

GEORGES RIVER

Sydney's Connected Community

ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

Connecting opportunities

Georges River's rail connections, proximity to the airport and the Sydney CBD make it key to delivering a 30-minute city, the vision of Greater Sydney Commission (GSC), where people have access to jobs and services within 30 minutes of their home.

We also know that we need to raise our job containment rate, improve our connections to other employment hubs such as Parramatta and the Central City, and bring to the attention of the NSW and Australian government the investment opportunities that exist in Georges River. Council is leading for change by identifying and promoting priorities and opportunities on behalf of our community.

Our priorities are connected to Council's activities and interactions at all levels. We will be opportunistic and informed. Our passion for issues impacting our community and Greater Sydney is the driving force behind our advocacy.

Council will use a variety of activities such as making submissions, lobbying, delegations, media releases and public campaigns. In addition, we will leverage our relationships with other key stakeholders, agencies and advocacy bodies.

In leading our community in advocating for a better Georges River, Council will:

- Show leadership in cultivating solutions to emerging trends that will improve Greater Sydney and the Georges River Local Government Area (LGA)
- Continue to be open, informed and transparent in our decision making
- Support a resilient, skilled and professional workforce with the capabilities to shape a better future for the city
- Commit to collaboration, partnerships and sharing our resources to provide great outcomes for the community.

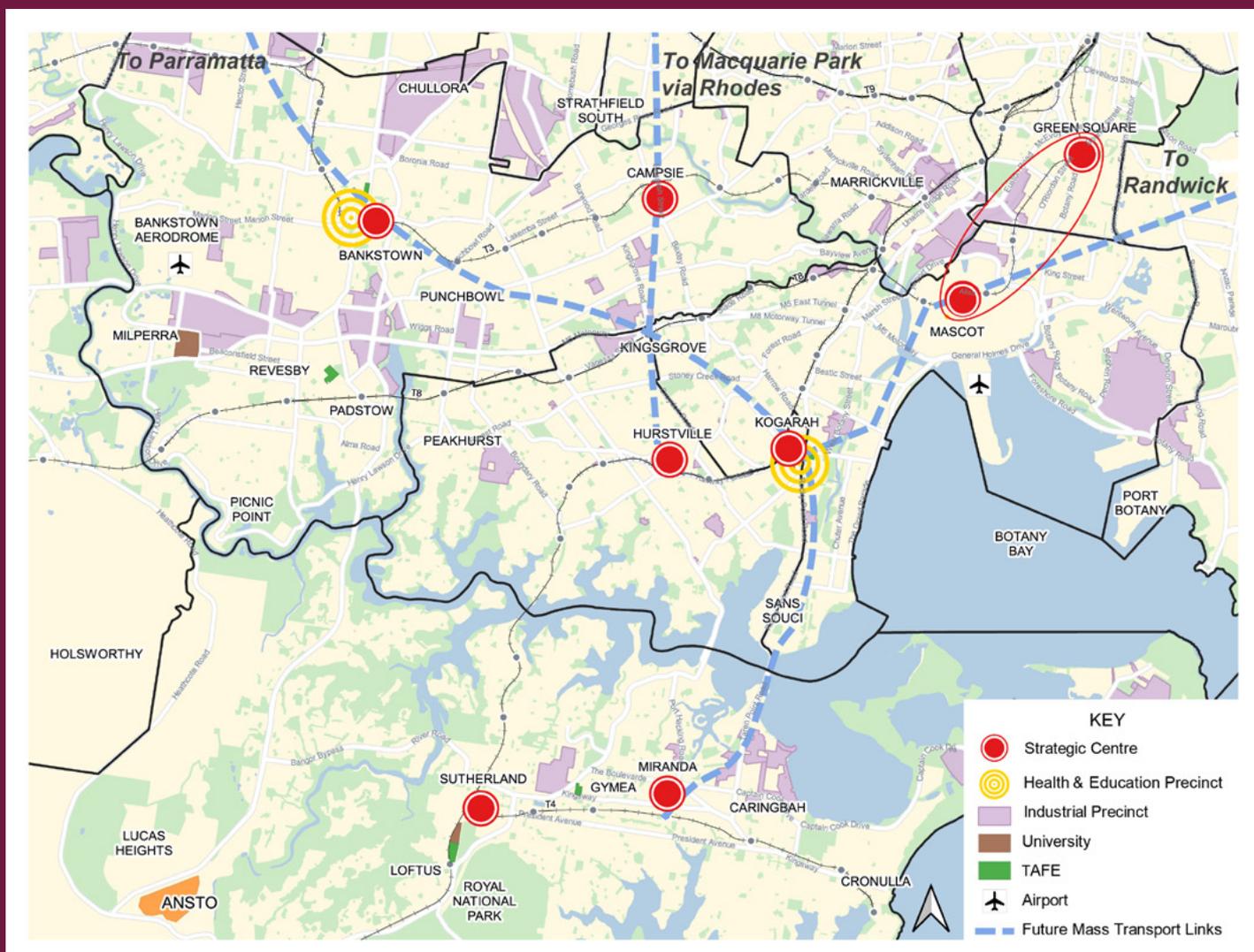


The Southern Aerotropolis

The growth of Greater Sydney has a north/south and an east/west bias, reinforced in all metropolitan strategies for the past 20 years. Parramatta CBD is now firmly positioned as Sydney's second CBD and further growth is planned for the Greater Parramatta and the Olympic Peninsula area. The vision and long-term plans for the Western Aerotropolis around the future airport at Badgerys Creek has ensured continued jobs growth and economic prosperity for Western Sydney. However, there has been no similar focused investment south of Sydney Airport.

Now is the time to rediscover the future of Sydney with the 'Southern Aerotropolis'. Within this area of Greater Sydney there are seven strategic centres including Hurstville and Kogarah. There is an opportunity to leverage off the potential of these well established centres; proximity to the airport and port, the availability of employment lands, the transport connections (both for the movement of workers and goods) and the unrivalled natural assets and liveability of the south.

In addition to the concept of the Southern Aerotropolis, there are a number of priorities identified for the Georges River LGA.



NSW INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

1 Future mass transit links

Transport for NSW in the *Future Transport 2056 Strategy* outlines mass transit links that will connect Georges River to jobs and services in other key strategic centres in Greater Sydney including Bankstown, Parramatta and Randwick.

The River Rail - Kogarah to Parramatta via Bankstown rail link - The 'River Rail' linking Kogarah and Parramatta via Bankstown will allow people to travel to the south, central and western parts of Sydney without the need to drive or take existing rail services to the Eastern Harbour City and out again. It will connect Kogarah to the Bankstown and Westmead Health and Education precincts, providing opportunities for the growth of synergies and collaboration amongst public, institutional and private sector organisations across precincts.

Randwick to Kogarah Metro - The *Future Transport 2056 Strategy* identifies a Randwick to Kogarah Metro via the Domestic and International terminals and onwards to Miranda by 2056. This line will improve connectivity between the Kogarah and Randwick Health and Education precincts.

Hurstville to Macquarie Park rail link - A rail link between Hurstville and Macquarie Park via Rhodes will provide important cross city connectivity from Macquarie Park on the Sydney Metro to the T1 connection at Rhodes and then continuing on to Hurstville.

2 Redevelopment of Netstrata Jubilee Stadium

Netstrata Jubilee Stadium provides high performance training facilities and is home to the St George Illawarra Dragons national rugby league team. It has attracted a range of elite sports and codes nationally. Strategic investment into the stadium by the NSW Government could allow for the site to become a regional sporting and entertainment precinct, with a range of recreation and entertainment options for the local and wider community.

3 Focused investment into Kogarah

A Metropolis of Three Cities identifies Kogarah as a strategic centre, a Health and Education precinct and a Collaboration Area. Kogarah's unique health and education agglomeration has the potential to become an innovation district, delivering high quality jobs within 30 minutes of where people live. The centre is competitive in its proximity to public transport, affordability of commercial floor space, capability for conducting clinical trials, significant healthcare infrastructure and a relatively high presence of medical entrepreneurs. Kogarah should be recognised and seen in the same light as other precincts such as Liverpool and Westmead.





4 Relocation of government jobs into Georges River

Georges River's role as a 30-minute city makes a compelling case for the State and Federal Governments to invest in relocating their departments. With the relocation of stable organisations comes local job opportunities, increased vibrancy to our centres and reduced congestion on our road system. COVID-19 has changed the way we want to work, now and into the future. Centres such as Kogarah and Hurstville cater to the increasing demand for suburban work locations across Greater Sydney as more people choose to work closer to home and remotely.

5 State road projects

M6 Motorway Stage 2 - President Avenue Kogarah and Waterfall - The NSW Government has committed to construct Stage 1 of the link between WestConnex (New M5) and President Avenue at Kogarah. There is no motorway standard route between the Sydney motorway network and the M1 Princes Motorway at Waterfall. Demand for road travel along this corridor is high and the arterial network is at capacity during peak periods. The three crossings of the Georges River, which together accommodate almost 200,000 trips per day, are at or close to capacity. Without the Stage 2 extension to Waterfall, there is likely to be spill-out congestion at President Avenue, impacting the amenity of surrounding areas including the Kogarah Town Centre. This has been identified in Infrastructure Australia's Priority List.

A3 and A6 corridor capacity - These are major arterial roads that service north-south journeys for both freight and general traffic in Sydney. Without capacity management interventions such as intersection upgrades and road widening, significant congestion will continue to increase, impacting on freight productivity. This has been identified in Infrastructure Australia's Priority List.

6 More frequent rail services to Kogarah in peak periods (also a Georges River local priority)

The reduction of train services per hour in peak periods in 2013 has had a number of impacts including reduced service frequencies. These changes were focused on benefits for users beyond Kogarah including an extended peak period and reduced peak period crowding on trains. These changes have significantly impacted the movement of the Kogarah's employees and access to major regional health and medical services in the precinct.



GEORGES RIVER LOCAL PRIORITIES:

7 Hurstville Civic and Cultural Precinct

A new civic and cultural heart for the Hurstville City Centre which will include a range of public benefits including new public plazas, library, gallery, auditorium and theatre space, council chambers and parking. This key community and civic and community destination will be complemented by new mixed use residential opportunities that will further enhance the vibrancy and vitality of the locality.

8 Investment in arts and culture

Council will continue to provide and facilitate cultural experiences, particularly in the context of COVID-19 when the stimulation of the cultural/creative industry is so important. Council has reimagined its major events program to now provide smaller, more unique and niche experiences using local artists and providers. We will look for opportunities to collaborate with State Government to increase our ability to invest in our local artists and creatives.

9 Open space provision

Our community values our trees and our environment. Council is looking at innovative solutions to deliver an additional 7.6 ha of open space to connect and support our existing and future population. Increasing passive green open space around centres and train lines where land is expensive and often not possible. Therefore, to ensure that growth is supported by green open space and that all our residents have access to open space within an easy walk from their home, government land should be unlocked for community use e.g. Department of Education assets, Railcorp and Sydney Water-owned land.





10 Active transport

Community consultation undertaken for the Georges River Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040 (LSPS) identified that improved connection between the T4 Eastern Suburbs and Illawarra line and T8 Airport and South Line is needed to support growth within the LGA. A key action outlined in the LSPS is to prioritise and identify a preferred corridor for public and active transport between the two rail lines as part of the Riverwood Planned Precinct. This connection would allow residents and visitors to access train services linking to different parts of Sydney including the airport.

11 Green grid projects that connect to the Georges River

The Greater Sydney Green Grid links tree-lined streets, waterways, bushland corridors, parks and open spaces with town centres, public transport and public places. We will prioritise active transport links to connect the three bridges crossing the Georges River and into neighbouring local government areas, as well as the Illawarra Rail Line Corridor.

12 Affordable housing

Facilitate the provision of diverse housing options and provide mechanisms for delivery to meet the needs of the very low, low and moderate income households as well as the wide range of users, including households in housing stress, seniors, people with disabilities, students and key workers.

13 Capital projects that benefit the community

Council has a 'shovel ready' capital works program that can be implemented as relevant grant funding opportunities become available. They are projects that revitalise and rebuild our economy, shape our key centres, enhance our community green spaces and parklands and deliver sustainable infrastructure.

Delivery

We will address these priorities through a range of strategies, including direct lobbying of decision-makers; making effective submissions to federal and state governments; ongoing community consultation; engagement and media campaigns.



Key enablers of change

To work towards accessing these opportunities, these advocacy priorities will be utilised to work with State and Australian Governments to achieve beneficial outcomes for our community.

Achieving what is set out in these priorities requires concerted advocacy efforts and partnerships with a range of stakeholders such as other councils, think tanks such as the Committee for Sydney, peak advocacy bodies such as Business Western Sydney and other levels of government.



GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL

georgesriver.nsw.gov.au

