research relating to social capital, its meaning and evolution.
- Analysis of best practice approaches to delivering social capital and social sustainability outcomes.
- Strengths analysis and mapping.
- Analysis of opportunities to create increased social capital and social sustainability outcomes across Greater Sydney's three cities, five districts, strategic and local centres.
- Assessment of State, regional and local planning opportunities and challenges to realising social outcomes that result in increased social capital.
- Recommendations for planning tools to address challenges.

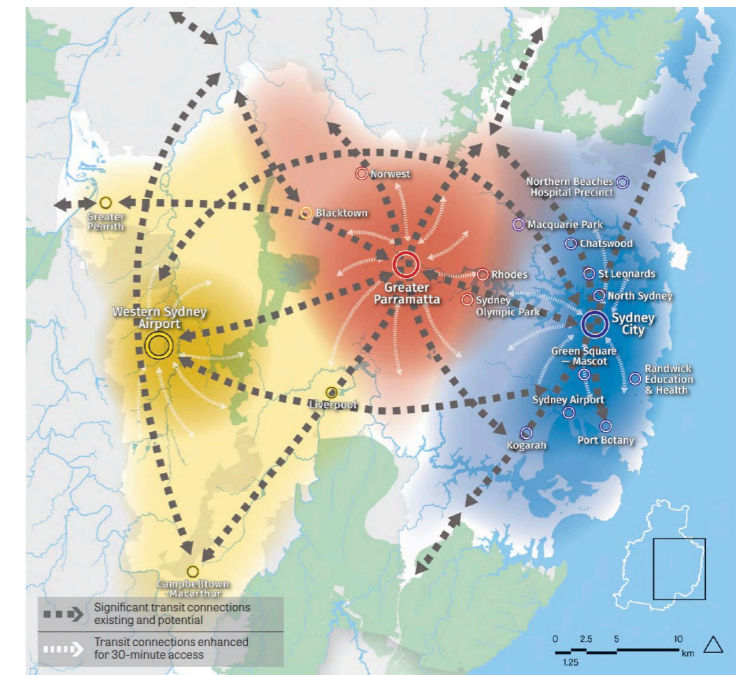
DISCLAIMERS

The mapping of social connectors in Chapter 5 is based on a desktop study and is a strength based analysis. We do not claim that it is a comprehensive audit of all social connectors as defined in this report, but provides a snapshot of the level of provision of social connectors in local centres across Greater Sydney's five districts.

A list of information sources used for the mapping is included at the end of this report.

Walk Score was used to compare walkability across Greater Sydney, however we acknowledge that while the database provides a good indication of a place's walkability, the formula and metrics behind Walk Score can, in some circumstances, have anomalies.

The demographic analysis for this study was complete before the release of the 2016 Census Data, and therefore uses 2011 Census data.



Source: Directions for a Greater Sydney 2017 - 2056, Greater Sydney Commission



Incidental meetings and community bonding and bridging at the Kings Cross markets.

¹ Greater Sydney Commission, *Towards Our Greater Sydney 2056*, 2016

² Ibid.

³ Robert D. Putnam, *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2000), 19.

⁴ Putnam, *Bowling Alone*.



"... Social capital provides the glue which facilitates co-operation, exchange and innovation."

- The New Economy: Beyond the Hype

2.0 SOCIAL CAPITAL

DEFINING SOCIAL CAPITAL

WHAT IS IT?

For the purposes of this study social capital refers to Robert Putnam's original definition:

"Social capital refers to connections among individuals - social networks and the norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness that arise from them"¹.

Social capital focusses centrally on our many social connections, and the benefits and resources these bring to the wellbeing of individuals and of the community.

The links and networks that make up social capital can take two different forms:

- **Bonding social capital:** Social connections to people based on a sense of common identity, e.g. kinship, ethnicity, religion, profession. These bonds act as "social superglue".
- **Bridging social capital:** Connections that stretch beyond a shared sense of identity or a place or network. These bridges between networks, associations and communities act as "social WD-40".

Both types of social capital are important to successful society: "bonding social capital provides a social safety net that enables all those within the network to 'get by' while bridging social capital facilitates individuals to 'get ahead' and communities to 'get along'"². In more disadvantaged communities for example, bonding social capital might be quite strong (as people bond over their circumstances or needs). What is needed is access to bridging social capital that allows for a connection outside of the community (for example, with those who might provide access to employment resources leading to better wellbeing outcomes).

An additional form of social capital is **linking social capital:** Connections between individuals operating at different levels of power or authority in a society³.

PRINCIPLES OF SOCIAL CAPITAL

The diagram below summaries the four key aspects of social capital, based on a review of the literature relating to social capital. The four key aspects of social capital are:

- Incidental connections
- Connections between groups
- Shared value and community/cultural life; and
- Voice and influence.

01 INCIDENTAL CONNECTIONS

- Design for safety in streets and public spaces.
- Urban design and architecture that provides opportunities for incidental connections within apartment buildings and on the streets bridge relationships between people.
- Streets and public spaces that encourage walking and cycling throughout the day and night.
- Flexible community spaces and facilities that encourage communal activity including playgrounds, parks, community gardens, and multipurpose community facilities.
- Weather protected and comfortable seating and tables that support individuals and groups to sit and gather, to meet and talk.
- Provision of a variety of retail, commercial and community facilities, fine grain urban form and land-use mix in neighbourhood centres that are accessible on foot.

03 SHARED VALUE AND COMMUNITY/CULTURAL LIFE

- Placemaking and community building activities to create and build a sense of local identity.
- Opportunities for creative and cultural expression.
- Opportunities to participate in building community wellbeing.
- Places for events, parties and festivals that create local identity and pride.

02 CONNECTIONS BETWEEN GROUPS (ACROSS GENERATIONS, CULTURES, AGE, INCOME AND OTHER SOCIO- ECONOMIC GROUPS)

- Universally designed public domain to support access to the street and community spaces by older people and people with disability.
- Provision of good quality services including child care, education and health.
- Intergenerational, cross-cultural events and activities.
- Local economy offers key worker and entry level jobs, and opportunities for advancement.
- Diverse housing including cost, tenure, type and size.
- Neighbourhood based workers to create opportunities and spaces for people to interact.
- Housing and public space design to reduce conflict between different user groups.

04 VOICE AND INFLUENCE

- Opportunities for community involvement in decision making.
- Participatory decision making.
- Community groups.

EVOLUTION OF THE CONCEPT OVER TIME

The concept of social capital and its role in sustainable development, civic engagement and democracy emerged with the 1995 essay, and 2000 book "Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community" by Robert Putnam⁴. Putnam surveyed the decline in social capital in the United States since 1950, noting that while Americans had become wealthier, their sense of community had declined and there was a decline in membership and volunteer numbers in many civic organisations. While 10-pin bowling was more popular than ever, the number of bowling clubs had declined; Americans were literally bowling alone. Putnam argued that the decline in community networks represents a loss in social capital, and that this undermines active civil engagement.

Over the past two decades, the concept of social capital rose to prominence in social policy including in health, sustainable development, urban planning, and governance policy. The World Bank defined social capital as:

"The institutions, relationships, and norms that shape the quality and quantity of a society's social interactions"⁵.

In 2007, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) defined social capital as:

"The networks together with shared norms, values and understandings that facilitate co-operation within or among groups"⁶.

The OECD Statistics Directorate further distinguishes between definitions and measures of social capital that look only at the extent and nature of networks, and those that look at the resources and outcomes generated by those networks.

There has been some criticism of the focus on social capital as a concept in social policy development. In particular, critics argue that:

- The definition is ambiguous, ranging from a focus only on trust, to only individual networks, to community institutions.
- The term "social capital" is vague and hard to measure.
- Social capital may not be a form of "capital" in the economic sense, as economists argue that capital "involves making some form of sacrifice in the present...to produce gains in the future"⁷.

Despite these criticisms, an understanding of social capital can be of benefit in planning for more liveable and socially sustainable communities because of its role in supporting social outcomes.

¹ Putnam, Bowling Alone, 19

² R. Bowd, "Burning the Bridges and Breaking the Bonds: Social Capital and its Transformative Influence in Relation to Violent Conflict," Journal of Conflict Transformation and Security 1.1 (2011): 39-62..

³ Ibid.

⁴ Brian Keeley, Human Capital: How What You Know Shapes Your Life (Paris: OECD, 2007).

⁵ "Social Capital," World Bank, accessed May 8, 2017, <http://go.worldbank.org/N5MNV9VKJO>

⁶ Keeley, Human Capital..

⁷ Yoji Inaba, "What's Wrong with Social Capital?" in Global Perspectives on Social Capital and Health, ed. Ichiro Kawachi (New York: Springer, 2013): 323-342..

RELATED CONCEPTS AND TERMS

SOCIAL COHESION

While social capital refers to the networks we participate in, social cohesion describes “the degree to which a society works toward the wellbeing of all its members, supports inclusive practices, and allows individuals to work for upward mobility”⁸.

There are three common elements in definitions of social cohesion:

- A property of a group or community (social cohesion describes a well-functioning core group or community with shared goals and responsibilities).
- Shared vision (social cohesion requires universal values, mutual respect and common aspirations or identity).
- A process (social cohesion is a continuous process of achieving social harmony)⁹.

The Scanlon Foundation “Mapping Social Cohesion” surveys (2015) look at belonging (shared values, identification with Australia, trust), social justice and equity (evaluation of national policies), participation (voluntary work, political and co-operative involvement), acceptance and rejection (experience of discrimination, attitudes towards minorities and newcomers), and worth (life satisfaction and happiness, future expectations) to evaluate social cohesion in Australia¹⁰.

Globally, impacts on social cohesion have also been identified as a key stress leading to social unrest. *The Preliminary Resilience Assessment 2016*, prepared by Resilient Sydney for 100 Resilient Cities pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation:

“Social cohesion is being impacted by rising inequity across Greater Sydney. Other stresses, such as housing unaffordability, drug and alcohol abuse and inequitable access to transport contribute to social cohesion. Settlement of migrant communities within certain parts of the city has led to some localised unrest.”¹¹

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

If the purpose of increasing social capital is to increase wellbeing, then the sustainability of that social wellbeing is important. Social sustainability recognises that individual and community wellbeing are linked, and that by addressing the needs of the most disadvantaged, the whole community benefits.¹² Social sustainability is therefore the ability of a social system to support the capacity of current and future generations to maintain a high level of wellbeing.

Several of Greater Sydney’s councils have investigated the *City of Sydney Social Sustainability Discussion Paper*, which identifies four directions for a social just and resilient Sydney:

- An inclusive city (social justice and opportunity)
- A connected city (diverse, cohesive communities)
- A liveable city (quality places and spaces); and
- An engaged city (good governance and active participation)¹³.

*Design for Social Sustainability, A framework for creating thriving new communities*¹⁴, identifies four building blocks for social sustainability;

- Amenities and infrastructure
- Social and cultural life
- Spaces to grow; and
- Voice and influence.

Social sustainability ties in with social inequality. Inequality means that those in lower incomes or other disadvantaged groups don’t have the same access to opportunities as those in higher income groups. In particular, when inequality is distributed spatially, it limits opportunities to develop bridging and linking connections between different income groups¹⁵. Evidence shows that countries with lower inequality tend to have faster and more lasting economic growth; and that countries with high inequality can experience high levels of violence, suicide, obesity, mental illness, imprisonment and shorter life expectancy¹⁶.

URBAN RESILIENCE

“Understanding resilience in metropolitan Sydney is important work for planning our future city.”¹⁷

Urban resilience is referred to by the 100 Resilient Cities initiative as:

“The capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems within a city to survive, adapt, and grow no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience.”

Chronic stresses are long-term systemic disruptions that weaken the fabric of a city. Examples include ongoing issues such as inequality, loss of housing affordability and lack of social cohesion. Acute shocks are short-term disruptions that threaten a city. Examples include sudden incidents such as heatwaves, bushfires, floods, disease outbreaks and terror attacks¹⁸.

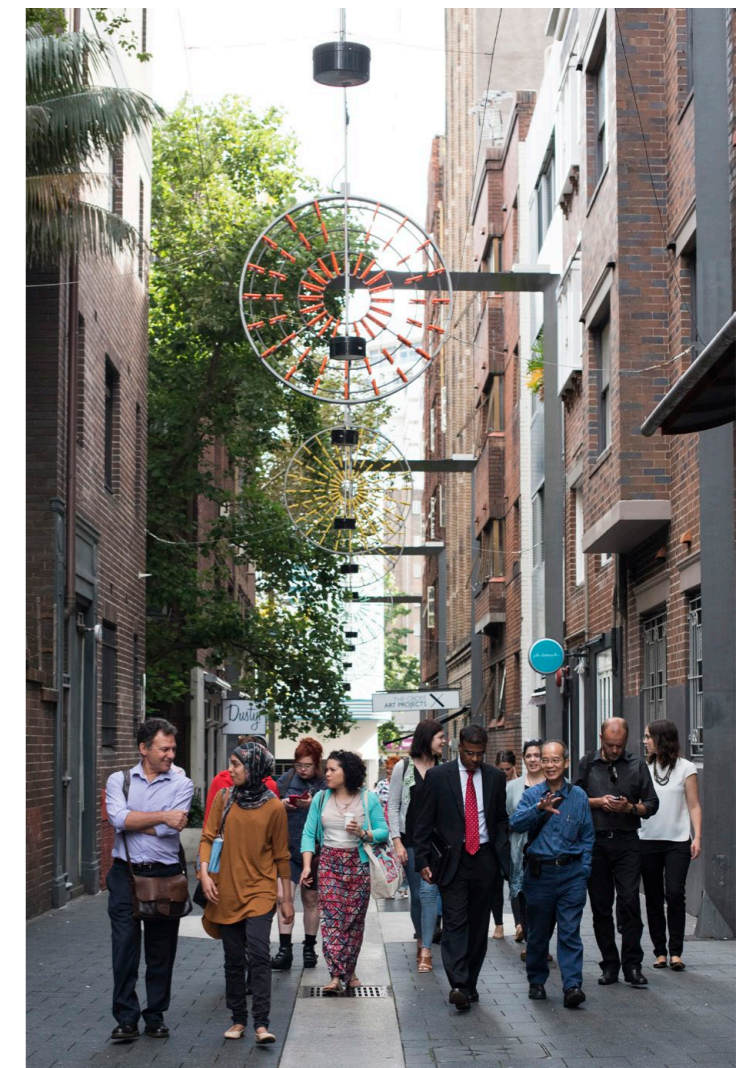
Resilient cities are reflective, resourceful, robust, have built in redundancy, are flexible, inclusive, and integrated. The facets of resilience that are particularly related to social capital are:

- Robust (well-conceived, constructed and managed systems)
- Inclusive (prioritise broad consultation to create a sense of shared ownership in decision making), and
- Integrated (bring together a range of distinct systems and institutions)¹⁹.

Greater Sydney is facing a number of chronic stresses that impact on our social cohesion and social sustainability including:

- Increasing health services demand
- Diminishing social cohesion
- Loss of housing affordability
- Increasing chronic illnesses
- Lack of transport diversity
- Insufficient employment diversity
- Increasing geographic inequity, and
- Rise in drug and alcohol abuse²⁰.

Building social connections and resulting social capital, is a key factor in building a resilient Greater Sydney.



Top: Giving people a voice in the planning and design of their community (image credit: Cred Consulting)
Bottom: Resilient Sydney workshops, bringing people together

¹² City of Sydney, *A City for All: Towards a Socially Just and Resilient Sydney*, 2016

¹³ City of Sydney, 2016. *A City for All: Towards a socially just and resilient Sydney. Social sustainability policy.*

¹⁴ Saffron Woodcraft, Trivia Hackett and Lucia Caistor-Arendar, *Design for Social Sustainability: A Framework for Creating Thriving New Communities* (London: The Young Foundation, 2011)

¹⁵ Australian Council of Social Service, *Inequality in Australia 2015: A Nation Divided*, accessed May 8, 2017, http://www.acoss.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Inequality_in_Australia_FINAL.pdf

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Rob Stokes MP, NSW Minister for Planning in Resilient Sydney, *Resilient Sydney Preliminary Resilience Assessment*, 2016

¹⁸ “100 Resilient Cities,” 100 Resilient Cities, accessed May 8, 2017, http://www.100resilientcities.org/#/-/_/

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Resilient Sydney, *Resilient Sydney Preliminary Resilience Assessment*, 2016



“New communities need shared spaces, shared rituals and support to build social networks”

- Woodcraft Saffron, 2011

3.0 SOCIAL CONNECTORS

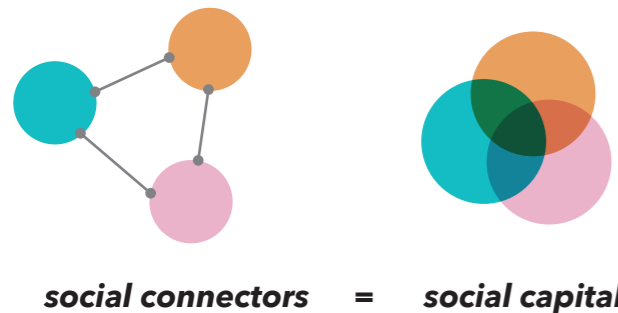
WHAT ARE SOCIAL CONNECTORS?

Based on the four principles of social capital (incidental connection; connections between groups; shared value and community/cultural life; and voice and influence), five key types of social connectors have been identified that can facilitate bonding, bridging and linking social capital that can enable a more socially cohesive, sustainable and resilient Greater Sydney. These five social connectors are:

- Social infrastructure
- Street life and meeting places (including the groups that use them)
- Sharing spaces and places
- Education and learning, and
- Transport.

By planning for and investing in these social connectors, Greater Sydney will improve opportunities to develop neighbourliness, a welcoming attitude, cooperation, trust and the ability to adapt and respond to change, increasing local social capital and social and economic outcomes for all.

This section explores the concept of social connectors, and presents a series of case studies that exemplify emerging social connectors.



EMERGING SOCIAL CONNECTORS

For the purposes of this study, we have defined a number of social connectors, including both traditional and emerging places, spaces, and activities.

Traditionally, social connectors include social infrastructure such as:

- Community centres
- Transport interchanges (bus or train stations)*
- Libraries
- Workplaces
- Sports clubs and facilities, including swimming pools**
- Schools
- Cafes
- Arts centres

However, there are a number of **emerging social connectors** that increase the ways communities can build social capital including;

- Co-working/remote working spaces
- The share economy (such as Street Libraries, Go Get/Car Next Door, Open Share)
- Online share networks (such as Nabo)
- Meetups (such as Idea Bombing Sydney, Outdoor Tai Chi classes); and
- The creative industries.

These emerging social connectors have often resulted from a lack of resources (financial and spatial) and therefore a need to share, changing technology and an ability to create community online; and a desire to have ideas heard and expressed as part of a community of interest.

*Transport interchanges can be considered a social connector because they allow people to access a wider range of services, jobs and activities and build social capital across a broader geographic area. Without good access to transport, depending on the area, a person may not be able to access many types of social connectors.

**For example, Western Sydney University, along with other research projects and studies in Australia, have found that involvement in sport is an important contributing factors to newly arrived migrants (particularly young people) and their feeling of belonging and wellbeing²¹

"Sport is one of the few institutions in society, where people can still agree on the rules. No matter where you're from, what you believe in and which language you speak, you can always play football together"

- Zygmunt Bauman

Across Sydney, and in particular Western Sydney, there are a number of sport programs that focus on diversity and social cohesion such as NRL In League In Harmony program, Savannah Pride in Blacktown and Auburn Giants Women's AFL team (see case studies on page 11 for more details).

STREETS AS PLACES

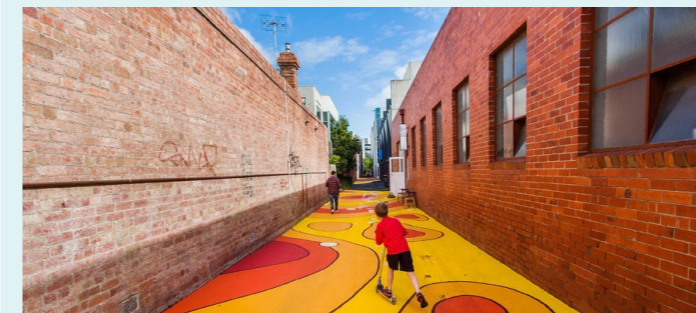
*"Beyond traffic and safety issues, many of our generation's most pressing challenges are bound in some way to our relationship with streets and the built environment. Reduced physical activities is a leading culprit of our current epidemics of obesity and chronic disease; lack of access to good places has led to widespread social isolation and depression (particularly amongst older populations); increased vehicle emissions have degraded air quality and contributed to the greenhouse gases causing climate change; and a lack of transportation options for many communities has caused uneven access to jobs, social services, healthy food options, and community interaction"*²².

Like few other places, streets are public places where everyday life takes place, where we celebrate, recreate and come together with our neighbours. Streets are places where we bump into friends, or make new friends, and one of the few places where we routinely encounter people who are different from us. In our increasingly dense and urban living environments, streets themselves are critical public spaces that can lend richness to the social, civic, and economic fabric of our communities.

UN-Habitat has identified that:

*"Those cities that have failed to integrate the multi-functionality of streets tend to have lesser infrastructure development, lower productivity and a poorer quality of life."*²³

Adopting a Complete Streets approach, meaning an approach that takes into account the needs of all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation, can increase street safety, accessibility and efficiency and can improve health outcomes²⁴



Walnut street, Melbourne.

Cities around the world are undertaking projects to transform their streets into public spaces for people. Paris held its first car-free day on 27 September 2015, banning private vehicles from the city's main areas to encourage people to reclaim the streets. Other cities like Brussels, Kuala Lumpur, and Bogotá all have regular car-free days where inner city streets are closed off on Sunday mornings for people to walk, jog, cycle or skate. In Singapore, the community is supported to create car-free zones and transform local streets into spaces for people to enjoy through the Streets for People program. The program provides residents with up to \$5,000 seed funding and helps them to activate car-free zones and provide public amenities to enhance their neighbourhood. These initiatives not only make cities greener, it makes their communities more vibrant, safe and healthy.

WALKABILITY

Walkability is a central aspect of creating social capital, and is increasingly noted as an essential part of any great place and strong economy. Walkable environments enhance a sense of community and social capital by encouraging and facilitating social connections through opportunities for residents to meet, interact, and engage in their neighbourhood and to access social infrastructure, services, shops, transport, and employment.

Although current transportation policy often undervalues pedestrians, there is increasing recognition of the benefits of walkability. For example, with regards to its economic value, City of Melbourne's Transport Strategy notes:

*"The economic value of walking has been described as the walking economy. There is a direct link between the city's economic prosperity and the safety and convenience of the pedestrian experience"*²⁵.

Walkability is seen as an economic asset; some real estate agents advertise properties with a Walk Score. Greater Sydney is Australia's most walkable large city with a score of 63. However, walkability varies across Greater Sydney with the highest Walk Score in the Eastern City District suburbs of Haymarket, Ultimo and Surry Hills with scores of 93+ out of 100²⁶.

²¹ Peter Bansel et al, "Young Newly Arrived Migrants and Refugees in Australia: Using Digital Storytelling Practices to Capture Settlement Experiences and Social Cohesion," (Melbourne: Young and Well Cooperative Research Centre, 2016)..

²² "Reimagining Our Streets as Places: From Transit Routes to Community Roots," Project for Public Spaces, accessed on May 8, 2017, <https://www.pps.org/reference/reimagining-our-streets-as-places-from-transit-routes-to-community-roots/>

²³ UN-Habitat, Streets as Public Spaces and Drivers of Urban Prosperity, 2013.

²⁴ "What are complete streets?" Smart Growth America, accessed on October 18, 2017, <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/program/national-complete-streets-coalition/what-are-complete-streets/>.

²⁵ City of Melbourne, Transport Strategy 2012 – Planning for Future Growth, 2012.

²⁶ Walk Score has dubbed the amenities on offer in Surry Hills, for example, a 'walker's paradise' thanks to numerous bus routes, more than 200 restaurants, coffee shops and bars, and just 10 minutes' walk from multiple train lines.

PARKLETS

Parklets are mini urban parks that re-imagine and reclaim on street car parking spaces, with the purpose of providing a space that increases the amount of 'staying' places and enhances amenity in the street.

Parklets are examples of user-generated urbanism and temporary tactics for improving the public realm. They give people the opportunity to be part of building the city they live in and meet their local values. Waverley Council (2017) and City of Sydney (2018) are in the process of making a Parklet Policy. Using an on-street parking space as a site for spatial and social intervention, the typical design of a Parklet is a platform that extends the sidewalk and provides amenities like seats, tables, bike racks, and landscaping.

Currently across Greater Sydney there are parklets in:

- Newtown, King Street
- Bondi, Hall Street
- Leichhardt, Norton Street
- Glebe, Glebe Point Road (formerly, currently off road); and
- Bondi Junction (part of Roberts Day Complete Streets project).

Parklets increase the degree of personal expression in public space and have arisen out of a desire from communities for free places to sit, meet, recreate and gather, resulting from the increasing privatisation of public space.



Meeting at the Glebe parklet
Image courtesy of Zoe Rollings

CASE STUDY: GLEBE PARKLET

In March 2015, the Glebe Chamber of Commerce was awarded a \$10,000 Community Matching Grant to deliver Sydney LGA's first moveable parklet trial. The Glebe Point Road Trial Parklet Program ran for a 6 month period between September 2015 - March 2016, and moved three times along Glebe Point Road. The project aimed to enliven street life, create a place to meet and gather, provide a space for creative expression, and increase dwelling times.

"The need for this project has emerged from a desire to revive and amplify Glebe's eat street reputation and experience, become a place people want to come to and leave with stories to tell and memories to share. We (Glebe) need to live up to our reputation of being the historic bohemian hub of Sydney by bringing the community, creativity and culture out of the woodwork and onto the street."

- President, Glebe Point Road Chamber of Commerce

Despite the success of the parklet in Glebe and documented community and business support to make it a permanent feature of Glebe Point Road, there were many challenges in moving the project forward at both the state and local levels of government. Many of the barriers in the approval process were related to existing policy and laws around car parking, metered / timed parking spaces and permitted use of roads. These challenges are common across many Greater Sydney LGAs.



Slam poetry at the Parklet Mini Fest
Image courtesy of Zoe Rollings

GREEN GRID

The Greater Sydney Green Grid is a long-term vision for a network of high quality green spaces that connect communities to the natural landscape. It includes tree-lined streets, waterways, bushland corridors, parks and open spaces linked to centres, public transport and public places.

High quality walking and cycling connections are a key feature of both the Greater Sydney Green Grid and great places, and both support opportunities for social interaction and inclusion. The Green Grid will build connections with the natural landscape, which helps strengthen a shared sense of identity in communities.

The Greater Sydney Green Grid will also improve access to parks and open spaces used for sport, recreation and other community events, all important social connectors. It will encourage more people to be physically active and healthy. Providing greater access to high quality green spaces will also support better mental health.

CO-WORKING AND REMOTE WORKING SPACES

Co-working spaces are emerging across Greater Sydney as places that are not just rented desks, but communities of like-minded individuals with ideas to share with each other, and who can improve their own capacity through the connections they make. These spaces offer alternatives to high cost office rental, and also more opportunities for flexible work.

Penrith is home to The Creative Fringe, which was featured on Channel 9's documentary "Everyday Innovators" in April 2017. The Creative Fringe builds community in the workspace with Talk n Tea Tuesdays, a pet-friendly workplace, and birthday bombing of worker's desks. The space holds events and workshops such as design thinking bootcamps and business start up feasibility workshops.

Fishburners is a start up incubator and one of the local pioneers in the co-working scene, with two spaces, Ultimo and Darlinghurst. These places are both well located near transport in walkable suburbs. There are currently over 170 companies working between the two locations with 500 visitors coming through the door each day. Apart from the office space, there is a sense of community with Friday night pitching get together and regular networking sessions.

SPORTS TEAMS AS CROSS-CULTURAL CONNECTORS

As the demographic makeup of communities across Australia changes, sports can provide a place to build bridging social capital and cross-cultural connections. Sport can "bring together people from different language groups and backgrounds by using activities with a common goal"¹.

CASE STUDY: SAVANNAH PRIDE, BLACKTOWN

Savannah Pride is a youth organisation dedicated to inspiring young people through basketball, education and mentoring. The organisation started in the South-Sudanese community in Blacktown and now attracts young people from all backgrounds across NSW. Much like the Savannah tree, basketball has grown into something that brings all walks of life together: Families, students, mentors, educators and outsiders².

CASE STUDY: AUBURN GIANTS WOMEN'S AFL TEAM

The Auburn Giants Women's AFL Team (formerly Auburn Tigers) was the first women's AFL team in Western Sydney. The club was founded by Lael Kassem and Amna Karra-Hassan in 2011, and formed a partnership with Greater Western Sydney Giants in 2014. Team members come from many backgrounds, with about 80% Muslim players. The club seeks to create pathways for women start playing football and to continue playing, including at an elite level. The club uses sport as a vehicle for social inclusion, engaging with local schools, and with young girls and their families.



Auburn Giants team (Image source: Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences <https://maas.museum/>)

¹ Clearinghouse for Sport, *Cultural Diversity in Sport* 2017, 2017
² "About," Savannah Pride, accessed on October 18, 2017, <http://savannah-pride.com.au/#about>.

COMMUNAL SPACES IN HIGH RISE/ DENSITY

Well-being and health studies point to the need for human connection to support good mental health and sense of purpose. Common spaces in high-rise buildings can actively work against residents developing a sense of neighbourliness and community. For example, moving past neighbours in an anonymous corridor or avoiding people in the lift. Research has identified a number of opportunities including:

- Provision of informal shared spaces – emphasising the quality of transition spaces at apartment doors, generous corridors, and designing for generosity and presence of landscape in places that might become places of informal meetings such as lift lobbies.
- “Village-ification” of high-rise spaces – creating sub communities within high-density through the creation of intermediary common green spaces.

From a social capital perspective, social interaction and communal activity can engender shared values and cooperation which may be especially important in higher density environments where issues of privacy, security and considerate behaviour with regard to noise attract particular attention. A spirit of community can increase the likelihood of good communication, tolerance and collective problem solving.



Communal podium gardens at The Plimsoll Building, King's Cross

COMMUNAL FACILITIES

Communal internal spaces are becoming more common within private developments: providing spaces for neighbourhood gatherings, book clubs, rehearsal rooms and children's parties. Communal facilities – such as libraries, gardens, and swap rooms – provide residents of an apartment building with opportunities for community connections with their neighbours. The advent of social media has helped body corporates and residents to connect with one another²⁷. There are significant economic benefits to developers in providing communal facilities and fostering community. When developers take high-rise living beyond the 'soulless shoebox', apartments are made more attractive to potential buyers and renters, and allow developers to stand out from their competitors²⁸. Making units more attractive to the market often allows developers to sell or rent at higher prices and with more expensive strata fees²⁹. However, it is important that shared facilities become the norm in apartment complexes, rather than a luxury, so that developments that foster community are affordable and available to all in the community.

The Social Isolation in Residential Flats emphasises the importance of quality and accessible community spaces within apartment buildings and stresses that communal facilities should be welcoming, activated and stimulating, as such spaces are more likely to be used. Such places are likely to contain elements, which are perceived by users as:

- Useable
- Spacious, or a size adequate to suit likely resident demand
- Adaptable, providing spaces in which a range of activities can be taken, public and private
- Accessible and inclusive to all
- Safe (during the day and the evening)
- Activated by the presence of activity generators, such as movement paths, gardening, fitness uses
- Stimulating and enjoyable
- Accounting for climate and amenity, and
- Encourage ownership of space through quality of design.

PARKS AS 'LIVING ROOMS'

Locally focussed parks provide places for people to plant a tree, create an artwork, grow some vegetables. A variety of quality open spaces and community programs offers residents the opportunity to build local networks and friendships. This also contributes to building strong ownership of a new place. The increasing proportion of people living in high density in Greater Sydney will require local spaces to relax, exercise, meet their friends and family, and walk their dog before and after work and on weekends.

The connecting potential of multi-functional local space is enhanced by multiple uses such as community gardens, markets, artworks and points of interest, as well as local events that build community, and create a better a sense of place for all people.



Source: <http://sydney-eye.blogspot.com.au/2012/11/>

CO-LOCATION OF INTERGENERATIONAL FACILITIES

There is a trend to co-locate services and facilities for older people with services for other target populations such as families and young people. As the requirements for many of these groups are similar (e.g. access for prams and easy access for older people), this can be an efficient way to provide services, as well as creating opportunities for social exchanges between different groups.

SWAMPSCOTT HIGH SCHOOL AND SWAMPSCOTT SENIOR CENTRE, BOSTON

This co-located high school and senior's centre has built relationships between teenagers and older people, tackled social isolation, and increased efficient use of resources with the shared use of a dance room, pottery kilns and other facilities.

There's no official inter-generational programming but staff, students and older people have formed their own relationships, from knitting groups to sports strategy discussions. The seniors centre gets 25 free tickets to every high school performing arts event, and the seniors' dance team has performed at the high-school talent show.



Swampscott High School, Boston

MIXED TENURE AND MIXED INCOME HOUSING

According to researchers from RMIT University:

“...in the context of housing, mixed tenure attempts to bring together social groups in urban neighbourhoods to create a vibrant dynamic sustainable community.

...The main mechanism for promoting the social mix in urban locations has been government policies that aim to create diversity in the social and economic profiles of residents.

*This offers the people who are socioeconomically disadvantaged the opportunity to be close to job opportunities, key services (hospitals and schools) and public transport. Furthermore, it allows individuals to reach their potential to make a positive contribution to society and to share the benefits of a strong vibrant, dynamic and sustainable community, to bond and to form bridging connections with people in their neighbourhood”.*³⁰

³⁰ Ibid.

²⁷ Stephen Nicholls, “Building Community,” Sydney Morning Herald, July 26, 2013
²⁸ Ibid
²⁹ Ibid

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN HIGH RISE

Part of Sydney's tallest residential tower will be handed to the city's creative community under a \$25 million deal between its developer and the City of Sydney. Soundproofed rooms for music rehearsals, editing suites for filmmakers and studios for visual artists will be among the facilities spread across five floors when the 67-storey Greenland Centre opens on the corner of Bathurst Street and Pitt Street in 2017.

The state-of-the-art "creative hub", to be built in exchange for floor space concessions, will be leased to the council for \$1 a year for 99 years. Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore hailed the deal - which will deliver creative workspaces alongside 490 units selling off-the-plan for an average price of more than \$1.5 million - as the first of its kind in Australia.



SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

The difficulty of the social services sector to attract funding has led to a strong social enterprise culture and the creation of social enterprise spaces and business, privately and government operated. These social enterprises regularly build bridging connections between people, communities, business and services.

THE WESTIES, ST MARYS

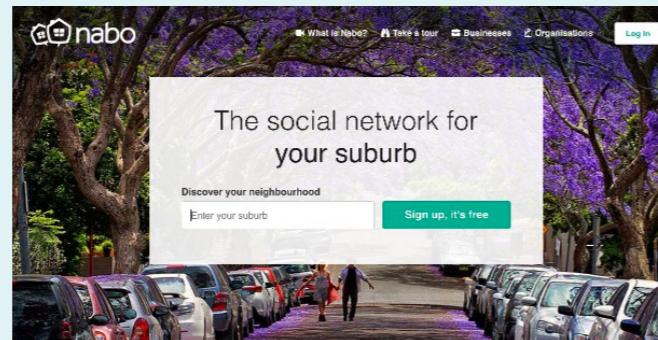
Fusion Western Sydney is an organisation that works with youth and operates a not-for-profit cafe in St Mary's called Fusion Cafe. Through this space, the organisation aims to maximise connections in the community while also providing young people with skills and local employment opportunities. The Cafe sources locally, supports other small businesses and its profits go back into the youth and community work of Fusion Western Sydney,

ONLINE COMMUNITIES

Startups such as Nabo, and Facebook adaptations like the new geographically based "buy-swap-sell groups" offer opportunities for neighbours to connect with each other: to sell something, to make recommendations for a local doctor or plumber, and to discuss local community issues. The move of Facebook towards hyperlocal connections and the rise of startups like Nabo, a social network for suburbs, are good evidence that geographical social capital can be replicated online - at least reflecting local social capital, if not helping to produce it.

Examples include suburb-based groups, such as "Newtown 2042" which recognises the unique, "weird" character of Newtown and includes discussion on lost dogs, political news, restaurant recommendations and historical photos. Some buy-swap-sell groups, which tend to be geographically based to allow for the pickup of items, have also merged into playing a community role that reflects the bonding and bridging links between members, for example in Inner West Melbourne where a group crowdfunded for a member's cancer treatment.

Access to free Wi-Fi in public spaces, library and cafes support these connections to flourish.



source: <https://www.nabo.com.au>

THE SHARE ECONOMY

Collaborative Consumption or the Share Economy is based on sharing and community outcomes and has emerged as a result of internet, social media and mobile technology. A World Economic Forum Young Global Leaders (2013) study suggests the 'sharing' economies will generate \$US3.5 billion in revenue in 2013, and grow to as big as \$US110 billion. Some examples of the share economy operating in Greater Sydney include: Open Shed - an online shed where users can make money from household goods and tools; car share schemes such as Go Get and Car Next Door; and co-working spaces.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Community gardens play a role in access to food, especially among lower-income and under-served communities, as well as connecting people with the sources of their food. They are an important and emerging social connector, creating a place for bonding and bridging connections between community members, cultures and income groups, and community partnerships. A community garden provides a focus point to meet a neighbour, to learn about different cultural food traditions, and to connect with local community groups.

CASE STUDY: CARSS PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN

"Built on a disused bowling green in the Kogarah local government area, the community garden was opened in 2009. The garden was initiated by Kogarah City Council who commissioned a community consultation process to bring together a core group of gardeners and to produce community garden policy directions for Council. The garden features both shared and allotment areas, water harvesting and storage in tanks for garden irrigation and a straw bale meeting room"¹. Current garden projects include the completion of a teaching bed for Narani Childcare Centre and the construction of a garden for the children of the community garden members. The straw bale shed is used for community meetings and workshops as well as the storage of tools and other items used by the community gardeners.



Carss Park community garden (image courtesy: communitygarden.org.au)

MEET UPS

"Meetups" provide opportunities for creative and community minded people to meet and share ideas. Two of these meetups include Idea Bombing Sydney (part meetup, part popup bar, part talk series) and the Urbanistas (a global, collaborative network amplifying the voice of women in city building by supporting ideas and actions. One of the key needs of these groups is affordable and accessible places for the meetups to happen within community infrastructure.

MEETUP.COM

MeetUp.com is an online platform created with the objective to "use the Internet to get people off the Internet" building social capital in the public realm. MeetUp.com connects individuals who do not already know one another. Participation in MeetUp, and the relationships that are formed, often lead individuals to feel a sense of belonging and connectedness to others and to their communities, and ultimately fulfill some of their social needs³¹.

PECHAKUCHA NIGHTS

The PechaKucha 20x20 is a simple presentation format where you show 20 images, each for 20 seconds. PechaKucha Nights are informal and fun gatherings where creative people get together and share their ideas, works, thoughts, holiday snaps - just about anything, really - in the PechaKucha 20x20 format. Every PechaKucha Night city is hosted by a local organiser, who has an annual Handshake Agreement with PechaKucha HQ to run their event series. This ensures that each PechaKucha Night is relevant to their city- and can create a unique platform to uncover that city's creativity³².



Idea Bombing Sydney (image courtesy, Idea Bombing Sydney)

¹ "Carss Park," Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network, accessed on October 18, 2017, <http://directory.communitygarden.org.au/directory/listing/444>.

³¹ Danielle Vaughn, "MeetUp and Social Capital: Building Community in the Digital Age," (MA diss., University of Denver, 2015).

³² "Frequently Asked Questions," PechaKucha, accessed on October 18, 2017, <http://www.pechakucha.org/faq>.

ACTIVE URBAN ENVIRONMENTS

Active transport (walking, cycling and catching the bus, train or ferry) is good not just for our health and for street activation but also for our economy. Active transport reduces our health costs, eases the burden of congestion, cuts the costs of vehicles maintenance and saves on the need to build more roads. An Australian Government report shows that for each person who cycles 20 minutes to work and back, our economy benefits by \$21.20³³. A study by PCAL in NSW estimated economic benefits to the state government from switching driving trips to active transportation: 1% of the population switching from driving to walking equals \$134 million, in five years and \$214 million in 10 years³⁴.

The weight of evidence suggests that planning for a walkable public realm also has benefits for businesses for instance, walkable town centres can boost retail footfall by up to 40%³⁵.



33 Australian Government Department of Infrastructure and Transport, Walking Riding and Access to Public Transport: Supporting Active Travel in Australian Communities, 2013

34 Andrea Pocyck, et al, "Integrating Health into Transportation Planning in Metro Vancouver," University of British Columbia, 2013

35 Living Streets and Just Economics, The Pedestrian Pound: The Business Case for Better Streets and Places, 2014

DARLINGHURST / EAST SYDNEY SOCIAL CONNECTORS

The Darlinghurst / East Sydney social connectors diagram is a highlight summary of the multiple and intertwined examples of formal and incidental social connectors that bridge and bond residents and workers. This diagram illustrates how traditional and emerging social connectors can support a socially cohesive and sustainable community. It is based on our professional experience and a resident's local knowledge of the area developed over 20 years.

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and neighbourhood centres/hubs Meet ups (and places to hold them) Sportsfields, courts and sports clubs Clubs/community groups Creative and performing arts and maker spaces Men's sheds Leisure and aquatic centres
STREET LIFE AND MEETING PLACES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live music venues Eat Streets and small bars Retail strips/hubs (main/high streets) Farmer's markets Parklets and places to gather Walkability Dog parks Quality parks and playgrounds
SHARING SPACES AND PLACES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community gardens Social enterprise Co-working spaces/startup incubators Go Get/Car Share Communal spaces in high rise
EDUCATION AND LEARNING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality early education and care Schools Libraries TAFES and Universities Share sheds
TRANSPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trains and bus interchanges

DARLINGHURST / EAST SYDNEY SOCIAL CONNECTORS



CASE STUDIES: SOME OF GREATER SYDNEY'S SPECIAL PLACES

BANKSTOWN town centre

"Today the Bankstown CBD continues to evolve as the civic and cultural heart of the City of Bankstown and an important economic centre in the West Central Subregion" Bankstown CBD Local Area Plan



the CBD has a well established open space network. Paul Keating Park is a focal point and along with Griffith Park are co-located with community facilities.



strong provision of youth services and programs available through a variety of facilities and organisations (ie. Headspace) also reflecting the cultural diversity of the area.



facilities like the Sports Club, Art Centre, Knowledge & Information Centre and Civic Precinct, provide spaces for services to support health & wellbeing and strong community connections.



highly accessible serviced by train and CBD bus interchange. A high 'WalkScore' of 71 and connected by cycleways linking into a wider network.



a low-density shopping strip that reflects the vibrant cultural diversity of the area. Pedestrian friendly, sunlit streets & ample seating make it a place for meeting and people watching



in addition facilities like the Bryan Brown Theatre & Bankstown Arts Centre, Bankstown poetry slam & Urban Theatre projects are two creative organisations that have made their home here.

"The Bankstown CBD is a diverse and dynamic community [with a] relatively young population. Vietnam, Lebanon & China are the most common countries of origin" Bankstown CBD Local Area Plan

REDFERN village centre

"The distinct character of the area, which has traditionally been associated with a large Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and a significant number of public housing tenants, but is rapidly changing due to urban renewal and reactivation" City of Sydney website



anchoring the main street, Redfern Park and Oval is a 4.8ha open space (the South Sydney Rabbitohs 'spiritual home'). With community facilities, playground, active & passive recreation.



NCIE provides school, Koori Job Ready and Digital Excellence program also building local capacity through its social enterprises. Jarjum is a jesuit primary school for ATSI children.



multiple community facilities and services support the health & wellbeing, cultural, social and artistic life of this community.



the reactivation has resulted in a strong cafe and small bars presence and small businesses. The area is highly accessible (98 'WalkScore') with the busiest train station at its front door.



creatives and creative enterprises significantly influence the area. Creative spaces/programs also at community centres such as recording studios.



the public art in the area strongly reflect the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, its history and the activism history of the place.

"Completely diverse mix that works - artists, students, professionals, architects, scholars, working class, middle class, migrants, Aboriginal people, Anglo-Saxons" a resident and what they liked about their village (city of sydney website)

AUBURN local centre

"An active, community oriented and economically thriving town centre competing as a sub-regional centre, with well-designed buildings attractive streetscapes, parks and public spaces that reflect the urban vitality of its culturally diverse population" Auburn Town Centre Strategy 2031



parks (both large and small), playgrounds, & regional sporting infrastructure are located on the edges & throughout the town centre area.



10 places of public worship representing a variety of faiths and organisations within the town centre area also local faith-based schools



variety of community organisations and refugee services (ie. Australian Turkish/ Kurdish Community Services Co-op; Auburn Community Health Centre)



highly accessible serviced by train and bus and has a 'WalkScore' of 80. Cycleways run through the town centre linking into a wider network.



a culinary destination of Sydney's west, with over 110 restaurants, cafes and bars reflecting the cultural diversity of Auburn



many artworks have involved community members and reflect their stories, highlighting the unique qualities of this area.

"The centre presently has a distinctive Middle Eastern and Chinese character ... [providing] a strong identity and distinguishes it from other centres ..." Auburn Town Centre Strategy 2031

VALUE OF INVESTING IN SOCIAL CONNECTORS

Research has shown that there are increasing social and economic benefits from planning to create and build social capital.

Social connections are closely linked to individual wellbeing. Our close relationships (bonding social capital) and relationships with acquaintances (bonding and bridging social capital) give us a sense that we are part of a community, and influence our happiness³⁶. Having someone to count on (bonding social capital) has been found to be responsible for a large part of people's self-reported life satisfaction.³⁷ There is strong evidence of positive associations between social capital and both physical and mental health, although the mechanisms for these links are not understood.³⁸

Bridging and linking social capital also has direct wellbeing benefits: having a trustworthy environment including in the workplace, streets, neighbourhoods, business and government is also responsible for a large part of people's self-reported life satisfaction. Improvements in social trust have been shown to have greater happiness payoffs for people who are unemployed, have health problems, or are subject to discrimination, than for others³⁹.

Social connections are also linked to community wellbeing; the idea that civic engagement generates social trust and co-operative norms is well-supported in the literature about social capital. Increased trust can determine people's willingness to cooperate freely with each other, for example, increasing wellbeing by reducing transaction costs in business activities. Bridging and linking connections are also able to foster more efficient and less corrupt public governance institutions and to improve institutional performance.

Planning to create social capital means investing in social connectors (affordable and universally designed housing, quality parks, community centres and services, active transport, intergenerational public spaces). The potential of spatial planning to provide better social and economic outcomes and to build social capital is being increasingly understood and measured internationally.

CASE STUDIES: WHERE HAS THIS BEEN MEASURED?

This section presents case studies that demonstrate and quantify the value that social connectors, and therefore social capital bring to various communities across the globe.

GREEN SPACES

A 2013 study⁴⁰ from Washington, DC found that people who live in urban areas with more green space tend to report greater well-being than city dwellers that don't have parks, trees, or other green space nearby. Survey respondents reported less mental distress and higher life satisfaction when they were living in greener areas, even accounting for changes in participants' income, employment, marital status, physical health, and housing. Parks and open spaces also hold economic benefits for residents and the government. Parks and open spaces provide wealth-increasing factors to residents such as increased property values, as well as cost-saving factors for governments include decreased stormwater management and air pollution mitigation and increased community cohesion⁴¹.



Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Western Australia
Source: <http://bernesewa.com.au/news/>

40 Matthew White, Ian Alcock, Benedict Wheeler and Michael Depledge, "Would You Be Happier Living in a Greener Urban Area? A Fixed-Effects Analysis of Panel Data," *Psychological Science* 24.6 (2013): 920-928.
41 The Trust for Public Land, *The Economic Benefits of the Park and Recreation System of Virginia Beach*, Virginia, 2011.

CHILD FRIENDLY CITIES

Australia is currently learning to plan for more people living higher density, and the subsequent increase of children and young people living in areas with high rise dwellings. In Copenhagen, a high-density city, children are designed into the streetscape through play streets and play yards resulting in healthier, more socialised adults with less negative impacts on society. Copenhagen has one of the lowest crime rates in the world – significantly reducing costs to the government in areas such as law and order and health⁴².



Hans Tavsens Ost puddle play⁴³

Chicago is currently in the second year of a program called "Chicago Plays," which will rebuild and revamp 300 playgrounds over five years. The aims of the project include: putting every child in the city within a ten-minute walk of a playground; regaining families' neighbourhood pride; and decreasing crime in the City. However, as stated by Chicago's Mayor Rahm Emanuel, "The main drive is for economic growth but nothing's better at fighting crime than economic growth⁴⁴."

In New York City in 2010, the Imagination Playground was being paid for in part by economic development money for areas of lower Manhattan after September 11. The playground was one of many innovative playgrounds that were developed in a city with increasing numbers of children. The goal was to draw high-income families into the area.

The trend in the UK is also for playgrounds that allow for more risk and adventure for children. A UK study identified that every £1 invested in an adventure playground generates £1.32 in social benefits⁴⁵.

42 Sarah Reilly, "Revisioning Planning to Achieve Long-term Social and Economic Benefits," *New Planner* 97 (2013): 12-13.
43 Tanya Vincent, *Study Report to Investigate How Copenhagen's Play Yards Address the Parental Fears and Higher Densities that Limit the Outdoor, Independent Play of Children in Australian Cities*, The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust of Australia, 2012.
44 Chris Martinez, "Mayor: Citywide Playground Revamp Could Stimulate Economic Development," *CBS Local Chicago*, March 14, 2013.
45 Matrix Evidence, *Play England: An Economic Evaluation of Play Provision*, 2010.

QUALITY EDUCATION AND CARE

Studies from economist James Heckman show that for every \$1 spent on child care \$17 is returned to the community through: better educational outcomes; higher school completion rates; and less expenditure on health, welfare and crime services⁴⁶. High quality services have even greater social, education, and health outcomes for children: The PISA48 tests showed that children who access quality education and care scored 15 to 20 points higher than those that don't.

Quality early education and care services also create opportunities for social connections by connecting families and children with each other, and to local services (such as schools and community services). Quality care helps to build parents' social capital with significant benefits for emotional and financial wellbeing: Small compared mothers who used childcare with those who did not (controlling for income, race, age, education, employment, and marital status), and discovered that mothers with children in childcare experienced fewer incidences of financial hardship, and mothers who made friends through childcare were less likely to experience non-clinical depression⁴⁷.

Early childhood education and care is "one of the most sustainable pathways towards reducing the economic and social disparities between the rich and the poor"⁴⁸. High quality childcare increases the changes of a successful transition to school, promotes better learning outcomes while at school, and better education and employment and health after child have finished school⁴⁹. High quality centres that enrol higher proportions of low income and higher needs children, also create opportunities for bridging social connections between parents, children and families.

46 "Invest in Early Childhood Development: Reduce Deficits, Strengthen the Economy," *The Heckman Equation*, accessed on October 18, 2017, https://heckmanequation.org/assets/2013/07/F_HeckmanDeficitPieceCUSTOM-Generics_052714-3-1.pdf.
47 Mario Luis Small, *Unanticipated Gains: Origins of Network Inequality in Everyday Life* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009).
48 S. Main, "A More Sustainable Australia: Closing Gaps in Childhood Inequity," *The Conversation*, August 21, 2013.
49 "The Importance of Early Childhood Development," *Australian Early Development Census*, accessed on October 18, 2017, <http://www.aecd.gov.au/parents/the-importance-of-early-childhood-development>.

36 Gillian Sandstrom and Elizabeth Dunn, "Social Interactions and Well-Being: The Surprising Power of Weak Ties" *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* 40.7 (2014): 910-922.

37 John Helliwell, Richard Layard and Jeffrey Sachs (eds), *World Happiness Report 2017* (New York: Sustainable Development Solutions Network, 2017).

38 "Social Capital." *UCLA Health Impact Assessment Clearinghouse Learning and Information Center*. <http://www.hiaguide.org/sectors-and-causal-pathways/pathways/social-capital>

39 See for example, Montgomery, Charles, *Happy City: Transforming Our Lives Through Urban Design*, New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013; Helliwell, J., Layard R., & Sachs J. (2017) *World Happiness Report 2017*, New York: Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Gehl Institute, "Health, Equity and Public Space," <https://gehl.institute.org/news/health-equity-public-space/>, and Jennie Dusheck "Well Now: What Humans Need to Flourish," *Stanford Medicine* 2016. <http://stanmed.stanford.edu/2016summer/well-now.html>

INCLUSIVE PLACES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

"We have to stop building cities as if everyone is 30 years old and athletic."⁵⁰

Trends show an increase in the number of people over 75 with a need for assistance⁵¹. A growing ageing population means planning must respond to greater potential for social issues amongst the older population. Loneliness and social isolation top the list of main concerns for older people living at home according to a national survey by care franchise Just Better Care. The finding is supported by an Aged and Community Services Australia 2015 study on social isolation and loneliness among older Australians.

By 2050, the number of older people aged 65+ will more than double from just over one million (one in eight people) to 2.3million (one in four people). A well-designed public domain encourages older people and people with disability to get out, stay fit, and participate in active transport (walking, cycling and catching the bus, train or ferry), which is good for health and for street activation.

Providing for the needs of older people and people with disability means creating a public domain (streets, parks, shopping precincts) where everyone can participate in community life. Universal design makes spaces more useable, accessible, safer and convenient for all ages and abilities. The main beneficiaries of universal design are those who are currently excluded, albeit inadvertently, by design – people with disabilities, older people and sometimes children and their parents.

Simple place improvements such as seating and rest stops on hills, shaded seating in public places, public toilets, and improved wayfinding can also improve social outcomes for older people, address isolation and build social capital.

A livable home is designed and built to meet the changing needs of occupants across their lifetime. Livable homes include key easy living features that make them easier and safer to use for all occupants including: people with disability, ageing Australians, people with temporary injuries, and families with young children. A liveable home is designed to be: easy to enter; easy to navigate in and around; capable of easy and cost-effective adaptation; and responsive to the changing needs of home occupants.

A study from AHURI⁵², which surveyed more than 2,800 older Australians about downsizing, found that while three-quarters of respondents found the process of downsizing 'fairly easy' or 'very easy', key difficulties related to the availability of suitable housing, its cost and affordability, and the suitability of its location. A clear view was that older people wanted to be able to live in housing of their choice that was part of a regular housing development, but that was "universally designed". The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) has estimated that if 20% of new homes included universal housing design, the cost savings to the Australian health system would range from \$37 million to \$54.5 million per annum⁵³, through reduced hospital stays and health care costs, in-home assistance and residential accommodation. Housing that is integrated with the community, rather than separate retirement living or aged care accommodation, can also provide positive outcomes for older people's social inclusion and support ageing in place.

Older people's playgrounds provide an informal, affordable way for older people to stay active. They also provide opportunities to interact with the general community.



Maroubra Beach Park outdoor inclusive gym

QUALITY LIBRARIES AND COMMUNITY CENTRES

Libraries, community centres, leisure centres and other community facilities deliver significant social outcomes to individuals and groups and are the places that people can meet (formally and informally), participate in community programs, learn, attend community events, and create social capital.

There are also economic benefits of providing quality community facilities. A three-year study in Victoria that shows for every dollar invested in libraries, the community receives triple the value. For every dollar spent on NSW public libraries the value back to the community is, on average, between \$2.82 and \$4.24⁵⁴. A study of NSW libraries also found that libraries have economic benefits by helping people find new jobs or make them more productive in their jobs, and accessing the internet and computer resources⁵⁵.

The co-location or combination of community facilities can play a significant social and cultural role for local neighbourhoods and can act as a local destination to bring people into an area. Such centres can become the cultural, entertainment and social focus of the community's.



Image: Boyd Community Hub in Southbank
Image sources: <http://tothotornot.com/2016/01/hot-the-secret-garden-at-boyd/>

⁵⁴ Andrew McDougall and Gillian Savage. *Dollars, Sense and Public Libraries: The Landmark Study of the Socio-economic Value of Victorian Public Libraries*. Melbourne: State Library of Victoria, 2011.

⁵⁵ Jennifer Berryman, *Sustaining Communities: Measuring the Value of Public Libraries*, State Library of NSW for the Public Library Network Research Committee, 2005.

MIXED TENURE COMMUNITIES

The provision of a mix of housing tenure types in one locality is understood to bring social outcomes including: offering opportunities for people experiencing disadvantage to live closer to job opportunities, key services and infrastructure, and public transport; reducing the stigma associated with social housing; and, in particular, improving social cohesion between different income groups⁵⁶.

UNO Apartments in Adelaide, South Australia is a unique example of a mixed tenure community⁵⁷. One of a kind in the world, the development includes retail, affordable housing, social housing, private housing, and a youth crisis accommodation service. UNO enjoys a rich diversity of age, culture, gender and social backgrounds allowing a broad approach to social activities and resident engagement that supports inclusion as a fundamental principle of the UNO community. The development has very positive, measurable outcomes, including:

- Arrears of social, affordable and private tenancies at 1% or less
- High retention rate within the social portfolio (in 2015, 18% turnover since August 2012)
- A feeling from investors that it is a great place to invest: only 4 sales since opening
- Better than anticipated performance in terms of management, with a budget surplus to the Corporation due to lower than anticipated wear and tear to common areas
- Greater than 95% of young people did not return to the youth crisis accommodation service.



⁵⁶ David Higgins and Trivess Moore, "Mixed Tenure Housing Developments: Salt and Pepper VS Silo Design," in *Proceedings of the 22nd Annual Pacific Rim Real Estate Society Conference*, Sunshine Coast, Australia, January 17-20, 2016, 1-9.


⁵⁷ Wendy Malycha, "What's Different: Inner City Innovation through Partnership in Mixed Tenure Housing," *National Housing Conference*, Perth, 2015

⁵⁰ John Lorinc, "The 8 to 80 problem: Designing Cities for Young and Old" *The Atlantic*, January 19, 2012.

⁵¹ Resilient Sydney, *City Context Report*, 2016.

⁵² Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, *Downsizing Amongst Older Australians*, 2014.

⁵³ Australian Government Department of Social Services, *National Dialogue on Universal Housing Design – Strategic Plan*, 2011.



"Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because and only when, they are created by everybody"

- Jane Jacobs

4.0 WHICH CITIES ARE DOING WELL?

THE INGREDIENTS: BUILDING SOCIAL CAPITAL IN CITIES

SUMMARY

City policies and land use planning frameworks are primarily focused on the tangible - the physical city - to create connected, greener, smarter cities. In this context, the social aspect of cities can become just a beneficial product and can be dealt with in an abstract way, or narrowly and relevant only to a specific community.

However, the integration of objectives to enhance the social life of cities is becoming increasingly important, particularly when functioning within a global context. Government and business have realised the economic, marketing, creative, productivity, health value of creating 'liveable' cities and high levels of social capital is at the heart of liveability.

One study concluded that building social capital in cities requires "two fundamental ingredients: The first being the individual and their mindset – the 'myths and stories' we learn about other people. The second ingredient is the circumstances in which meaningful social interaction can occur – the particular place, spaces and networks that enable meaningful encounters"⁵⁸.

Public spaces, cafes and other 'third places'⁵⁹ are key to social interaction and as places to facilitate the creation and building of social capital - *these are what we refer to as social connectors throughout this report.*

Examples of social connectors 'in action' in everyday life can include chance meetings on a street, at organised community events or while getting your morning coffee at the local café. Routine encounters can include meetings between people that take place where their everyday paths are most likely to cross, such as communal open space in apartment buildings, residential streets, at school/ childcare drop off and pick up, or a weekly activity at the local recreation centre.

Available facilities are one aspect that underpins the creation of social capital within cities through casual and/or routine encounters. Other key characteristics that also must be embedded within places and spaces include: familiarity; proximity; regular use that meets everyday needs; longevity; freedom to linger; and the physical characteristics⁶⁰.

Urban design and planning frameworks can positively influence the 'circumstance' for encounters by ensuring adequate facilities and spaces are well located, as well as providing favourable physical characteristics. Understanding the needs, attitudes, behaviours and experiences of people and looking closely at the 'everyday life' of neighbourhoods, places and streets, starts to change the way we think about the future planning, design and systems of our cities.

⁵⁸ Noha Nasser, *Bridging Cultures: The Guide to Social Innovation in Cosmopolitan Cities* (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2015).

⁵⁹ The third place (or third space) is the social surroundings separate from the two usual social environments of home ("first place") and the office ("second place")

⁶⁰ Nasser, *Bridging Cultures*, 2015.

CASE STUDIES: STRATEGIC AND LAND USE PLANNING FRAMEWORKS

There are a number of cities around the world that are highly desirable places to live and are consistently described as being 'liveable'. While global cities like New York, London, Paris and Sydney still attract a lot of the talent market, cities like Copenhagen and Vancouver add to this highly competitive environment.

'Sustainable', 'liveable', 'vibrant', 'inclusive', 'creative', 'smart', and 'green' are just some of the words that city and provincial governments, developers and marketers around the world commonly use to describe the vision and aspiration for how their city will develop. Projects are described as 'transformative', they need to 'inspire'. They must revitalise and respond to challenges such as climate change, affordability, health, and increasing living costs to name a few which are faced by many global cities.

This section provides a high-level analysis of the strategic, design and land use planning frameworks and policies of cities that are recognised as possessing high levels of liveability. Included are key aspects that facilitate social capital or have/ could result in enhancing social capital within their city.

The selection of these cities has been based on general knowledge, but also looking at an established global indicator of liveability - the Mercer 'Quality of Living' index - an annual ranking of cities that provide the best quality of life. In 2017, the following cities were ranked in the top 10: Vienna (1st for 8th year in a row); Copenhagen (9th); and Sydney (10th).

For the purpose of this work, we have also reviewed the strategies and policies of Detroit. It is rare that an established city must rebuild itself – physically, economically, socially and culturally – therefore it is an interesting case study to see if and how this city is changing how they think about the future planning, design and systems.

MERCER 'QUALITY OF LIVING' INDEX

The Mercer 'Quality of Living' Index uses the following metrics to assess and rank cities:

- Political & social environment (political stability, crime, law enforcement)
- Economic environment (currency-exchange regulations, banking services)
- Socio-cultural environment (media availability & censorship, limitations on personal freedom)
- Medical & health considerations (medical supplies and services, infectious diseases, sewage, waste disposal, air pollution)
- Schools & education (standards and availability of international schools)
- Public services & transportation (electricity, water, public transportation, traffic congestion)
- Recreation (restaurants, theatres, cinemas, sports and leisure)
- Consumer goods (availability of food/daily consumption items, cars)
- Housing (rental housing, household appliances, maintenance services), and
- Natural environment (climate, record of natural disasters).

VIENNA

“Our future will be designed in cities. Traditionally cities have been places of major changes and social innovations...a smart city is a city that faces the challenges in the wake of decreasing resource consumption combined with rising demands. However, a smart city will also strive for a high degree of social inclusion”⁶¹

This city has been ranked as the world’s most liveable city (according to the Mercer index) for the past eight years.

In the introduction to one of the two key strategies that have been reviewed, the Smart City Wien Framework Strategy, it is noted that:

“Vienna is charting its course towards becoming a ‘smart city’.... [which] differs from the strategies of other cities in one key respect: Vienna will not let anyone down. For Vienna, the integration of the social component into all areas is an essential element of its framework strategy”.

SMART CITY WIEN

The long term Smart City Wien framework strategy presents ambitious objectives “to safeguard a socially and environmentally acceptable development for the future”. This framework places as its core focus the preservation and evolution of the city as a liveable, socially inclusive and dynamic space for future generations.

This strategic framework provides the guide for all the strategies of the city such as urban planning (STEP2025), climate protection, future energy supply or the creation of Vienna as an innovation hub. A fundamental question is posed is: “how can policy and change processes be designed in an even more cross-cutting and multi-sectoral manner?”

The Smart City Wien vision talks about Vienna as a liveable city for children, young people, women and men, elderly persons, families, entrepreneurs, artists, researchers, persons with special needs. The vision is that, by 2050, Vienna is a vibrant metropolis and one of Europe’s most attractive cities. The key elements to achieving this vision are:

- Providing ample possibilities of participation and determination – citizens taking an active part in developing their city
- Offering an affordable quality of life – accessible green space, social justice and creating a feeling of safety and security in the city
- Art and culture are crucial drivers of society and positively effect the economy, innovation and social well-being and cohesion.
- Innovative means of transport to meet mobility requirements – movement in the city is characterised by resource preservation and respect for public space, and
- Combining history and tradition with modern, redesigned urban environments, providing for striking new developments in the fields of architecture, design and sustainability.

Underpinning this vision are three key objectives: radical resource preservation; development and productive use of innovations/new technologies; and high and socially balanced quality of life. For the purpose of this study, we have focused on the third objective ‘high and socially balanced quality of life’ to better understand the ways in which this strategy and this city is able to create high levels of social capital as a fundamental element of its future development.

The measure of this third objective is that “Vienna maintains its quality of life at the current superlative level and continues to focus on social inclusion in its policy design: as a result, Vienna in 2050 is the city with the highest quality of life and life satisfaction in Europe”.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

- All people in Vienna enjoy good neighbourly and safe life conditions irrespective of their background, physical and psychological condition, sexual orientation and gender identity. Vienna is a city of diversity that is expressed to the fullest in all areas of life.
- High-quality, affordable housing and an attractive housing environment are made accessible to the largest possible share of the population.
- Active participation at work as well as the performed work must be adequately remunerated and ensure the coverage of all basic needs in life.
- Women are involved in planning, decision-making and implementation processes in keeping with their share in the total population. All persons involved in these processes dispose of gender competence.

HEALTHCARE

- Strengthening of health-promoting conditions of life and health literacy of all population groups.
- Safeguarding of medical care at the highest level due to demand oriented and efficient supply structures and processes (best point of service) for all citizens as well as reduction and shortening of hospital stays.
- To safeguard a strong and socially equitable public healthcare system, the Vienna Hospital Association and its facilities will remain a publicly owned enterprise. Potentials for greater efficiency must be systematically reviewed and used in all areas.
- “Outpatient over inpatient” is the organisational principle of nursing services – letting persons stay in their own home for as long as possible while offering top-notch nursing quality.

ENVIRONMENT

- By 2030, the share of green spaces must be kept at over 50% of land area. Especially in a growing city, additional recreational areas must be safeguarded to keep up with the rising population figures.
- In 2020, the savings achieved by municipal waste management have already attained approx. 270,000 tonnes of CO² equivalents as a result of further planned measures and improvements.



Top: Encouraging modal shift
Middle: walkable city streets and high quality public realm.
Source: <https://smartcity.wien.gv.at/site/en/the-initiative/topics/mobility/>

Bottom: The MuseumsQuartier opened in 2001. It is amongst the biggest cultural areas in the world, and has developed into a regular oasis of culture. The MuseumsQuartier is a popular place to meet, especially in summer. An important contribution to this is made by the colorful outdoor furniture called Enzi, which invites you to relax in the inner courtyard.
Source: <https://www.wien.info/en/sightseeing/architecture-design/enzi-enzo-mq>

⁶¹ Smart City Wien, Smart City Wien Framework Strategy, 2017.

DETROIT

“Building a blueprint for a city as complex and rich in promise and challenges as Detroit required the integration of local expertise with leading thinkers and practitioners around the world”⁶²

Detroit presents an interesting opportunity to understand how social capital is being created in different cities across the world. Detroit is a rare example of an established city that through a series of events, is now in the position of having to rebuild their community and their city – physically, socially, culturally, creatively and economically. Most city governments and administrations have sufficient challenges ensure the needs of citizens are met and their wellbeing protected and enhanced. A place like Detroit also needs to rebuild trust and resilience just to get back to a city where people can live and prosper.

The Detroit Strategic Framework articulates a shared vision for Detroit’s future, and recommends specific actions for reaching that future. The vision was developed through interactions among Detroit residents and civic leaders from both the non-profit and for-profit sectors, who together formed a broad-based group of community experts. From the results of this citywide public engagement effort, in turn, a team of technical experts crafted and refined the vision, rendered specific strategies for reaching it, shared their work publicly at key points, and shaped it in response to changing information and community feedback throughout the process.

This framework plan is a strategic document that integrates the economic growth, social wellbeing, land use planning, asset management, civic engagement and the city governance systems all as the individual parts critical to achieving the vision. It notes that the framework is ‘ambitious but attainable’. The Detroit Future City begins to align the assets with opportunity, mapping a framework that best coordinates investments in the cities resources – people, time, money, brainpower – in ways that can move the community and city forward collectively.

The framework is also spatial. It explores how best to use the city’s abundance of land (particularly publicly owned land), ensure vibrant neighbourhoods, and build an infrastructure that serves citizens at a reason cost. It is about economic prosperity and creating job growth and economic prosperity, and maintaining high levels of community engagement.

The core values to create a shared vision and plan of action for the Future City are:

- **Aspirational:** where it should be and practical where it must be
- **Respectful** of the city’s history, community efforts, and new ideas
- **Just and equitable** in seeking to create benefits for all, and
- **Transparent and inclusive** of all voices participating to improve our community.

It is interesting that in the development of the strategy, early on it was revealed that the issues of access to jobs, safety, education, human health and neighbourhood appearance were universally critical to address – and this was common across all citizens. They wanted an improved city, a better quality of life and improved business environment. Another important recognition of this strategy and the Detroit community was that business as usual will not work, an important lesson for all cities and communities.

Some of the following projects have been delivered to rebuild the physical, social, cultural, and creative landscape of Detroit, and along the way resulted in the improvement of social capital within the city.

BLIGHT BOOTCAMP

Blight Bootcamp is a collaborative effort that brings together residents and organizations for a day of community learning around resources and tactics that increase impact of community led blight elimination efforts. Blight Bootcamp II is a follow-up to the inaugural community event that took place in summer 2014. The community driven initiative was held in partnership with the Impact Detroit network.

Detroit Future City, along with community partners realizes it is vital to acknowledge the work currently underway in Detroit’s neighbourhoods, make the proper connections between the work and the Detroit Strategic Framework, empower organizations to increase their scope and capacity, and shed light on the variety of blight interventions and tools available outside of demolition. Blight elimination has been deemed a priority by the City of Detroit.

The objectives of this project were to:

- Create synergy by capitalizing on and highlighting existing community efforts to address blight elimination⁶³
- Grow the scope and capacity of community initiated actions to implement blight interventions by helping to define strategies and tools available beyond demolition through education, outreach and technical assistance, and
- Leverage local public and private tools and resources to support blight interventions and promote the stabilization, restoration and beautification of communities.

THE DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBOURHOODS

The Department of Neighbourhoods is charged with working with community members to address some of the many quality of life issues that face Detroit residents every day. While each council district contains a range of conditions, the Detroit Strategic Framework Plan provides guidance for targeting the appropriate type of investment to every area of the city to maximize impact.

The objectives and implementation strategies of this project were to:

- Use a place based strategy to create a citywide framework for growth and investment to support a network of new and existing neighbourhood types
- Introduce new forms of development
- Create a new and diverse open space system for the city
- Reform system delivery to address quality of life challenges that affect all Detroiters
- Create walkable, mixed-use neighbourhoods
- Regenerate neighbourhoods through a fusion of art and industry
- Repurpose vacant land to create green neighbourhoods
- Renew traditional neighbourhoods to utilise productive landscapes as the basis for a sustainable city
- Provide concise recommendations from the Detroit Future City Implementation Office to the Department of Neighbourhoods, and
- Work with District Managers to create actionable priorities for each council district.

GOLDMAN SACHS 10,000 SMALL BUSINESSES PROGRAM

As per its website, “Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses is an investment to help entrepreneurs create jobs and economic opportunity by providing greater access to education, capital and business support services”. This program aims to help entrepreneurs create jobs and economic opportunity by providing them with greater access to education, financial capital and business support services. It is designed to tap into that economic power by providing entrepreneurs with the resources they need to grow and create jobs.

The objectives and implementation strategies were to:

- Encourage local entrepreneurship and minority business participation.
- Promote short-term approaches to increase the number and success of minority business enterprises (MBEs) and disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs) in the city.
- Contribute to recruitment efforts to ensure 120 participants in its first year. With a 33% acceptance rate, recruit at minimum 360 firms to apply.
- Strengthen the small business ecosystem in Detroit.
- Strengthen the business development continuum in Detroit. Map out programs that can feed into 10,000 Small Businesses, and identify gaps after leaving the program.



Top: Detroit mini grants. Source: <http://impact-detroit.org/content/images/2017/04/DSC00390.JPG>

Bottom: Detroit Future City workshops
Source: <http://www.springwellsvillage.com/events/2014/6/7/blight-bootcamp-workshop>

⁶² Detroit Future City, 2012 Detroit Strategic Framework Plan, 2012.

⁶³ “Initiatives,” Detroit Future City, accessed on October 18, 2017, <https://detroitfuturecity.com/initiatives/>.

COPENHAGEN

"We will become the world's most liveable city: a sustainable city with urban spaces inviting people to a unique and varied urban life. We will become a metropolis for people"⁶⁴

The City of Copenhagen's 2015 strategic document 'A Metropolis for People' outlines the vision and goals for urban life in Copenhagen. This framework sets concrete goals to achieve the vision and is the City's "starting point for dialogues with landlords, planners, architects, landscape architects, local committees and all the city's citizens and users ... [creating] the best framework for a metropolis for people"⁶⁵.

The value of social capital as a key aspect of creating a city for people is made clear from the introduction of this document. It establishes the importance of this framework in creating the 'circumstances' for casual social encounters as well as routine encounters by identifying that "in the city's space we meet other people: both those we know already and those we just see down on the street, people with other values and other lifestyles. So, a varied urban life is an important part of socially sustainable life".

What is interesting is the words used to define urban life – 'Experience; expression, movement as well as people meetings'. Unlike other strategic and land use planning frameworks, these words don't necessarily focus on the physical city, but instead describe the intangible elements of social life, those that are critical to building social capital.

This framework recognises that urban life is people and that walking and cycling around the city, hanging out in public spaces and playing in parks and on playgrounds, engaging in a short chat on a bench or just making eye contact with others on a daily journey are all important experiences for the 'everyday life' of the city. It is all these activities and more that give us quality of life and increase our tolerance and understanding of each – addressing the first fundamental ingredient in building social capital in cities.

The vision to achieve a metropolis for people is underpinned by three key goals for urban life – 'More Urban Life for All'; 'More People to Walk More'; and 'More People to Stay Longer'. These goals talk to the prioritisation of daily urban life while at the same time "creating the possibility for the secret, the eccentric and the temporary to flourish", offering the "opportunity to use our senses, to go on a voyage of discovery and to meet other people".

While this strategy is an example of a strategic framework that facilitates the creation of social capital, it does note the importance of dialogue with many of the city's interested parties. This document recognises that "the municipality cannot create urban life. But together with citizens, site owners, business life and experts we can create a city, which invites people to an urban life". It also talks to the different roles:

- Local users who know the area, its qualities and challenges and there are those who will use the space
- City builders & managers – the architects, landscape designers and planners – who translate peoples' visions into concrete projects, and
- City government to ensure the quality of urban spaces and facilities, the budget is balanced and oversee the proper governance of the future city.

Specific targets include: Copenhageners will spend 20% more time in urban space; and that 80% of Copenhageners will be satisfied with the opportunities that they have for taking part in urban life. The City of Copenhagen is measuring urban life and its patterns on a daily basis as it implements this strategy, which influences the physical structure and development of the city.



Source: aspiringbackpacker.com

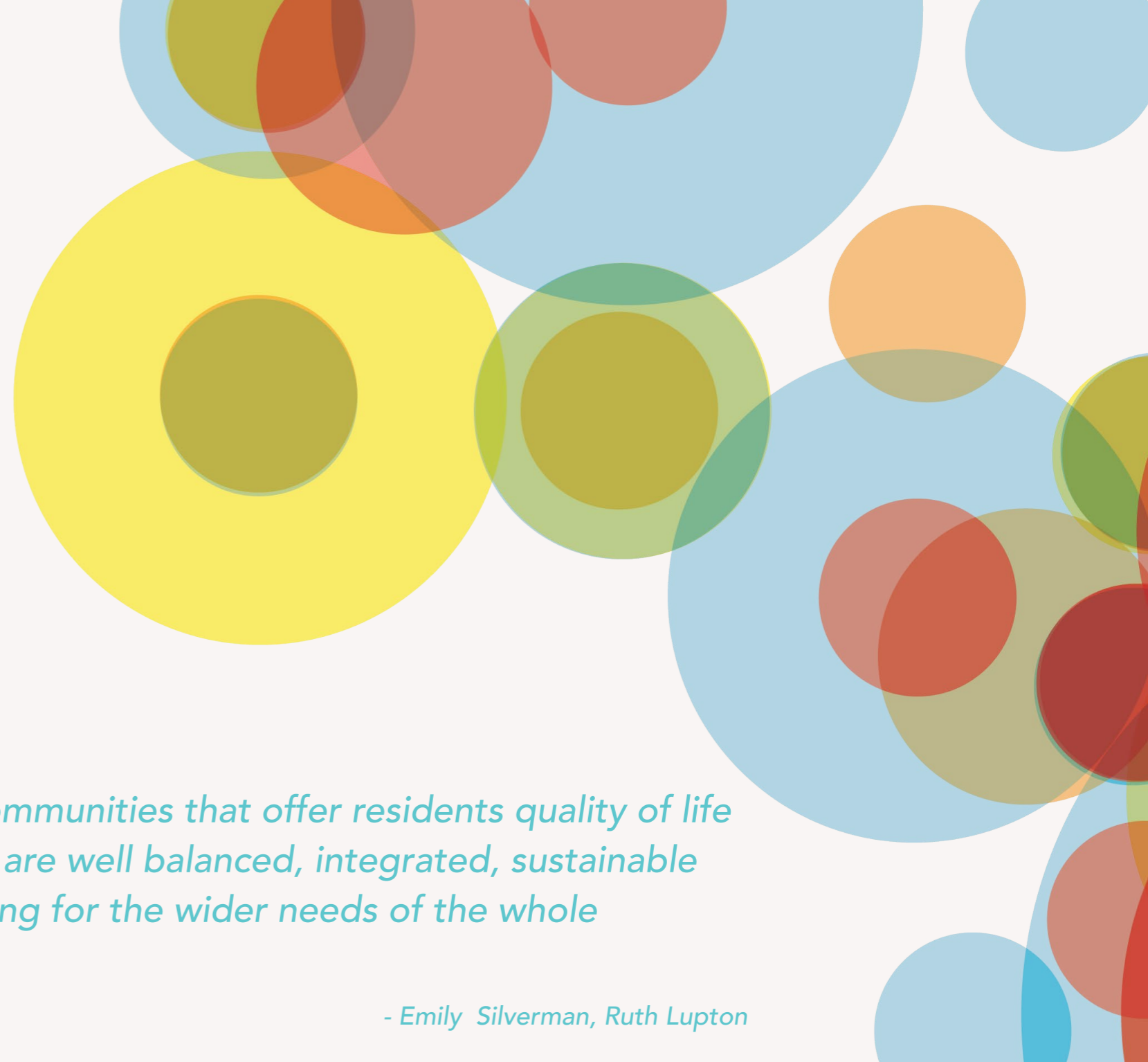
KEY LESSONS IN BUILDING SOCIAL CAPITAL IN CITIES

This review of what other cities are doing and how they are managing to embed, create the circumstance and build the social capital and capacity of their cities reveals some commonalities that provide a focus for further exploration:

- High levels of social capital require everyone working together towards a common vision/aim. It requires the active participation and genuine engagement of citizens, governments, business, community organisation and the like to not only formulate the vision, but deliver on it as well.
- Everyone is responsible and accountable – transparent governance, respectful communities that are tolerant and inclusive of difference - to create a supportive environment in which ideas, conversations, innovations and solutions can flourish – a common thread across all cities, is creating a City for All.
- To build social capital it's not a 'one size fits all' approach and a lot of times, business as usual won't yield the results that are needed. Doing things differently, embracing change and new ideas can lead to unforeseen benefits.
- Affordability and accessibility is crucial for both city governments who provide the facilities and infrastructure, as well as citizens as users, as ways to connect and engage in the social life of the city.
- Like cities, social capital is built in multi-faceted, multi-disciplinary environments – strong strategic frameworks that have at their core a focus on people and the integration of a social component are crucial to success.
- Experience, expression, inclusion and being connected (whether physically, socially, economically, culturally or virtually) are all key ingredients to enhancing and building social capital.
- Walking and cycling are not only more sustainable and health movement options for citizens, but they also provide greater opportunities for connection, both chance and routine encounters.
- Creative expression and the arts are important to the cultural life of a city but also in facilitating a connection to place, identity and celebrating the histories and unique characteristics of cities.
- Partnerships with institutions, networks and business are an effective way to share knowledge, build capacity and provide necessary opportunities with directly and indirectly allow social capital to be built.
- A successful strategic framework sets clear objectives, measurable goals and is ambitious but attainable within the timeframe.
- Building social capital is only achieved through action. Creating opportunities is required, but making something of those opportunities and sharing them with the wider community is key to building greater levels of social capital.

⁶⁴ Municipality of Copenhagen, A Metropolis for People, 2009.

⁶⁵ Ibid.



“If we are to have any chance of creating vibrant new communities that offer residents quality of life and that open up new opportunities – communities that are well balanced, integrated, sustainable and well connected – then we have to think about building for the wider needs of the whole community, not just focus on building homes”

- Emily Silverman, Ruth Lupton

5.0 WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GREATER SYDNEY?

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GREATER SYDNEY?

OUR CITY IS GROWING

Greater Sydney's population is forecast to rise to 6.4 million people by 2036⁶⁶. Recent studies have reported that Western Sydney is growing faster than the rest of Greater Sydney currently, and by 2036, the population of the Western City District and the Central City District will be over 3 million.

The highest amount of population growth is in places with the fewest social connectors – in the Western City District (because of this area's geographical size, low population density and new development areas that were previously rural, industrial or agricultural).

Resilient Sydney states that the distance between our decisions and their impacts is vast – the decisions that shape our city were made by many different people and organisations over a long time. But they've added up, and the impacts are now being felt by people located a long way from the decision makers themselves⁶⁷.

MIGRATION FROM OVERSEAS

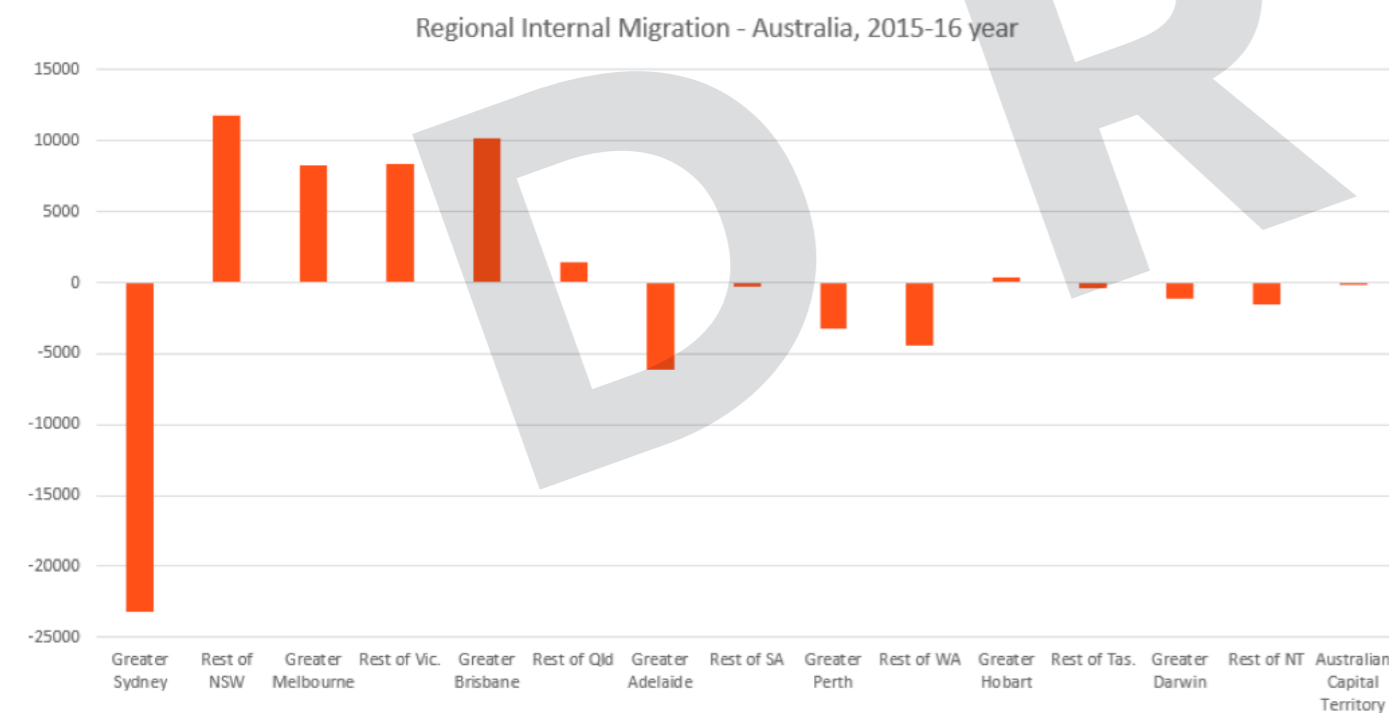
Typically, Greater Sydney gains population from overseas and loses population to other parts of Australia, however this trend is accelerating. For the first time in our history, the majority of people born abroad are now from Asia, not Europe⁶⁸.

The 2016 Census shows that more than a one in four (27.6%) of the State's residents born overseas, up from 24.3% in 2011⁶⁹.

MIGRATION OUT OF GREATER SYDNEY

For the past 10 years, Greater Sydney has experienced outward migration to other parts of Australia at an average rate of 19,000 per year and this trend is accelerating.

In 2015/16 figures from the Regional Internal Migration Estimates show a net loss of 23,176 people from Greater Sydney to other parts of Australia. It is by far the biggest internal migration loss of any Australian region (see graph below left)⁷⁰.



Source: ABS.Stat – Regional Internal Migration Estimates

68 <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/technology/what-the-census-says-about-australia-key-stats-from-the-data/news-story/25edb471e3e513c43d27a994d119b7ca>
 69 Australian Bureau of Statistics, accessed on October 18, 2017, http://stat.abs.gov.au/ttt/r.jsp?RegionSummary®ion=1GSYD&dataset=ABS_REGIONAL_ASGS&geoconcept=REGION&datasetASGS=ABS_REGIONAL_ASGS&datasetLGA=ABS_NRP9_LGA®ionLGA=REGION®ionASGS=REGIONnt
 70 "What's Driving Sydney's Population Exodus?" Id the Population Experts, accessed on October 18, 2017, <http://blog.id.com.au/2017/population/population-trends/whats-driving-sydneys-population-exodus/>.

INCREASING CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Greater Sydney is one of the most diverse cities in the world, and is more culturally diverse than London, Singapore and New York: 40% of our population was born overseas⁷¹.

Some of these characteristics include:

- In Greater Sydney, 40% of people speak a language other than English at home in 2016⁷². The most common languages were Mandarin, Arabic, Cantonese, Vietnamese and Greek⁷³.
- Trends indicate that migration of people born in China and India to Australia is increasing each year⁷⁴.
- Greater Sydney is home to Australia's largest population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.
- In Parramatta 76% of people were born overseas, and twice as many people speak a language other than English at home than the national average⁷⁵.

CULTURAL COHESION

The Conversation reported that 'Intolerance is on the rise in Greater Sydney, with regular reports of racist abuse in public spaces, including transport, streets and shopping centres'⁷⁶. Resilient Sydney research reported that 'intolerance undermines our wellbeing, economic prosperity, social cohesion and the capacity for civic engagement in our diverse communities'⁷⁷.

The extent to which we meet people from different cultural backgrounds largely depends on where we live, work and play in Greater Sydney. Some parts of Greater Sydney are extremely diverse, while others are made up of communities where almost everyone has been settled in Australia for generations⁷⁸.

Attitudes to cultural diversity are complicated and depend on many factors, but there is evidence that over time contact with different cultural groups decreases racism. Studies have found very little increase in positive attitudes amongst those who live in areas of low diversity⁷⁹.

71 "Greater Sydney," Australian Bureau of Statistics.
 72 ABS 2016 Census of Population and Housing.
 73 "Greater Sydney: Language Spoken at Home," Id. the Population Experts, accessed February 1, 2017, <http://profile.id.com.au/australia/language?WebID=250>.
 74 "City of Sydney, 2016, Community Profile," Id. the Population Experts, accessed February 1, 2017, <http://profile.id.com.au/sydney>
 75 "Data and Visualisations," Western Sydney University, accessed October 18, 2017, https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/cws/gws_research.
 76 Edgar Lu, Christina Ho and Hazel Easthope, "Contested Spaces: Living Next Door to Alice (and Anh and Abdullah)," The Conversation, March 14, 2017.
 77 City of Sydney, Identity in Diversity Briefing Pack, 2016.
 78 Andrew Markus, Australians Today (Melbourne: Scanlon Foundation, 2015).
 79 James Forrest and Kevin Dunn, "Attitudes to Multicultural Values in Diverse Spaces in Australia's Immigrant Cities, Sydney and Melbourne," *Space and Polity* 14.1 (2010): 81-102.

HOUSING (UN)AFFORDABILITY

Greater Sydney is the second least affordable city in the world. The median house price in Sydney is 12.2 times median household income⁸⁰.

The cost of housing in Greater Sydney is high and the cheapest places to rent or buy are in the west and south west. However access to jobs and education can be more limited than other more established parts of the city.

The entry level price for a unit in Greater Sydney was \$547,000 in 2016. For a house, it was \$670,000. This will be a very basic form of housing, probably some distance from the city. So, housing is generally quite unaffordable in Greater Sydney for a large segment of the population⁸¹.

Homelessness is increasing and public housing waiting list are in the thousands. Only 1% of rental properties are affordable to people on the minimum wage. Households who rent spend around 28% of their income on housing – very close to the 30% threshold for housing stress⁸².

INCREASING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Nearly 14,000 young people accessed homelessness services in 2015-16, but Michelle Parker, the acting CEO of Yfoundation, said up to 60,000 young people experienced homelessness a year, including the 'invisible homeless' such as people couchsurfing.

Characteristics of homelessness have been identified by various experts⁸³:

- One in three people experiencing homelessness is under the age of 25
- One in eight people experiencing homelessness is under the age of 10
- 39,000 school-age children needed homelessness help last year, and
- One in two adults receiving homelessness help first became homeless before age 18.

80 "Australian City Has Come In as Second Least Affordable in Housing Survey," News.com.au, accessed on October 18, 2017, <http://www.news.com.au/finance/real-estate/buying/australian-city-has-come-in-as-second-least-affordable-in-housing-survey/news-story/ea303216600657c6afd91e30d3f8c0bc>.
 81 "What's Driving Sydney's Population Exodus?" Id the Population Experts
 82 City of Sydney, Housing Issues Paper, 2015.
 83 Josh Butler, "Homeless Youth Unemployment is Nine Times the National Average," Huffpost, April 5, 2017, http://www.huffingtonpost.com.au/2017/04/04/homeless-youth-unemployment-is-nine-times-the-national-average_a_22026299/.

RENTERS VS. BUYERS

Twenty-five years ago, 26.9 % of Australians rented, and 41.1 % owned outright. In 2016, 30.9 % of Australians rented, just short of the 31 % who own outright, the lowest home ownership figure in 70 years. In Greater Sydney, the trend is more stark, with renters making up more than 34 % of all households.⁸⁴

TRANSPORT

Transport for NSW has a number of major infrastructure projects planned (metro's, road upgrades) in an effort to meet future population growth and travel demand. However even with these projects underway, levels of access to public transport varies, depending on where you live in Greater Sydney. Key considerations include:

- Greater Sydney has the highest rate of trips by private vehicles in Australia (up to 80%), especially in the west and southwest
- Fewer people travel by cycling and walking in Greater Sydney than in other global cities.
- The east of the city has the best options and the west and south west the poorest – these areas have the highest commutes by private cars in Australia⁸⁵.
- Commutes by car are expensive, giving people in the west the highest commuter costs in Greater Sydney.

EDUCATION

Western Sydney has lower high school completion rates than the rest of Greater Sydney⁸⁶.

71.9% of people in northern Sydney have post-school qualifications versus 44.9% in south western Sydney.

Most of Greater Sydney's major universities are located in the east, with Western Sydney University and the University of Wollongong having campus' in the west and south west. Students in the north and south may access educational opportunities in Newcastle and the Illawarra areas.

ACCESS TO JOBS

Greater Sydney's wealth and job distribution have some of the following characteristics:

- 20% of all income goes to 1% of Sydney's population and they are located in Vaucluse, Rose Bay, Bellevue Hill and Double Bay⁸⁷
- Less than 6% of all income goes to earners in Blacktown, Campbelltown and Penrith⁸⁸
- 37% of all employment is located in the CBD⁸⁹ and there are few opportunities for well-paid jobs in the west and south west. This is a challenge to social capital in areas where there are high proportions of people undertaking long commutes daily because the neighbourhood empties during the day, people have less time to spend socially or with their families, less time to exercise and less time to volunteer in community activities or causes.
- 'Manufacturing' (which is in decline) employs the most people in the west, followed by 'Retail', and 'Health Care and Social Assistance'⁹⁰.
- Financial services are our strongest economic sector and more than 55% of financial services jobs are located in the CBD⁹¹.
- 180,000 people leave western Sydney each day to access jobs in the east⁹².
- Living in the most affordable parts of Greater Sydney and accessing a well-paid job means at a minimum 1 hour commute each way every day⁹³.

HEALTH

A Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils identified that Western Sydney has almost 10% fewer hospital beds per 100, 000 residents than all the other parts of Sydney combined, and fewer staff proportionally. Yet there is higher demand, and higher rates of admissions in western Sydney⁹⁴.

The 2010-2014 median age at death data showed that people living in the low socioeconomic areas were significantly more likely to die avoidable deaths than their neighbours in more affluent postcodes, according to the data mapping a range of demographics and health indicators across local areas⁹⁵. The most extreme example of this is in the Primary Health Area of Mount Druitt-north west - where people die on average 19 years earlier than those living in Cherrybrook and West Pennant Hills (68 versus 87 years old).

Key considerations identified for health include:

- Chronic and lifestyle diseases are increasing and are the highest cause of death in Greater Sydney. Around 50% of our population are overweight or obese – 45% of people in the north and 55% of people in the west⁹⁶.
- We are an aging population, increasing the need for healthcare⁹⁷.
- Health services demand and the rising cost of care are amongst our biggest challenges⁹⁸

COMMUNICATION ACROSS GOVERNMENT LEVELS

The current rapid growth in Greater Sydney provides us with opportunities that we can leverage off, including our social strengths. However, complexity within Sydney's governance poses challenges for integrated decision making. The absence of a mechanism for collaboration across different levels of government, business and the community keeps information and networks siloed. This factor challenges Greater Sydney's capacity to innovate, form partnerships, share knowledge and understand the impact pathways of critical decisions. Urban design and planning can create opportunities for the bonding, bridging and linkage connections that form and create social capital. This can occur in formal and incidental ways. There is a focus on urban design and planning to create opportunities for incidental connections e.g. with neighbours, and less attention to interventions that can create opportunities for bridging and linkage connections.

WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

The challenges presented in this section of the report are the headline issues for Greater Sydney, there are many more in addition to these.

The inclusion and concentration of multiple types of social connectors in places is important for ensuring that Greater Sydney's three cities develop neighbourliness, a welcoming attitude, cooperation, trust and resilience amongst their citizens, increasing local social capital and social and economic outcomes for all. Social capital will also help to build strong connections with our families, friends and communities that are important for our health and wellbeing, economic development and civil and social stability. This is important because:

- Our high cultural diversity means potential for racism and intolerance
- Extreme events are increasing in our city, and our connections with the rest of the world, whether it be through trade or family, mean disasters elsewhere affect our lives
- Knowing our neighbours, having good relationships with friends and family, and being part of a connected community means someone will notice if we're missing, help if we are in trouble and get us back on our feet after the crisis has passed, and
- Studies show close knit, peaceful communities are better prepared for crises and respond and recover faster than those where there is a lot of tension⁹⁹.

⁸⁷ Matt Wade, "NSW the State of Inequality When it Comes to Income," *Sydney Morning Herald*, February 1, 2016.

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ SGS Economics and Planning, *Effective Job Density*, 2016.

⁹⁰ "Economy and Employment," accessed January 25, 2017, <https://wsroc.com.au/issues-campaigns/economy-and-employment>.

⁹¹ Regional Development Australia, 2016, Economic Profile

⁹² WSROC, *Submission to Draft Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney*, 2013.

⁹³ Committee for Sydney, *Are We There Yet? Value Capture and the Future of Public Transport*, 2015.

⁹⁴ WSROC, *Comparative Study of Health Services*, 2012.

⁹⁵ Kate Aubusson, "Social Health Atlas Reveals Overlap Between Avoidable Death and Disadvantage Across Sydney," *Sydney Morning Herald* July 2, 2017, <http://www.smh.com.au/national/health/social-health-atlas-reveals-overlap-between-avoidable-death-and-disadvantage-across-sydney-20170701-gx2l2r.html>.

⁹⁶ Department of Planning 2013, *Towards a Resilient Sydney – Socio-Economic Profile*

⁹⁷ National Commission of Audit, *Towards Responsible Government*, 2014.

⁹⁸ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Australia's Health 2014*, 2014.

⁸⁴ Peter Martin, "'They Have to Have Alternatives': Census Highlights Rent, Mortgage, Stress," *Sydney Morning Herald*, June 27, 2017, <http://www.smh.com.au/business/the-economy/they-have-to-have-alternatives-census-highlights-rent-not-mortgage-stress-20170627-gwzhf3.html>.

⁸⁵ Infrastructure NSW, *State Infrastructure Strategy Update*, 2014.

⁸⁶ "WSROC Region 2016: Highest Level of Schooling," id.community, accessed on October 18, 2017, <http://profile.id.com.au/wsroc/schooling>

⁹⁹ For example: Alistair McAslan, "Community Resilience: Understanding the Concept and its Application," *Torrens Resilience Institute* 2011; WN Adger, "Social Capital Collective Action and Adaptation to Climate Change," *Economic Geography* 79.4 (2003): 387-404.; Australian Institute for Family Studies, *Natural Disasters and Community Resilience: A Framework for Support*, 2012.

MAPPING SOCIAL CAPITAL

The following section of this report provides rudimentary heat maps of social connectors across Greater Sydney's 5 Districts. The mapping visually illustrates which districts and centres already have high numbers of social connectors (and therefore social capital) as well as where the gaps are.

ABOUT THE MAP CONTENT

A strengths and opportunities analysis has been completed for each of the five districts and their strategic and local centres. This Strengths Analysis maps the existence and concentration of social connectors in these centres.

The analysis characterises the social connections and networks in Greater Sydney and the nature and value of urban form and land-use mix in creating and maintaining the opportunity for these connections

The maps provide a strengths based understanding of Greater Sydney's social connectors. They are not based on a detailed social infrastructure and facilities audit and should not be treated as such. The purpose is to provide a high level understanding of the spatial distribution of connectors across the 3 cities and 5 districts.

The strengths analysis includes mapping of social connectors as detailed in Chapter 4 across four categories:

- Social infrastructure (and the groups that use these facilities)
- Education and learning
- Street life and meeting places, and
- Sharing spaces and places.

The strengths analysis also looks at key socio-economic indicators of social capital for each district and the opportunities to learn from and leverage these including:

- Housing tenure, density mix, household types
- Age range and diversity
- Median weekly household income
- Cultural diversity (place of birth, language spoken at home, recent arrivals)
- Volunteering participation
- Employment and industries
- Walk Scores, and
- Mobility and access (journey to work).

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE (AND GROUPS THAT USE THESE FACILITIES)

- Community and neighbourhood centres/hubs
- Meet ups (and places to hold these)
- Sportsfield and courts (sports clubs)
- Clubs/community groups
- Creative arts spaces and maker spaces
- Men's sheds
- Pools and leisure centres

EDUCATION AND LEARNING

- Quality early education and care
- Schools
- Libraries
- TAFES and Universities

STREET LIFE AND MEETING PLACES

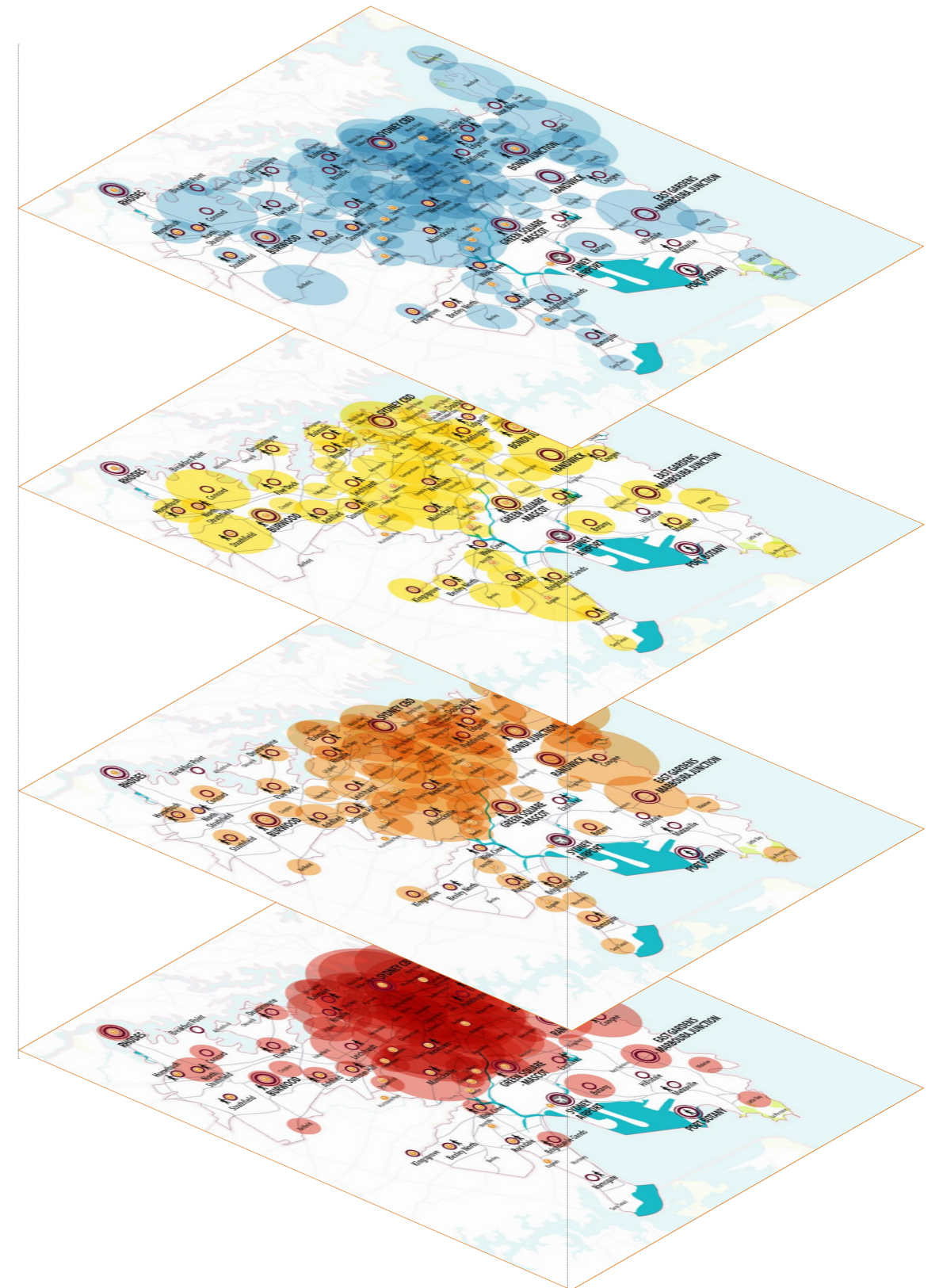
- Live music venues
- Eat Streets
- Retail strips/hubs (main/high streets)
- Farmers markets
- Quality parks and playgrounds
- Walkability
- Dog parks
- Small bars

SHARING SPACES AND PLACES

- Community gardens
- Social enterprise
- Co-working spaces/startups
- Go Get/Car Share
- Share sheds

Notes about the mapping methodology:

- Local centres mapped were only those with a supermarket >1000m². There are many smaller local neighbourhood centres that what is mapped.
- The mapping method allocated social connectors to a centre if it was located in the same suburb
- It does not take into account collocation or walking distance between social connectors.



GREATER SYDNEY:

THE 3 CITIES

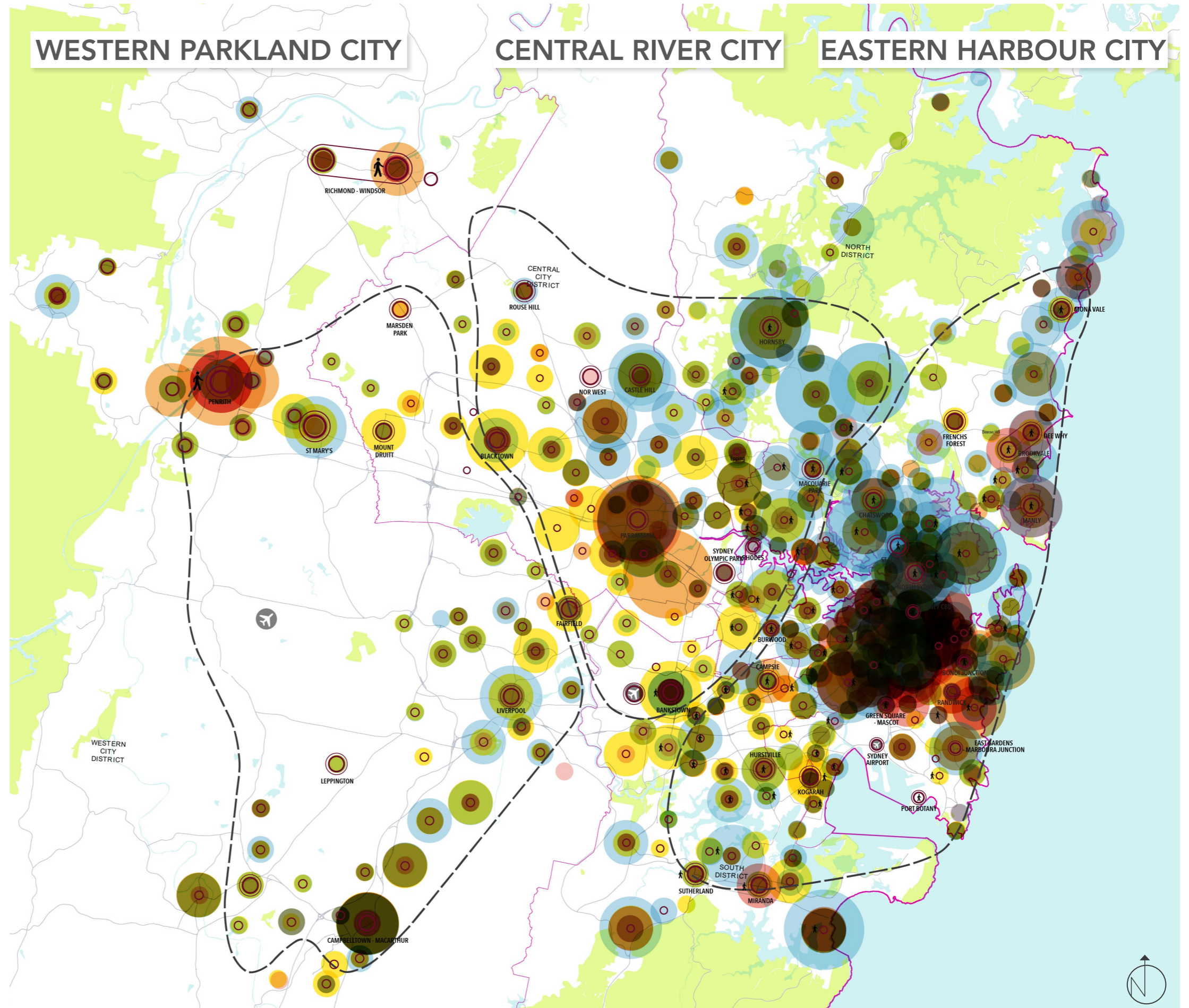
Directions for a Greater Sydney articulates the a vision for Greater Sydney to 2056 as a global metropolis of three productive, liveable and sustainable cities: Western Parkland City, Central River City and Eastern Harbour City.

The heat map opposite illustrates a preliminary mapping of social connectors across the three cities. It highlights the need for planning and designing for the inclusion of social connectors in the west, where significant future population growth is forecast to occur.

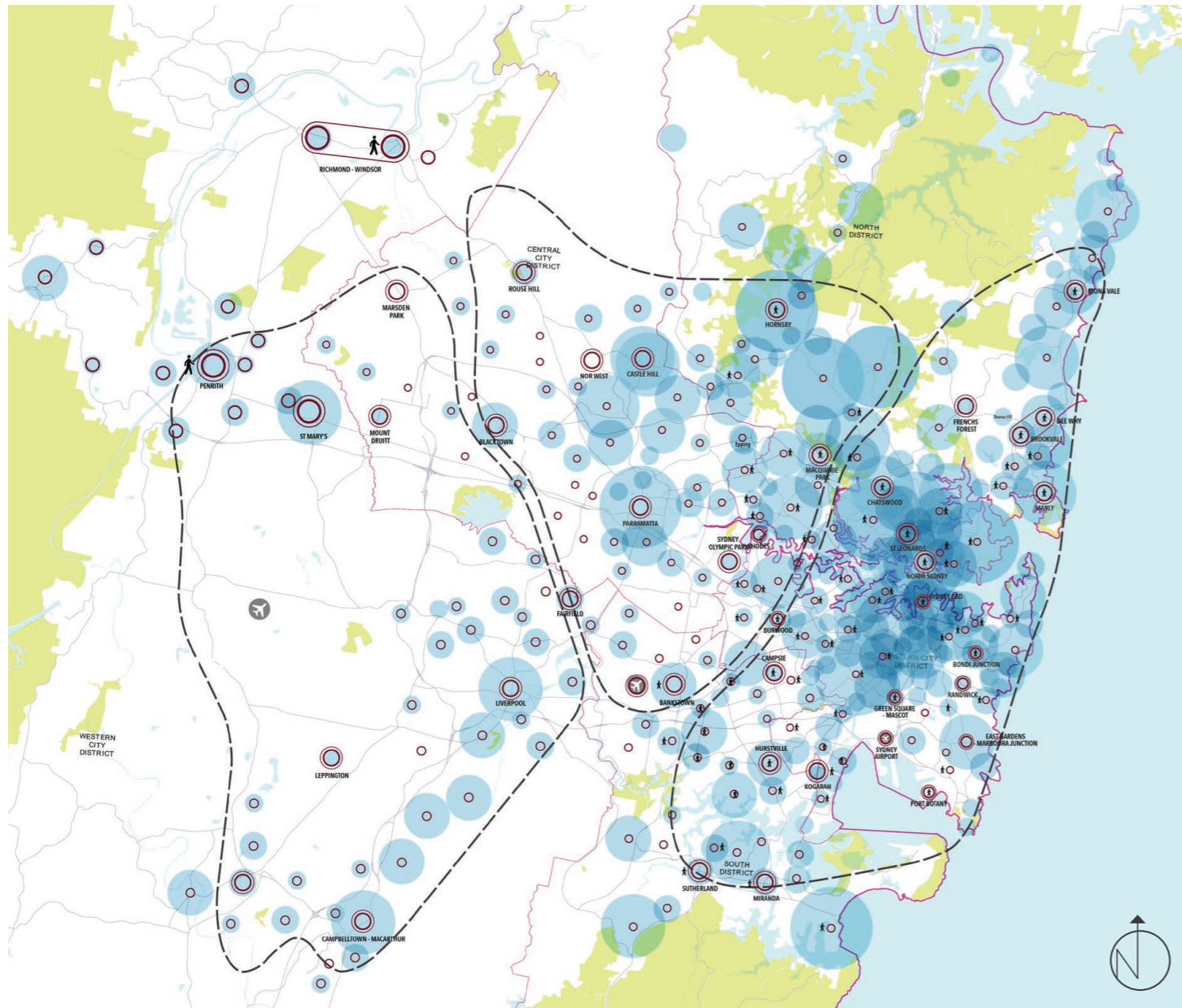
In terms of urban planning and design, some examples of social strengths across Greater Sydney include the strong street life and many highly concentrated social connectors such as farmers markets, eat streets, and community gardens in the Eastern Harbour City.

In the Central River City the sharing economy is focused primarily around Parramatta, with a concentration of creative spaces, maker spaces, theatres, live music and co-working spaces. Castle Hill and Blacktown also have concentrations of social connectors, including bushcare groups, primary schools, outdoor gyms and community spaces. Greater Parramatta to the Olympic Peninsula demonstrates strong and active street life with eat streets and retail strips.

In the Western Parkland City there are strong social connectors including primary schools, quality sportsfields and aquatic centres, creative arts centres, theatres, and community spaces in the centres of Penrith, Campbelltown – Macarthur, Liverpool, Camden, Minto, Ingleburn and Macquarie Fields.



THREE CITIES: SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

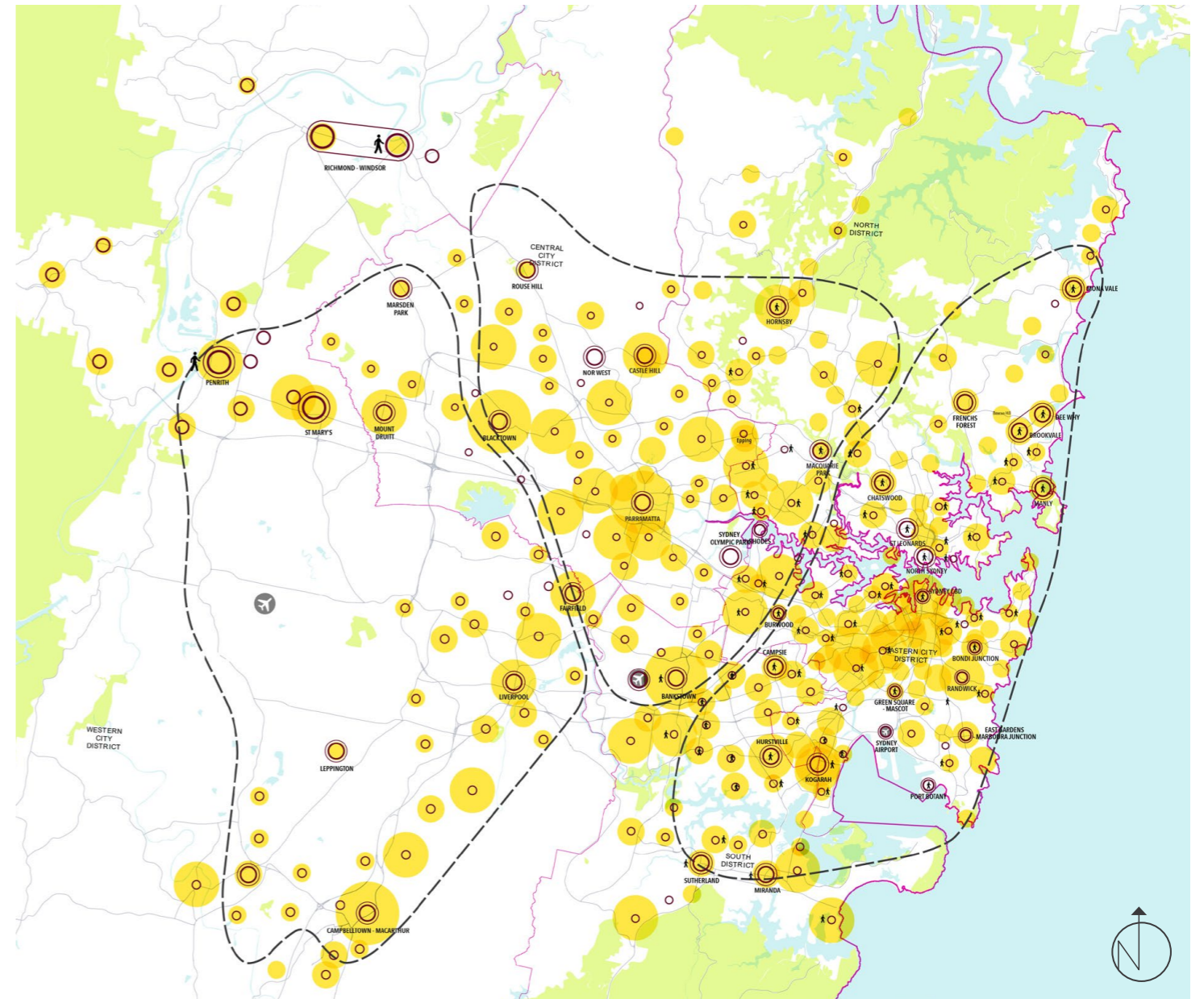


- Social infrastructure social connectors are fairly evenly distributed across and between the three cities, with a concentration in the Eastern Harbour City.
- In the Eastern Harbour City, there is a concentration of social infrastructure social connectors in the CBD, Northern Beaches and Inner West.
- Parramatta and Hornsby are hubs of social infrastructure in the Central River City, with concentrations also around Macquarie Park, Castle Hill. However, social infrastructure is sparser south of the M5.
- In the Western Parkland City, there are hubs at St Marys, Campbelltown, and Liverpool. The mapping reflects the “Parkland City” elements, with a high number of sportsfields throughout the area. The hub at St Marys also demonstrates the provision of social infrastructure to address disadvantage within the Western Parkland City.

LEGEND

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Social Infrastructure |  Strategic Centre |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community spaces • Sports fields • Aquatic centres • Outdoor gyms • Creative / maker spaces • Theatres • RSL / Surf Life Saving Clubs • Bushcare |  Local Centre |

THREE CITIES: LEARNING

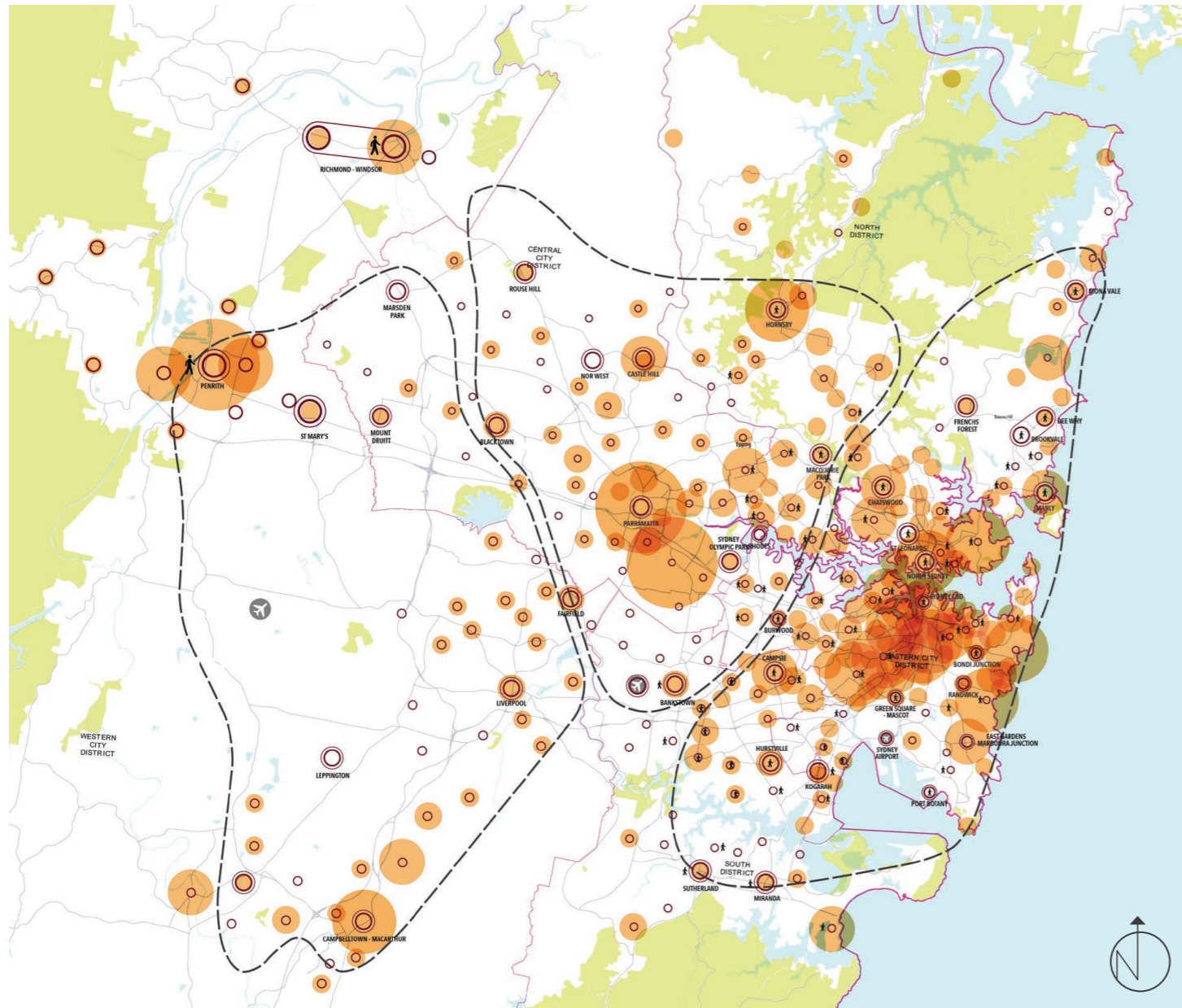


- Learning social connectors were the most evenly distributed type of social connector across and between the three cities.
- However, in the Eastern Harbour City, learning social connectors were sparsely distributed in the northern and south eastern areas, and concentrated in the Inner West, Inner East and CBD. In particular, there are no universities in the northern and south eastern areas, although residents might access University of Newcastle or University of Wollongong.
- In the Central River City, learning social connectors were well distributed, with hubs at Ryde, Parramatta, Bankstown, Castle Hill and Blacktown, and access to universities with Macquarie University and WSU.
- Learning social connectors were also evenly distributed in the Western Parkland City, relative to population density.

LEGEND

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Education and learning |  Strategic Centre |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Libraries • Universities / TAFE • Primary Schools |  Local Centre |

THREE CITIES: STREET LIFE

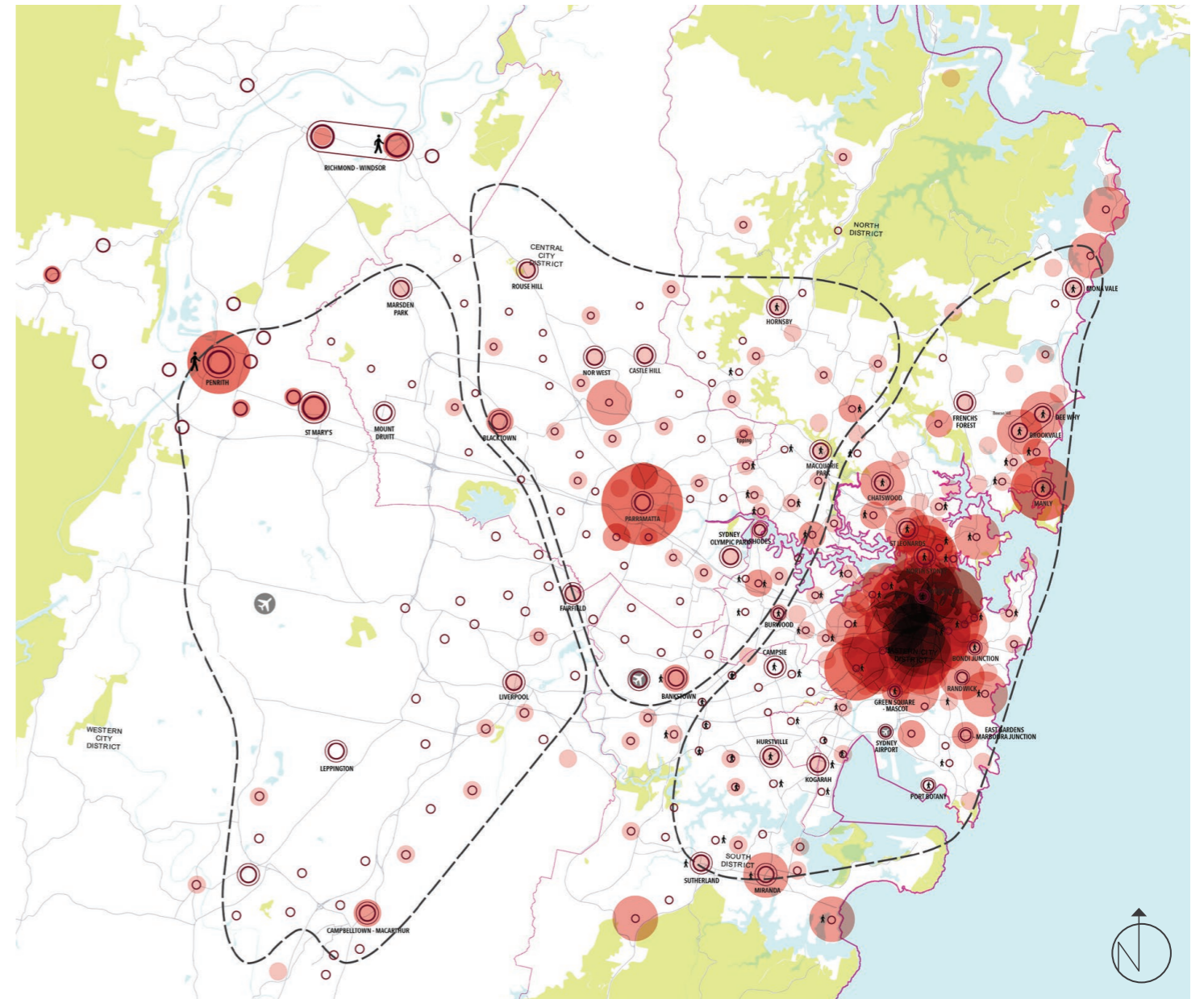


- Street life social connectors are unevenly distributed within and between the three cities.
- Street life is concentrated in the Eastern Harbour City, in particular in the CBD, Inner West and Eastern suburbs.
- In the Central River City, there is a hub of street life in and around Parramatta and Auburn, with scattered connectors throughout the rest of the City.
- In the Western Parkland City, there is a low rate of street life social connectors, apart from a hub at Penrith and Campbelltown-Macarthur.

LEGEND

- Street life
 - Parks
 - Dog parks
 - Retail strips
 - Markets
 - Eat Streets
- Strategic Centre
- Local Centre
- Above average Walk Score

THREE CITIES: SHARED ECONOMY



- The share economy social connectors are the most unevenly distributed of the four types of social connectors.
- The share economy is focused on the Eastern Harbour City, particularly in the CBD and a 5km radius around it. There are some smaller hubs at Manly and Dee Why-Balgowlah.
- Parramatta is the focus of the share economy in the Central River City, with scattered distribution elsewhere.
- Following a pilot by the NSW Government, Smart Working Hubs, satellite offices of fully serviced formal workspaces, are now in operation in Penrith CBD, Rouse Hill Town Centre and Oran Park.

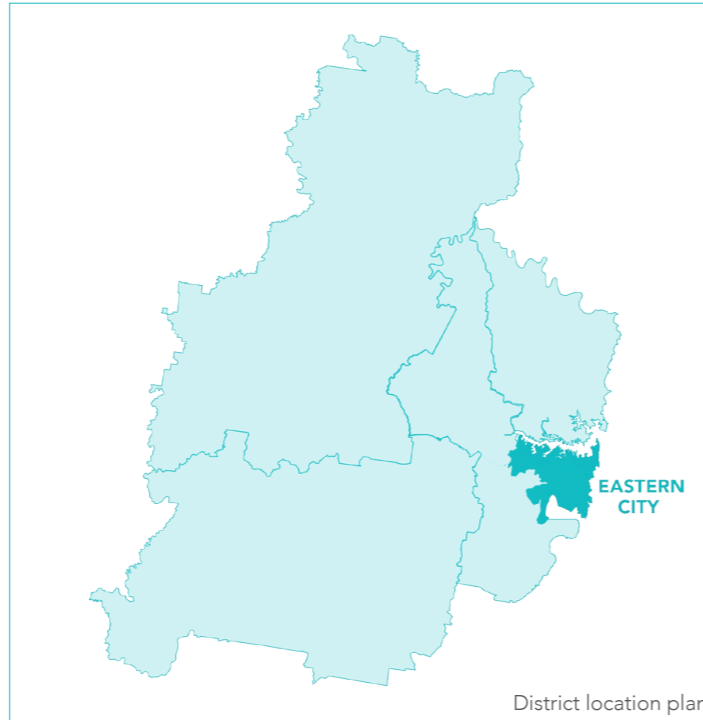
LEGEND

- Sharing places
 - Co-working
 - Share sheds
 - Live music venues
 - Social enterprise
 - Start-up incubators
 - Go Get (car share)
 - Street libraries (book share)
- Strategic Centre
- Local Centre

EASTERN CITY DISTRICT

"The Eastern City District is Greater Sydney's historic, economic and tourism heart. It stretches from the busy Sydney City around Sydney Cove and east to the beaches of Bondi, Coogee and Maroubra. Heading west and south, it includes important renewal areas such as The Bays Precinct, the corridor between Central to Eveleigh, and along the Grand Parade to Sans Souci.

The City is on the precipice of great change as it solidifies its position as the nation's economic powerhouse" - *Greater Sydney Commission*.



OVERALL ANALYSIS

- All four types of social connectors are concentrated in the CBD, with very good provision also in the Inner West and the eastern beaches. Learning connectors and social infrastructure connectors are fairly evenly distributed throughout the District. The southern part of the District (e.g. Botany and Rockdale areas), have comparatively less dense concentrations of all types of social connectors than the rest of the District.
- There is a concentration of social connectors within a 5km radius of the Eastern CBD, particularly around the inner west.
- Port Botany and Sydney Airport are the only Strategic Centres that have limited social connectors, while Rhodes has few.
- Of the Local Centres, Matraville and Hillsdale have no mapped social capital builders while Bexley North, Breakfast Point and North Strathfield have low numbers of social connectors.
- The average walk score across the Strategic and Local Centres in the Eastern City District is 78, making this District the most walkable of the five districts within Greater Sydney
- The Eastern City District has a diversity of transport modes including heavy rail, Sydney metro (future), light rail, bus (including high frequency buses), ferry and dedicated cycleways
- Rapid bus routes service multiple centres including (but not limited to) Bondi Beach, Bondi Junction, Maroubra through to the Eastern CBD, Balmain, Burwood¹

WHAT DO DIFFERENT CENTRES DO WELL?

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- Marrickville (community spaces, sportsfields, aquatic facilities, outdoor gyms, creative spaces, maker spaces, theatres, men's shed, bushcare)
- Glebe (community spaces, sportsfields, aquatic facilities, outdoor gyms, men's shed, bushcare)
- Bondi (community spaces, sportsfields, aquatic facilities, outdoor gyms, creative spaces, theatres, RSL, SLSC), Concord (community spaces, sportsfields, aquatic facilities, RSL, men's shed, bushcare)

LEARNING

- Sydney City (libraries, university/TAFE, schools)
- Randwick (university/TAFE, schools)
- Concord (libraries, schools), Kogarah (schools)

STREET LIFE

- Bondi (parks, dog parks, retail strips, markets, small bars)
- Newtown (parks, dog parks, retail strips, markets, eat streets, small bars)
- Surry Hills (dog parks, retail strips, markets, eat streets, small bars)

SHARE ECONOMY

- Sydney City (coworking, share sheds, live music, social enterprise, startup incubators, GoGet, street libraries)
- Surry Hills (coworking, share sheds, live music, social enterprise, GoGet)
- Newtown (coworking, share sheds, live music, social enterprise, GoGet, street libraries)

COMBINED SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE HEAT MAP

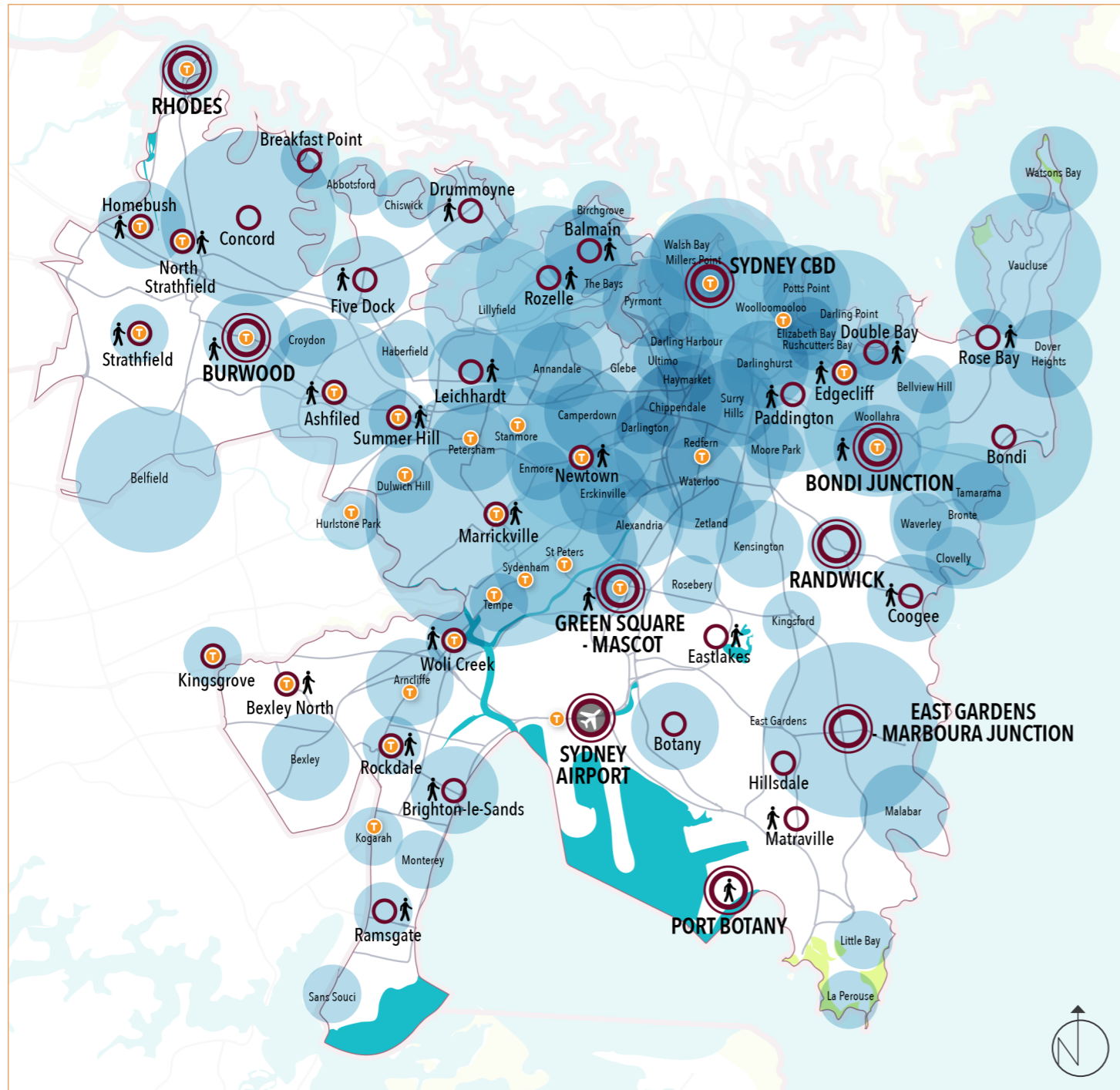


LEGEND

- Social Infrastructure
- Education and learning
- Street Life
- Share economy
- Strategic Centre
- Local Centre
- 🚶 Above average Walk Score (78)

¹ Transport for NSW, Sydney's Bus Future Network Map, 2013.

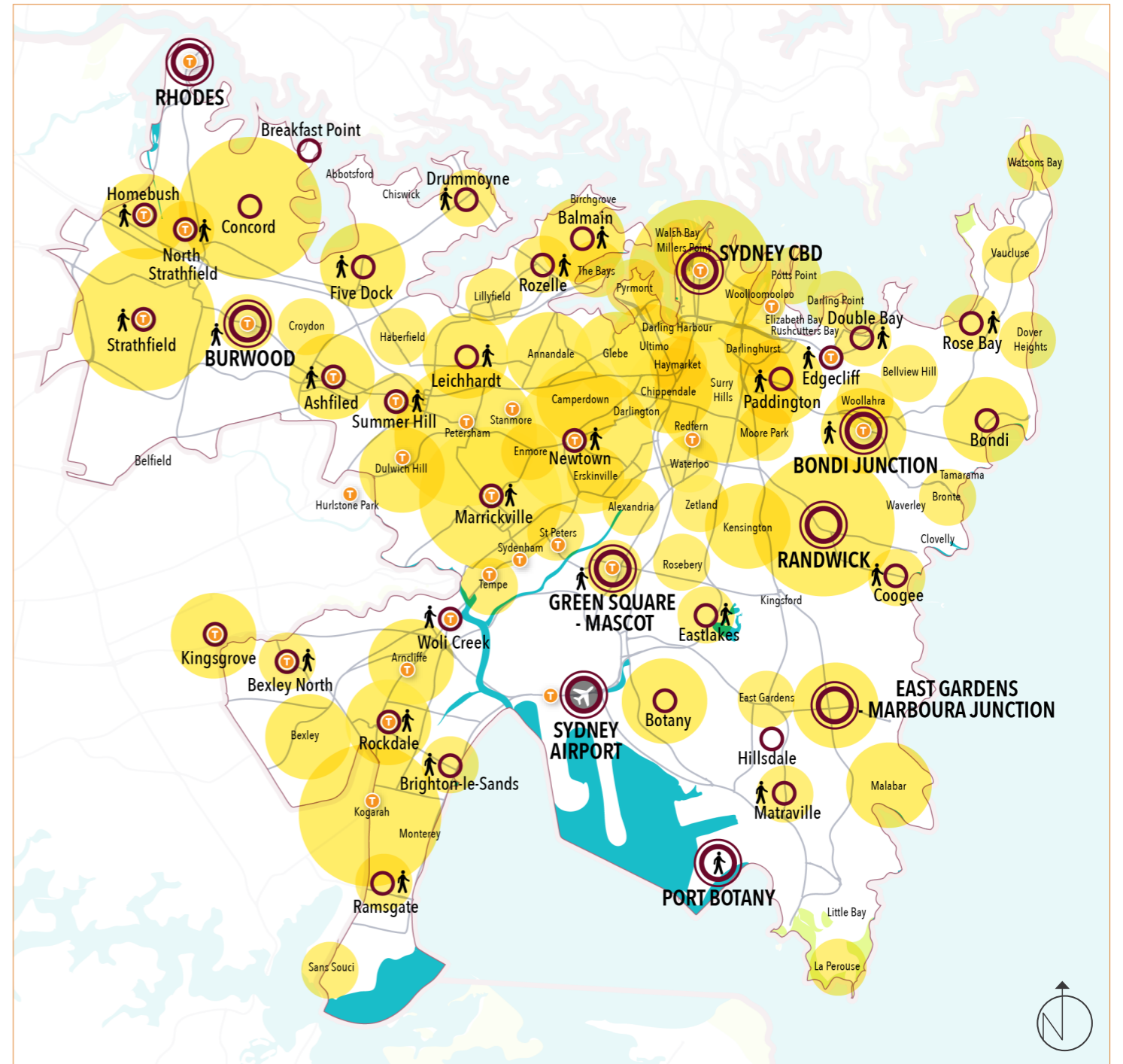
EASTERN CITY DISTRICT: SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE



LEGEND

- Social Infrastructure
 - Community spaces
 - Sports fields
 - Aquatic centres
 - Outdoor gyms
 - Creative / maker spaces
 - Theatres
 - RSL / Surf Life Saving Clubs
 - Bushcare
- Strategic Centre
- Local Centre
- Above average Walk Score (78)

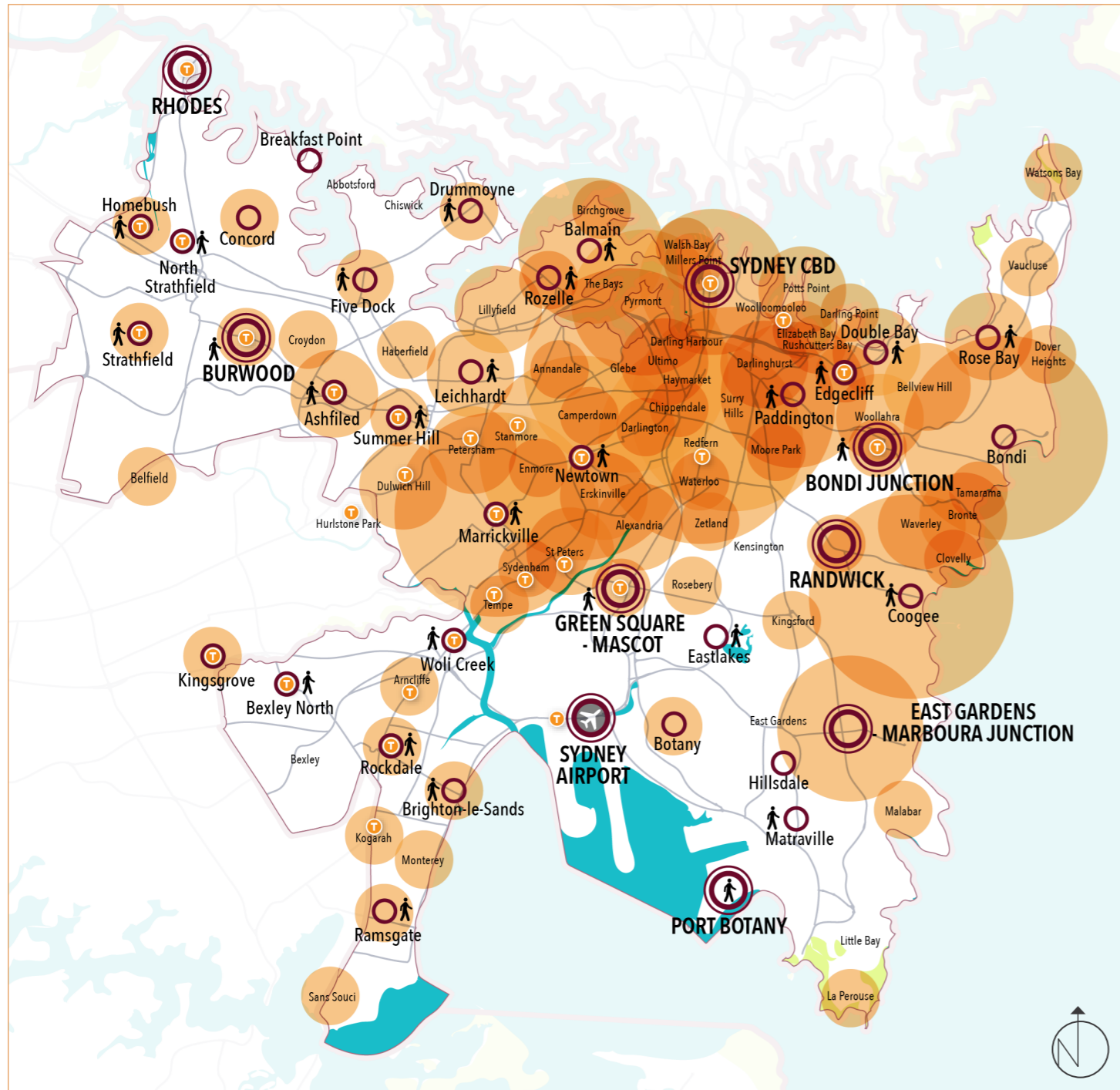
EASTERN CITY DISTRICT: LEARNING



LEGEND

- Education and learning
 - Libraries
 - Universities / TAFE
 - Primary Schools
- Strategic Centre
- Local Centre
- Above average Walk Score (78)
- Train station

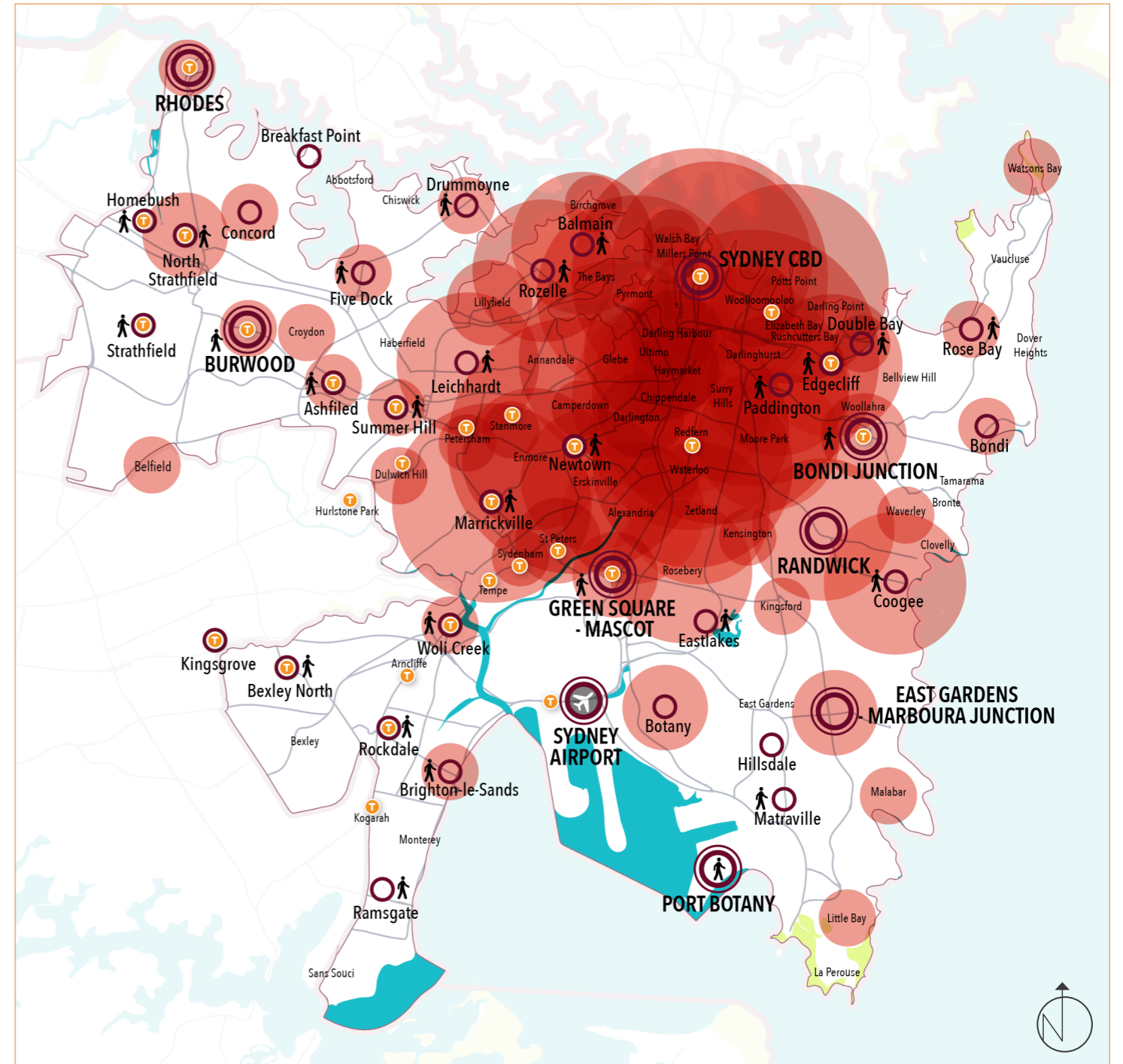
EASTERN CITY DISTRICT: STREET LIFE



LEGEND

- Street life
 - Parks
 - Dog parks
 - Retail strips
 - Markets
 - Eat Streets
- Strategic Centre
- Local Centre
- T
 Train station
- T
 Above average Walk Score (78)

EASTERN CITY DISTRICT: SHARED ECONOMY

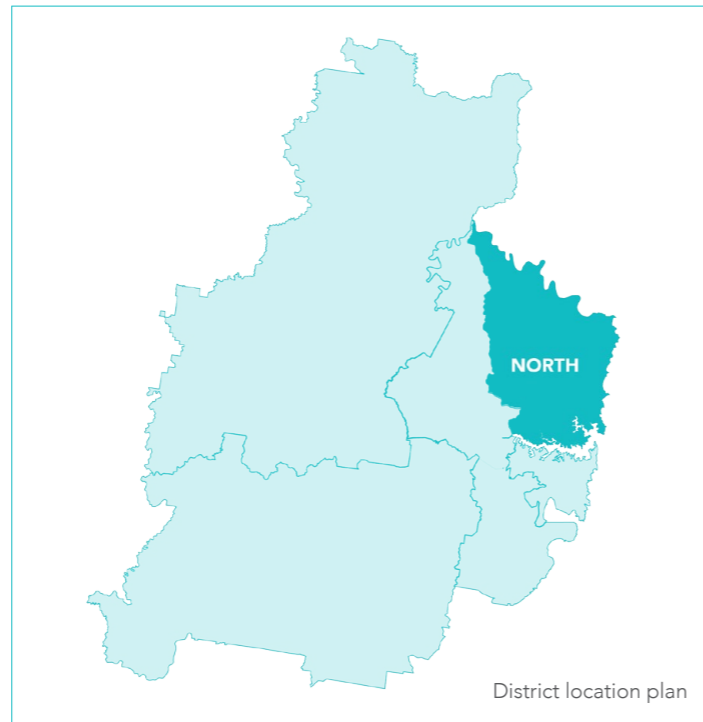


LEGEND

- Sharing places
 - Co-working
 - Share sheds
 - live music venues
 - Social enterprise
 - Start-up incubators
 - Go Get (car share)
 - Street libraries (book share)
- Strategic Centre
- Local Centre
- T
 Train station
- T
 Above average Walk Score (78)

NORTH DISTRICT

"The North District is in a unique position in Greater Sydney, with several important centres that offer a diversity of jobs and industries, nestled within a landscape of waterways, bushland and beaches. Investment in new transport and the Northern Beaches Hospital will provide greater opportunities for the people who live and work here." - Greater Sydney Commission..



OVERALL ANALYSIS

- Along with the Eastern City District, the North District is one of the strongest districts in terms of social connectors.
- Social infrastructure is relatively evenly distributed across the district. Learning connectors are sparser compared to other Districts, in particularly along the Northern Beaches.
- There is a concentration of social connectors around the North Sydney - St Leonards area
- North Sydney, Manly and Brookvale-Dee Why are centres with a strong share economy and street life
- Of the Strategic Centres, Frenchs Forest has the fewest mapped number of social connectors
- The average walk score across the Strategic and Local Centres in the North District is 67, making this District the 2nd most walkable District in Greater Sydney
- The North is serviced by heavy rail, Sydney metro (future), bus (including high frequency buses), ferry and dedicated cycleways
- Rapid bus routes service multiple centres including (but not limited to) North Sydney, St Leonards, Brookvale, Dee Why, Mona Vale, Macquarie Park, Chatswood, Ryde and Hornsby¹

WHAT DO DIFFERENT CENTRES DO WELL?

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- Mosman (community spaces, sportsfields, aquatic centres, creative spaces, RSL, bushcare)
- Lane Cove (community spaces, sportsfields, outdoor gyms, creative spaces, bushcare)
- Hornsby (community spaces, sportsfields, aquatic centres, outdoor gyms, creative spaces, RSL, bushcare)

LEARNING

- Hornsby (Library, transport, schools)
- Eastwood (Library, schools)
- Ryde (Library, schools)

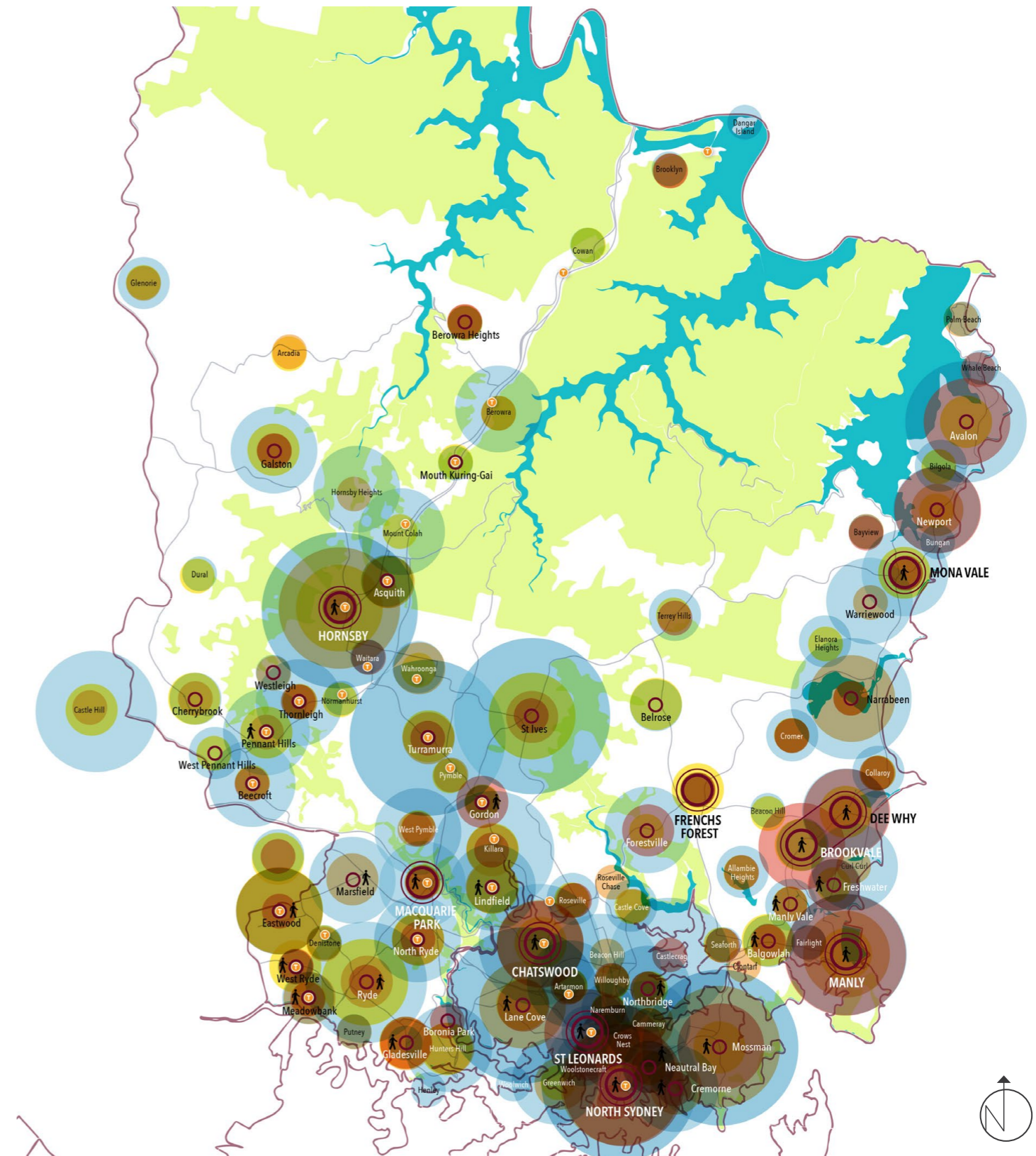
STREET LIFE

- Hornsby (Parks, retail strips, markets)
- Mosman (Parks, dog parks, retail strips, markets)
- Chatswood (Parks, markets, eat streets)
- Cremorne, St Leonards and North Sydney all had high Walkability scores of 86, 87 and 92 respectively

SHARE ECONOMY

- Manly (Co-working spaces, live music, GoGet, street libraries)
- North Sydney (Co-working spaces, live music, social enterprise, GoGet, street libraries)
- Dee Why (Co-working spaces, live music, social enterprise, GoGet)

NORTH DISTRICT: COMBINED SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE HEAT MAP

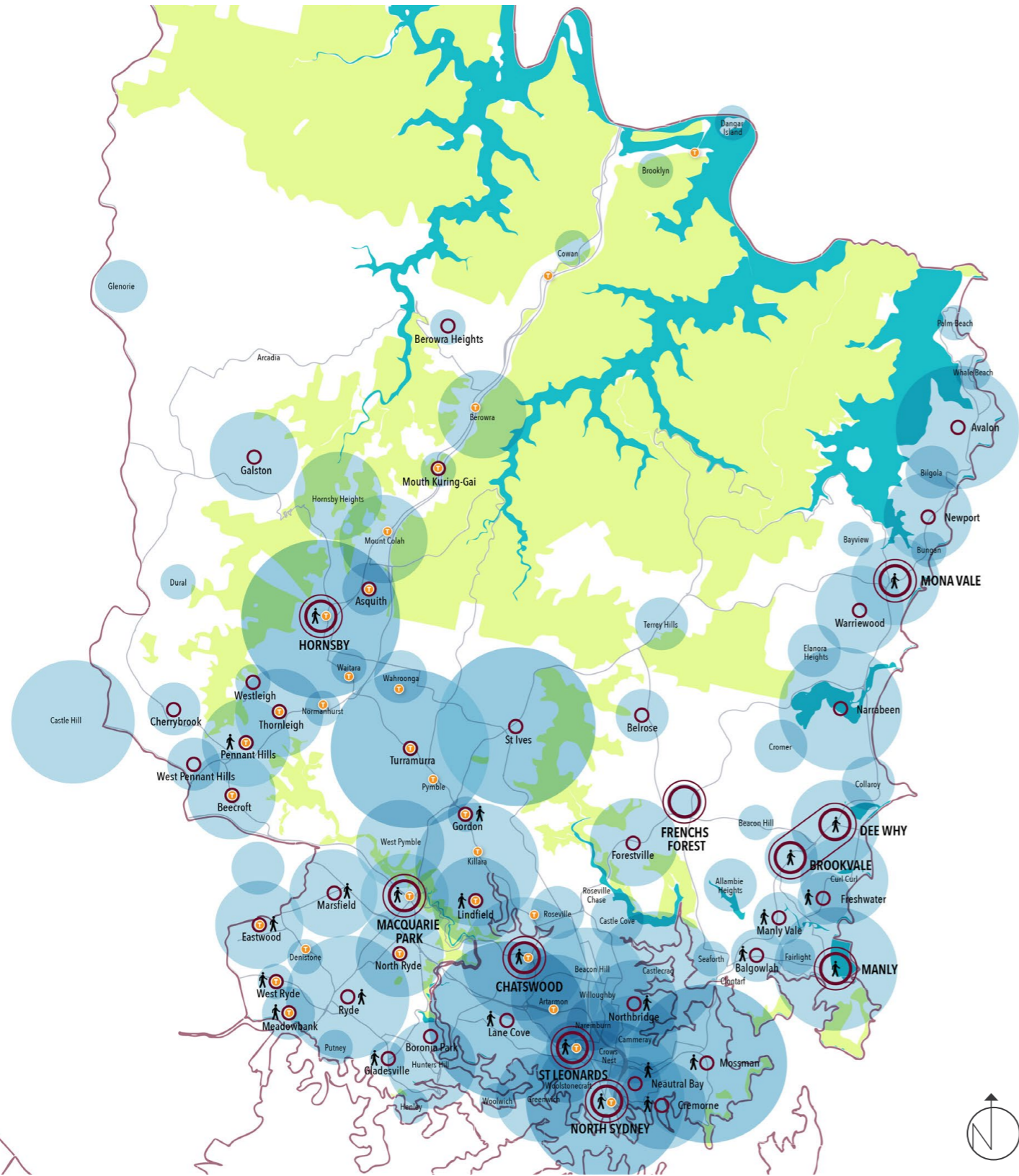


LEGEND

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Social Infrastructure | Education and learning | Strategic Centre | Above average Walk Score (67) |
| Street Life | Share economy | Local Centre | Train station |

¹ Transport for NSW, Sydney's Bus Future Network Map, 2013.

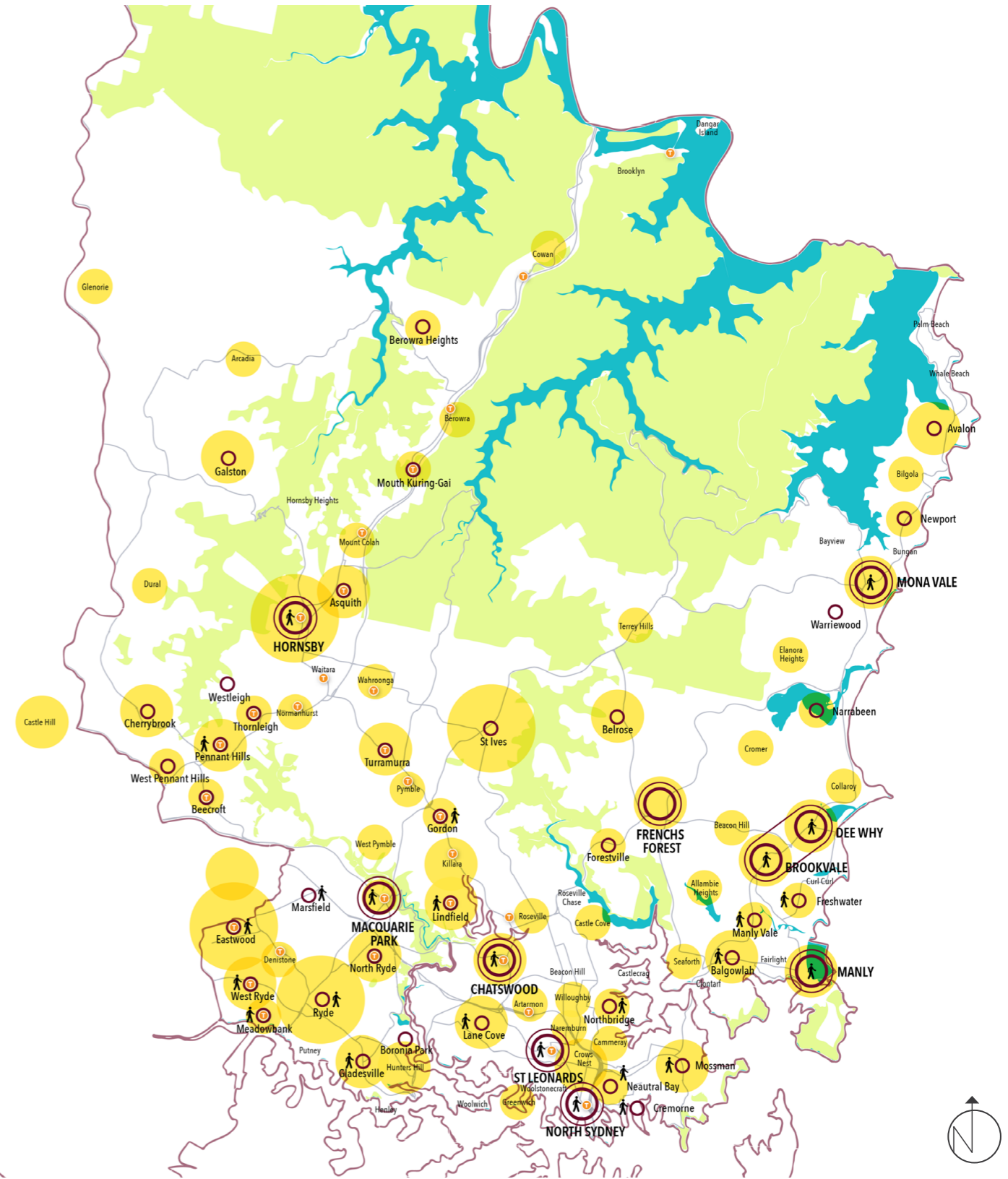
NORTH DISTRICT: SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE



LEGEND

- Social Infrastructure
 - Community spaces
 - Sports fields
 - Aquatic centres
 - Creative / maker spaces
 - Theatres
 - RSL / Surf Life Saving Clubs
 - Bushcare
- Strategic Centre
- Local Centre
- 🚶 Above average Walk Score (67)
- T Train station

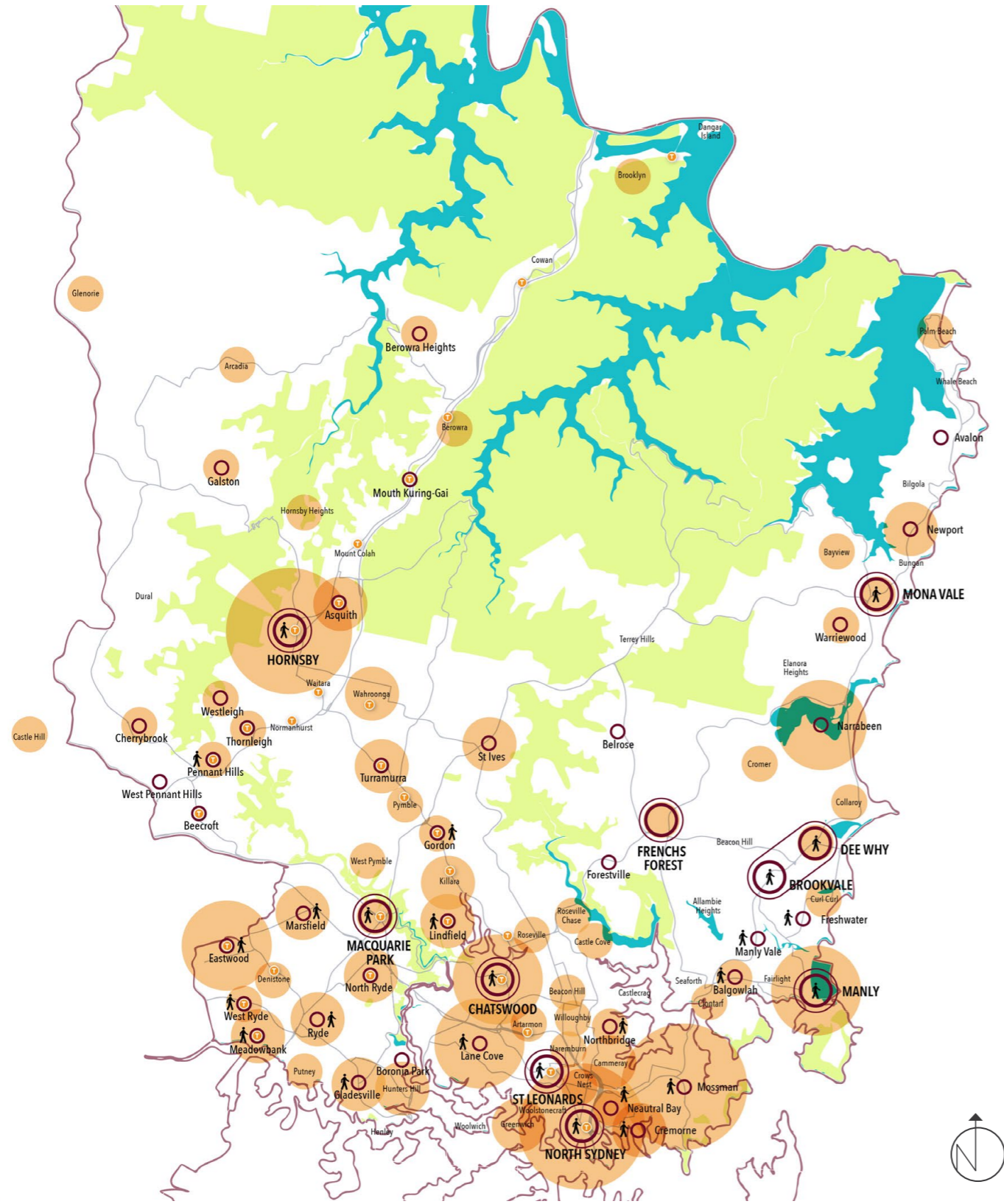
NORTH DISTRICT: LEARNING



LEGEND

- Education and learning
 - Libraries
 - Universities / TAFE
 - Primary Schools
- Strategic Centre
- Local Centre
- 🚶 Above average Walk Score (67)
- T Train station

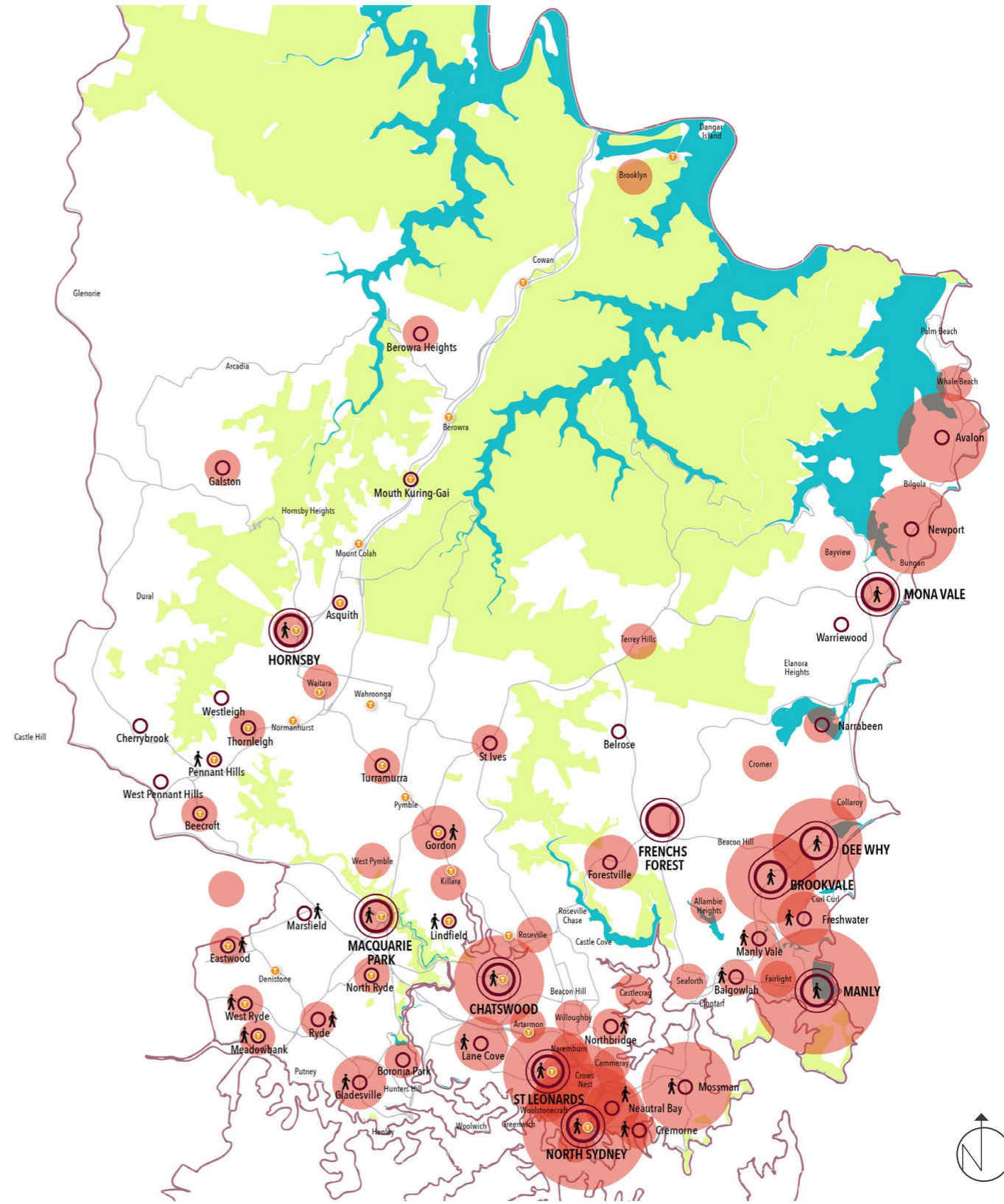
NORTH DISTRICT: STREET LIFE



LEGEND

- Street life
 - Parks
 - Dog parks
 - Retail strips
 - Markets
 - Eat Streets
- Strategic Centre
- Local Centre
- 🚶 Above average Walk Score (67)
- 🚂 Train station

NORTH DISTRICT: SHARED ECONOMY

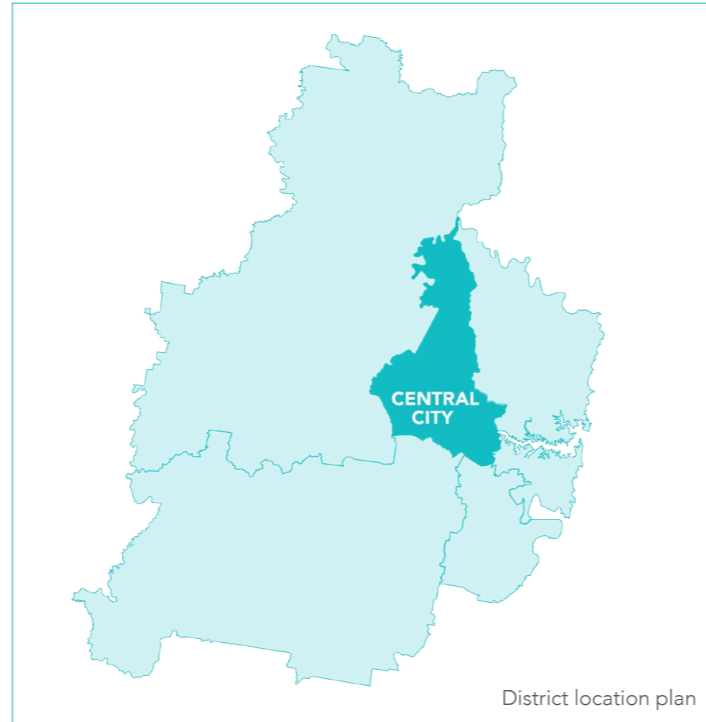


LEGEND

- Sharing places
 - Co-working
 - Share sheds
 - live music venues
 - Social enterprise
 - Start-up incubators
 - Go Get (car share)
 - Street libraries (book share)
- Strategic Centre
- Local Centre
- 🚶 Above average Walk Score (67)
- 🚂 Train station

CENTRAL CITY DISTRICT

"The Central City District sits at Greater Sydney's geographic and demographic heart. It offers a home to a great diversity of people and cultures, drawing on its heritage as Australia's first seat of government and now offering a worldleading biomedical hub alongside business, administrative and innovative jobs within a landscape of regional parks, large waterways and scenic rural beauty." - Greater Sydney Commission.



OVERALL ANALYSIS

- The Central City District had particularly strong learning social connectors, evenly distributed throughout the District. There are opportunities to strengthen the street life and share economy connectors throughout the District, as currently these are concentrated in the Parramatta area.
- There is a clear hierarchy throughout all of the social capital layers with Parramatta CBD having a high number of social connectors, followed by Castle Hill and Blacktown.
- There is a concentration of social infrastructure in the triangle between Greater Parramatta - Castle Hill and Blacktown.
- The average walk score across the Strategic and Local Centres in the Central City District is 53, making this District the 4th most walkable District in Greater Sydney. While Parramatta has a high score of 81, centres like Schofields, Ropes crossing and Dural brought the average score down.
- The Central City District is serviced by heavy rail, bus (including high frequency buses), ferry and dedicated cycleways
- Rapid bus routes service multiple centres including (but not limited to) Parramatta, Westmead, Castle Hill, Nor West and Blacktown¹

WHAT DO DIFFERENT CENTRES DO WELL?

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- Greater Parramatta (community spaces, sportsfields, aquatic facilities, creative spaces, maker spaces, theatres, RSL, men's shed, bushcare)
- Castle Hill (community spaces, sports fields, aquatic facilities, theatres, RSL, bushcare)
- Baulkham Hills (community spaces, sports fields, aquatic facilities, bushcare)

LEARNING

- Blacktown (libraries, university/TAFE, schools)
- Greater Parramatta (libraries, university/TAFE, schools)
- Baulkham Hills (libraries, university/TAFE, schools), Seven Hills (schools)

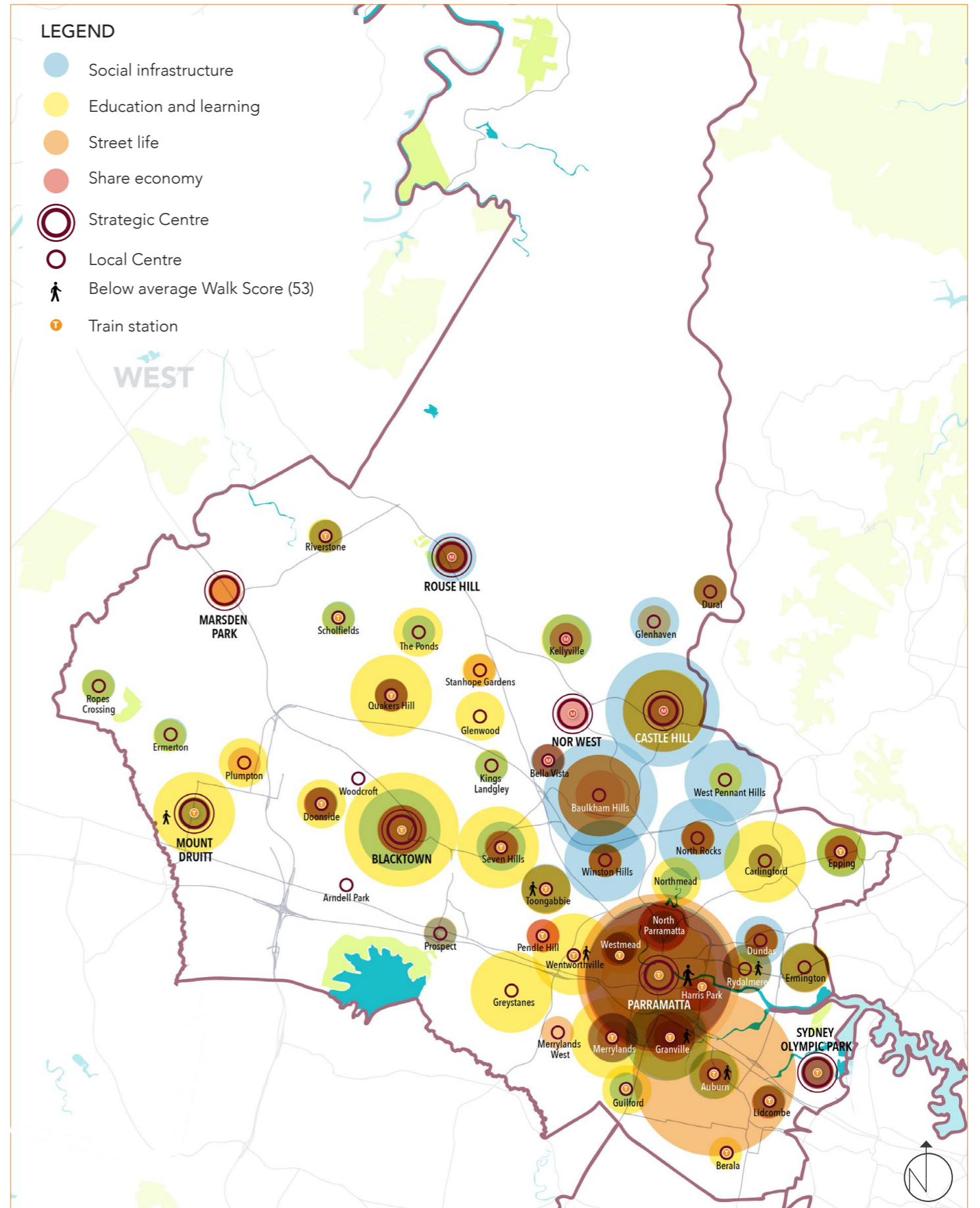
STREET LIFE

- Greater Parramatta (parks, dog parks, retail strips, markets, eat streets)
- Auburn (parks, retail strips, markets, eat streets)
- Castle Hill (parks, dog parks, retail strips, markets, eat streets)

SHARE ECONOMY

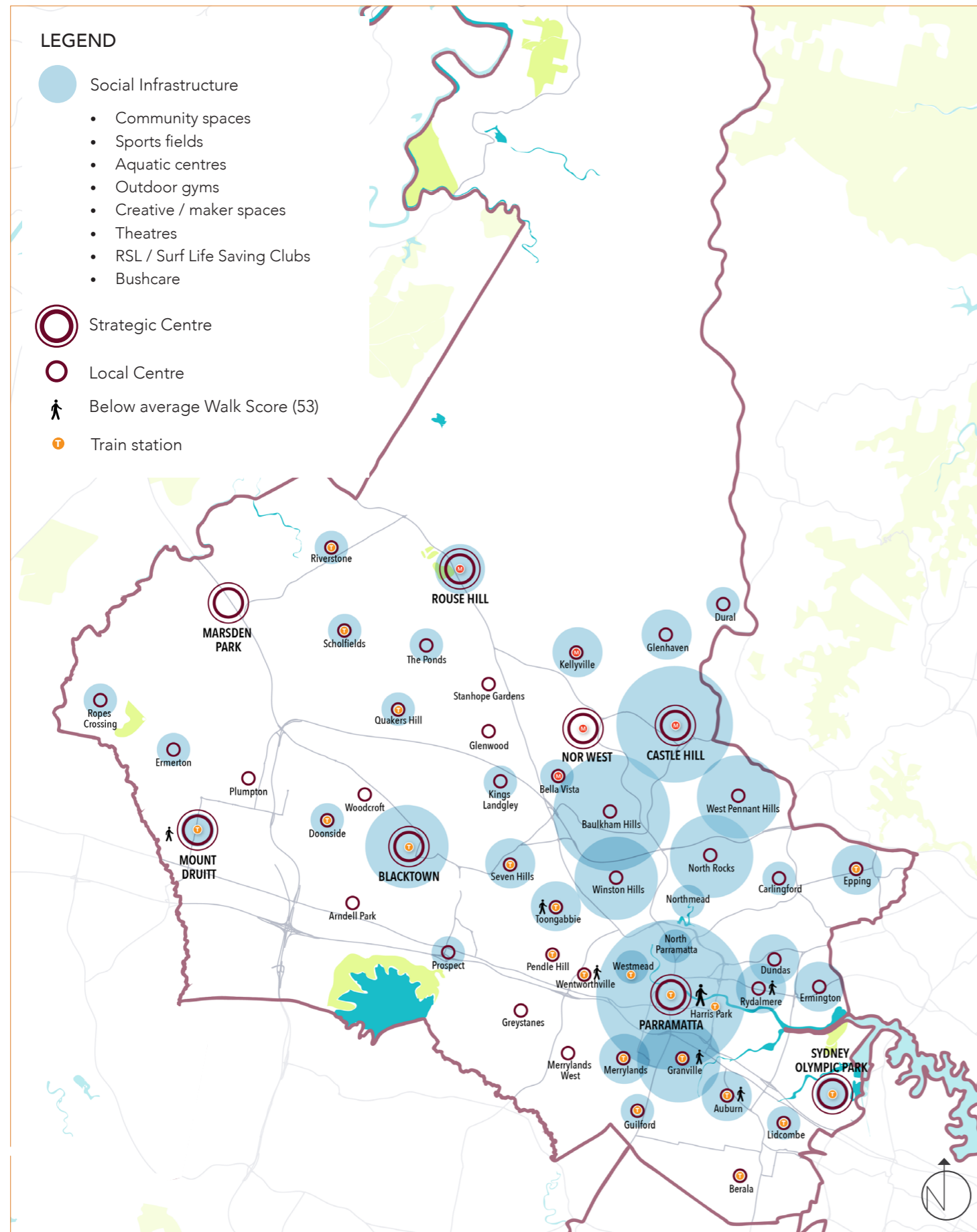
- Greater Parramatta (coworking, live music, social enterprise, startup incubators, GoGet)
- Baulkham Hills (live music, social enterprise, GoGet, street libraries)
- Blacktown (live music, social enterprise), Rouse Hill (live music, street libraries)

CENTRAL CITY DISTRICT: COMBINED SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE HEAT MAP

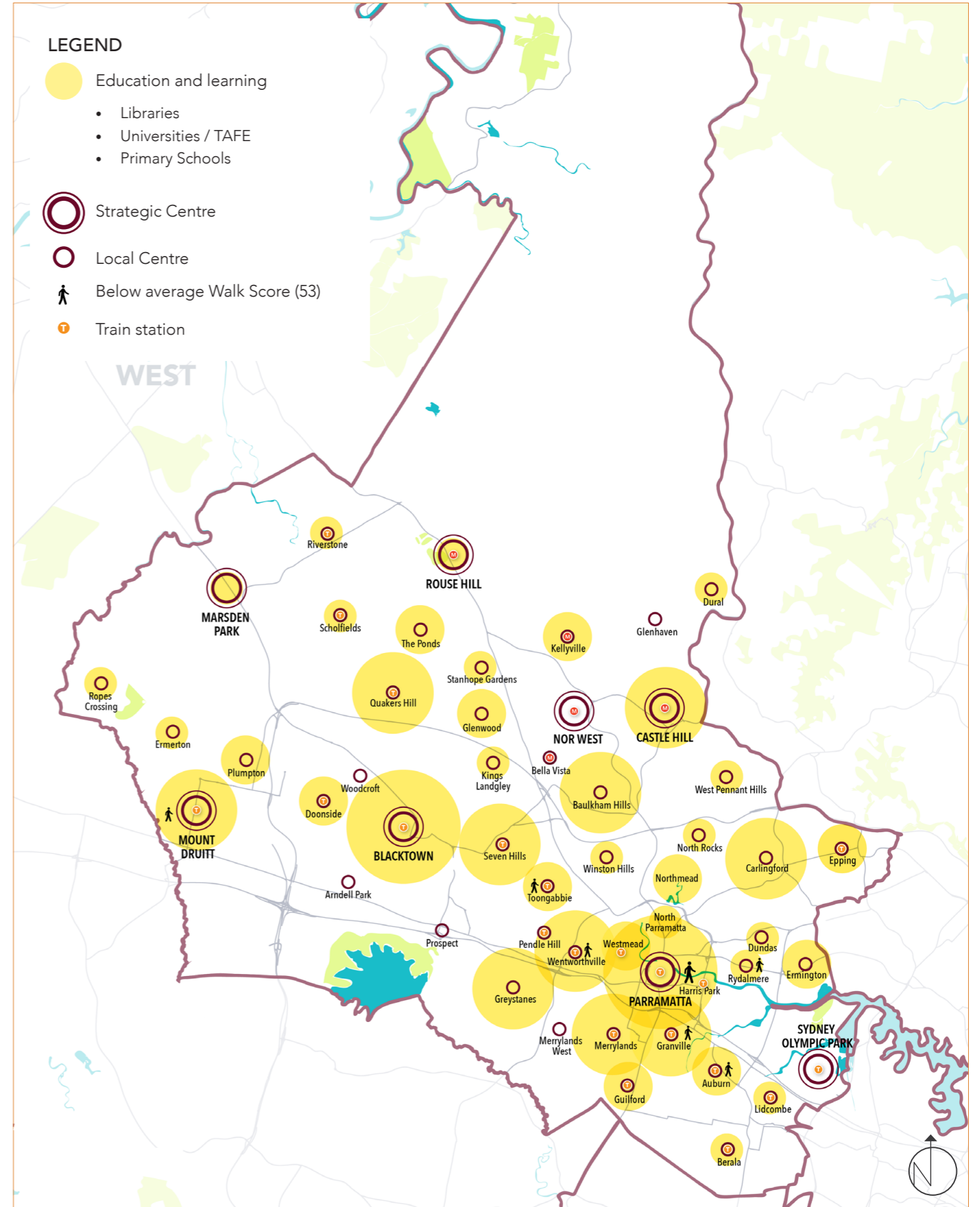


¹ Transport for NSW, Sydney's Bus Future Network Map, 2013.

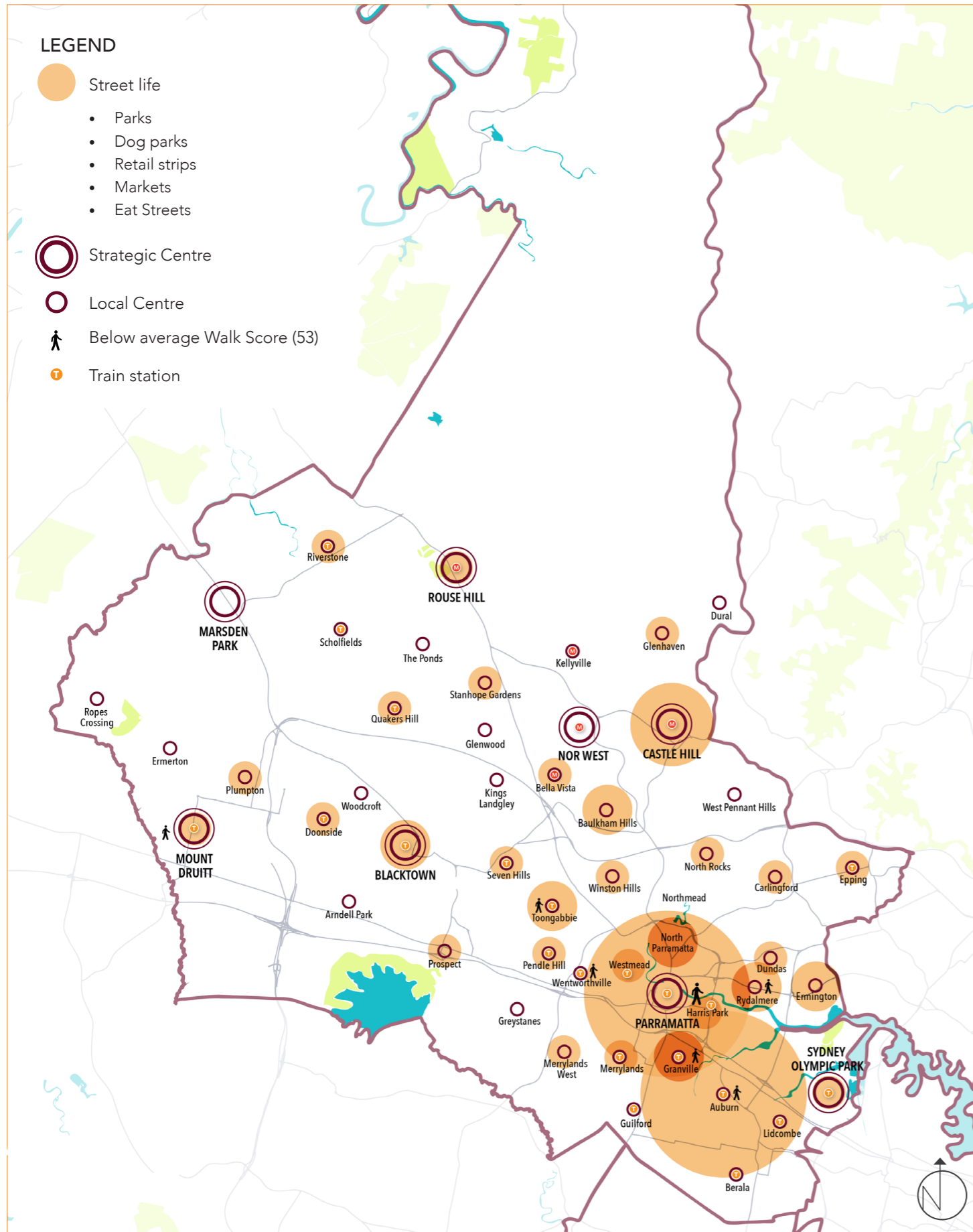
CENTRAL CITY DISTRICT: SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE



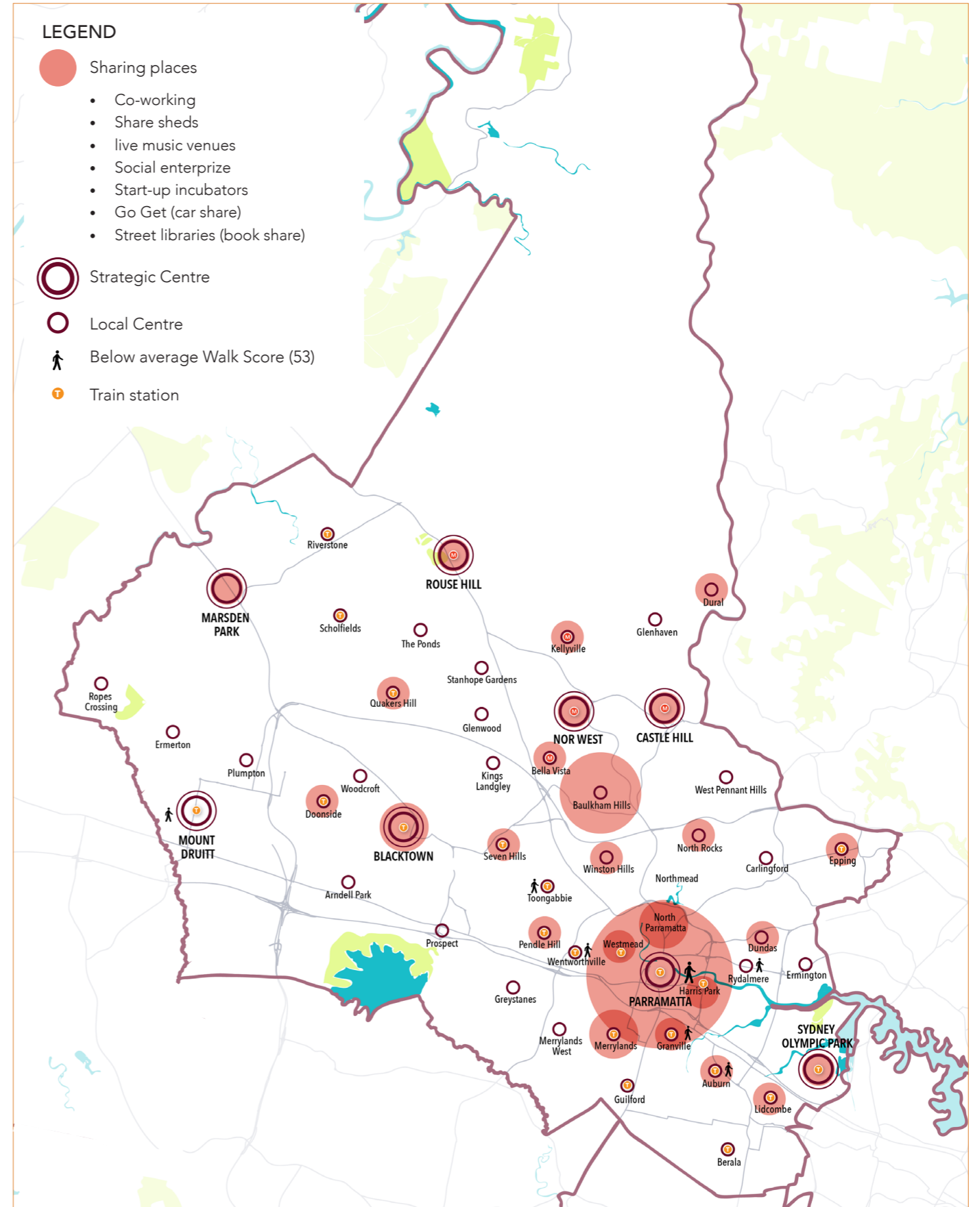
CENTRAL CITY DISTRICT: LEARNING



CENTRAL CITY DISTRICT: STREET LIFE

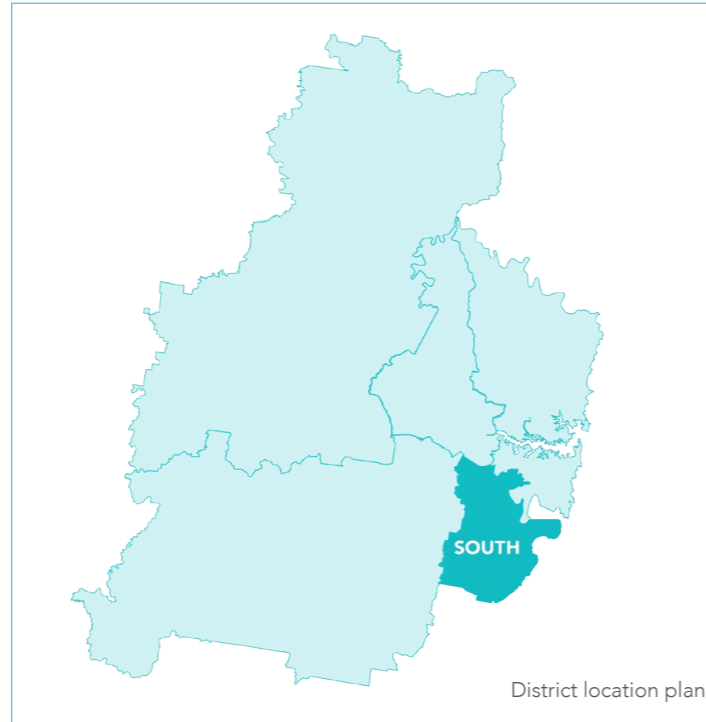


CENTRAL CITY DISTRICT: SHARED ECONOMY



SOUTH DISTRICT

"The South District draws in some of Greater Sydney's most famous beaches, Australia's first National Park, three rail lines and planned investment in better public transport, a diverse mix of multicultural communities, and strong connections to major places of employment such as Sydney City, Sydney Airport, Port Botany and Liverpool." - Greater Sydney Commission.



OVERALL ANALYSIS

- Education and social infrastructure connectors are evenly distributed throughout the District. Street life connectors are stronger in the northern part of the district (e.g. Canterbury-Bankstown area) while share economy connectors are stronger in the southern part (e.g. Sutherland Shire).
- The local centres of Engadine, Cronulla, Riverwood, Mani, Oatley and Kareela have a higher number of social connectors than others in the District
- The strategic centres of Sutherland and Miranda have lower instances of social connectors than other strategic centres in the district
- The local centres of Yagoona and Bangor have limited mapped social connectors
- The average walk score across the Strategic and Local Centres in the South District is 64, making this District the 3rd most walkable District in Greater Sydney
- The South District is well serviced by heavy rail, bus (including high frequency buses), ferry and dedicated cycleways.
- Rapid bus routes service a number centres including (but not limited to) Hurstville, Bankstown, and Campsie¹

WHAT DO DIFFERENT CENTRES DO WELL?

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- Cronulla (community spaces, outdoor gyms, theatres, RSL, bushcare, SLSCs)
- Engadine (community spaces, sports fields, aquatic facilities, RSL, bushcare)
- Kareela (sportsfields, bushcare)
- Bankstown (community spaces, aquatic facilities, outdoor gyms, creative spaces, theatres, RSL), Canterbury (parks, dog parks, retail strips), Earlowood (parks, dog parks), Engadine (parks, retail strips, eat streets), Hurstville (parks, dog parks, retail strips), Riverwood (parks, dog parks, retail strips)

LEARNING

- Bankstown (libraries, university/TAFE, primary schools)
- Kogarah (libraries, university/TAFE, primary schools)
- Caringbah (libraries, transport, primary schools), Panania (libraries, schools)

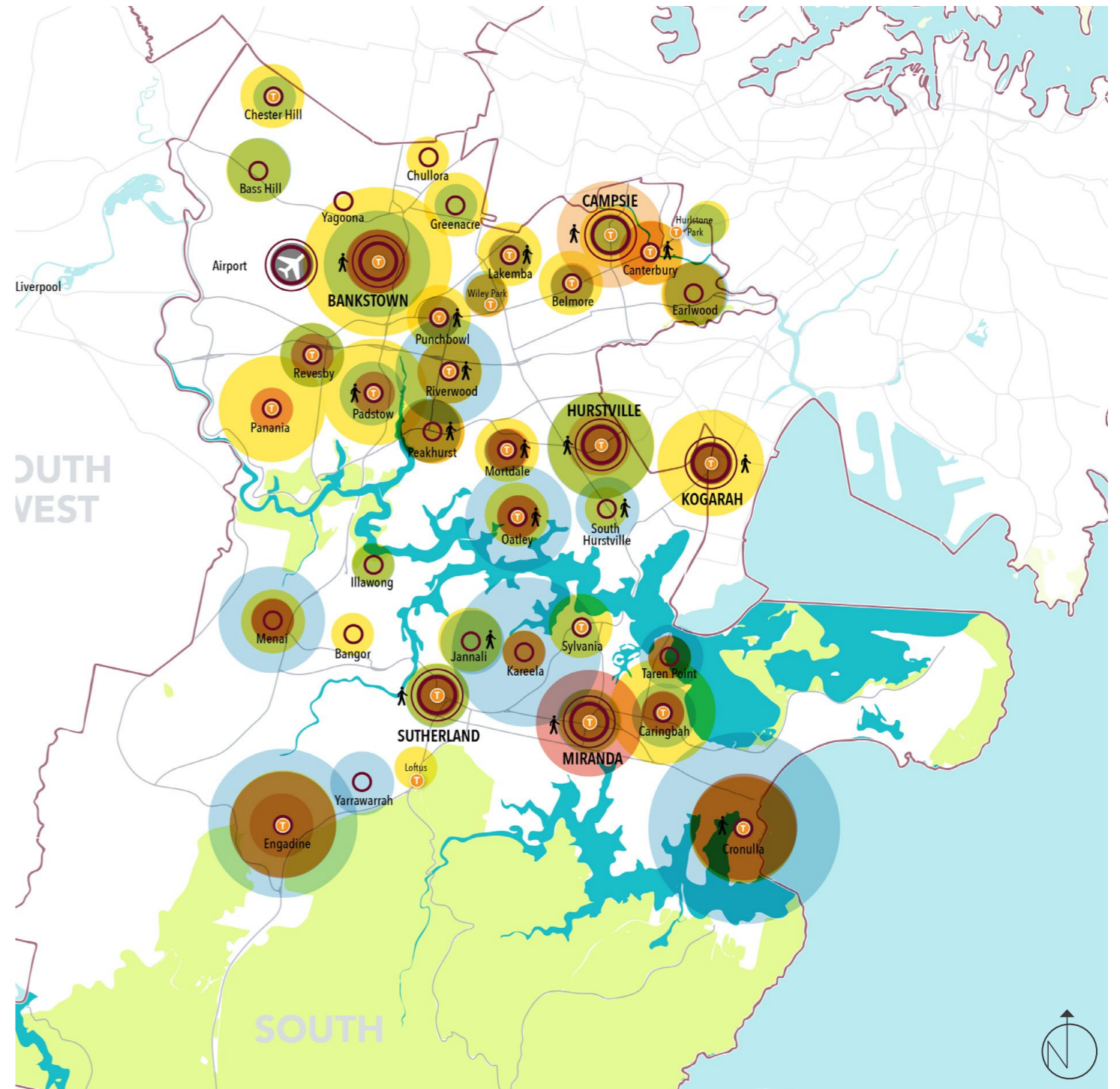
STREET LIFE

- Campsie (parks, dog parks, retail strips, eat streets)
- Cronulla (parks, dog parks, retail strips)
- Bankstown (parks, retail strips)
- Hurstville and Kogarah had high walk scores of 81 and 84 respectively

SHARE ECONOMY

- Cronulla (coworking, live music)
- Engadine (live music, social enterprise), Miranda (coworking, live music, GoGet, street libraries)

SOUTH DISTRICT: COMBINED SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE HEAT MAP

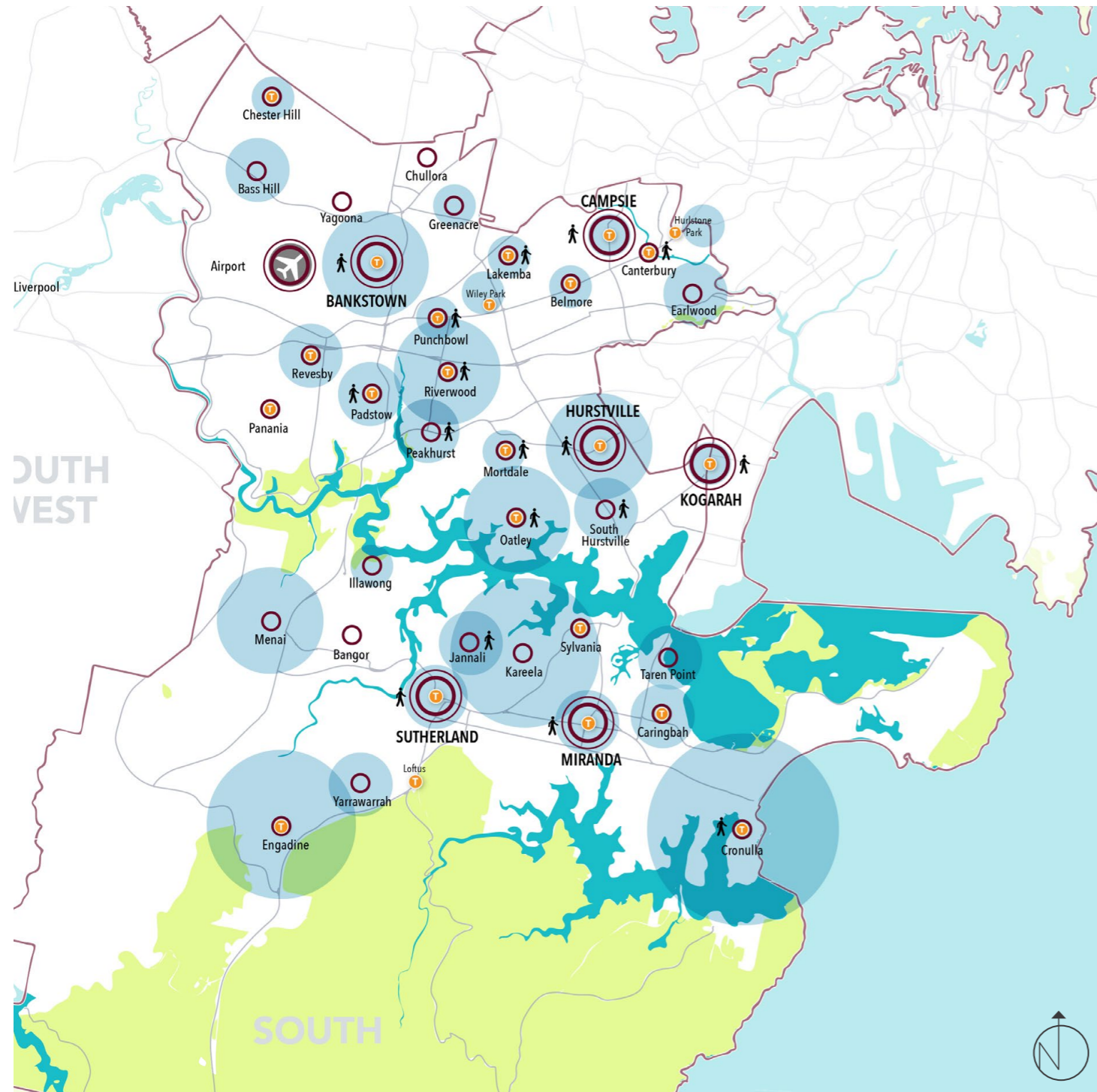


LEGEND

- Social Infrastructure
- Education and learning
- Street Life
- Share economy

¹ Transport for NSW, Sydney's Bus Future Network Map, 2013.

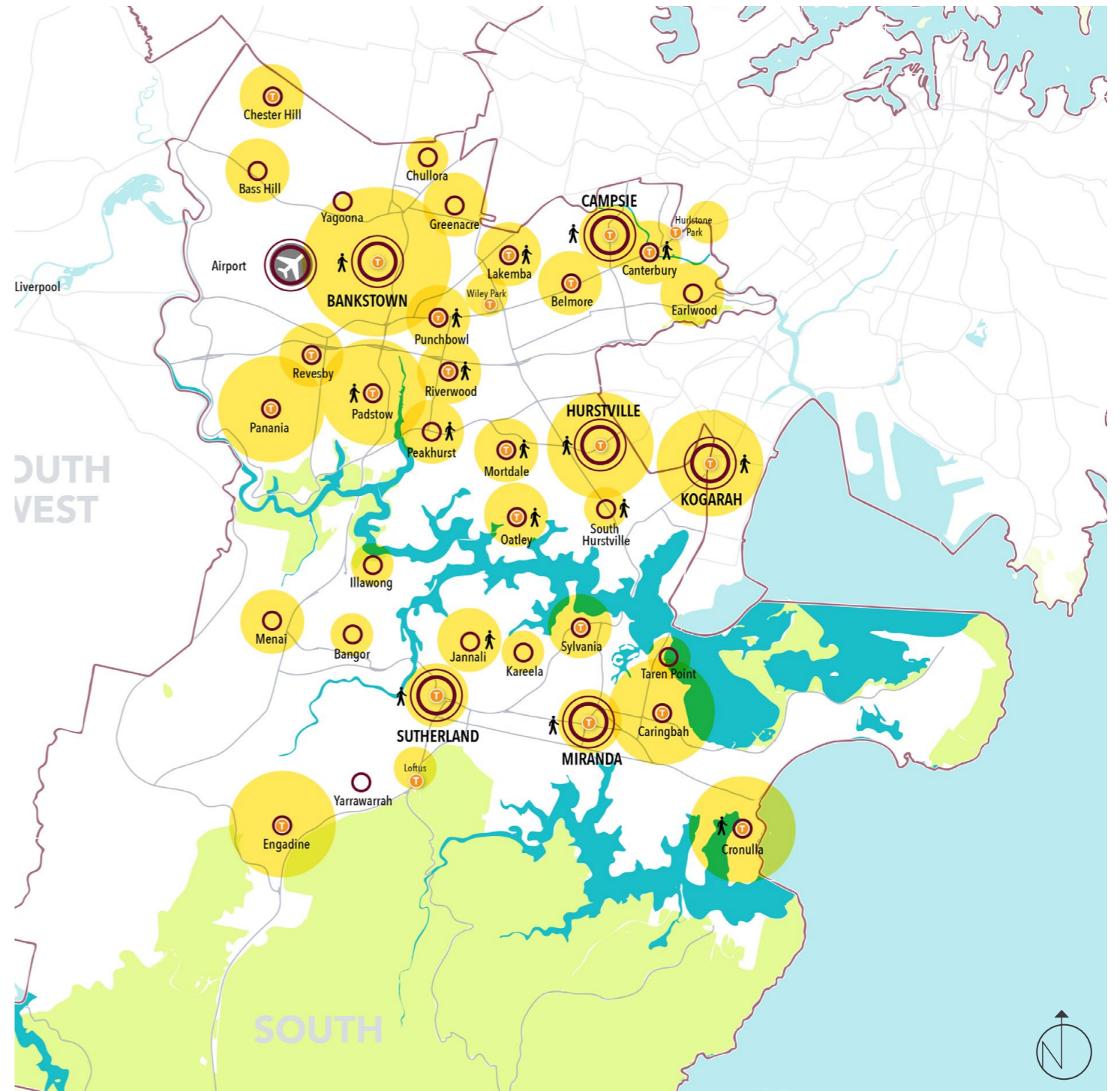
SOUTH DISTRICT: SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE



LEGEND

- Social Infrastructure
 - Community spaces
 - Sports fields
 - Aquatic centres
 - Outdoor gyms
 - Creative / maker spaces
 - Theatres
 - RSL / Surf Life Saving Clubs
 - Bushcare
- Strategic Centre
- Local Centre
- 🚶 Average Walk Score (>63)
- T Train station

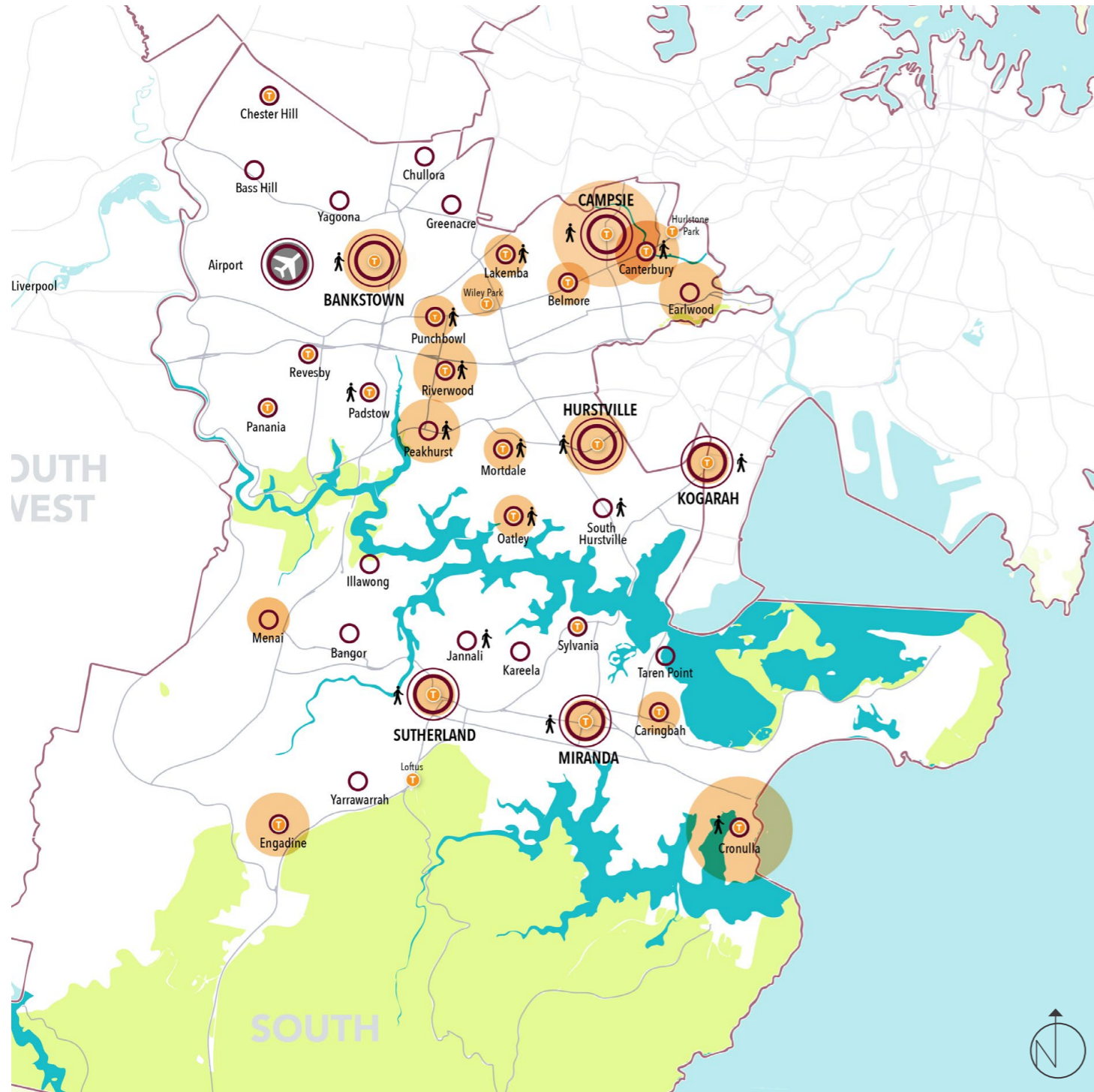
SOUTH DISTRICT: LEARNING



LEGEND

- Education and learning
 - Libraries
 - Universities / TAFE
 - Primary Schools
- Strategic Centre
- Local Centre
- 🚶 Average Walk Score (>63)
- T Train station

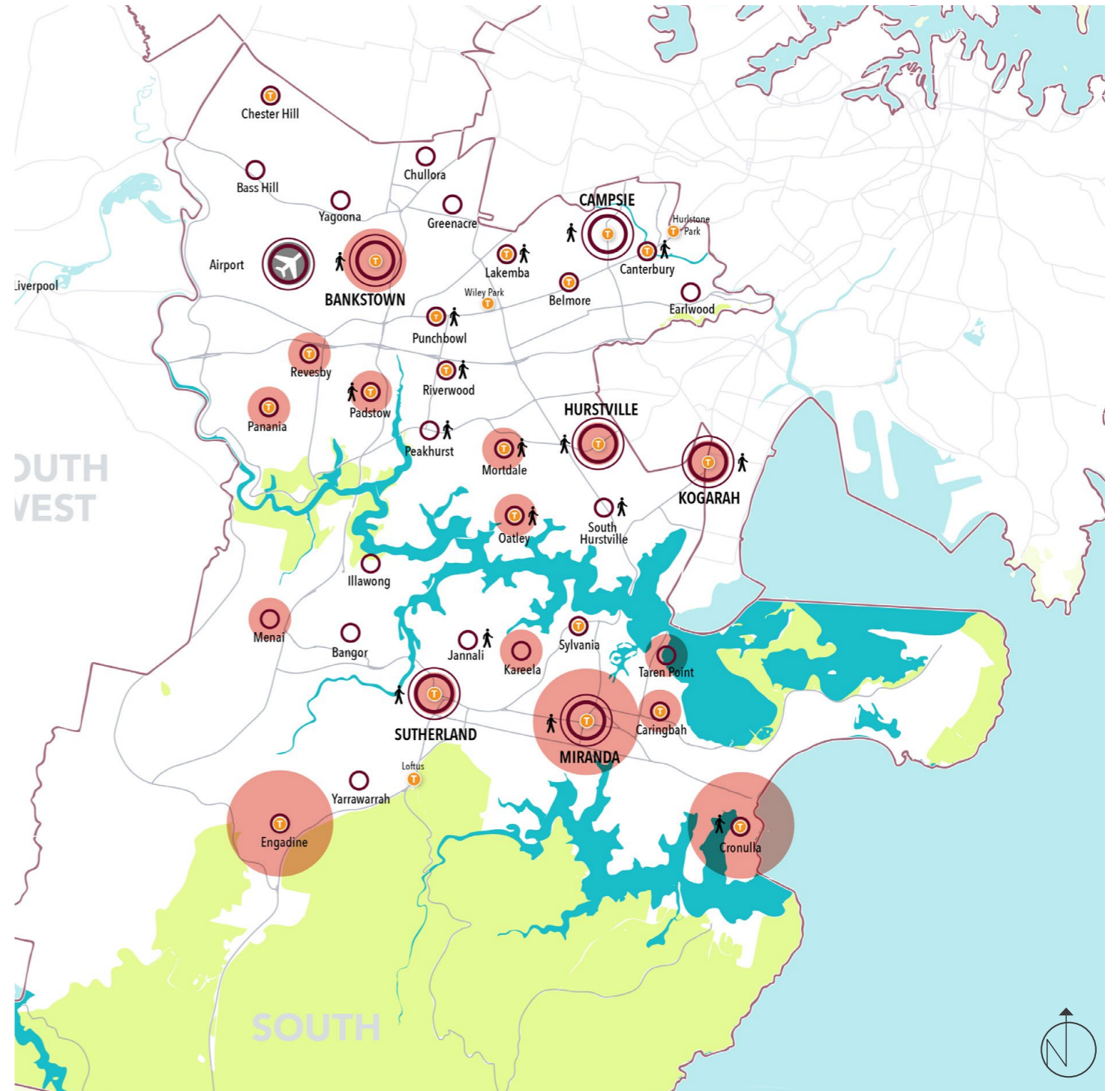
SOUTH DISTRICT: STREET LIFE



LEGEND

- Street life
 - Parks
 - Dog parks
 - Retail strips
 - Markets
 - Eat Streets
- Strategic Centre
- Local Centre
- Average Walk Score
- Train station

SOUTH DISTRICT: SHARED ECONOMY



LEGEND

- Sharing places
 - Co-working
 - Share sheds
 - live music venues
 - Social enterprise
 - Start-up incubators
 - Go Get (car share)
 - Street libraries (book share)
- Strategic Centre
- Local Centre
- Average Walk Score
- Train station

WESTERN CITY DISTRICT

"The newly formed Western City District is the result of merging the former South West and West Districts and comprises eight local council areas from north of the Hawkesbury River to Bargo in the south west and west into the Blue Mountains.

The new district will better facilitate planning around the Western Sydney Airport, the site and surrounds of which had previously been bisected by the two former districts.

The former West District offers an enviable lifestyle – the best of both worlds. With world-heritage listed bushland and escarpments framing a landscape of lovely towns and villages, and access via rail directly to the growing centre of Greater Penrith and through to Greater Parramatta and Sydney City, people can have the benefits of a bushland city and access to good jobs.

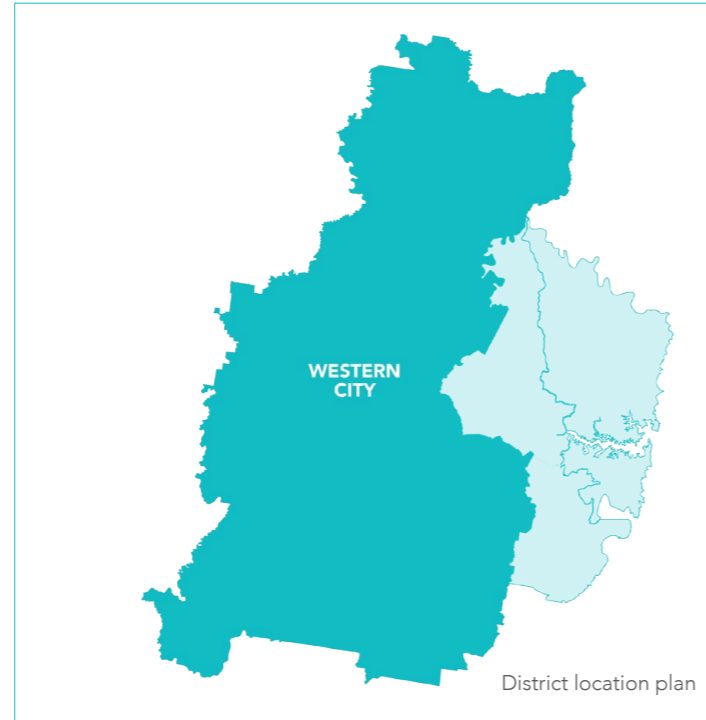
The investment in the Western Sydney Airport will be driven by the Australian and NSW Governments with local government through the Western Sydney City Deal. With the Airport's associated transport infrastructure and the growing employment hubs in Campbelltown- Macarthur and Liverpool, more of the District's people will be able to work closer to where they live and reduce the time they spend commuting." – *Greater Sydney Commission*.

The South-West part of the Western City District is expected to experience the fastest growth region in Greater Sydney, with large population increases in a number of local government areas (LGAs) within the District. The largest increases in this region are expected in Liverpool, Camden and later in the forecast period, Wollondilly¹.

The availability of substantial greenfield land is the major reason for high growth rates in these LGAs, particularly in areas of Camden (e.g. Oran Park) and Liverpool (e.g. Carnes Hill). However, as land becomes exhausted in Liverpool and Camden over time, the rate of population growth in Wollondilly is expected to increase as more development fronts emerge.

The most affordable places to live in Greater Sydney are in the Western City District"².

- *Greater Sydney Commission*.



OVERALL ANALYSIS

- The Western City District's centres are fewer in numbers and spread out in comparison to other Districts, however most have multiple types of social connectors.
- Penrith and surrounds are a hub of social connectors including street life and share economy.
- The average walk score across the Strategic and Local Centres in the Western City District is 49, making this District the least most walkable District in Greater Sydney
- The Western City District centres are serviced by heavy rail and bus (including high frequency buses), however the major public transport corridors connect across an east-west axis through the Western City District area (aligning with the major destinations to the east e.g. Parramatta), with limited options travelling for north-south.
- Rapid bus routes service a few centres including (but not limited to) Liverpool and Prairiewood¹
- There is a concentration of social connectors around the strategic centres of Campbelltown - Macarthur and Liverpool. There are significant opportunities to increase the share economy in this district.
- The local centres of Camden, Minto, Ingleburn, Maquarie Fields have a higher number of social connectors than other local centres in the District.
- The strategic centres of Fairfield and Narellan have fewer social connectors generally.

WHAT DO DIFFERENT CENTRES DO WELL?

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- Katoomba (community spaces, aquatic facilities, creative spaces, theatres, RSL, mens shed, bushcare)
- Leura (bushcare)
- St Marys (community spaces, sportsfields, aquatic facilities, creative spaces, RSL)
- Campbelltown-Macarthur (community spaces, sportsfields, creative spaces, theatres, RSL)
- Liverpool (community spaces, sportsfields, aquatic facilities, men's shed, bushcare)
- Camden (community spaces, sportsfields, theatres, RSL, bushcare), Macquarie Fields (sportsfields, aquatic facilities)

LEARNING

- Penrith (libraries, university/TAFE, transport, schools)
- St Marys (libraries, transport, primary schools)
- Katoomba (libraries, university/TAFE, transport, schools)
- Campbelltown-Macarthur (libraries, university/TAFE, transport, schools)
- Liverpool (libraries, university/TAFE, transport, schools)
- Camden (libraries, university/TAFE, transport, schools)

STREET LIFE

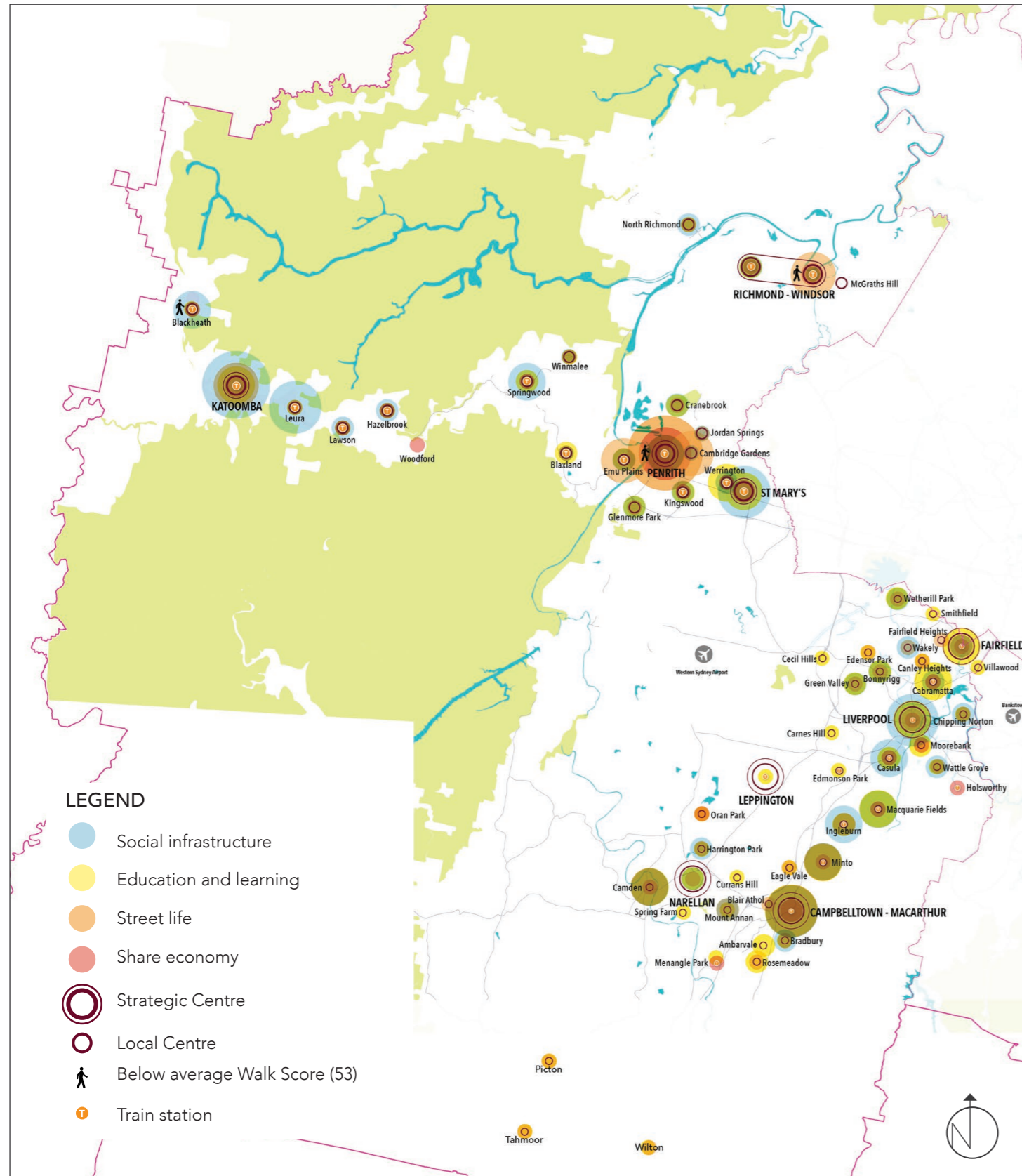
- Penrith (parks, retail strips, markets, eat streets, small bars)
- Blackheath (parks, dog parks, markets)
- Emu Plains (parks, dog parks, markets)
- Cabramatta and Liverpool had high Walk Score's of 71 and 77 respectively
- Campbelltown-Macarthur (parks, retail strips, markets, eat streets)
- Camden (parks, retail strips, markets)
- Minto (parks, dog parks)

SHARE ECONOMY

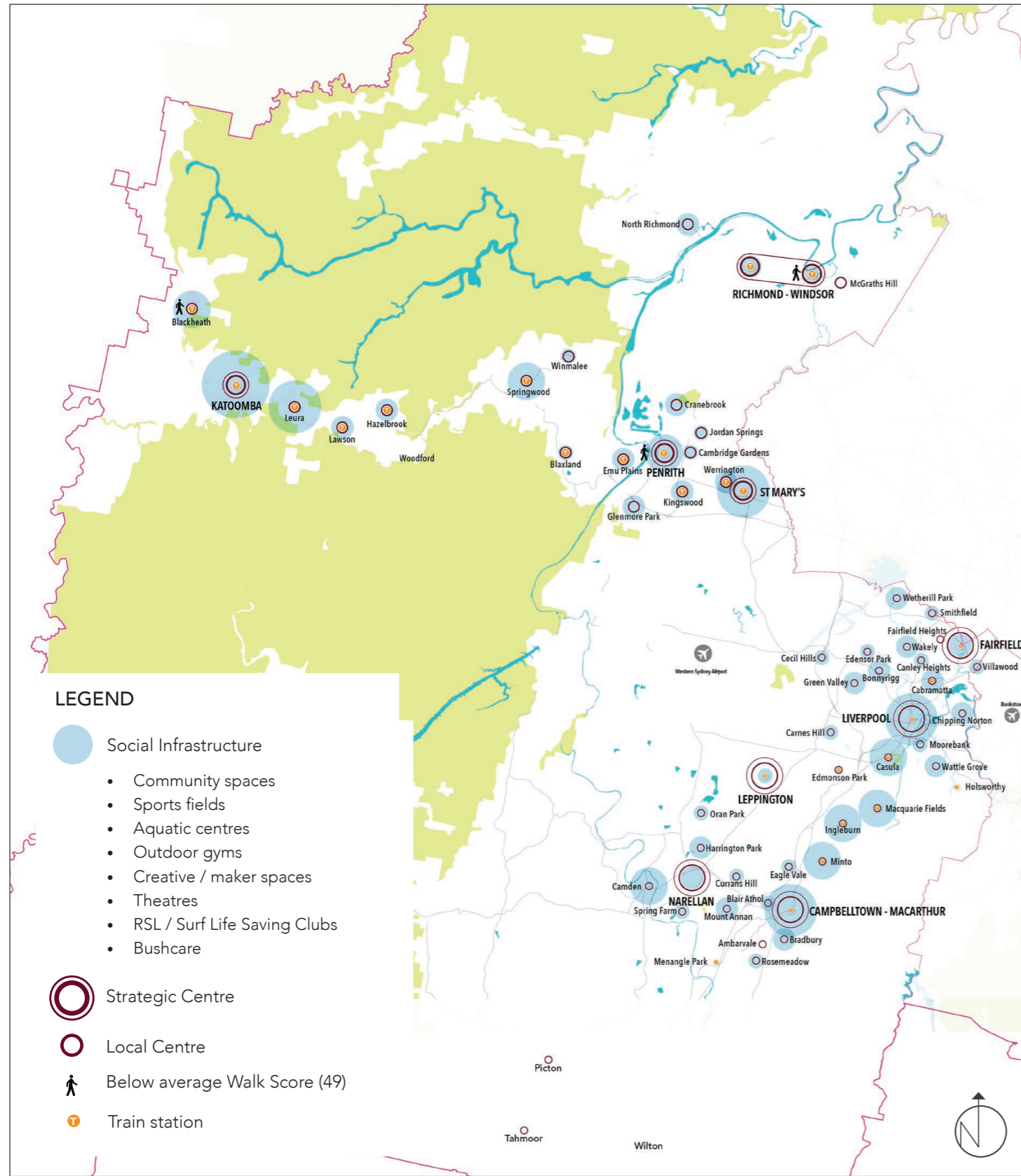
- Penrith (coworking, live music, social enterprise)
- Katoomba (share sheds, live music)
- St Marys (live music, social enterprise), Windsor (live music)
- Campbelltown-Macarthur (live music)
- Fairfield (social enterprise), Liverpool (live music), Minto (live music), Moorebank (live music, street libraries)

¹ Transport for NSW, *Sydney's Bus Future Network Map*, 2013.

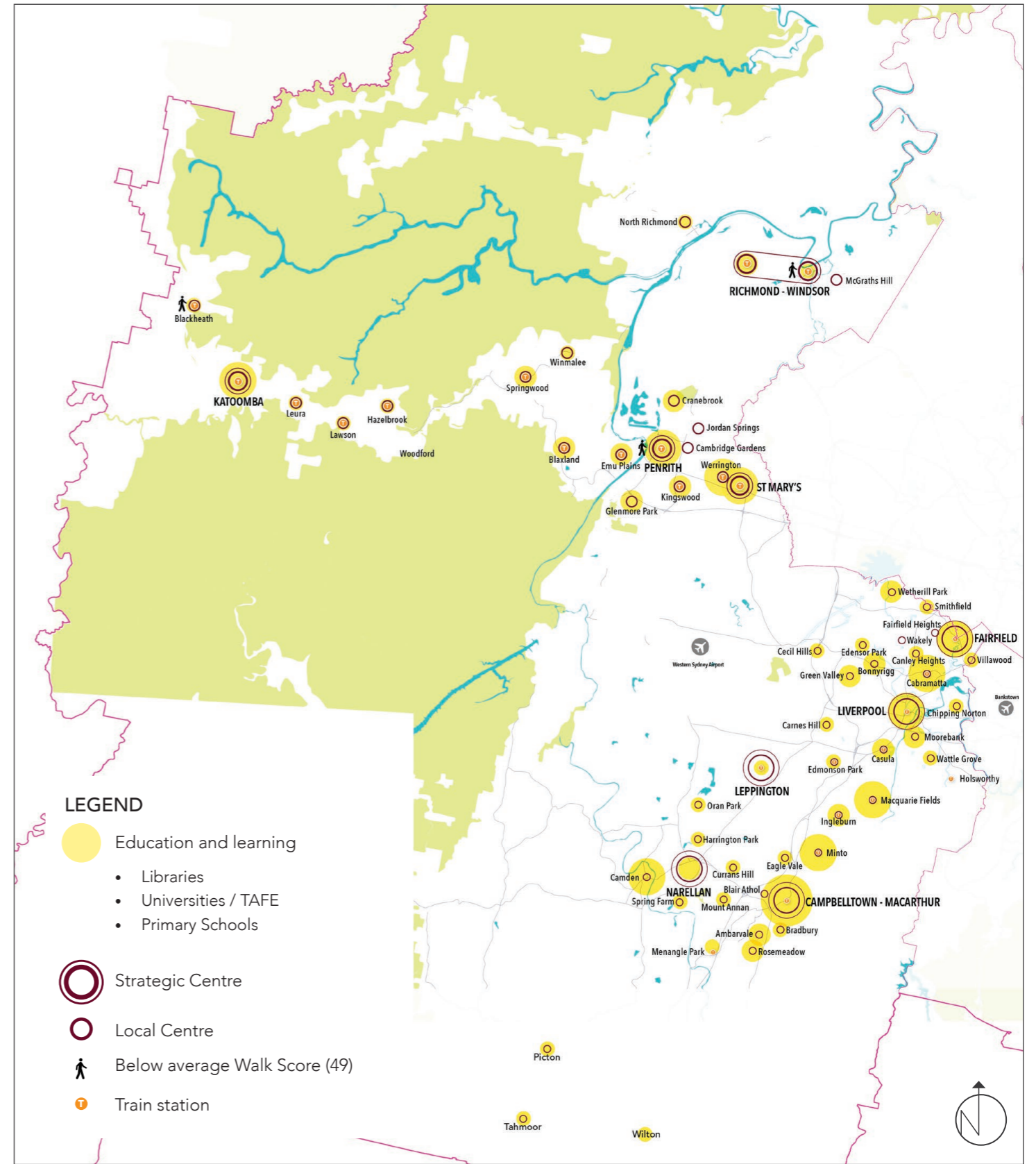
WESTERN CITY DISTRICT: COMBINED SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE HEAT MAP



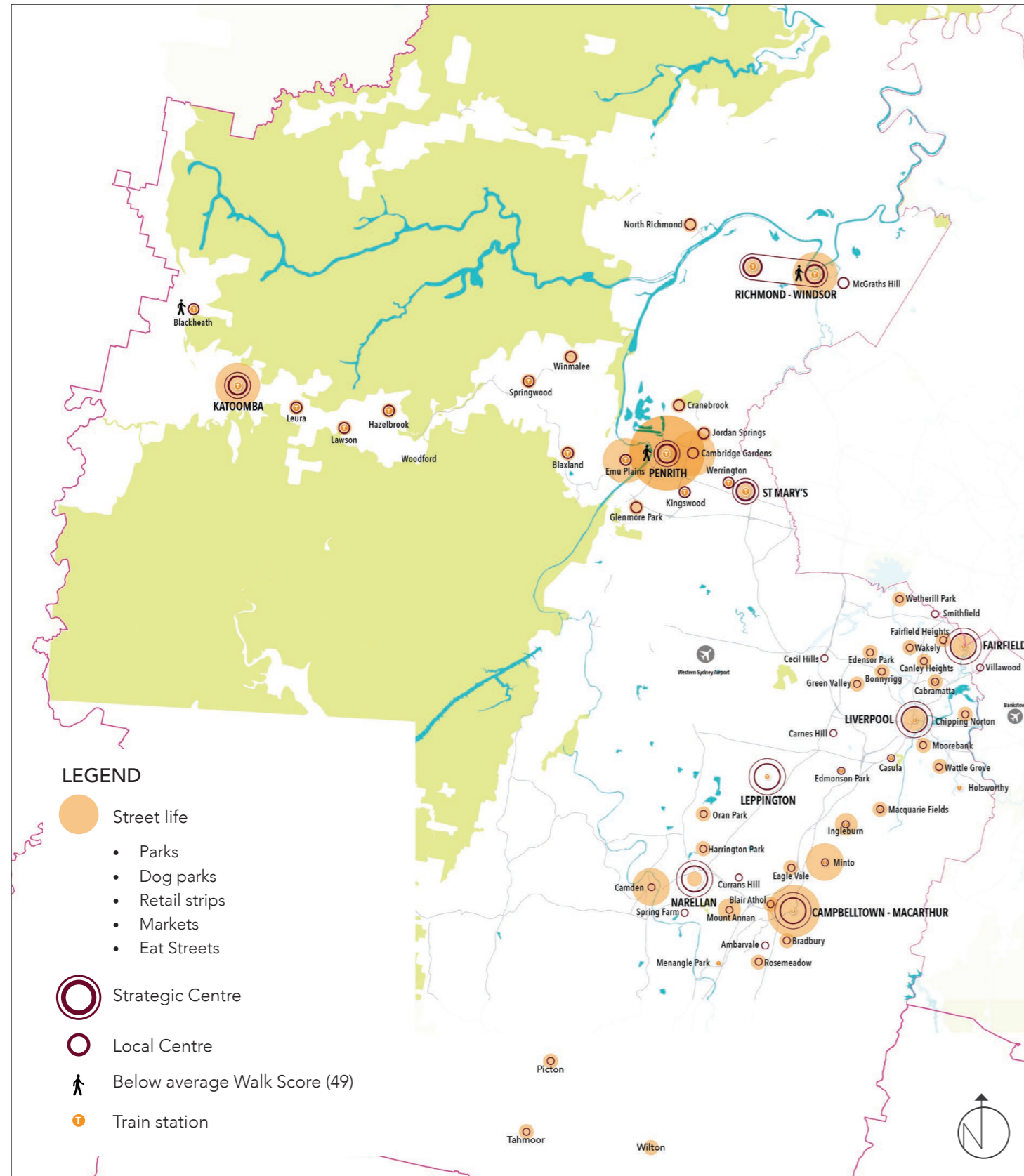
WESTERN PARKLAND CITY: SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE



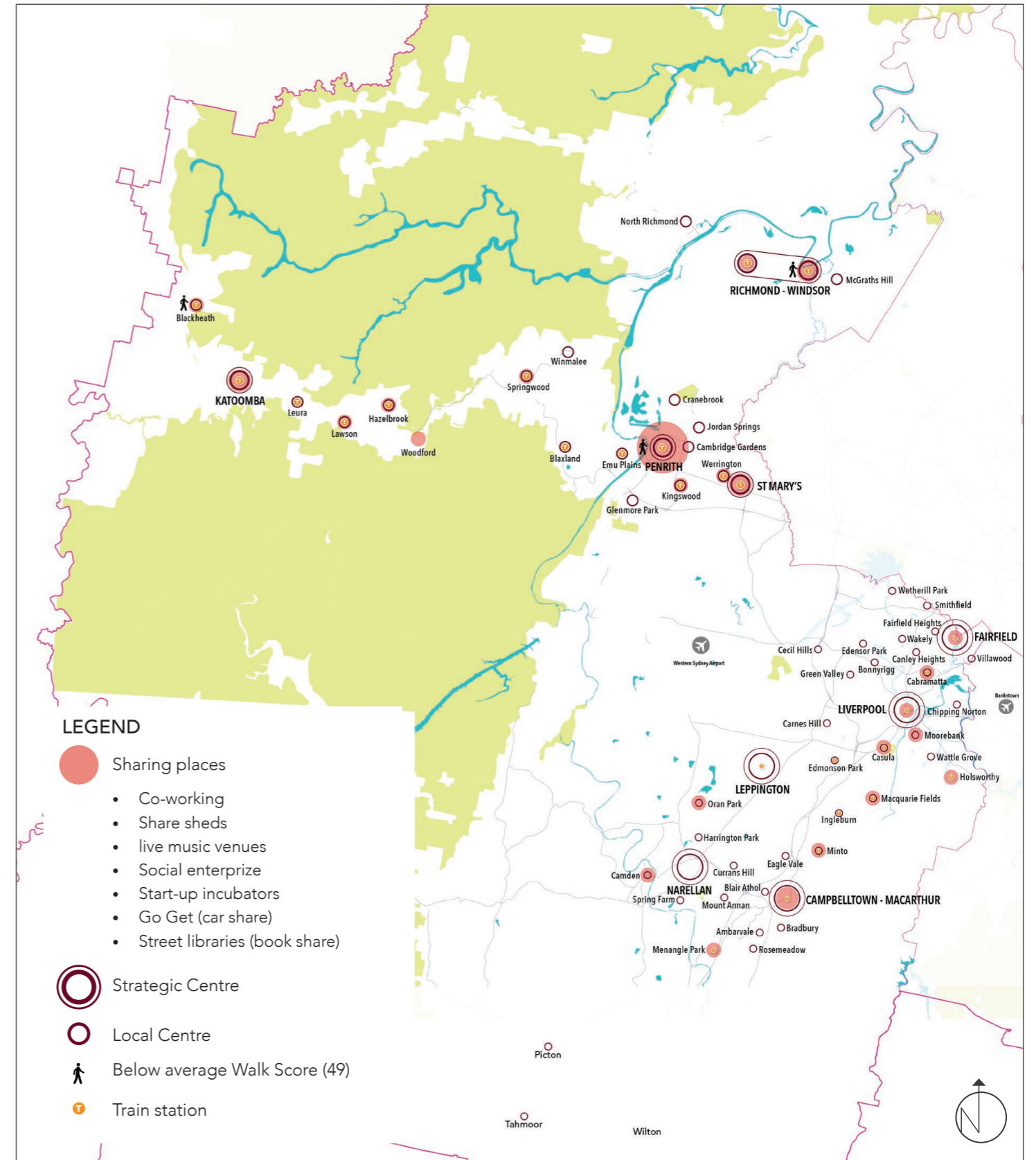
WESTERN PARKLAND CITY: LEARNING



WESTERN PARKLAND CITY: STREET LIFE



WESTERN PARKLAND CITY: SHARED ECONOMY





“The core idea of social capital theory is that social networks have value.”

- Robert Putnam, Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community

6.0 CREATING AND BUILDING GREATER SYDNEY'S SOCIAL CAPITAL

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

INTRODUCTION

Social capital focusses centrally on our many social connections, and the benefits the sharing of our social “resources” can bring to the wellbeing of individuals and of the community. Putting the sharing of social capital and the delivery of social outcomes at the core of urban design, planning, development and management of places can help deliver not only improved wellbeing and health outcomes for individuals and communities, but also significant economic benefits through greater participation in community life and economic diversity.

Urban design and planning can create opportunities for the three types of social capital (bonding, bridging and linking) to flourish, by providing physical spaces for incidental or formal meeting of people (also referred to as ‘social connectors’) and an environment that encourages participation in both community activities and planning and governance processes for the neighbourhood.

To recap, these types of social capital can be defined as:

1. Bonding connections refer to those based on a sense of common identity (e.g. neighbours, go to the same school, part of the same sports club, cultural identity).
2. Bridging connections stretch beyond the shared sense of identity (e.g. cultural events that bring different parts of the community together)
3. Linking connections are between individuals operating at different levels of power or opportunities in a society (and can gain access to political influence, resources, and ideas beyond the community).

There is a focus on urban design and planning to create opportunities for incidental bonding connections e.g. with neighbours, but less attention to interventions that can create opportunities for bridging and linkage connections, which is more likely to be achieved through programs and events.

A leading analysis of urban design for incidental connections is the work of Jan Gehl, looking at designing for the human scale. Jan Gehl argues that,

“although the physical framework does not have a direct influence on the quality, quantity or intensity of social contacts, architects and planners can affect the possibilities for meeting, hearing and seeing people – possibilities that both take on a quality of their own and become important as background and starting point for other forms of contact”¹⁰⁰.

SOCIAL CONNECTORS

The inclusion and concentration of multiple types of social connectors in a place is important for ensuring that Greater Sydney’s three cities develop neighbourliness, cooperation, trust and resilience amongst its communities as a result of strong social capital networks.

Public spaces, cafes and other ‘third places¹⁰¹’ (i.e. places outside of home and work) have been referred to as social connectors throughout this report, and can facilitate the creation of social capital. Bonding social capital can be created through casual social encounters - chance meetings on a street or at organised community events or getting your morning coffee at the local café. Or routine encounters – meetings between people that take place where their everyday paths are most likely to cross, such as communal open space in apartment buildings, residential streets, at school/childcare drop off and pick up, or a weekly activity at the local recreation centre.

Greater Sydney’s communities have a number of opportunities and challenges in relation to social capital. A review by the CityFutures unit at UNSW, of the early stages of the brownfield Green Square, offers insights into some of these opportunities and challenges. The review found that parks and public spaces are significant locations for social interaction, and the only location where people were more likely to interact within, rather than outside of, the local area. Cafes, restaurants and bars, and local shops, were also identified as important locations for social interaction. The review also suggests that the apartment building has become the most important location of local social interactions for its residents, as well as than the street.

These findings point to the importance of ensuring that planning and building promote the provision of facilities that encourage positive social interaction in established communities, master planned communities and higher-density developments and activate our streets as places for leisure and life¹⁰².

FINE GRAIN FABRIC AND WALKABILITY

Roberts Day, an Australian integrated planning, design and place making practice, undertook a Fine Grain People Places study for the Greater Sydney Commission, which highlights the importance of walkability, fine grain urban fabric and activity to the creation of social capital.

The study defines Fine Grain Urban Fabric as comprising the physical make-up of a place, including compartmentalisation of land, armatures, enclaves, buildings and spaces. The report goes on to say that fine grain urban fabric is inherently walkable, and that more walkable and mixed-use environments with connected street networks, the more neighbourly interactions there will be, and there for the more social capital and sense of community.

Fine Grain Activity is described as the way people inhabit, traverse, transgress, utilise, abandon, appropriate, program, police, and adapt the Urban Fabric. The report refers to Charles Montgomery’s ground-breaking book *Happy City, Transforming Our Lives Through Urban Design* in which Montgomery argues that social infrastructure and opportunities for cultural expression and celebration play important roles in social cohesion and support people’s experience of being part of a community.

CHALLENGES

While planning, urban design and development responses to local context can create opportunities for bonding and bridging connections that build social capital - and thereby contribute to healthier people and communities – they must also respond to the tangible and less tangible challenges that the region faces. These are outlined in Chapter 5 (What’s Happening in Greater Sydney) and include:

- Population growth
- Migration from overseas
- Increasing cultural diversity
- Migration out of Sydney
- Housing affordability and the shift from buyers to renters
- Homelessness (incl. youth homelessness)
- Transport
- Jobs
- Collaboration across all levels of government, business and community
- Health
- Education

A key to responding to these challenges is the creation and development of social capital across Greater Sydney’s three cities.

This will require a focus on the four key aspects of social capital, presented in Chapter 2 ‘Social Capital’

1. **Incidental connections**
2. **Connections between groups across generations cultures, age, income and socio-economic groups**
3. **Shared values and community/cultural life**
4. **Voice and influence**

Each of these aspects of social capital is essential to inclusion, cohesion and resilience in Greater Sydney’s diverse communities, particularly its mixed tenure, skill, culture and income communities.

City policies and land use planning frameworks are primarily focused on the tangible – the physical city – to create connected, greener, smarter cities. In this context, the social aspect of cities (often referred to the ‘soft infrastructure’) are typically less planned and provided for. However, the integration of objectives to enhance the social life of cities is becoming increasingly popularised and implemented across many global cities. Government and business have realised the economic, marketing, creative, productivity, health value of creating ‘liveable’ cities and high levels of social capital is at the heart of liveability.

Available community facilities and public places are another aspect that underpins the creation of social capital within cities through casual and/or routine encounters. Other key characteristics that also must be embedded within places and spaces include: familiarity; proximity; regular use that meets every day needs; longevity; freedom to linger; and the physical characteristics.

¹⁰¹ The third place -or third space – is a place making concept that prioritises the social environments outside of home (“first place”) and the office (“second place”).

¹⁰² Easthope, H. and McNamara, N. (2013) Green Square Pilot Survey. City Futures Research Centre, University of New South Wales

OPPORTUNITIES

Creating and building social capital through planning, urban design, development and management responses to local places requires action at the planning framework level as well as the local place level. The following section outlines some ideas for further implementation. Putting social capital and social outcomes at the core of strategic thinking and planning at all levels, State, metropolitan, district and local can help deliver social and economic benefits.

STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

A review of planning mechanisms is required to enhance social and cultural outcomes at the planning stages of development. While some types of traditional social connectors (see p10) such as schools and sports facilities are already addressed under the current planning system, additional research into how we may further embed other types of social connectors into our cities is needed (e.g. car share, co-working spaces/ remote working hubs, community spaces, mixed tenure housing, walkable neighbourhoods) is required. This would be particularly timely for the Western City as it continues on a major growth trajectory.

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Currently Social Impact Assessments may be required to support development applications or planning proposals, but not to inform the preparation of these plans. There are opportunities to consider ways to further integrate strategic planning for social and cultural infrastructure, mixed tenure housing, local employment, at the beginning of a planning process where it can have more influence (i.e. at the LGA, or neighbourhood level), rather than the end or on a site by site basis.

DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING TARGETS

Continued research into best practice developer contributions, including contribution to affordable housing, is required to address the critical shortage of affordable housing supply and infrastructure funding across Greater Sydney. Further investigation of planning levers and mechanisms, such as inclusionary zoning, value capture mechanisms, and betterment – which have been proven to be successful in some cities across the world – would be beneficial.

PARTICIPATORY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Meaningful and participatory community engagement practices will create more informed plans for places based on local knowledge, and build capacity of local communities. There are opportunities to explore opportunities to embed meaningful and participatory community engagement practices in our planning processes, that follow the IAP2 spectrum. This could help shift the focus of community engagement away from issues management and ‘informing’, to one that involves people from the early stages of a project, builds trust, is educational and most importantly, is genuine ‘consultation’.

PRODUCTIVE CROSS-GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION

The Growth Infrastructure Compacts pilot in the Greater Parramatta and Olympic Peninsula (GPOP) is a mechanism for collaboration across different levels of government, business and the community to improve transparency, collaboration and outcomes. Processes such as those detailed in the Government Architect NSW’s Better Placed: Integrated Design Policy for NSW also provide ways in which place led thinking can inform and improve collaboration. Further investigation of best practice collaboration techniques, including proven case studies, could help to further the conversation and knowledge around the wide-ranging benefits of better collaboration.

CITY BUILDER SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND COLLABORATION

City builders include urban and social planners, architects, designers and developers, play an essential role in delivering long term social outcomes for our communities. We need to ensure that our city builders have the information and skills to understand the benefits of social sustainability outcomes and that strategic and development assessment planners are aligned with, and advocate for, the agreed social sustainability vision and coordinate within strategies and policies. This could be done by:

- Creating a common vision for a place (either at a local district or regional level) and ensuring it is understood by city builders to improve clarity, effectiveness and efficiency in the planning system
- Integrated planning across local government departments, and state government departments, to enable strategic and development assessment planners at the State and local government level to deliver coordinated social sustainability outcomes
- Creation of networks and “meetups” for the spectrum of city builders to share knowledge, and collaborate on how to build social capital and create social sustainability
- Research into the development of a social sustainability ‘toolkit’ for planners and developers that provides clear guidance on what the long term social sustainability vision, objectives and outcomes are for places.

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM

More in-depth education at schools and universities around social planning and social sustainability is needed to enhance an understanding of how planning, architecture and designers (city builders) can deliver better social outcomes and build social capital within communities, and the role that their future professions, including urban planning, architecture, landscape architecture, can play in contributing positively to that.

PLACE BASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUILDING SOCIAL CAPITAL

Urban design and planning frameworks can positively influence the ‘circumstance’ for incidental encounters by ensuring adequate facilities and spaces are well located, as well as providing favourable physical characteristics. Understanding the needs, attitudes, behaviours and experiences of people and looking closely at the ‘everyday life’ of neighbourhoods, places and streets, starts to change the way we think about the future planning, design and systems of our cities.

This section provides some considerations for strategic planning (or precinct/master planning, planning proposal and development assessment and place based management) based on the findings of this report as well as work from the University of Newcastle identifying a number of key success factors¹⁰³ in relation to achieving a socially sustainable community, which also relate to building social capital:

- Places for incidental connections
- Places to support connections between groups
- Shared value and community/cultural life
- Voice and influence; and
- Diverse communities

Some opportunities (in checklist format) for the built environment could include:

PLACES FOR FORMAL AND INFORMAL CONNECTIONS

- Design for safety in streets and public spaces.
- Urban design and architecture that provides opportunities for incidental connections within apartment buildings and on the streets to bridge relationships between people.
- Streets and public spaces that encourage walking and cycling throughout the day and night.
- Local open spaces (existing and proposed) that meet the needs of the existing and proposed community i.e. variety of shapes, sizes and functionality for passive and active open space, sport, dog parks?
- Flexible community spaces and facilities that encourage communal activity including playgrounds, parks, community gardens, and multipurpose community facilities.
- Weather protected and comfortable seating and tables that support individuals and groups to sit and gather, to meet and talk.
- Multi-unit dwellings are designed for inclusion and social interaction both formal and informal (i.e. communal meetings and gather spaces, common areas conducive to informal or spontaneous interaction e.g. mailboxes, laundries)
- Provision of a variety of retail, commercial and community facilities
- Provision of affordable co-working spaces or incubators for community and cultural programs, in community spaces, or as a requirement in new developments.
- A walkable and fine grain urban form and land-use mix in neighbourhood centres that are accessible on foot (See Fine Grain People Places Report by Roberts Day, 2017)
 - Does the place have a compact human scale – i.e. is the place designed for walking, lingering and looking?
 - Is there a high variety of built form shapes and sizes?
 - Is the place permeable and does the place maximise connectivity and walkable destinations and everyday uses?
 - Is the place flexible / adaptive? i.e. can it evolve and change over time in response to community needs?
 - Does the place encourage activity – with accessible open spaces, cycling and engaging streets?

103 Mak, Y and Peacock, C. (2011). Social Sustainability: A Comparison of Case Studies in UK, USA and Australia. 17th Pacific Rim Real Estate Society Conference, Gold Coast.

PLACES TO SUPPORT CONNECTIONS BETWEEN GROUPS (ACROSS GENERATIONS, CULTURES, AGE, INCOME AND OTHER SOCIO- ECONOMIC GROUPS)

- Universally designed public domain to support access to the street and community spaces by older people and people with disability.
- Public facilities that provide for basic needs, open spaces to facilitate social gatherings and public interaction, and provision of accommodation for different socioeconomic groups
- Provision of good quality services including child care, education and health.
- Intergenerational, cross-cultural events and activities.
- Local economy offers key worker and entry level jobs, and opportunities for advancement.
- Neighbourhood based workers to create opportunities and spaces for people to interact.
- Housing and public space design to reduce conflict between different user groups.

SHARED VALUE AND COMMUNITY/CULTURAL LIFE

- Early provision of community infrastructure within new places (it goes in before residents move in). This includes the provision of flexible community spaces, co-located services, community centres, and parks. The provision of temporary facilities to meet and connect, should be considered while a place is developing.
- Place making and community building activities to create and build a sense of local identity.
- Opportunities for creative and cultural expression.
- Opportunities to participate in building community wellbeing.
- Places for events, parties and festivals that create local identity and pride, and processes that enable communities to lead their own initiatives.
- Local characteristics celebrated and protected (i.e. preservation of heritage items, local characteristics and distinctiveness in existing community networks has to be conserved and public art and landscapes can be utilised for this).
- Neighbourhoods, places and streets that are clean and safe throughout the day and night.
- Provision of 'Third Spaces' and providing a variety that are 'paid' spaces (ie. Cafes, laundromat, etc) and 'free' spaces (ie. Playgrounds, parks, shaded streets, libraries, places to sit and gather).

- Landscaping and design that reinforces a sense of local identity/community – integration of public art, spaces/ places that are local meeting places.
- Provision of wide footpaths, benches and places to sit/stop – sometimes called the "shoelace economy".
- Integration of community gardens and shared space, this could be at the edge of school grounds that allows for a program to encourage intergenerational interactions – older people in the community sharing knowledge/skills with students.
- Creating spaces that are adaptable – providing the space to grow and change over time – think about the full life cycle of a building/place rather than the first use.

VOICE AND INFLUENCE

- Opportunities for community involvement in decision making.
- Participatory decision making.
- Representative community groups.

DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

- Diverse housing including cost, tenure, type and size.
- Offer a range of affordable housing schemes and incentives to provide housing choice for a range of low – moderate income households.
- Ensure developments include a range of bedroom sizes including for single person housing, families, and age diversity to support better social outcomes.
- Create a greater focus and requirement around universal design requirements.

In conclusion, research has shown that there are increasing social and economic benefits from planning to create and build social capital. Social connections are closely linked to individual wellbeing. Our close relationships (bonding social capital) and relationships with acquaintances (bonding and bridging social capital) give us a sense that we are part of a community, and influence our happiness. Having someone to count on (bonding social capital) has been found to be responsible for a large part of people's self-reported life satisfaction. There is strong evidence of positive associations between social capital and both physical and mental health, although the mechanisms for these links are not understood.

While social connectors can be built organically into areas over time - as a neighbourhood establishes, and as the community grows - it is critical that the newer and less dense communities of Greater Sydney, particularly the Western City, will also have equal opportunities to build social capital. This chapter has outlined a number of ideas for adjusting the current planning and education structure around development and has also provided a checklist for the built environment in regard to social connectors. It is not an exhaustive list, but one that aims to touch on some of the critical issues facing Greater Sydney today.

DATA DICTIONARY

DISCLAIMER The mapping of social connectors is based on a desktop study and is a strength based analysis. We do not claim that it is a comprehensive audit of all social connectors as defined in this report, but provides a preliminary snapshot of the level of provision of social connectors in local centres across Greater Sydney's six districts.

OBJECT ID	DESCRIPTION	DATA SOURCES
SUBURB_NAME	Health and Education Super Precincts, Strategic / District Centres, Local Centres, Priority Precincts / Urban Renewal.	List supplied by GSC
COMMUNITY_SPACES	Community and neighbourhood centres. This includes community halls with multiple rooms and additional facilities (e.g. kitchen, playground), community centres, neighbourhood hubs etc. This does not include single-room, single use community halls.	Local council directories e.g. https://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/parks-and-recreation/parks-and-playgrounds/ ; http://www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/services/community-venues ; http://www.kogarah.nsw.gov.au/recreation/Halls-for-Hire
SPORTS_FIELDS	Sportsfields with more than one field/court, and/or a clubhouse/ additional facilities e.g. a playground, bike track	Local council directories e.g. http://www.kogarah.nsw.gov.au/recreation/parks/parks-reserves-and-gardens
AQUATIC_FACILITIES	Aquatic facilities and indoor leisure centres e.g. Council aquatic centres, PCYCs with indoor courts, major harbour/ocean pools	Local council directories e.g. https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/places-spaces/aquatic-centres , PCYC NSW, Google Maps search
OUTDOOR_GYMS	Outdoor fitness equipment	Free Outdoor Fitness: https://freeoutdoorfitness.net/listing-region/australia/new-south-wales/sydney/ , Local council websites
CREATIVE_SPACES	Public galleries, artist studios, creative arts centres and spaces, places with an artist in residency program, Artist Run Initiatives	Local council directories and Arts/Cultural Plans e.g. https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/arts-and-culture , Creative Spaces directory: http://www.creativespaces.net.au , Artist Run Initiatives: https://visualarts.net.au/space/artist-run-initiatives-aris/aris-australia/ , Google Maps search
MAKER_SPACES	Makerspaces "A place where people can come together to use, and learn to use materials as well as develop creative projects."	No complete directories are available. Google Maps search, Google search, and review of media articles e.g. https://www.timeout.com/sydney/things-to-do/a-guide-to-sydneys-maker-spaces
THEATRES	Theatres/performances	Local council directories and Arts/Cultural Plans e.g. https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/arts-and-culture , Creative Spaces directory: http://www.creativespaces.net.au , Google Maps search
RSL	RSL Clubs	Google Maps search
MENS_SHED	Men's Sheds operating under the Australian Men's Shed Association	Australian Men's Shed Association, http://mensshed.org/find-a-shed/
BUSHCARE	Bushcare volunteer groups/parks with a Bushcare program	Local council directories e.g. http://www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au/Environment---Sustainability/Biodiversity-and-Bushcare/Bushcare-Programs/Bushcare-Programs
LIBRARIES	Public libraries	Local council websites
UNI_TAFE	Universities and TAFE Campuses	TAFE NSW website, Google search, UWS website for UWS campuses
TRANSPORT	Bus interchanges	Bus network maps: https://transportnsw.info/travel-info/ways-to-get-around/bus/bus-operator-maps
PRIMARY_SCHOOLS	Public primary schools	My School website
PARKS	High quality district parks, very high quality local parks (e.g. multiple facilities, extraordinary setting)	Local council directories e.g. https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Recreation_Facilities/Parks_Reserves
DOG_PARKS	Unrestricted dog off-leash parks (i.e. not sportsfields with restricted hours for off-leash dog use)	Local council websites
RETAIL_STRIP	Inviting main town centres (e.g. outdoor dining cafes, attractive local shops)	Local council websites, Google Streetview review of town centres
MARKETS	Public markets	Local council websites, Google Maps search
EAT_STREETS	Streets with a concentration of restaurants with outdoor dining and evening opening hours	Local council websites, Review of centres on Google Maps
SMALL_BARS	Small bars that are not attached to e.g. a pub, hotel. Local breweries/cellar doors.	Concrete Playground: https://concreteplayground.com/sydney/bars/ , Google Maps search, review of media articles e.g. https://www.timeout.com/sydney/blog/parramatta-is-getting-a-pocket-sized-cocktail-bar-101216
CO_WORKING	Co-working office spaces	Creative Spaces directory: http://www.creativespaces.net.au , Google Maps search
SHARE_SHEDS	Share sheds and tool libraries.	No complete directories are available. Google search.
LIVE_MUSIC	Live music venues	Live music office, http://livemusicoffice.com.au/livemusicmap/
SOCIAL_ENTERPRISE	Well-known social enterprise operations	No complete directories are available therefore this only includes well known, large social enterprise operations found through a Google search.
STARTUP_INCUBATORS	Startup incubators providing office space and program support for early stage startups	The Fetch, https://blog.thefetch.com/startup-incubators-and-accelerators-in-australia/
GO_GET	GoGet carshare pods	Goget: goget.com.au
STREET_LIBRARIES	Street libraries registered on streetlibrary.org.au	Street Library: https://streetlibrary.org.au/find/
SLSC	Surf life saving clubs	Google Maps search
SCHOOLS	Public primary schools	My School website
COMMUNITY_HUBS	Community hubs with co-located services, program spaces	Local council directories
COMMUNITY_GARDENS	Community gardens	Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network, http://directory.communitygarden.org.au/
ENTERTAINMENT_PRECINCTS	Major entertainment precincts	Google search