



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

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DIVERSE AND CHANGING COMMUNITIES

The community around the Parklands will grow and change significantly over the next 10, 20 and 50 years.

KEY DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

The current Parklands catchment comprises approximately 2 million residents. The local community already consists of more than 140 nationalities in the Blacktown, Fairfield and Liverpool City Council areas. Nearly half (45%) of all residents neighbouring the Parklands are from non-English speaking backgrounds. This is almost a third more than the rest of Greater Sydney.

Families are a strong feature of the community. 41% of households comprise of couples with children compared to 35% across Greater Sydney. However, this will change as the number of single-person households increases by 84% over the next 20 years. The population is ageing and the number of people in the region aged 85+ will triple by 2036.

In the immediate future, it is important that the Parklands appeals to children and young adults. This will be achieved by providing diverse recreational opportunities, like the Wylde Mountain Bike Trail, as well as a range of new unstructured recreation areas and educational opportunities. Increasingly, the Parklands should also cater for an ageing population.

**ABS, 2016 Census*



45%

RESIDENTS
FROM NON-ENGLISH
SPEAKING
BACKGROUNDS



140+
NATIONALITIES

GROWTH IN WESTERN SYDNEY



Sydney's West is growing

Australia is one of the most highly urbanised countries in the world. Many Australians seek the social, economic and cultural opportunities offered by city living. As Sydney's current population of 5 million is forecast to rise to 8 million by 2056, Sydney will need to grow in a way that adequately supports population demands.

By 2036 more than half of Sydney's population will live west of Parramatta, with a catchment of more than 3 million people surrounding the Parklands. Population growth will be intensified around Parramatta, Blacktown, Liverpool, Penrith and Camden. Land has been released for housing in Marsden Park, Riverstone and West Schofields to the North, and Leppington and Austral to the South.

The Parklands provides room to move for these growing communities, offering a variety of open space, recreation and community facilities. The increasing population will need housing, transport infrastructure, commercial centres, community facilities and open spaces.



A growing population demands job creation

Deloitte's Designing Western Sydney report predicts that 200,000 new jobs will be generated within the Western Sydney Area. To enable economic transformation of the region and create sustainable urban development, these jobs should be created locally.

The Parklands can provide recreational, environmental and lifestyle opportunities to attract residents, workers and industry to the region. Through partnerships with private industry, the Trust will directly generate jobs in the retail, industrial, agribusiness and tourism sectors.



The Parklands will be at the heart of the new Western Parkland City



Sydney is being re-imagined as three cities

In planning for Greater Sydney, the GSC's vision is to see three distinct cities by 2056 – the Eastern Harbour City, Central River City, and Western Parkland City.



The Western Parkland City and the Central River City will be liveable, productive and sustainable

The GSC envisages the Western Parkland City and the Central River City as vibrant and productive centres, serving dynamic and rapidly growing regions.

With the catalyst of the Western Sydney Airport, the Western Parkland City is seen as a hub for trade, logistics, advanced manufacturing, tourism, health and science. The Western Parkland City includes the strategic centres of Penrith, Liverpool, Campbelltown-Macarthur and Blacktown. The Central River City is anchored by the Greater Parramatta and Olympic Peninsula (GPOP).

The Parklands connects the Western Parkland City to the Central River City. It is protected and valued as an environmental resource that will serve a population of more than 3 million residents.



The Parklands are integral to the GSC's plans for Sydney's future

The GSC has divided Greater Sydney into five districts with each district having key priorities and actions over the next 20 years.

The five District Plans inform the Region Plan for Greater Sydney. The Western City District and the Central City District encompass Western Sydney Parklands.

Both District Plans place great value on Western Sydney Parklands as one of Greater Sydney's most significant corridors. It will be complemented by the South Creek Corridor to the west, which will provide a lineal park and waterway along South Creek.

Western Sydney Parklands is a significant part of the Sydney Green Grid, which is a web of connected open spaces. It includes regional and local parks, wetlands, rivers, creeks, playgrounds, playing fields, cycle ways and pathways; connecting residential areas to centres, public transport, jobs and recreation. The Green Grid can connect the Parklands to the South Creek Corridor, national parks and local parks; to provide continuous pathways for flora and fauna and potentially for recreation.



Western Sydney Airport will put global access on the doorstep of the Parklands

The Australian Government's Airport Plan 2016 identifies that the new Western Sydney Airport will be the employment focus of the emerging Western Parkland City by 2026. The airport's first stage will cater for up to 10 million passengers per year, within five years of opening. It is anticipated that there will be a demand for 37 million passengers per year by 2050, reiterating the need for a second airport.



The airport will be located less than 10km from the Southern Parklands.

Access routes to and from the airport will bring visitors into contact with the Parklands corridor. The Parklands will be a destination within Sydney's visitor economy, and directly attract visitors to its entertainment, sporting and other facilities. The Parklands will provide open space, superb scenic qualities, and world-class recreational destinations.





Strategic Opportunities for Western Sydney Parklands

The city-wide trends impacting the Parklands result from a range of environmental, economic and social factors. These shape the current and planned future of the Parklands.



A return to the 'local'

Places are made special by their specific character. Despite Sydney's globalisation, there is increased interest in celebrating the 'local' qualities of a place, both financially and socially. The Parklands' unique scenic attributes and destinations can provide a local character for Western Sydney communities.



The travel revolution

Travel networks are expanding and improving, with \$35 billion planned for major infrastructure to Western Sydney alone. Progressive technologies include autonomous and electric cars and high-capacity public transport. These technologies follow the current trend of declining car ownership, which reduces congestion, journey times, and carbon footprint. Currently 93% of people travel to the Parklands by car. Direct active and public transport links will help encourage visitors to leave their cars at home.



A diverse social and cultural mix

Fundamental to Australia is its cultural diversity, with 1 in 3 Australians born overseas. As the top countries of birth shift from mainly European countries towards China, India, Iraq, Vietnam and the Philippines, the Parklands is responding to changing uses of open space, recreation and community facilities. The Greater Sydney Commission's (GSC) Draft Western City District Plan identified that 36% of the district speaks 200 non-English languages, and is a diverse home for people from more than 195 countries.



Health issues

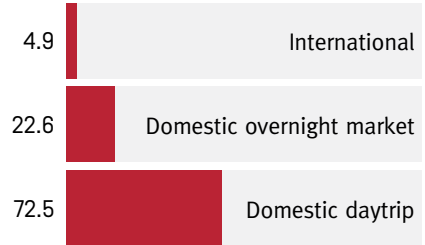
Compared to the national average, Western Sydney suffers higher rates of lifestyle-related chronic diseases such as heart disease, obesity, and diabetes. Access to open green spaces and opportunities for activity such as those provided by the Parklands can play a part in addressing these widespread chronic medical conditions. In addition to the physical health benefits, access to nature and open space is also linked to improved mental health.



The influx in tourism

While some parts of NSW have seen visitor numbers decline since 2008, Western Sydney continues to register increased visitation. Destination NSW's Western Sydney Visitor Profile identified that more than 9.4 million tourists visited Western Sydney in 2017, generating \$4.3 billion for the local economy. The region is developing key tourism assets and experiences to attract a greater proportion of the world's visitors. The Parklands already offers tourism destinations and can continue to expand this role.

Visitor chart (%)



*Figures from Destination NSW's Western Sydney Visitor Profile (2017)



Environmental change

Western Sydney is home to valuable natural environments including conservation areas, bushland, grasslands and waterways. As the region's development intensifies, the Parklands' natural environments play a vital role by providing ecological habitats for native flora and fauna. These need to be protected from the competing demands of a growing urban population.



The heat island effect

Urban development typically creates higher ambient temperatures associated with the intensification of human activity. This is known as the 'heat island effect'. As the population of Western Sydney grows, the Parklands will help to alleviate temperature increases and provide a place of respite for the local community.



Sustainable in every sense

Sustainability guides decisions affecting long-term environmental, social and economic impacts. The Trust relies on a sustainable business model to develop and protect the Parklands for future generations.

