



Central Precinct Renewal Program

Consultation Outcomes Report

July 2022

Transport for NSW



Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Central Precinct, the Gadigal, and recognise the importance of the place to Aboriginal people and their continuing connection to Country and culture. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

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Indicative artist's impression of Central Avenue at Central Precinct

1. Executive summary

This Consultation Outcomes Report provides an overview of stakeholder and community consultation on the Central Precinct Renewal Program (Central Precinct) State Significant Precinct (SSP) Study between 2020 and 2022.

Consultation has been conducted with the following groups to understand requirements, challenges and opportunities to support planning for the precinct:

- First Nations stakeholders
- The City of Sydney
- Key government agencies
- The community
- Other key stakeholders.

Feedback from these groups has helped to inform Transport for NSW's emerging vision for the precinct, and the SSP Study on public exhibition.

Key themes raised in feedback by the communities and stakeholders include:

- **Connecting with Country** – Central Precinct should celebrate, protect and be guided by Country and the locally connected Aboriginal people. Connecting with Country themes are embedded in the SSP design approach for public space and built form at Central, including the approach to landscape, water, and the landscape design at Central Green
- **Celebrating non-Aboriginal heritage** – Central Precinct should respect and celebrate the exceptional built and industrial heritage significance of the area. Feedback on opportunities to protect and respect heritage and built form have resulted in significant modifications to the SSP design proposal, including the prominent showcasing of the Sydney Terminal Building and clocktower and providing opportunities for the community to connect with heritage assets such as Mortuary Station and the Bradfield Flying Junctions
- **Alignment with Tech Central** – As a key pillar of Tech Central, Central Precinct incorporates stakeholder feedback on ensuring connectivity and alignment with the broader Tech Central initiative. For example, the SSP Study incorporates strong physical connections, as well as initiatives to promote social connection, that will benefit the local community, workers, students and visitors. Central will also work towards becoming a smart city precinct as technology progresses into the future
- **Public domain and amenity** – Feedback focused on customer/visitor experience and enjoyment of the Central Precinct has been used to support enhanced outcomes including improved pedestrian access and connections throughout the Central Precinct, and high-quality public space. The emerging design proposal for the site offers additional green space and areas where people can enjoy the sun and sky.
- **Design excellence** – Feedback focused on built form and sustainability has been incorporated into the design proposal to support design excellence. This includes initiatives to improve built form outcomes for the over station development to ensure high amenity of public domain and Prince Alfred Sidings, and to realise the vision for Central Precinct as a net-zero carbon precinct
- **Central for everyone** – Central Precinct should be a safe, welcoming and inviting place for everyone, including local communities, residents of wider Sydney, regional visitors, interstate and international travellers, Tech Central workers, students, young people, children and vulnerable groups. Access and inclusion has been a key focus of the Central Precinct SSP Study in planning for places, spaces, services and attractions that will meet the needs of diverse communities
- **Connections and connectivity** – Central Precinct should acknowledge and celebrate its historic and ongoing role as Australia's busiest transport interchange. Central Precinct will allow Transport to plan for the future of transport at Central while improving connectivity and movement throughout the precinct



Indicative artist's impression of the Grand Concourse at Central Precinct

Stakeholder feedback from the workshop program revealed that Central Station serves its function as a transport hub, but the experience of the station could be vastly improved. It is disconnected from public open space, difficult to navigate, dominated by vehicle traffic and, to many, feels unsafe and unloved. While centrally located within Sydney's CBD and acting as a functional gateway to the city, Central Precinct does not currently act as a destination or place for visitors to spend time and enjoy.

The engagement program has revealed the aspects of Central Precinct that people strongly value – including its heritage – as well as the opportunity they believe its transformation provides to create a place that better serves Sydneysiders and visitors from further afield.

There was a view that careful and considered change could realise the potential of Central as a civic space, a transport hub, a community amenity and business precinct, and importantly a connector rather than the barrier it currently is.



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Indicative artist's impression of Central Green at Central Precinct

2. Introduction

This report summarises community and stakeholder consultation undertaken to inform the Central Precinct Renewal Program (Central Precinct) State Significant Precinct (SSP) Study. It provides an overview of the stakeholders and community groups consulted as part of this study, the feedback raised by these groups, and how this feedback has shaped the Central Precinct SSP Study.

The Central Precinct

Central Precinct is Transport for NSW's (Transport) vision for the future of Central Station and its surrounds. Central Precinct will be a new and exciting place that unites a world class transport interchange with innovative and diverse businesses and high-quality public spaces. It will embrace design, sustainability and connectivity, celebrate its unique buildings and cultural heritage, welcome communities and become the centre for jobs for the future and economic growth.

Unlocking 24 hectares of prime Government-owned land, Central Precinct will drive the success of Tech Central; the NSW Government commitment to create the biggest technology hub of its kind in Australia. Central Precinct will become a connected destination for living, creativity, jobs, entertainment and community services. It will prepare for the future of transport and commuting at Central Station with improved connections and accessibility, while transforming the Central Precinct into a welcoming destination for people to visit and enjoy.



Indicative artist's impression of Mortuary Station and Gardens at Central Precinct

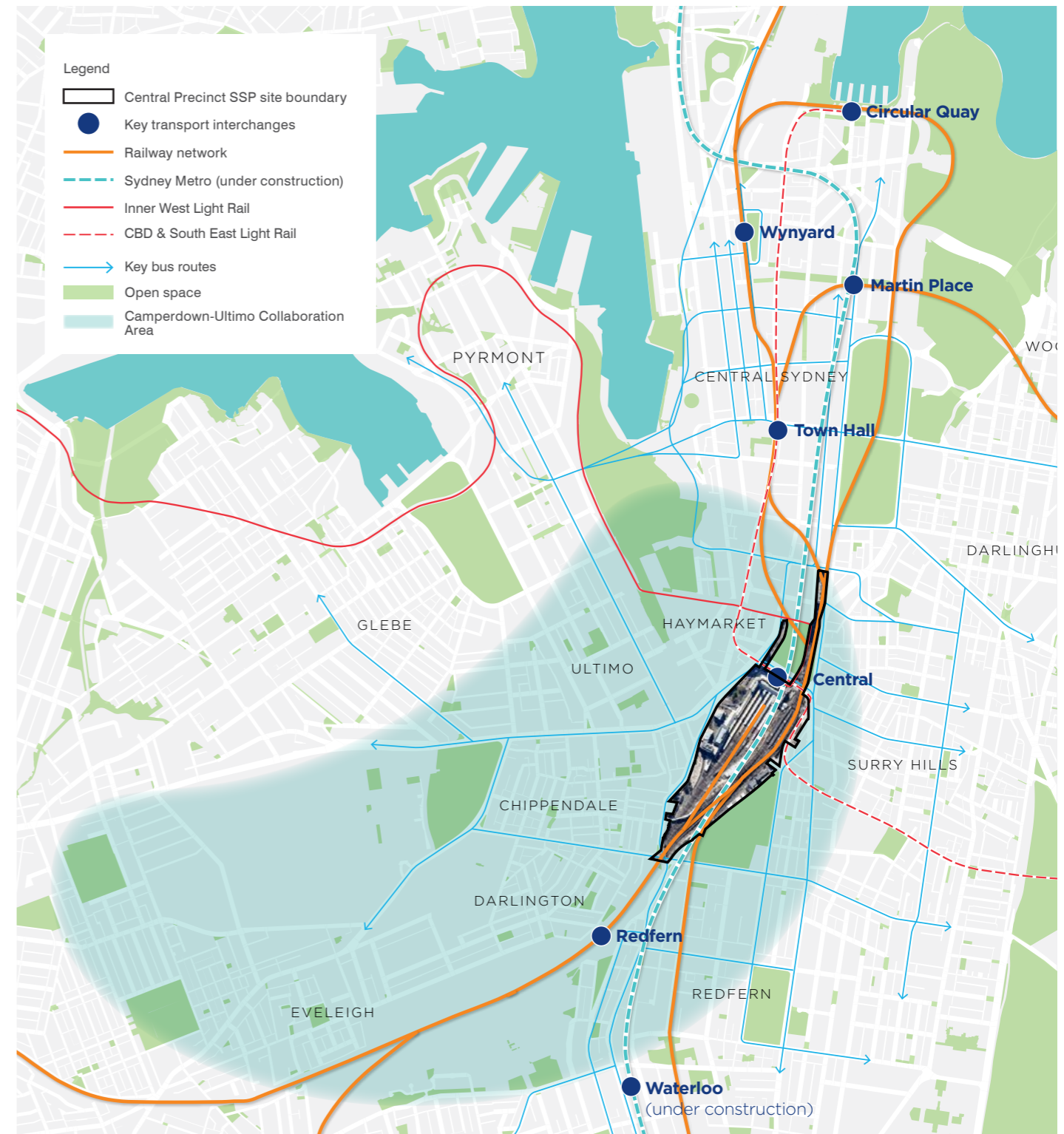



Figure 1: Location plan of Central Precinct

In July 2019, Central Precinct was declared a nominated SSP because of its potential to boost New South Wales (NSW) investment and deliver new jobs. The SSP planning process will identify a new statutory planning framework for Central Precinct.

This involves two key stages:

-  **Stage 1:** Development of a draft Strategic Vision which has since evolved into the **Central Precinct Strategic Framework**
-  **Stage 2:** Preparation of an SSP study with associated technical analysis and community and stakeholder consultation.

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Indicative artist's impression of laneways at Central Precinct

3. Consultation

The Central Precinct SSP Study has been informed by consultation with numerous and diverse stakeholders, communities, and customers.

3.1 Our approach

Transport is committed to genuine and ongoing engagement with stakeholders and communities on the future of Central Precinct. We want Central Precinct to meet the needs of the NSW community well into the future, as both a transport hub and a destination for work and leisure. To make this happen, we've sought feedback from diverse stakeholders, communities and customers to inform the Central Precinct SSP Study.

has been underpinned by the Central Precinct Renewal Program Communications and Engagement Strategy (the Strategy). The Strategy was prepared to guide Transport and its consultants to:

- meet the SSP Study consultation requirements set by the Department of Planning and Environment (see Appendix 6.1), and
- go above and beyond the SSP Study consultation requirements by providing an opportunity for diverse stakeholders to have a voice in the future of Central Precinct.

3.1.1 Starting the conversation: developing the Strategic Vision for Central Precinct

Between 2015 and 2020 Transport carried out early consultation with stakeholders and the community to explore opportunities and challenges for the future of Central Precinct (see Table 1). This feedback provided Transport with a strong foundational understanding of aspirations, opportunities and concerns relating to Central Precinct, and informed the Transport vision for Central Precinct set out in the Central Precinct Strategic Framework.

Going above and beyond the SSP Study requirements

Transport has gone above and beyond the Study requirements to undertake effective and inclusive engagement with diverse stakeholders on the future of Central Precinct (see Table 2).

We have engaged with all stakeholders and community members identified in the Study requirements and more. We have sought their input on additional focus areas, to support a robust approach to planning and decision making.

3.1.2 Growing our understanding: informing the Central Precinct SSP Studies

Building on the consultation carried out between 2015 and 2020, Transport and its consultant team have engaged extensively with stakeholders and communities throughout the SSP Study period. This engagement

3.2 Community and stakeholders

The Central Precinct SSP Study has been prepared in consultation with the City of Sydney, key agencies, the local community and other key stakeholders (see Table 3).

Table 1

Year	Who we engaged with	Focus of the engagement
2015	First Nations	The Central to Eveleigh corridor
2016	Community consultation	Aspirations for a revitalised Central Station and surrounds
2017	Key stakeholders	Creating a vision and values for the renewal of Central Precinct
2018	Customers and community	Aspirations for Central Station and surrounding areas to inform the vision for Central Precinct
2019	Community and stakeholders	Feedback on the draft Strategic Vision for Central Precinct

The outcomes of early engagement are summarised in the Central Precinct Strategic Framework.

Table 2

Focus areas		
Required		
Public Domain, Place and Urban Design	Social Sustainability and Infrastructure	Aeronautical
Planning	Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Waste Management	Infrastructure
Heritage	Transport	Water Quality and Flooding
Amenity	Green Infrastructure, Ecology, Urban Forest and Greening	Economic Productivity and Jobs
Population and Demographics	Utilities Servicing	Consultation
Additional		
Technology and innovation	Leading sustainable practice	Accessibility, safety and connections
Central for everyone	The beating heart of Sydney's CBD	An enhanced public space that celebrates heritage

Table 3

Stakeholder group*	Stakeholders
First Nations stakeholders	Gadigal Elders, other Elders, The NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce, Youth Action, The City of Sydney Indigenous Lead and Engage Team, Create NSW Aboriginal Strategy Unit, First Nations business owners, cultural leaders, an archaeologist and anthropologist, artists and art representatives
City of Sydney	City of Sydney Strategy Unit, Urban Design and Heritage, Safe City Team, Public Art Unit, Indigenous Lead and Engage Team
Key agencies	Create NSW, Department of Education, Department of Planning and Environment, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Government Architect NSW, Greater Cities Commission, Health NSW, Heritage Council of NSW, Heritage NSW, Infrastructure NSW, Investment NSW, NSW Treasury, NSW Police Force, Property NSW, Transport for NSW
The Community	Aboriginal community members, community members from Greater Sydney, outer-Metropolitan and Regional areas, and community representatives including representatives of diverse or vulnerable groups
Other Key Stakeholders	ACON, Accor Hotels, Anglican Parish of Christ Church St Laurence, Art Gallery NSW, Atlassian, Ausgrid, BIKEast, Business Sydney, Camperdown-Ultimo Collaboration Alliance, Carriageworks, Central Places Sydney, Committee for Sydney, Dexu Frasers, Greater Cities Commission Women's Safety Charter, Homelessness NSW, The Haymarket Foundation, Haymarket Chamber of Commerce, Inner Sydney High School, Jemena, Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, NSW Disability Council, Mission Australia, Mission Beat, Multicultural NSW, National Art School, National Trust, Notre Dame University, Oasis Youth Support Network, PCYC South Sydney, Pride in NSW, Property Council, The Salvation Army, St Vincent's De Paul Society, Sydney Local Health District, Sydney Water, TAFE NSW, Tourism and Transport Forum, Toga, University of Sydney, Urban Development Institute of Australia, Urban Taskforce, UTS, Wesley Mission, YHA

*The Central Precinct Renewal Program Communications and Engagement Strategy has organised these stakeholders into five different stakeholder streams to support the planning and delivery of coordinated engagement with these stakeholders. For more information, please see the Strategy.

3.2.1 First Nations Engagement – starting with Country

Consultation and engagement with First Nations communities and stakeholders has been carried out by Cox Inall Ridgeway as part of the Aboriginal Engagement Strategy for renewal of Central Precinct and by Balarinji to support the delivery of the Connecting with Country Framework for Central Precinct.

Aboriginal Engagement Strategy

Cox Inall Ridgeway conducted 11 virtual meetings with knowledge holders including local Elders and community members, the Indigenous Chamber of Commerce, First Nations representatives from local organisations and an Aboriginal anthropologist and archaeologist. This consultation focussed on:

- The cultural and social significance of Central Precinct for Aboriginal people
- Traditional Custodians' and key Aboriginal stakeholders' connection to and interests in the Central Precinct
- How Central Precinct could appeal to a broader audience and how the local and historical area could be celebrated
- How the precinct renewal can best celebrate the culture and history of Central Precinct in ways that are meaningful to past, present and future users
- The types of design and interpretation Aboriginal people wish to see at Central Precinct
- How Aboriginal people would like to use and access Central Precinct, including ensuring spaces are welcoming and inclusive of Aboriginal people
- The processes for supporting ongoing conversations and input between Aboriginal people and the Program team over the life of the renewal, including partnership opportunities
- Appropriate protocols and processes around using Aboriginal cultural knowledge, stories and language as part of the Program
- Scoping activities in relation to the types of employment opportunities that could be developed throughout the Program.

Connecting with Country

Central Precinct is located on Gadigal Country. Both its design and operation will be informed by an understanding and acknowledgement of Aboriginal cultural connections with Country. The Connecting with Country Framework for Central Precinct was developed by Balarinji in liaison with locally connected Aboriginal stakeholders. The framework addresses the Government Architect NSW's (GANSW) Connecting with Country Draft Framework to provide a basis for Country-centred design integrated with mutual community and project benefits.

The Central Precinct Renewal Program Connecting with Country Framework has been designed to inform the work of all design teams involved with the current and future phases of the Central Precinct Renewal, to ensure that design and delivery of projects are based on Connecting with Country principles. The Framework has been used to:

- Learn about Gadigal Country and the Local Custodians who are connected to Country
- Explore Central Precinct's history from the perspective of the local Aboriginal community
- Inspire design teams to connect with Country through culturally informed co-design, and to use this connection to prioritise Country in design outcomes
- Instruct design teams on how Country can influence Precinct design
- Ensure the project supports benefits for Aboriginal peoples across generations
- Support capacity building across Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities that is mutually beneficial.

3.2.2 The City of Sydney

Transport has engaged with the City of Sydney (CoS) throughout the SSP Study period. This engagement has taken place through regular meetings, the program's Governance and Advisory groups, including Project Working Group, Project Review Panel and Design Review Panel (see section 3.2.3 for more information).

Consultation with CoS has focussed on key areas of the SSP Study, including urban design and amenity, safety and security, stormwater and flood modelling, vulnerable communities and public art. Transport has also worked closely with the CoS to ensure the SSP Study aligns with the CoS's current and future public domain and infrastructure plans for the area, including the Sydney 2030 and Sydney 2050 reference documents, and the CoS's vision for a public square, known as Central Square, at Central Precinct.

To find out more about our engagement with the CoS, please see Appendix 6.1.

3.2.3 Key Government agencies

Transport has consulted with a range of NSW Government agencies to seek input and feedback on key SSP Study considerations, and to ensure Central Precinct will align with other planned State Government initiatives, including Tech Central. This consultation has taken place through regular meetings, issue-specific workshops, and the program's governance and advisory groups (see Table 4).



Table 4

Agency*	Engagement focus
Government Architect NSW	Built form and public domain, amenity, heritage and Connecting with Country
NSW Department of Planning and Environment	The collaborative delivery of Tech Central, including Redfern North Eveleigh and Central Precinct
Greater Cities Commission	The collaborative delivery of Tech Central, over station development and safety and security at Central
Department of Premier and Cabinet	The collaborative delivery of Tech Central
NSW Treasury	The delivery of Tech Central, strategy and financial considerations
Heritage NSW	Heritage considerations for Central Precinct and planning framework and process
Heritage Council of NSW	Connecting with Country, heritage and built form
Create NSW	Public art and First Nations tourism, storytelling and governance
Health NSW (including Sydney Local Health District)	Social trends and social health and infrastructure needs
NSW Department of Education	School infrastructure needs and opportunities
Property NSW	Delivery of Tech Central
Infrastructure NSW	Program plans, objectives and progress
NSW Police Force	Safety and security trends and opportunities for service delivery
NSW EPA	Amenity, sustainability and waste management
Transport for NSW	Connections and connectivity, heritage, metropolitan and regional transport connections.

*To find out more about the consultation with NSW Government agencies, please see Appendix 6.1.

Governance and advisory groups

Three governance and advisory groups were established to provide advice to Transport over the course of the SSP Study period. These governance and advisory groups were made up of representatives of relevant NSW Government agencies and the City of Sydney.

The NSW State Design Review Panel

The State Design Review Panel (SDRP) delivers independent, consistent design quality advice on projects that will undergo assessment by the NSW Government. A SDRP was convened in December 2020 to provide independent design review led by GANSW in accordance with the SSP Study Requirements.

The SDRP membership includes the NSW Government Architect (chair), a nominee of the City of Sydney, Transport for NSW nominee / design champion (urban design) and independent advisors regarding landscape architecture, sustainability, and heritage.

In addition to the SDRP members and Transport for NSW project team, design review sessions also included observers from the DPE, City of Sydney, TfNSW, GCC and Heritage NSW.

Transport presented its SSP Study to the SDRP over 10 meetings between December 2020 and March 2022. The SDRP provided advice and feedback regarding the indicative master planning work with a focus on built form, urban design, public domain and landscape, amenity, heritage, sustainability and Connecting with Country. Refer to the SDRP Design Review Report in the Urban Design Framework.

SSP Project Review Panel

The DPE Project Review Panel (PRP) was established by DPE to provide advice, feedback and guidance to Transport in relation to the SSP investigations. Meetings with the PRP were held in October and December 2021 and in April 2022. Membership of the PRP consists of DPE (Chair), City of Sydney, the NSW Government Architect's Office, Greater Cities Commission and Transport for NSW.

SSP Project Working Group

The SSP Project Working group meets on a regular basis to provide guidance on the SSP investigations. The Working Group comprises representatives from DPE, City of Sydney, the NSW Government Architect's Office, Greater Cities Commission and Transport for NSW (as applicant).

3.2.4 The local community

Transport engaged extensively with the local community between 2016 and 2019 to understand aspirations, goals and values for a renewed Central Station and surrounds. This feedback has helped to inform both the Strategic Framework for Central Precinct, and the Central Precinct SSP Study.

Community consultation during the SSP Study period has focussed on expanding this understanding

of community aspirations and concerns through engagement with diverse communities with an interest in the future of Central Precinct, including outer Regional and Outer Metropolitan communities, as well as vulnerable groups.

Consultation on the SSP Study will be carried out with local communities as part of the SSP Study exhibition in mid-2022. See 'Next Steps' for more information.

Regional and Outer Metropolitan communities

Qualitative research was conducted with community members from Greater Sydney, Regional and Outer Metropolitan areas to identify and explore the attributes, spaces and services that would attract them to visit, stay and engage with the future Central Precinct. This research explored current barriers and drivers for visiting Sydney, including current City precincts of choice and what would attract them to the new Central Precinct.

This research involved:

- Online ethnography – participants completed a series of detailed tasks ahead of in-depth interviews
- In-depth interviews – a deep-dive into individual needs and expectations, experiences, and barriers and opportunities for trips to Central Station and the Sydney CBD.

The online ethnography and in-depth interviews were carried out with a total of 24 people who had visited Central Precinct within the last three years. Participants were selected from different age groups, gender/identity, life stages, and included those who identify as culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) peoples, and people with a disability. These participants visited Sydney for work, social, personal and leisure reasons frequently, occasionally or infrequently.

Diverse and vulnerable communities

A key focus of the Central Precinct communications and engagement strategy was to engage with diverse and vulnerable communities on how Central Precinct can become a welcoming, safe and appealing precinct for all people. Planned face-to-face engagement with these groups was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and several lockdown periods over the course of the SSP Study period. Consultation was instead carried out online with representatives of these diverse and vulnerable communities.

Transport engaged with Mission Australia, Mission Beat, the City of Sydney, The Haymarket Foundation, Society of St Vincent's de Paul, Oasis Youth Support Network, PCYC South Sydney, Wesley Mission and the Salvation Army to understand challenges and opportunities for people sleeping rough or experiencing homelessness in the local area. Feedback included suggestions to leverage social service providers resources to help support rough sleepers and ongoing engagement on the social services hub as work on the Central



Precinct progresses progresses. Engagement with key stakeholders representing the homeless community will continue as the project progresses.

ACON and Pride in NSW were consulted on barriers and opportunities for the LGBTQIA+ community. Stakeholders noted that visible LGBTQIA+ symbols around the precinct will be important to fostering a welcoming space as well as inclusive infrastructure, training for staff and services tailored to the LGBTQIA+ community.

Transport carried out engagement with their Pride and Ally Network to understand LGBTQIA+ experiences and perceptions of safety around Central Station and hear suggestions for how the precinct renewal can work towards becoming a safe and welcoming space. Members of the network who identify across the LGBTQIA+ spectrum noted several factors that influence their feelings of safety at Central including lack of vibrant lighting, presence of unpredictable and unsavoury people, lack of activation and people around, long empty corridors, lack of exit points and areas around the station that feel secluded and attract undesirable people. Locations at Central that were called out as unsafe included Eddy Avenue, Devonshire Street Tunnel and Belmore Park. Several respondents have experienced verbal abuse and threats of violence.

The NSW Disability Council were engaged in the Key Stakeholder Workshops on challenges and opportunities for people living with a disability. Stakeholders representing the Disability Council suggested an app to assist with navigation around the

precinct, support for autonomous vehicles to assist with mobility and inclusion programs to facilitate human connection.

The Greater Cities Commission Women's Safety Charter were engaged to discuss how the precinct renewal will help address safety and security for young women and girls at Central, hear feedback on the initiatives being implemented and answer questions on the Program. Charter participants at the meeting included Shebah, UTS, Planning Institute of Australia, Business Sydney, Disability Council NSW, University New South Wales and Western Sydney Women. For more information on the social services and disability groups consulted, see Table 5.

Young people and students

A key focus of engagement as part of the preparation of the SSP Study, was to speak with students and young people about their experiences and perceptions of safety at Central Station and the surrounding areas, with particular focus on young girls and women. Transport met with members of the Greater Cities Commission Youth Panel representing areas across metropolitan and Greater Sydney from diverse gender, geographic, linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Overall, participants felt that Central mostly feels unsafe, and confusing with a lack of connectivity and activation.

For more information on consultation undertaken with vulnerable groups regarding safety and security at Central see the Safety and Security Strategy published on DPE's website as part of the SSP Study.

3.2.5 Other key stakeholders

Transport has engaged with a range of other key stakeholders throughout the SSP Study period, including precinct neighbours, education providers, Western

Gateway proponents, the arts and culture sector, social service and disability groups, special interest groups, heritage groups and planning bodies.

Key stakeholders engaged by Transport include:

Table 5

Stakeholder group	Stakeholder	Focus
Precinct neighbours	Camperdown Ultimo Collaboration Area Alliance, Chippendale Residents Interest Group, Christ Church of Saint Lawrence, Mercure Sydney, YHA Australia	Transport has engaged with precinct neighbours through the Key Stakeholder Workshops and individual meetings to seek input on their aspirations and concerns for the future of Central Precinct.
Western Gateway proponents	Atlassian, Dexus and Frasers, Toga	Consultation with the Camperdown Ultimo Collaboration Alliance has explored how Central Precinct can contribute to the vision for this area to become Australia's innovation and technology capital.
Education providers	Inner Sydney High School, Notre Dame University, TAFE NSW, University of Sydney, UTS, School Infrastructure	Transport has engaged with proponents of the Western Gateway through the Key Stakeholder Workshops and individual meetings to understand opportunities and challenges for future tenants and customers of the Western Gateway, including tech workers.
The Arts and Cultural sector	Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Carriageworks, National Art School, UTS Gallery, Art Gallery NSW, Sydney Living Museums, 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Yavuz Gallery, Destination NSW, Sydney Biennale	Transport has engaged local education providers to understand their views for the future of Central Precinct, and how the Precinct can best serve future students in the area. This consultation has taken place through the Key Stakeholder Workshops, meetings of the Camperdown Ultimo Collaboration Alliance, as well as a series of meetings and interviews.
Social services and disability groups	ACON, The Haymarket Foundation, Mission Australia, NSW Disability Council, Oasis Youth Support Network, PCYC South Sydney, The Salvation Army, Society St Vincent's de Paul, Vision Australia	Meetings and workshops have been carried out with representatives of the Arts and Cultural sector to hear stakeholders' thoughts and ideas about what Central Precinct could add to the arts and cultural community.
Heritage groups	National Trust, Heritage NSW, Sydney Trains heritage, City of Sydney, GANSW, Transport for NSW heritage specialists	Transport has engaged with the National Trust through presentations and meetings to understand their views on Transport's proposed approaches to revitalising and celebrating heritage and culture at Central Precinct. Transport met with various heritage stakeholders through the heritage consultation group and individually, to hear feedback on the heritage risks, opportunities and priorities at Central Precinct. Stakeholders were presented with updates and summaries of the heritage studies as well as updates on the indicative masterplan and project more generally.
Planning bodies and representative groups	BIKEast, Property Council, Tourism and Transport Forum, Urban Taskforce	Transport has consulted with planning bodies and representative groups through meetings and the Key Stakeholder Workshops. This engagement has focussed on planning and transport opportunities for Central Precinct.
Utilities providers	Ausgrid, Jemena, Sydney Water	A series of meetings were held with utilities providers to understand the utilities requirements for Central Precinct.

To find out more about the consultation with these Key Stakeholders, please see Appendix 6.1.

Key Stakeholder Workshop

In 2021 and 2022, Transport hosted three workshops on Central Precinct with key stakeholders including NSW Government agencies, the City of Sydney, precinct neighbours, peak bodies, and community and special interest groups. In these workshops, Transport sought feedback on key elements of the Precinct, including specific locations of interest or heritage value,

opportunities for public space, connectivity and urban design and how Central Precinct can become a place for all people. The stakeholder workshop series informed the evolution of the vision for the site, allowed for the cross-fertilisation of ideas, broadened ownership of the vision amongst key groups and sought thoughts and feedback on potential opportunities for Central Precinct.

Table 6

Workshop	Focus
Workshop 1 – March 2021	Introduction to Central Precinct plus discussion of public domain and open space
Workshop 2 – December 2021	Update on early concepts for Central Precinct with a focus on Connecting with Country, public places and connectivity, urban design and creating a place for all people
Workshop 3 – April 2022	Precinct principles and exploration of what these might look like for different precinct users

A list of stakeholders invited to participate in the Key Stakeholder Workshops can be found in Appendix 6.3.1. Outcomes Reports for each of these Key Stakeholder Workshops can be found in Appendix 6.3.2.





4

4. What we've heard and our response

This section provides an overview of what we heard, and how this feedback has been used to inform our response

Engagement to date has contributed to planning and design of Central Precinct, using a Starting with Country approach and with consideration for the following themes:



4.1.1 Overarching theme: starting with Country



The Connecting with Country Framework provides an overarching approach to Connecting with Country principles and to creating mutually beneficial outcomes for all people connected to Central Precinct.

The Framework identifies a series of 13 themes that have been integrated into the Central Precinct Renewal technical studies by the design team.

First Nations stakeholder engagement resulted in several design aspirations and recommendations for Gadigal and Aboriginal culture to be celebrated across Central Precinct. Many of these aspirations have been embedded into design concepts and design principles. Several key design outcomes include:

- acknowledging Sky Country across the precinct
- designing spaces across the precinct to be activated by the local Aboriginal community for the purposes of cultural education, ceremony, traditional and contemporary arts, and other cultural expressions and practices

- creating a sense of connection between Central, Redfern and the Harbour (all of which have played significant parts in Aboriginal history)
- acknowledging Central as a traditional and contemporary meeting place for Aboriginal people
- acknowledging the history of the Stolen Generation at Platform 1 and creating avenues for healing and reflection
- increasing and restoring biodiversity through native and endemic planting species
- acknowledging the legacy of Sydney Trains in the mobility and employment of Aboriginal people
- exploring ideas for naming the precinct in Gadigal language.

Indigenous design outcomes are further detailed in the Connecting with Country Framework, Public Art Strategy, and Heritage Interpretation Strategy prepared as part of the SSP Study for Central Precinct.

4.1.2 Theme 1: Place and destination

Stakeholders and community members shared feedback on a range of issues and opportunities for Central Precinct as a place and destination. The key themes raised are listed below, with a summary of how the SSP Study has responded to this feedback.

What we've heard	Our response
Central Precinct is currently underutilised, and stakeholders are supportive of opportunities to activate this space. Central is somewhere people move through quickly but don't stop to enjoy. Outer-Metropolitan and Regional communities consulted add that Central Precinct should become a destination that is vibrant and diverse, inclusive, green and sustainable and alive 24/7.	Central Precinct will make the most of its location and status as a critical transport interchange to become a place for people to visit, explore and enjoy. The SSP Study proposes a range of opportunities to make Central Precinct a 'destination' by improving green and open space, providing high quality public domain, growing and diversifying commercial offerings (including 24-hour economy) and introducing cultural and entertainment attractions. For more information, see Urban Design Framework and Public Domain Strategy.
Central Precinct should include a range of comfortable and good quality public spaces. It should provide places for people to get-together, relax and exercise. In addition, the City of Sydney calls for Central Precinct to include a grand, public square.	Central Precinct will create a network of comfortable and high-quality parks and squares. The SSP Study allocates significant open space including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Green on the over-station development Central Square, which will form the new gateway to Central Station and address the City of Sydney's vision for a grand, public square at Central, and green connections throughout the precinct to make connections more enjoyable and usable. For more information, see Urban Design Framework and Public Domain Strategy.
Public space should incorporate green space.	The Public Domain Strategy and the Green Infrastructure Strategy puts forward Transport's plan to grow and improve green spaces at Central. The strategies look to improve biodiversity and resilience to climate stress, create green connections through the precinct with high canopy cover and green cover targets. <p>For more information, see Public Domain Strategy and Green Infrastructure Strategy.</p>

What we've heard	Our response
Buildings at Central Precinct should include a mix of retail, accommodation, affordable housing, business, education and community uses. *This feedback also relates to Theme 4: Economy and innovation.	Central Precinct will be zoned to allow for a range of uses including retail, student housing, affordable housing, commercial, community and education. Central Precinct will include three different 'characters': <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a civic and cultural character to the north with a cultural, tourism and commuter focus an innovation and work character in the centre offering commercial, retail and hospitality uses, and a living and health character to the south, with buildings and public spaces that support the health and everyday life needs of the community. The Central Precinct SSP Study includes a commitment to deliver 15 per cent of any new residential floor space as affordable housing. Following the public exhibition period by DPE of the SSP Study, Transport will target for the Precinct, a further 15 per cent of new residential floor space to be delivered as diverse housing, including Build to Rent, subject to further economic modelling and governance considerations. For more information, visit the Economic Productivity and Job Creation Report and Social Infrastructure and Sustainability Study.
Built form should be a variety of heights and scales, with a mix of low and medium rise buildings in the Precinct.	The indicative masterplan for Central Precinct includes diverse building heights, including a range of low and medium-scale buildings within the precinct. The proposal includes low scale buildings along the north-south avenue and a low scale building adjacent to Prince Alfred Park. All built form as part of the renewal will not exceed City of Sydney's solar access plane, protecting sun access to Prince Alfred Park and Belmore Park.
Improve areas around the Precinct	While Transport does not have jurisdiction over surrounding areas, we expect the Precinct will be the catalyst for public domain improvements outside the site including Belmore Park, Eddy Avenue, Lee Street and Railway Square. The Public Domain Strategy includes a vision for these spaces that can be investigated with the relevant agencies. We have been working closely with Western Gateway proponents and the City of Sydney to ensure the renewal integrates with the surrounding area.



Indicative artist's impression of Central Square at Central Precinct

4.1.3 Theme 2: People and community

Stakeholders and community members shared feedback on how Central Precinct can serve the needs of diverse people and communities. The key themes raised are listed below, with a summary of how the SSP Study has responded to this feedback.

What we've heard	Our response
Central Precinct should be a welcoming and inviting place for everyone, including local, regional and remote communities, people of all ages and abilities, students, people from various socio-economic backgrounds and vulnerable groups.	<p>The Social Infrastructure and Sustainability Study sets the foundations for Central Precinct to be a welcoming place that meets the needs of diverse communities. Central Precinct will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide access to a range of employment, learning and living opportunities • foster social connectedness and cultural life with new open spaces and community facilities, • improve health and well-being with new social and health services, and • make people feel safe, welcome and supported through a range of architectural and social approaches. <p>For more information, see the Social Infrastructure and Sustainability Study.</p>
Central Precinct should be a place that people want to visit and enjoy. Regional and outer metropolitan communities would like Central to become a place where people can 'find their tribe', enjoy the buzz or celebrate a special event or occasion. Central should also offer quieter spaces for people to take a break from the crowds, and affordable hospitality and activities to encourage diverse groups of people to visit the precinct.	<p>The SSP Study sets the foundations for Central Precinct to become a destination for diverse communities. See Theme 1: Place and Destination, and the (SSP Study) for more information.</p> <p>As part of Tech Central, Central Precinct will have a mixture of offerings. Affordable hospitality and food offerings will be investigated through the delivery phase of the precinct renewal.</p>
Safety and security should be a key consideration in planning for Central Precinct. Central should be a safe place for all people to spend time and enjoy.	<p>The Central Precinct Renewal Program Safety and Security Strategy responds to this feedback with recommendations to improve the safety, and feeling of safety, at Central. These recommendations include crime prevention through design, protective security controls and public safety initiatives. For more information, see the Safety and Security Strategy.</p>
Central Precinct should have a strong sense of character and place. It should blend into the vibrant and diverse neighbouring suburbs of Redfern, Chippendale, Haymarket and Surry Hills.	<p>Central Precinct will have a strong sense of place and will celebrate its vibrant and diverse neighbours. The SSP Study provides for opportunities to create and celebrate place and community, including connecting design with Country, celebrating the vibrant and diverse local heritage, providing exciting opportunities for public art and offering diverse community spaces and services.</p> <p>For more information about how the renewal will integrate into surrounding neighbourhoods, see Social Infrastructure and Sustainability Study.</p>
Central should offer a range of affordable community and social services for locals and visiting communities.	<p>The SSP Study proposes an integrated, multipurpose community centre that will cater for the local community, workers and visitors. This could include social, entertainment and health services for these communities. For more information see the Social Infrastructure and Sustainability Study.</p>
Communities should not be displaced.	<p>One of Transport's foundational principles for Central Precinct is creating a place for all communities. This has informed the SSP Study and will continue to guide decisions as planning progresses for the Precinct. We will continue to engage with service providers operating in the area to support local communities during the construction and operation of the Precinct.</p>

4.1.4 Theme 3: Mobility and access

Stakeholders and community members shared feedback on mobility, connections and accessibility at Central Precinct. The key themes raised are listed below, with a summary of how the SSP Study has responded to this feedback.

What we've heard	Our response
<p>We should continue to celebrate Central Precinct's primary purpose as Australia's largest transport interchange while enabling Central to grow to meet future transport demand. This celebration includes retaining Bradfield Flying Junctions and ensuring country platforms remain open to the sky.*</p> <p><small>*This feedback also relates to Theme 5: Culture and Heritage</small></p>	<p>Central Station will continue to operate as Australia's largest transport interchange. The Central Precinct Renewal Program ensures Transport can continue to plan for an increase in commuter numbers and new transport technologies and infrastructure, including CBD and South-East light rail and the Metro.</p> <p>In maintaining Central's critical and historic purpose as a transport hub, the design of Central will maintain a connection with the historic, transport elements of the site. This includes retaining and celebrating Bradfield Flying Junctions, revitalising Prince Alfred Substation, maintaining Platform 1, which will keep a visual connection to the sky, creating new viewing and connection opportunities to heritage infrastructure and introducing opportunities for heritage interpretation.</p> <p>For more information, see Transport Strategy and Transport Impact Assessment, Urban Design Framework, Public Domain Strategy, Non-Aboriginal Heritage Study, Connecting with Country Framework and the Heritage Interpretation Strategy.</p>
<p>Pedestrian and cycling connections in and around the precinct are poor and should be improved, particularly the east-west connections and connections to the south (Redfern).</p>	<p>Central Precinct will significantly improve connectivity around the Precinct, will prioritise walking and cycling, and stitch together surrounding suburbs.</p> <p>East-west connections will be created through the extension of Central Walk (a new east-west concourse connecting all platforms under Central Station), the connection of Devonshire Street to George Street across the over station development and a new bridge connecting Prince Alfred Park to Chippendale.</p> <p>North-south connections will be improved from the CBD to Redfern through the over station development and upgrade of the goods line to Cleveland Street.</p> <p>Central Precinct will be supported by a movement network that balances the need for moving goods and people and creating enhanced places and spaces for pedestrians. For more information see the Practitioners Guide to Movement and Place.</p>
<p>Central Precinct should be accessible for people of all ages and abilities. This includes removing barriers and obstacles to movement.</p>	<p>Central Precinct will be a safe, accessible and welcoming environment for all people. Some of the accessibility measures being considered include autonomous shuttle vehicles assisting with mobility across the Over Station Development.</p> <p>For more information see the Transport Strategy and Transport Impact Assessment Report.</p>
<p>Central Precinct should be easy to navigate for all people, including visitors and people with no or limited proficiency in English.</p>	<p>Central Precinct will have improved wayfinding for people travelling to, from and within Central Precinct. This includes ensuring landmarks – such as the clocktower and Terminal Building, are visible from surrounding areas, and a connected network of streets and laneways.</p>
<p>Many outer metropolitan community members prefer to take the train to the city rather than drive. They want more walking paths and trails to help them explore Central Precinct and the wider city; they also want Central Precinct to offer a range of public transport options to help them connect to the rest of Sydney.</p>	<p>Central will continue to be Sydney's primary interchange for regional and interstate travel. The SSP Study looks at future opportunities to improve the interchange and operational facilities for coaches and accommodate for increased transfer between coaches, buses, light rail and rail as the surrounding land uses intensify.</p>

4.1.5 Theme 4: Economy and innovation

Stakeholders and community members shared feedback on how Central Precinct can become a hub for economy and innovation. The key themes raised are listed below, with a summary of how the SSP Study has responded to this feedback.

What we've heard	Our response
Central Precinct should be the cornerstone of the wider Tech Central corridor.	<p>Central Precinct will become a key pillar of Tech Central, offering floor space and a vibrant setting for tech businesses and start-ups. Transport has heard that Central Precinct can support the wider Tech Central initiative by offering improved physical, virtual and social connections for the workers. To be a successful tech precinct, you need to have a 'living' character for tech workers to seek entertainment, social connection and respite from the busy city. Central Precinct includes significant public spaces and access to recreational and community services.</p> <p>For more information, see Urban Design Framework, Public Domain Strategy and Economic Productivity and Job Creation Report.</p>
Technology and innovation should be something that the whole community can access. Central Precinct should provide opportunities to connect visitors, local communities and nearby universities to opportunities at Tech Central.	<p>Central Precinct will become a place that fosters collaboration between major institutions within the Precinct. This will be supported by a range of formal and informal collaboration spaces.</p> <p>Central Precinct will provide new connections between existing areas to ensure the broader community can participate in Tech Central.</p>
<p>Central Precinct should be a vibrant 24-hour economy with diverse retail, entertainment, community and hospitality uses.</p> <p>Our qualitative research with regional and outer-metropolitan groups identified an opportunity for Central Precinct to play a role in the 24/7 economy, addressing a gap left by Kings Cross as Sydney's 'go to' place for a night out in the city.</p>	<p>Central Precinct will become a 24-hour economy with governance structure that will encourage entertainment, retail, hospitality and community business opportunities. This range of recreational opportunities will also support the success of Tech Central at Central Precinct.</p> <p>Public domain will also support the activation of Central Precinct, with opportunities for the community to sit and relax, enjoy public art, watch a pop-up band or visit markets on the weekend.</p>
Central Precinct could offer important spaces for start-ups, inclusive businesses and First Nations businesses.	<p>Central Precinct will provide opportunities for affordable office and commercial space, such as in the low scale buildings and the lower levels of office towers for start-ups, including First Nations businesses.</p> <p>For more information see Design Guide, Economic Productivity and Job Creation Report.</p>
Qualitative research with regional and outer metropolitan audiences found that 'work' is the primary reason these groups visit Central Precinct, but that these users also like to make the most of the city when they visit. Workshare spaces and temporary working options are sought at Central Precinct, as well as a leisure precinct that offers an exciting place to enjoy recreational activities.	Central Precinct will provide opportunities for a mix of work, lifestyle and enjoyment. Visiting workers will have opportunities to connect with local businesses and business communities, rest or exercise in the new public spaces and enjoy new retail, hospitality, cultural and entertainment opportunities.

4.1.6 Theme 5: Culture and heritage

Stakeholders and community members shared feedback on how Central Precinct can best celebrate and enhance its rich and diverse history and culture. The key themes raised are listed below, with a summary of how the SSP Study has responded to this feedback.

What we've heard	Our response
Central Precinct should respect and celebrate the Aboriginal heritage and continuing connection of First Nations people to Gadigal Country. This includes anchoring the precinct in Gadigal culture, acknowledging the original topography and natural environment at Central, integrating language into the Precinct and including Aboriginal voices at all stages of the Program.	<p>Aboriginal heritage and First Nations stakeholder perspectives have been used to underpin a starting with Country approach for Central Precinct. Connecting with Country themes are embedded within the design approach for the built form and public domain –including the approach to landscape, biodiversity and water. For example, the sandhills that existed at Central prior to construction of the terminal building will be reinterpreted at the proposed Central Green in the form of undulating sand dunes.</p>
Qualitative research with Regional and Outer Metropolitan (ROM) audiences identified an important opportunity for Central Precinct to become a destination that recognises, celebrates and brings to life First Nations history.	<p>Central Precinct will respect and celebrate the exceptional built heritage significance of the area. Feedback on opportunities to protect and respect heritage and built form have resulted in significant modifications to the SSP design proposal, including creating new viewpoints to heritage buildings including of the Sydney Terminal Building and clocktower, Mortuary Station and Bradfield Flying Junctions.</p> <p>Other opportunities to celebrate Central's diverse non-Aboriginal history include opportunities to open-up Mortuary Station for a range of community uses, connecting with the Goods Line, celebrating the industrial history of the Station through a revitalisation of heritage infrastructure and continuing the legacy of Central as a transit hub and revitalising the heritage Terminal Building.</p> <p>For more information see Heritage Interpretation Strategy, Conservation Management Plan and Non-Aboriginal Heritage Study.</p>
Central Precinct should honour and share the vibrant and diverse non-Aboriginal history of the site. The Precinct should celebrate the industrial (transport) character of Central, including its railways and bustling character, and showcase the site's unique heritage buildings.	<p>Heritage buildings, including the clocktower and Terminal Building, should be clearly visible from surrounding streets. Heritage interpretation should be engaging and accessible.</p> <p><small>*This feedback also relates to Theme 2: People and Community.</small></p>
Central Precinct should celebrate the 'living culture' of diverse local communities, including the nearby Redfern community.	<p>The indicative masterplan provides opportunities for living cultural practice –incorporating ceremony and ritual –by First Nations communities as an important part of the project.</p> <p>The Heritage Interpretation Strategy (HIS) developed through the SSP planning process has been informed by Aboriginal community consultation and provides a strategy and opportunities for how 'living culture' can be incorporated into the renewed place. Future development will be required to address the HIS and deliver specific heritage interpretation plans.</p>
There are a range of opportunities to share and celebrate Central's diverse and vibrant history and culture, including exhibition spaces, public programs, self-guided tools, using motifs in built form design and sharing stories in public spaces including waiting areas and walkways.	<p>Improving people movement and connectivity at all scales across the Precinct is a key component of the vision for Central Precinct. Improving connections between Redfern, with the CBD and Harbour is a guiding principle of the SSP indicative master plan. Strengthening the connection between Central Station, Belmore Park, Pitt Street and George Street and the CBD is in keeping with the original intention in 1900 to move the Station north towards the CBD.</p>

4.1.7 Theme 6: Sustainability

Stakeholders and community members shared feedback on how Central Precinct can prepare for the future by becoming a green and sustainable place. The key themes raised are listed below, with a summary of how the SSP Study has responded to this feedback.

What we've heard	Our response
Central Precinct should be a leader in sustainability. The Precinct should be carbon neutral and could consider engaging and educating Precinct users.	Central Precinct will be a leader in sustainability. The Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change, and Waste Management Study sets the foundation and governance structures to support precinct-wide sustainability initiatives including combined utility hubs, renewable energy, waste reduction measures, potable water reduction and encouraging active and public transport. The Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change, and Waste Management Study also proposes performance targets and design considerations to achieve net-zero emissions and circular economy outcomes, as well as educating the community on responsible waste behaviour.
There are opportunities to encourage biodiversity, ecological networks and green infrastructure at Central Precinct.	Transport has an ambition to support biodiversity at Central by creating new habitats for local wildlife and a new urban habitat for the city's ecosystem. For more information see the Ecology, Urban Forest and Greening Strategy and the Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change, and Waste Management Study.
Central Precinct should be a car-free zone.	The Transport Strategy and Transport Impact Assessment Report puts forward a modal hierarchy, which prioritises walking, cycling and active transport at Central Precinct.
Buildings at Central Precinct should allow for adaptive and flexible uses to make the most of these resources. For example, the lobby of a commercial building could become a bar in the evening or a commercial building could be converted into retail or a hotel based on change in demand.	Transport is considering mixed uses for built form at Central Precinct. Building adaptability will be further considered in future planning and design phases. This is not part of the SSP process.



CENTRAL

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Emergency door release →

DEF FACE

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5. Next steps

This report provides an overview of engagement undertaken to support the Central Precinct SSP Study. This is the beginning of Transport's ongoing conversation with stakeholders and communities about the future of Central Precinct.

Further engagement will be undertaken as the project progresses, in line with the Engagement Strategy. The engagement approach will provide stakeholders and the community with high quality, plain English information about the Program with multiple avenues to speak with the project team to find out more information, ask questions and provide meaningful feedback into the planning for Central Precinct.

We thank all those who have contributed so far to the planning and design of Central Precinct and look forward to working with you as part of the next phase of this exciting project.





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Indicative artist's impression of steps leading to Central Green at Central Precinct

6. Appendices

6.1 SSP Study requirements

This report addresses the consultation and engagement SSP Study requirements, including Study Requirement 15 (Consultation).

Study Requirement 15

The relevant study requirements, considerations and consultation requirements, and how these have been responded to is outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Study requirements, considerations, and consultation requirements

Ref	Requirement or consideration	Summary response	Where addressed
Study requirement			
15.1	Prepare a consultation strategy that: Outlines the proposed community consultation strategy to undertake an appropriate and justified level of consultation with the public, the City of Sydney, other relevant State and Federal government agencies, non-government groups and community stakeholders	Transport prepared a comprehensive Communications and Engagement Strategy to guide engagement with stakeholders and the community during the preparation, lodgement and exhibition of the Program's State Significant Precinct (SSP) Study.	The Central Precinct Renewal Program Communications and Engagement Strategy is located here.
15.2	Provide a consultation outcomes report that: Includes evidence of consultation (including letters, minutes of meetings, charette/drop in event summaries and formal advice) and provide a summary of and outline the general outcomes of early consultation and demonstrate how the outcomes have been incorporated in the proposal.	This Consultation Outcomes Report provides a summary of community and stakeholder engagement carried out to inform the Central Precinct Renewal Program SSP Study. Consultation has occurred with internal Transport stakeholders regarding constructability and staging for delivery of the over station development. Staging concept plans have also been presented to the DRP and PWG and include the delivery of public domain and social infrastructure. For more information see Section 4 of the Urban Design Framework.	See sections 3 and 4 of this document
Consultation			
	The Study is to demonstrate that it has been undertaken in consultation with the City of Sydney, key agencies, the local community and key stakeholders.		See section 3 of this document

All other SSP consultation requirements

All other Central Precinct Renewal Program SSP Consultation Study Requirements (Study Requirements

1 to 14) are listed in Table 2 below. This table refers to the documents in which these study requirements have been addressed.

Table 2: Study Requirements (Consultation) 1 to 14

Requirement or consideration	Where addressed
1. Public Domain, Place and Urban Design	
<p>The studies are to demonstrate consultation with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City of Sydney; with particular regard to the City's current and future public domain and infrastructure upgrade works in the precinct (and surrounds); provision of any public spaces which will be under the City's management; Sydney 2030 and the forthcoming Sydney 2050 reference document; DPIE's demographics team and PDPS Group; the Greater Sydney Commission; Government Architect NSW; with particular regard to design matters, any published guidance materials and including the forthcoming Connecting with Country (Government Architect NSW). Advice should also be sought from the Central Precinct Design Review Panel at key points in the process. Particularly, in relation to studies informing urban design and public domain; NSW Treasury's Trade, Tourism Investment and Precincts (TTIP) Division; members of the Camperdown Ultimo Collaboration area alliance to ensure alignment with other master planning work in the wider area; and the Heritage Council of NSW (or its delegate). 	<p>See Section 4, pages 224-231 of the Public Domain Strategy.</p> <p>See the Country with Country Framework for consultation undertaken with GANSW and Section 8, pages 26-28 for consultation undertaken with key Aboriginal stakeholders.</p>
<p>Given the importance of safety and security in the renewal of Central Precinct, it is recommended that specific consultation be undertaken with vulnerable groups. In particular, the renewal of Central Precinct is an opportunity to address safety and security issues associated with girls and young women using the area. Specific consultation should be undertaken with girls and young women including a typical range of potential users. Consultation should ensure that girls and young women from different economic backgrounds, races, abilities and identities are considered. Acknowledging that girls and young women commonly experience harassment in public spaces from the age of 11 to 33, consultation working groups should include girls and young women (18-33 years old) from, but not limited to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> high schools and Universities in the vicinity of the location; workplaces in the vicinity of the location; girls travelling from regions who are less frequent or familiar users of the space; and consultation should also occur with safety place design experts and the Greater Sydney Commission's Sydney Women's Safety Charter Working Group. 	<p>See Section 2, pages 25-37 and Appendix B, pages 84-86 of the Safety and Security Strategy.</p>
2. Planning	
<p>The Study is to be informed by consultation with the DPIE's demographics team, the City of Sydney, the Greater Sydney Commission, the NSW Government Architect the Heritage Council of NSW (or delegate) and NSW Treasury's TTIP division.</p>	<p>See Section 9.19, pages 166-168 of the State Significant Precinct Study</p>

Requirement or consideration	Where addressed
3. Amenity	
The Studies are to be informed by consultation with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City of Sydney; particularly in relation to establishing and agreeing on a methodology for wind, view and solar access analysis; DPIE (in particular the Public Spaces team, Government Architect, Green and Resilient Public Places team where relevant); and NSW Environment Protection Authority (where relevant). Advice should be sought from the Central Precinct Design Review Panel throughout the process, particularly in relation to the outcomes of amenity studies as they relate to and inform the urban design of the precinct 	<p>See Section 8, page 67 and Appendix B in the Noise and Vibration.</p> <p>See Section 5, page 37 of the Pollution Assessment.</p> <p>See Section 9 of the Visual Impact Assessment.</p> <p>See Wind Study.</p>
4. Population and Demographics	
The Study is to be informed by consultation with the DPIE's demographics team, the City of Sydney, the Greater Sydney Commission and NSW Treasury.	See Section 8.3, pages 40-41 of the Population and Demographics Report
5. Heritage	
The studies are to be undertaken in consultation with Local Aboriginal Lands Councils, the Heritage NSW, the Heritage Council of NSW, the City of Sydney Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel and GANSW.	<p>See Section 6, pages 22-30 and Appendix A of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study.</p> <p>See Section 11, pages 178-179 and Appendix B pages 189-192 of the Non-Aboriginal Heritage Study.</p> <p>See Section 2.6, pages 17-19 of the Conservation Management Plan.</p> <p>See Section 12, page 99 and Appendix C of the Heritage Interpretation Strategy.</p> <p>See Archaeological Site Plan</p>
6. Social Sustainability and Infrastructure	
The Study is to be informed by consultation with the DPIE's demographics team, the City of Sydney's demographics (and other social infrastructure related teams) and the Greater Sydney Commission, Sydney Local Health District and NSW Health and NSW Treasury's TTIP Division.	See Section 20, pages 185-196 of the Social Infrastructure and Sustainability Study.
7. Transport	
Consultation with the City of Sydney and NSW Treasury should be undertaken. In particular, the City of Sydney should be consulted with, and agreement sought from City of Sydney and DPIE, on the methodology for the study. Specific consultation should be undertaken with the City of Sydney in relation to its forthcoming Sydney 2050 reference document and on key matters such as mode share targets and study methodology.	See Section 8, pages 147-148 of the Transport Strategy and Transport Impact Assessment.

Requirement or consideration	Where addressed
8. Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change and Waste Management	
The Study is to be informed by consultation with the City of Sydney and the NSW Environment Protection Authority.	See Section 13, pages 60-61 of the Environmental, Sustainability, Climate Change and Waste Management Study.
9. Green Infrastructure, Ecology, Urban Forest and Greening	
The Study is to demonstrate that it has been undertaken in consultation with the City of Sydney, key agencies, the local community and any other key stakeholders.	See Section 10, pages 89-92 of the Green Infrastructure Strategy.
10. Utilities Servicing	
The Study is to demonstrate that it has been undertaken in consultation with Ausgrid and Sydney Water, digital infrastructure and telecommunications providers and any other relevant providers.	See Section 11, pages 67-68 and Appendix B of the Utilities and Infrastructure Servicing Report.
11. Infrastructure	
The local infrastructure schedule should be developed in consultation with the City of Sydney and NSW Treasury.	See State Significant Precinct Study.
The state and regional infrastructure schedule should be developed in consultation with key agencies including transport, education and health and Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.	See State Significant Precinct Study.
12. Economic productivity and job creation	
The study is to demonstrate that consultation has been undertaken with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DPIE's demographics team, the City of Sydney's demographics and the Greater Sydney Commission; Create NSW; major public and private cultural infrastructure – Carriage works, Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, and small to medium arts sector, such as neighbourhood studios, galleries, production and presentation spaces; Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander organisations and groups; and creative arts, music and design schools of universities and TAFE NSW. 	See Section 7.5, pages 67-70 of the Economic Productivity and Job Creation Report
13. Water Quality, Flooding and Stormwater	
The Study is to demonstrate that it has been undertaken in consultation with the City of Sydney's relevant specialists.	Section Section 4 pages 46-47 and Appendix E of the Water Quality, Flooding and Stormwater Report.
14. Aeronautical	
The study is to demonstrate that it has been informed by consultation with the Sydney Airport to ensure the precinct will not have an adverse impact on the operations of Sydney Airport and demonstrate that consultation informs the preparation of the proposed planning framework including any recommended planning controls or DCP/ Design Guideline.	See Section 11, pages 64-67 and Appendix 13.4 of the Aeronautical Study.

6.2 Abbreviations and definitions

Abbreviation	Definition
CoS	City of Sydney Council
DA	Development application
DCP	Development control plan
DPE	NSW Department of Planning and Environment
EP&A Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
EP&A Regulation	Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000
GANSW	Government Architect NSW
GCC	Greater Cities Commission
LGA	The City of Sydney local government area
PRP	Project Review Panel
SDRP	State Design Review Panel
SSDA	State significant development application
SSP	State Significant Precinct

Term	Definition
Accessibility	The ability for everyone, regardless of age, disability or special needs or where they live, to use and benefit from the transport system
Active transport	Transport that is human powered, such as walking or cycling
Amenity	The extent to which a place, experience or service is pleasant, attractive or comfortable. Improved features, facilities or services may contribute to increase amenity
Bradfield Flying Junctions	Series of flyover tracks between the Cleveland Street bridge at Redfern and Central Stations that allow trains to move from any one line to another without crossing a line in the opposing direction
Bus interchange	Where customers have access to a number of different bus routes at a central location
Bus stand	A place to board or alight from bus services
Camperdown-Ultimo Collaboration Area Alliance	The Health and Education Precinct which includes the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, TAFE NSW, University of Notre Dame, University of Sydney and University of Technology Sydney, and medical and research institutions and other health services facilities and educational establishments
Catchment	Area from which a location or service attracts people
CBD and South East Light Rail	means to the light rail network extending from Randwick and Kingsford to Circular Quay
Central Precinct	Central Precinct State Significant Precinct
Central Sydney	Land identified as Central Sydney under the Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 and represents the Metropolitan Centre of Sydney. Central Sydney includes Sydney's Central Business District

Term	Definition
Central Walk	The underground paid pedestrian connection, currently under construction, that is to be delivered by Sydney Metro City and South West. Once complete, it will be a link between the new station entrance on Chalmers Street, the Eastern Suburbs Railway concourse, suburban platforms 16-23 (via escalators and lifts) and the new Sydney Metro north-south concourse
Character	The combination of the attributes, characteristics and qualities of a place (GANSW, 2021, Draft Urban Design Guide)
City Plan 2036	City of Sydney local strategic planning statement
Community	Particular types of stakeholder and refers to groups of people in particular places who are both affected by our work and experience the outcomes and benefits of our activities
Control	A numerical standard that is applied in a prescriptive manner
Corridor	A broad, linear geographical area between places
Council	The City of Sydney Council
Customer interface	The point at which transport services interact with their customer
Customers	Those who use transport networks and services. They include car drivers, heavy vehicle operators, public transport and point to point passengers, pedestrians, cyclists and freight and goods providers
Department	The NSW Department of Planning and Environment
Determination	The approval made in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment (EP&A) Act 1979. In relation to Central Precinct SSP, a determination will be made by the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
Devonshire Street Tunnel	The official name of the pedestrian tunnel connecting Chalmers and Lee streets
District Plan	means the Eastern City District Plan
Future Transport Strategy	Transport for NSW's approach to planning transport and engaging customers, to address future technological, economic and social changes. Future Transport Strategy comprises two focus areas – planning ('Future Transport Planning') and technology ('Future Transport Technology' and 'Technology Roadmap')
Gateway	Cities that provide state level services and facilities to support a broad population catchment while also having international connections through their city's airport and/or port
Goods Line	The official name for the partly elevated walkway from Central Station to Darling Harbour following the route of a disused railway line
Grand Concourse	Part of Central Station
Greater Sydney's Green Grid	The link between parks, open spaces, bushland and walking and cycling paths
Interchange	A facility to transfer from one mode of transport or one transport service to another. For example, a station with an adjoining light rail stop
Local streets	Places that are part of the fabric of suburban neighbourhoods where we live our lives and facilitate local community access
Merit based assessment	An assessment of a matter that allows for reasonable flexibility to consider a range of possible solutions

Term	Definition
Minister	The Minister for Planning
Mixed-use	A building or area containing more than one type of land use
Mobility	The ability to move or be moved easily and without constraints
Mortuary Station	The building formerly used as a railway station on the Rookwood Cemetery railway line, now disused
Objective	A statement of a desired future outcome, generally expressed in a qualitative manner that enables merit based assessment
Over rail corridor development or Over Station Development	Development of air space over railway corridors
Place	An intersection of transport infrastructure with social infrastructure and commercial activity. These are the areas within and around transit stops where people live and commute. Places can be created as an outcome of Placemaking
Placemaking	Scoping and delivering places for the community, beyond the immediate transport infrastructure. Successful placemaking either preserves or enhances the character of our public spaces, making them more accessible, attractive, comfortable and safe
Planning instrument	Means any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> strategic plan (comprising regional strategic plans and district strategic plans) and local strategic planning statements environmental planning instrument (comprising State environmental planning policies and local environmental plans) development control plan
Planning Secretary	The Secretary of the NSW Department of Planning
Precinct	Geographical area with boundaries determined by land use and other unique characteristics. For example, an area where there is an agglomeration of warehouses may be termed a freight precinct
Proponent	Transport for NSW
Proposal	Proposed amendments to the planning framework
Provisions	means a broad term covering objectives and controls
Public spaces	means areas that are publicly accessible where people can interact with each other and make social connections
Rail network	means the rail infrastructure in NSW
Railway corridor	The land within Central Precinct on which a railway is built; comprising all property between property fences, or if no fences, everywhere within 15m from the outermost rails. Under planning legislation rail corridor is defined as land: a) that is owned, leased, managed or controlled by a public authority for the purpose of a railway or rail infrastructure facilities; or b) that is zoned under an environmental planning instrument predominately or solely for development of the purpose of a railway or rail infrastructure facilities
Railway Square	The area between Lee Street and Broadway, comprising a plaza, bus stands and underground access/uses
Indicative Master Plan	A non-statutory document that shows one way in which the Precinct may develop in the future in accordance with the proposed amendments to the planning framework

Term	Definition
Note: Refer to the GANSW Advisory Note v2, dated 12/09/2018 for further guidance	Amendments to environmental planning instruments, in particular for land use zones and principal development standards such as height of buildings and floor space ratio
Region Plan	The Greater Sydney Region Plan - A Metropolis of Three Cities
Rezoning	Amendments to environmental planning instruments, in particular for land use zones and principal development standards such as height of buildings and floor space ratio
Siding	A short stretch of rail track used to store rolling stock or enable trains on the same line to pass
Social procurement	Purchasing decisions based on good social outcomes
State	The state of New South Wales
State-led rezonings	A focus on precincts where there is a strategic imperative for the Department of Planning and Environment to lead the process, including places that benefit from current or future city-shaping infrastructure or investment, and where we can create great public spaces in collaboration with councils and communities. These rezonings generally occur under a State Environmental Planning Policy
State Significant Precinct	The areas with state or regional planning significance because of their social, economic or environmental characteristics
Strategic Framework	The document prepared by Transport for NSW for Central Precinct in 2021 that addresses key matters including vision, priorities, public space, strategic connections, design excellence, identifies sub-precincts for future detailed planning and also outlines the next steps in the State Significant Precinct process for Central Precinct
Strategic plan	The regional strategic plan, district strategic plan or a local strategic planning statement
Sub-precinct	The definable areas within Central Precinct SSP due to its unique local character, opportunities and constraints, either current or future. The Western Gateway is a sub-precinct
Sydney Metro	A fully-automated, high frequency rail network connecting Sydney
Tech Central	The State government initiative as set out in The Sydney Innovation and Technology Precinct Panel Report 2018. Previously known as the Sydney Innovation and Technology Precinct. Tech Central is located south of the Sydney central business district, surrounded by the suburbs of Redfern, Ultimo, Haymarket, Camperdown, Chippendale, Darlington, Surry Hills and Eveleigh
Transport for NSW	The statutory authority of the New South Wales Government responsible for managing transport services in New South Wales
Transport interchange	A facility designed for transitioning between different modes, such as a major bus stop or train station
Transport modes	The five public transport modes are metro, trains, buses, ferries and light rail. The two active transport modes are walking and cycling
Urban renewal	A planned approach to the improvement and rehabilitation of city areas with new infrastructure, new commercial/mixed uses, improved services and renovation or reconstruction of housing and public works
Vibrant streets / places	Places that have a high demand for movement as well as place with a need to balance different demands within available road space

6.3 Evidence of consultation

6.3.1 Stakeholders invited to participate in key stakeholder workshops

Table 3: Workshop invite list

Organisation
Aboriginal Affairs NSW
Anglican Parish of Christ Church St Laurence
Atlassian
BIKEast
Camperdown-Ultimo Collaboration Area Alliance (CUCAA)
Cathedral of The Annunciation of Our Lady
Chippendale Residents Interest Group
City of Sydney
Committee for Sydney
Create NSW
Dexus
Dexus and Frasers Properties
Disability Council NSW
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
Greater Cities Commission
Greater Cities Commission Women's Safety Charter
Haymarket Chamber of Commerce
Haymarket Foundation
Health Infrastructure
Heritage NSW
Homelessness NSW
Indigenous Chamber of Commerce
Inner Sydney High School
Investment NSW

Organisation
Mercure Sydney
Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council
Mission Australia NSW
Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW
National Trust
NSW Child, Family and Community Peak Aboriginal Corporation
NSW Property Council
NSW Treasury
REDWatch
Sydney Business Chamber
Sydney Local Health District
Sydney TAFE
TAFE NSW
TOGA
Tourism & Transport Forum
Transport Police Command
University of Notre Dame University
University of Sydney
Urban Development Institute of Australia
Urban Taskforce Australia
UTS
White Rabbit
YHA

Central Precinct Renewal Program

Key Stakeholder Workshop 1

April 2021

transport.nsw.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Central Precinct, the Gadigal and recognise the important of the place to Aboriginal people and their continuing connection to Country and culture. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

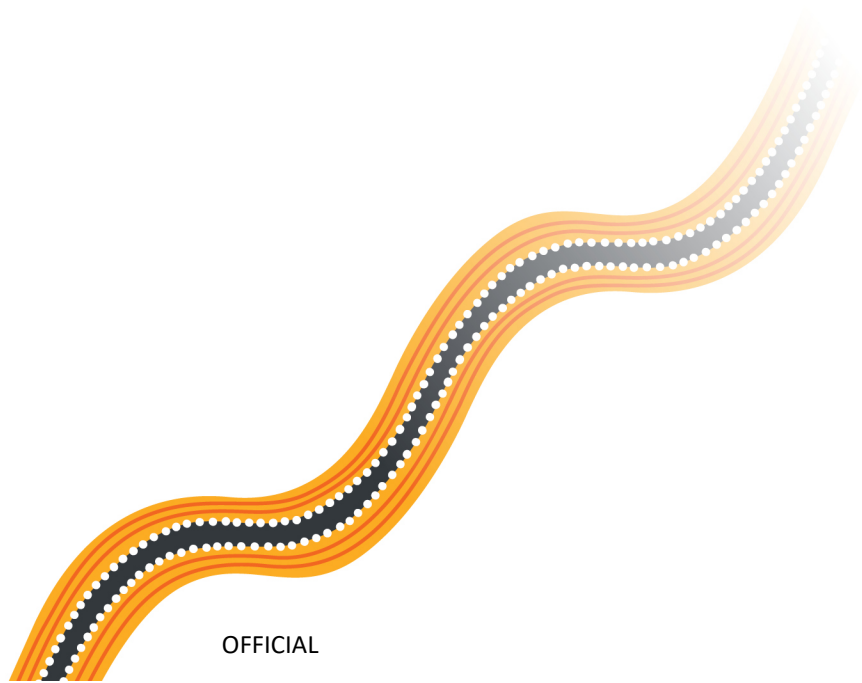


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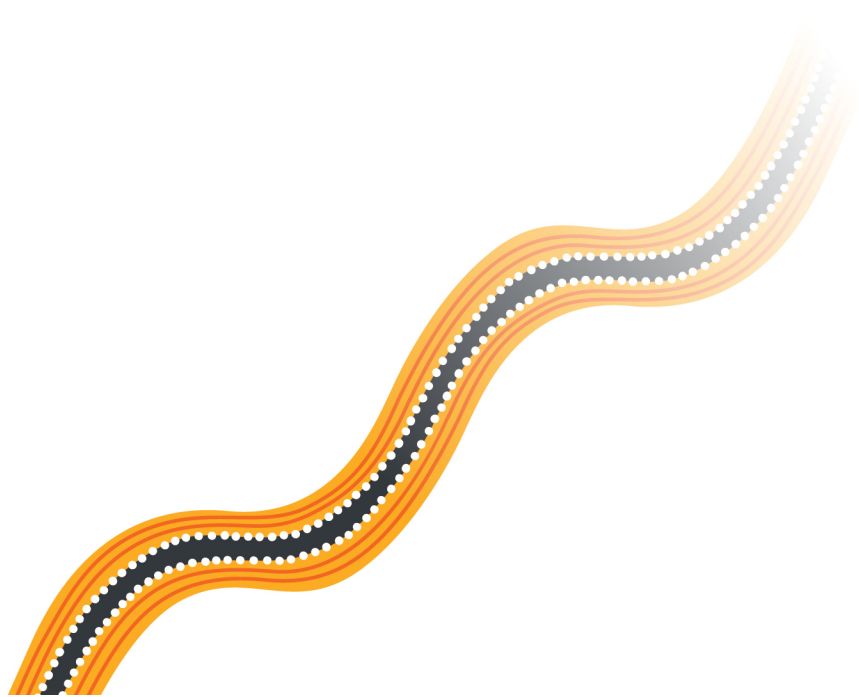
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1. Engagement Overview

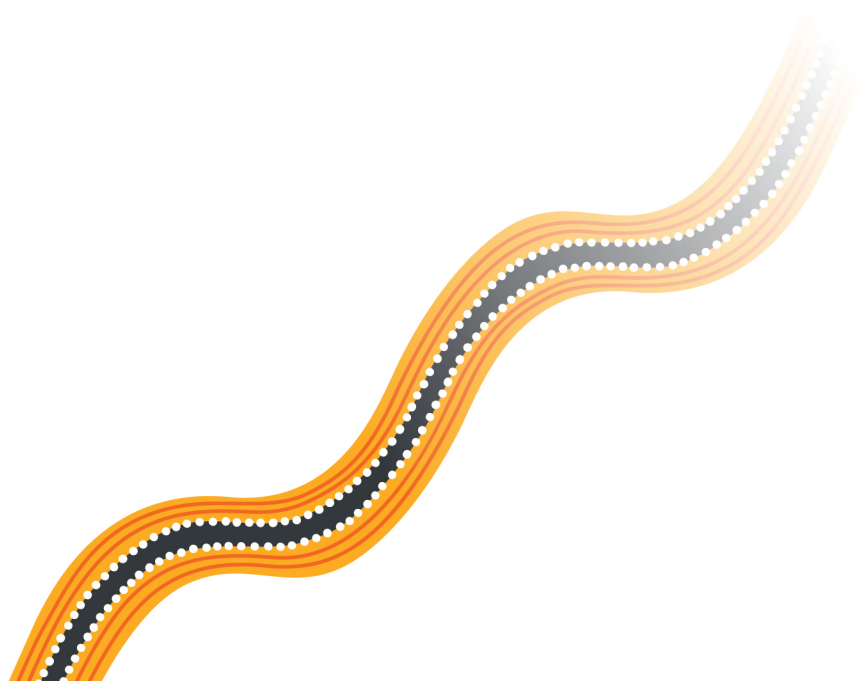
Elton Consulting was engaged by Transport for NSW (TfNSW) to deliver three, key stakeholder workshops for the Central Precinct Renewal Program (the Program). These workshops were designed to encourage and capture stakeholder **hopes, expectations** and **concerns**, foster **ownership of the vision** for Central Precinct, and satisfy the Department of Planning and Environment's (DPE) **State Significant Precinct (SSP) Study requirements**.

The first of these workshops was an 'orientation' workshop held via Zoom on Monday 29 March 2021. The purpose of this workshop was to:

- a) Provide stakeholders with background information about the project to build a shared understanding of project objectives, phases and opportunities
- b) Understand stakeholders' preliminary hopes and expectations for the project
- c) Explore opportunities for some of the project sub-precincts.

The workshop ran for two hours, and was divided into two parts:

1. An introduction to the project, which included a presentation by Nicholas Wolff (Program Director for the Central Renewal Project, TfNSW), an introduction to Tech Central by Troy Daley (Executive Director – Precincts at the Greater Sydney Commission) and a panel discussion about innovation, opportunity and place in the planning of Central Precinct.
2. Stakeholder exercises. This included a survey using the digital feedback tool, Mentimeter, to consult on project objectives, one break-out group exercise to encourage discussion about open space at Central Precinct, and a second break-out group exercise to explore opportunities for Central Precinct sub-precincts



2. Participants

In early March, TfNSW sent invitations to 55 stakeholders. 34 of these stakeholders registered for the workshop. A list of attendees can be found in Appendix A.

Invited stakeholders	55
Registered stakeholders	37

Participants represented a range of stakeholder groups including:

Local Government (City of Sydney)

Community and special interest groups (including heritage, disability, housing and homelessness and first nations groups)

Western Gateway Proponents

Neighbours, including universities

State Government agencies

Planning organisations and peak bodies.

2.1 Registration questions

As part of the registration process for these workshops, stakeholders were asked the following questions about Central Station:

1. What does Central Station mean to you now?
2. What could a renewed Central Station mean for Sydney?

We received 37 responses to these questions.

In response to the first question, most participants described Central Station as an important transport hub. Some people mentioned its heritage significance, and others said that they believe the site has great potential.

In response to the second question, participants provided a range of thoughts on what Central Station could offer in the future, including an improved transport hub, a recreational destination, a public space for the community, and an ongoing celebration of heritage.

Figure 1 lists the words and phrases that were most commonly used by participants in response to question two. These themes were shared with workshop participants in a PowerPoint slide during the workshop.

Figure 1

Destination	University	Public space
Social	Community	Innovation
Opportunity	Transport	Hub
Connect	Mixed use	Heritage/History
'Live, work, play'		

3. What we heard

3.1 Activity 1: Central Precinct Objectives

Transport for NSW has developed six objectives for the Central Precinct Renewal Project. These objectives are listed in Figure 2.

Workshop participants were asked to provide feedback on these objectives by responding to the following questions using the Mentimeter survey tool:

3. How important are these objectives? (participants were asked to rank each objective from 1-5)
4. Are any objectives missing?

Figure 2



How important are these objectives?

28 people responded to this question, and the responses are shown in the bar graph Figure 2.

The highest-ranking objective was 'revitalising the precinct with new and enhanced public open spaces and celebrating the heritage of this iconic location' (4.8/5), followed by 'delivering a socially and environmentally sustainable precinct' (4.6/5). The lowest ranking objective was 'creating great new places by leveraging recent Government investment in existing and future infrastructure within the precinct, in line with global trends' (3.6/5)

Are any objectives missing?

23 people responded to this question. All responses can be found in at Appendix B.

The key themes that participants identified in response to these questions were:

- Social and affordable housing
- Intuitive wayfinding, accessibility and effective connections
- Effective consultation in the planning process
- Built form (heritage, sustainability, height and density, and world class architecture)

One participant also pointed out that 'people' are missing from the objectives.

3.2 Activity 2: Customer and community experience

In this activity, workshop participants were split into three break-out groups to discuss the kinds of spaces and places that they think will work well at Central Precinct, and the activities that these spaces could support.

The key themes that participants raised during this exercise were:

- Central should be a **safe and secure** thoroughfare that is also a **welcoming destination** for leisure and entertainment
- Access and circulation needs to be improved. This could include **layering of spaces** and **improving connections** between surrounding areas and to university. This also includes **improving wayfinding** and **better accessibility and spaces** for people with disabilities
- Additional **greenery and trees** would add to the precinct, or **existing parks** could be improved. More seating in the parks could be considered.
- Central Station “can’t be everything to everyone”, and must first function as a **train station**
- **Public ownership** and **public use of space** is important
- **People sleeping rough** need to be considered
- **Work with Universities** and students to curate the space, and improve the sense of ‘community’ in the area.
- **Safety and harassment** is an important issue that needs to be addressed in design.

3.3 Activity 3: Sub-precinct opportunities

In this activity, participants were split into three break-out groups to provide feedback on one of three Central Precinct sub-precincts:

- Central Station sub-precinct
- Prince Alfred Sidings sub-precinct
- Regent Street Sidings sub-precinct

Participants were asked what opportunities they see for these sub-precincts, what issues may need to be considered, and if there are any similar sites around the world that TfNSW could look to in planning for these sub-precincts.

Central Station sub-precinct

The following themes were raised by participants in this working group:

- There are opportunities to activate the park, including food venues, events or toilets. One participant gave the example of Bryant Park in New York.
- Connections could be improved to the broader precinct and surrounding suburbs
- Currently pedestrian connections to the station are interrupted by the light rail that disconnects Eddie Avenue from the station.
- One stakeholder also mentioned they choose to walk around Belmore Park instead of through it for safety reasons.

Regent Street sub-precinct

The following themes were raised by participants in this working group:

- Regent Street is an important gateway. There is an opportunity to connect Central Park to Central Station, and for Broadway to better connect to Regent Street
- “How do we make Central informed by surrounding precincts and how do we increase amenity”
- Pedestrian connections are important
- There is an opportunity to connect Prince Alfred Park to Chippendale around the Greek Orthodox Church
- It is important to have solar access around Mortuary station.

One stakeholder also raised concerns that consultation with Chippendale residents had not yet taken place.

Prince Alfred Sidings sub-precinct

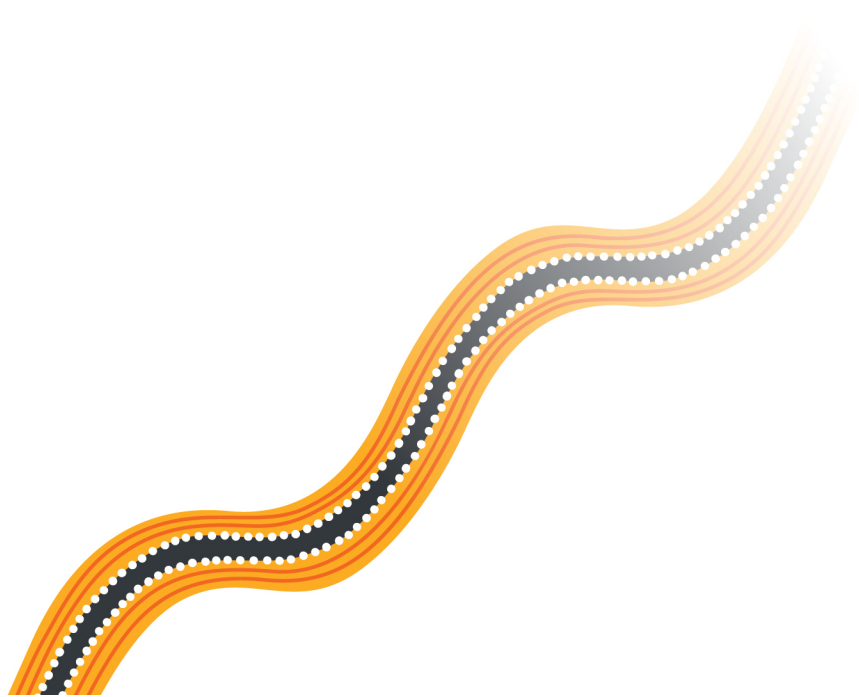
The following themes were raised by participants in this working group:

- The park is active and has an established identity and community of users
- Buildings can overwhelm parks when their frontages are large
- Any change to the character of the park should be made in consultation with park users
- TfNSW should avoid any roads if possible. To help the building complement the park, we should make the essential access to buildings as low-key as possible.

Other feedback

Several participants also provided feedback or asked questions using the Zoom chat function.

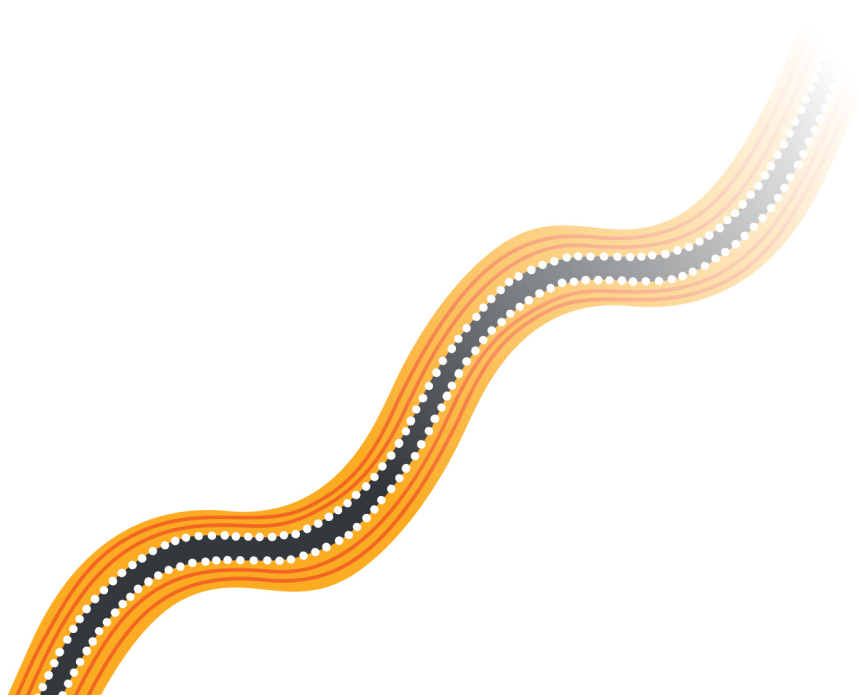
Three questions were asked by participants about the Western Gateway precinct. These questions were about the planning process, how the Western Gateway buildings will fit in the vision for Central Precinct and any impact they might have on public space and solar access.



4. Appendices

4.1 Appendix A – List of participating stakeholders

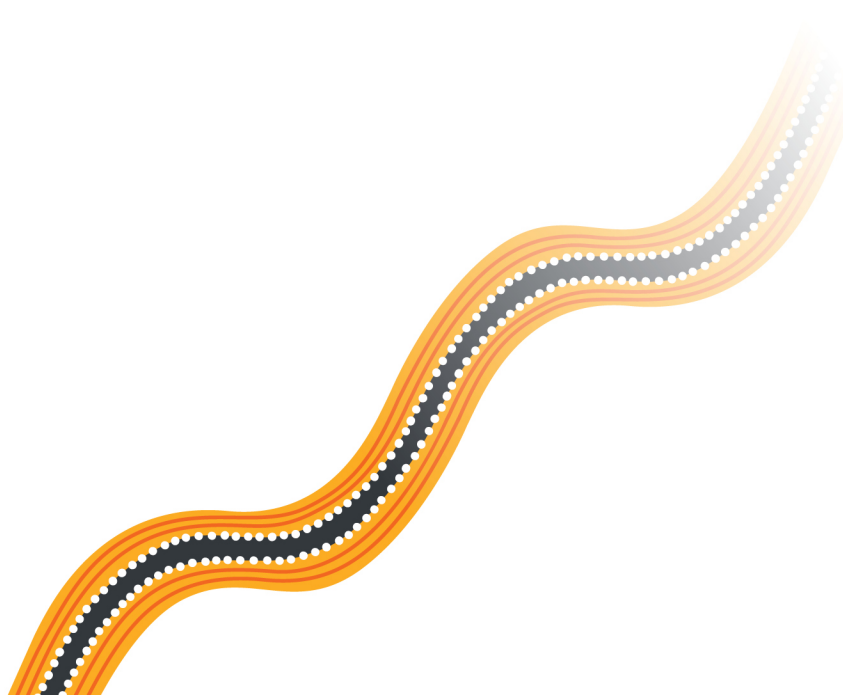
	Organisation
1	Heritage NSW (HNSW)
2	TAFE NSW
3	TfNSW
4	Committee for Sydney
5	Department of Planning, and Environment (DPE)
6	Aboriginal Affairs, Department of Premier and Cabinet
7	Haymarket Chamber of Commerce
8	Homelessness NSW
9	Central Place Sydney
10	National Trust (NSW)
11	City of Sydney
12	Create Infrastructure
13	Greater Sydney Commission
14	Greater Sydney Commission
15	NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce Inc
16	University of Sydney
17	NSW Disability Council and Transport for NSW
18	Camperdown Ultimo Alliance
19	The City of Sydney
20	University of Technology Sydney
21	Business Sydney
22	Anglican Parish of Christ Church St Laurence
23	Chippendale Residents Interest Group
24	City of Sydney
25	TAFE NSW
26	City of Sydney
27	Sydney Local Health District
28	Notre Dame University
29	Department of Environment
30	University of Sydney
31	Urban Taskforce Australia
32	Atlassian
33	Toga



4.2 Appendix B – Registration responses

Organisation	What does Central Station mean for you?	What could a renewed Central Precinct mean for Sydney?
HNSW	Iconic space for Sydney	impacts
TAFE NSW	TAFE NSW Ultimo attracts students from all over Sydney and the state, and relies on efficient and accessible public transport.	Safer, more effective transport, as well as a vital hub area.
TfNSW	Transport interchange	Revitalisation of southern Sydney
Committee for Sydney	Sydney's best connected location for a new economic and social hub.	Meeting Sydney's potential as a modern global economic powerhouse.
DPIE	Essential public space	Better public space
Aboriginal Affairs, Department of Premier and Cabinet	From a cultural perspective, Central Station holds significant history, in particular, regarding the Stolen Generation.	It could showcase Sydney's history, growth and innovation as a leading city of the world.
Haymarket Chamber of Commerce	Closest train station for Haymarket, major public transport channel for visitors into the area	Revitalise the precinct into tourist and local attraction
Homelessness NSW	Opportunity	More opportunity
Central Place Sydney	Opportunity and growth for Sydney	As above
National Trust (NSW)	It is a very important place with historic, technical, cultural and aesthetic significance	In planning and architecture terms it could be a great success, or a huge disaster.
City of Sydney	A precinct which has the potential to be a landmark precinct for Sydney delivering broad ranging community outcomes.	An opportunity to deliver social sustainability outcomes for our communities through this urban renewal project.
Create Infrastructure	Personally - I travel to and from Central Station for work	Providing new community and business ecosystems in Sydney
Greater Sydney Commission	Connections	Opportunities for movement and place
Greater Sydney Commission	A transport hub	Better access to jobs and amenity
NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce Inc	For discussion	For discussion
University of Sydney	A key destination stop for students and staff and holds potential in supporting the activation of the tech precinct	Enhancing the travel experience between Central and the University campus would be highly beneficial to the University
NSW Disability Council and Transport for NSW	Hub of transportation for many people with and without disability	Opportunity for accessibility from the outset
University of Technology Sydney	Connection and Accessibility	Innovation and Entrepreneurship
Business Sydney	A connecting place - currently a place you pass	It could be a place which is a destination in itself that you

Organisation	What does Central Station mean for you?	What could a renewed Central Precinct mean for Sydney?
	through to connect you to somewhere else	can meet people for work or social benefit
Anglican Parish of Christ Church St Laurence	one of the closest public transport locations for parishioners	TBA
Chippendale Residents Interest Group	To follow	To follow
City of Sydney	A key transport connection between the city centre, the rest of Sydney and regional areas.	Unlocking much needed public space for everyone to enjoy in the city.
TAFE NSW	A statewide significant transport hub and zone of opportunity	An unlocking of potential in the southern CBD adjoining a significant education precinct
City of Sydney	The major transport interchange in New South Wales	A better place for a growing transport interchange into the future, the centre for the future growth of the City of Sydney
Sydney Local Health District	A central hub for transport, heritage site	A gateway and activated place to meet, engage, innovate, linking the innovation precinct
Notre Dame University	Major transport node for our students	A destination place attracting multiple uses, vibrancy and diversity
Toga	Transport hub in need of revitalization	Employment and renewal
DoE	Transport for students	Significant
University of Sydney	Key destination stop for students and staff and holds potential in supporting the activation of the tech central precinct.	Enhancing the travel experience between Central and the University campus would be highly beneficial to the University
Urban Taskforce Australia	The Centre of Town with many access options	Live work and play in a mixed uses precinct
Atlassian	Focus is on anchoring the Sydney Tech Precinct adjacent to Central Station - ensuring we are an integrated & active stakeholder	Employment/economic benefits, leadership, innovation, connectivity, respecting heritage and culture



4.2 Appendix B – Mentimeter responses

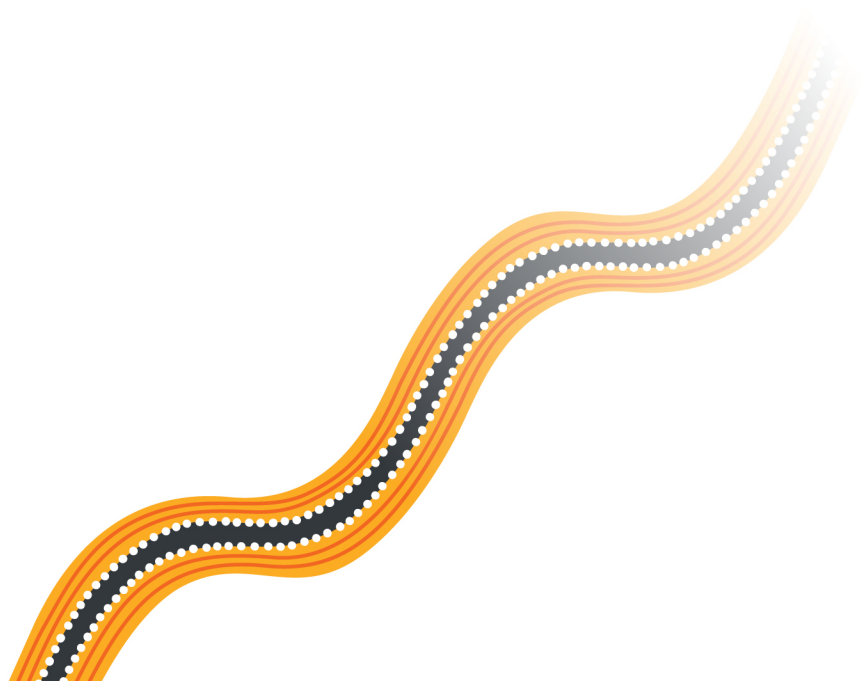
How important are these objectives?



Are any objectives missing?

- People are missing
- Keeping public assets in public ownership
- Focus on activation and curation of the place
- Innovation – how is Central precinct a catalyst?
- Maintain heritage setting of adjacent buildings
- Urban heat island/climate mitigation; open space connectivity
- Planning for affordable workspaces
- The interchange objective should include future changes in rail transport needs
- A more specific role as part of a growing Sydney CBD
- Affordable housing called out specifically
- Ensuring that accessibility is not compromised due to salvaging heritage
- Ensuring proper community involvement and transparency in planning process
- Specific mention of social housing
- Public art plan
- Affordable housing
- Educational facilities
- Balanced height and density

- Linkage to the node ambitions of Tech Central – where are the research and education components
- Activation of precinct is very important
- World-class design and architecture
- Sense of belonging and connection to place for local communities
- How does the new development connect into the different surrounding precinct
- It's a large site it should be intuitive to navigate
- Intuitive way finding – likely in objective 3 but important to help people find their way. When you get off the train and go to the wrong end of the platform you can increase your walk by many minutes
- Inclusive and genuine consultation in planning and design to ensure connection and belonging for local communities.



4.4 Appendix D – Transcript of the Zoom Chat

10:13:37 From Elton Consulting to Everyone (in Waiting Room) : Good morning, thank you for joining us, we will be starting the workshop at 1030am

10:27:49 From Elton Consulting to Everyone (in Waiting Room) : Good morning, thank you for joining us, we will be starting the workshop at 1030am

10:57:20 From Stakeholder to Everyone : interested in finding out more about the interlay of the Western Gateway, particularly in view that Block B is now on public exhibition, which suggests some sensitivities around Block C interface, and alludes to some initial plans for Central Station in terms of massing.

10:58:38 From Stakeholder to Everyone : Frasers/Dexus is already on public exhibition. closes 13 april

11:08:07 From Stakeholder to Everyone : Hi folks, the code for mentimeter doesn't appear to work for me. Could I double check it is 3272557?

11:08:38 From Stakeholder to Everyone : I also can't get in with the code

11:08:40 From Stakeholder to Everyone : Ah got it - different code!

11:11:14 From Stakeholder to Everyone : The DA indicates some concerns re TOGA's proposal. Do you know where the proposal for Toga is up to?

11:31:45 From Stakeholder to Everyone :
https://www.ahuri.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/64244/AHURI-Final-Report-333-Affordable-housing-in-innovation-led-employment-strategies.pdf

11:35:24 From Elton Consulting to Everyone : Thank you stakeholder for sharing that report from AHURI, looks like a great resource to look into

11:46:14 From Stakeholder to Everyone : Great to hear the Safety Charter get a mention!

11:46:50 From Stakeholder to Everyone : question for panel -given the Western Gateway sets a precedent in terms of height massing (ie isn't intimate, grungy or has any link to Chippendale/Surry Hills, per se)-doesn't this detract from the potential of the site and the inspirational values that the panel are envisioning?

11:46:53 From Stakeholder to Everyone : I am loving the conversation about "fine grain" public spaces, with good solar access -and wondering how these relate to the current Western gateway proposals

11:47:29 From Stakeholder to Everyone : What are the insights from Covid that we need to address in planning for the nodes and connectors which make up the collaboration area? Consider that Cicada and RPA remained activated during Covid, because they are destinations where people have to be "present" to do their jobs. What tech jobs/other have to be present? What jobs will be on a "team work anywhere"? What are the things we have learned from Covid, and what are insights for market sectors, jobs and infrastructure in the precinct which will inform planning and associated activation?

11:47:41 From Stakeholder to Everyone : Apologies, I need to leave now and will unfortunately miss the workshop discussion

12:02:44 From Elton Consulting to Everyone : We will take a short break now

12:03:06 From Elton Consulting to Everyone : Please stay in the meeting room, and come back to your laptop at 1203

12:03:10 From Elton Consulting to Everyone : 12:07

12:21:49 From Stakeholder to Everyone : We keep talking about "respect for heritage" - the Atlassian tower demolishes the entire original ramp leading to it just for "ease of construction" and is built on top of the parcels post tower. It involves its complete destruction. It is twice the height of

the Landmark Clock Tower. The Toga proposal completely covers to east and south elevations of the Post Office. Both will overshadow the public spaces of Henry Deane plaza and Railway Square.

12:24:37 From Stakeholder to Everyone : David's observations re the Clock Tower and heritage. Likewise local concerns as well as others in the public arena. Is there any capacity to at this very late stage address concerns re Block A and B, and at the very least address the additional massing from the TOGA rezoning proposal.

12:26:06 From Stakeholder to Everyone : Thanks for the opportunity, I have a 12.30 meeting I need to join.

12:26:28 From Stakeholder to Elton Consulting(Direct Message) : apologies, I need to leave for an urgent matter. thank you for the information and discussion.

12:27:49 From Elton Consulting to Everyone : Hello, you should have joined a breakout room, we will keep this activity and we will aim to finish the workshop by 1240pm, and apologise for running slightly over time

12:36:11 From Stakeholder to Everyone : I have to leave now

12:36:17 From Stakeholder to Everyone : Good discussion.

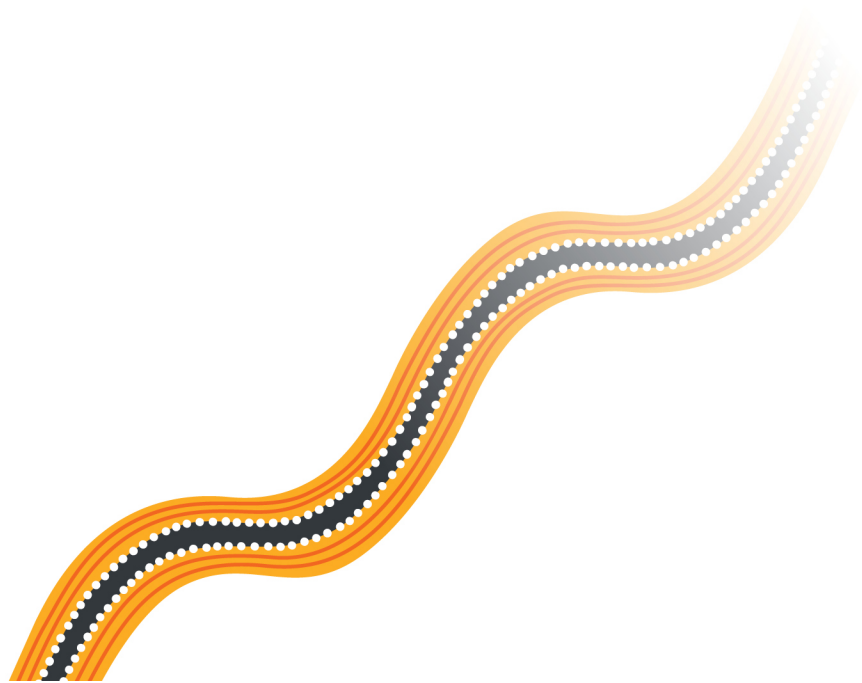
12:36:38 From Elton Consulting to Everyone : Thank you stakeholder

12:39:38 From Stakeholder to Everyone : Will the slides be shared to us via email?

12:42:34 From Stakeholder to Everyone : Thank you very much - great discussion.

12:44:23 From Stakeholder to Everyone : Thank you for the workshop. we'll be in touch

12:44:27 From Elton Consulting to Everyone : Thank you all for participating in this workshop



Transport
for NSW

Central Precinct Renewal Program

Key Stakeholder Workshop 2

December 2021

transport.nsw.gov.au



Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Central Precinct, the Gadigal and recognise the important of the place to Aboriginal people and their continuing connection to Country and culture. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

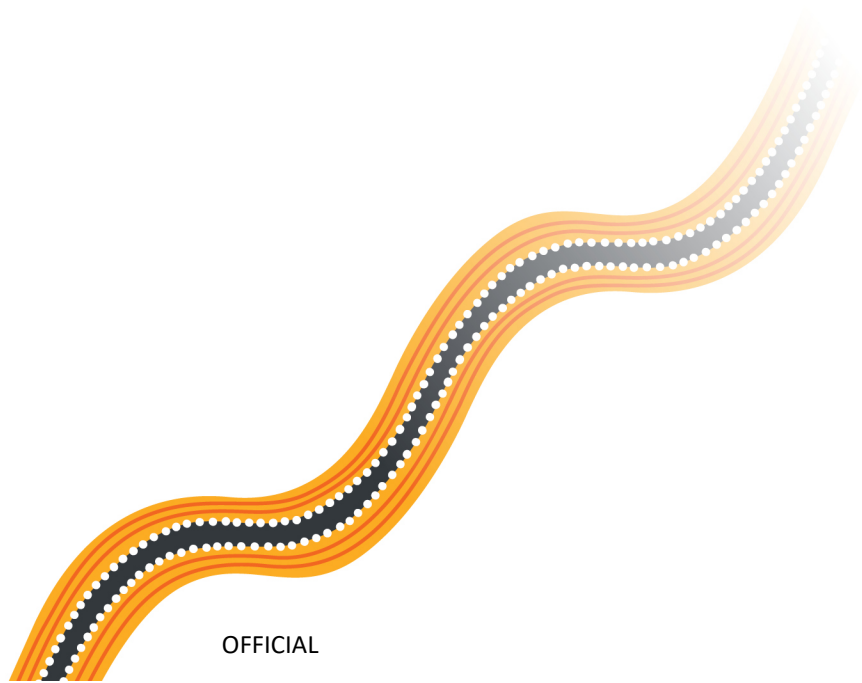


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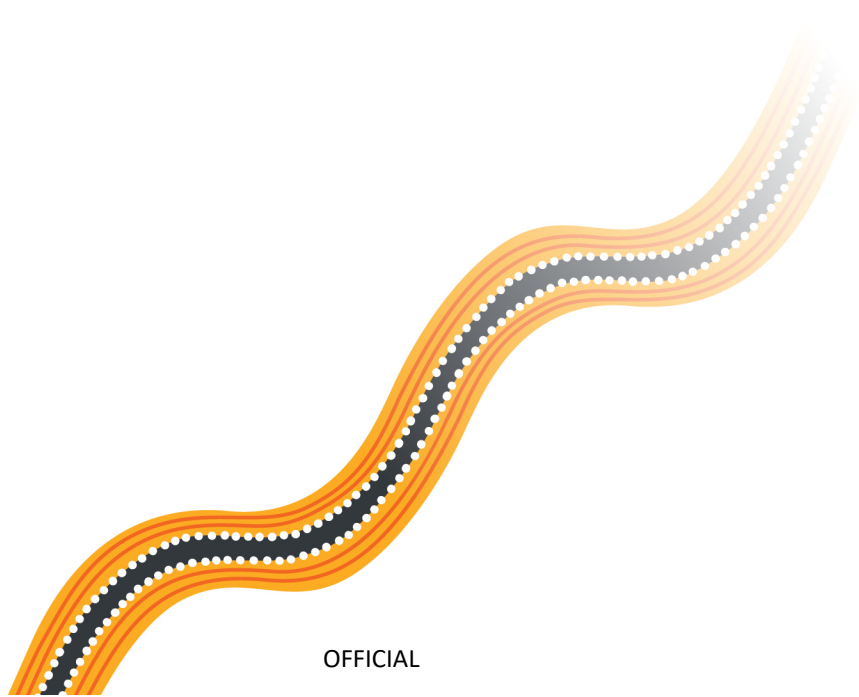
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1. Engagement Overview

Elton Consulting was engaged by Transport for NSW (TfNSW) to deliver three, key stakeholder workshops for the Central Precinct Renewal Program (the Program). These workshops were designed to encourage and capture stakeholder **hopes, expectations** and **concerns**, foster **ownership of the vision** for Central Precinct, and satisfy the Department of Planning and Environment's (DPE) **State Significant Precinct (SSP) Study requirements**.

Workshop 1: March 2021

Workshop 2: December 2021

Workshop 3: April 2022

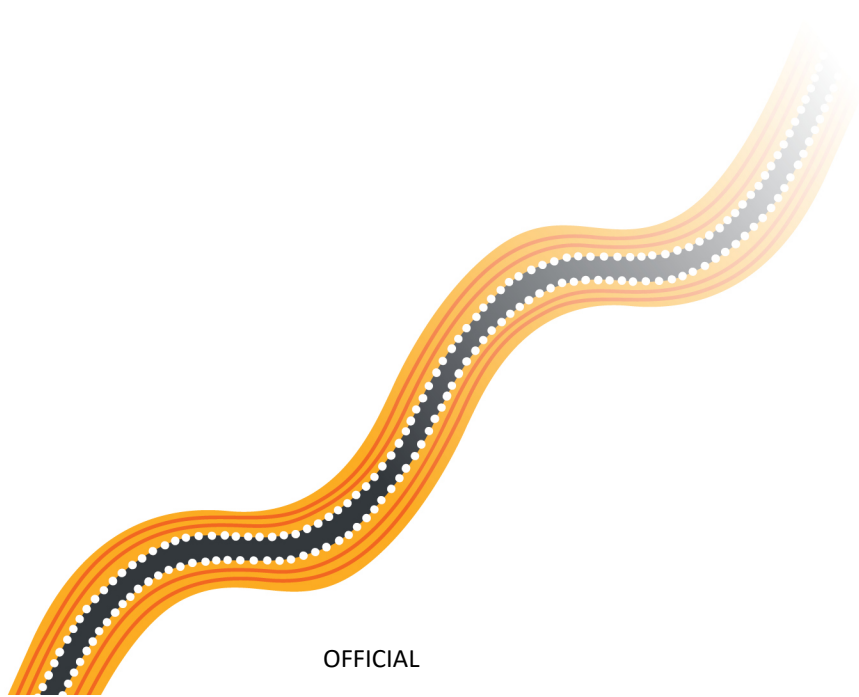
This report provides an overview of **Workshop 2**, which was held on Monday 6 December via Zoom. The workshop was hosted by Nicholas Wolff, Program Director Central Precinct, and facilitated by Brendan Blakeley from WSP.

The purpose of the workshop was to update participants on TfNSW emerging vision for the Precinct and to seek feedback on the following themes:

- Public places, connectivity and green infrastructure
- Urban design and built form
- Creating a place for all people.

The workshop ran for three hours and was divided into three parts:

1. Presentations from key consultants supporting TfNSW to progress its plans for the Precinct. This included the Connecting with Country, social sustainability and environmental sustainability consultants, as well as the public domain and built form architects
2. A panel discussion to respond to questions from participants
3. Three breakout group sessions to explore each of the workshop themes in detail.



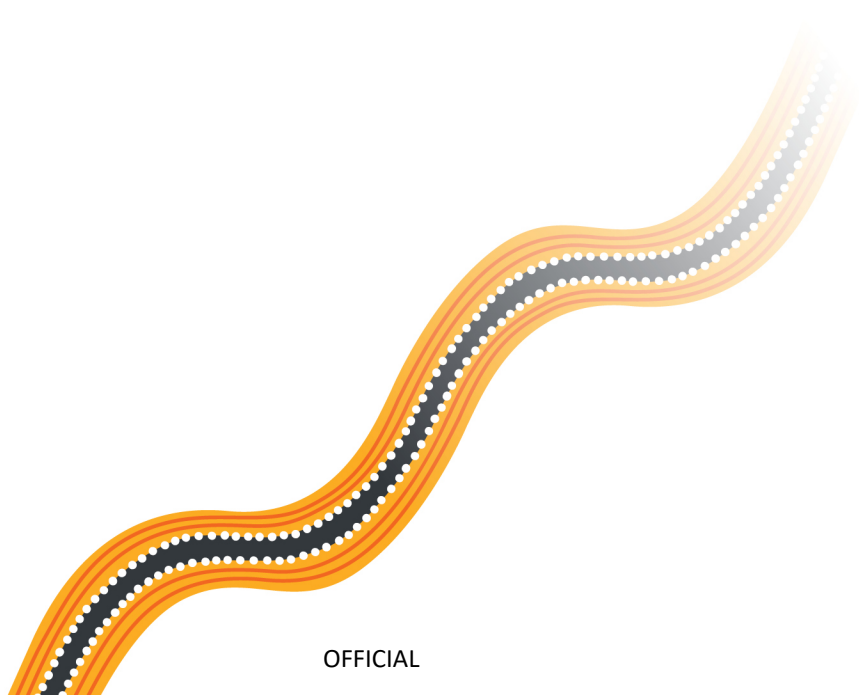
2. Participants

Invitations for Workshop 2 were sent to 65 key stakeholders in late November. Thirty stakeholders registered for the workshop and 21 stakeholders participated in the session. A list of attendees can be found in Appendix A.

Invited stakeholders	65
Registered stakeholders	30
Attendees	21

Participants represented a range of stakeholder groups including:

- State Government agencies
- Western Gateway Proponents
- Neighbours (higher education institutions and a church)
- Peak bodies
- The City of Sydney
- One community representative
- One disability representative



3. What we heard

3.1 Activity 1: Panel discussion

Following the presentation from TfNSW consultants, participants were invited to post questions to the presenters using the Zoom chat function. Participants asked questions about:

- Blue grid opportunities
- The rejuvenation of Mortuary Station
- The potential impact of Toga's proposal on public domain in the Western Gateway
- Overshadowing of Central Square (also referred to as the Third Square) and Chippendale, and
- Sight lines to the clock tower.

3.2 Activity 2: Break out groups

Participants were divided into three breakout groups. Each group was given 20 minutes to discuss the following themes:

- Public places, connectivity and green infrastructure
- Urban design and built form
- Creating paces for all people.

The list of questions asked of participants in each breakout group can be found in the agenda (Appendix B).

Public places, connectivity and green infrastructure

In this breakout group, participants commented on CPRP's preliminary plans for public domain, connectivity and green infrastructure. The key themes raised by participants during this breakout group were:

- Support for **Connecting with Country**, including the **reintroduction of dunes** to the city and **improved connectivity to Redfern**
- Support for **more green space**, the introduction of an **ecological network** and exploration of opportunities for **blue grid**
- Connectivity must consider **active transport and reducing traffic**
- Key challenges for public domain include **level changes**, the **flexibility of spaces for different uses** and **accommodating large numbers of commuters**
- Connections must be **walkable, accessible and safe**, and should be **lit at night**. **Wayfinding** should improve pedestrian experience
- **Connectivity, safety, walkability and amenity** will bring life to spaces that aren't currently thriving. One local organisation said the **increased pedestrianisation** of the precinct will help to integrate existing buildings and services
- TfNSW should consider how **large groups of people** will move through the precinct, including through Central Square
- Public domain should be **welcoming, attract diverse communities** and **blend into neighbouring suburbs**
- There should be space for **different types of recreation – active, passive and productive**
- There are opportunities to **activate public domain**, including through public art, outdoor event spaces and programmed activities (e.g. Bryant Park)

- Central Precinct's design should support **day and night-time** activities and economies
- **Belmore Park** should become an attractive place for workers, local communities and visitors
- Some participants asked questions about how the **Goods Line** will connect with and serve the broader Precinct.

Urban design and built form

In this breakout group, participants provided feedback on CPRP's preliminary plans for urban design and built form. The key themes raised by participants during were:

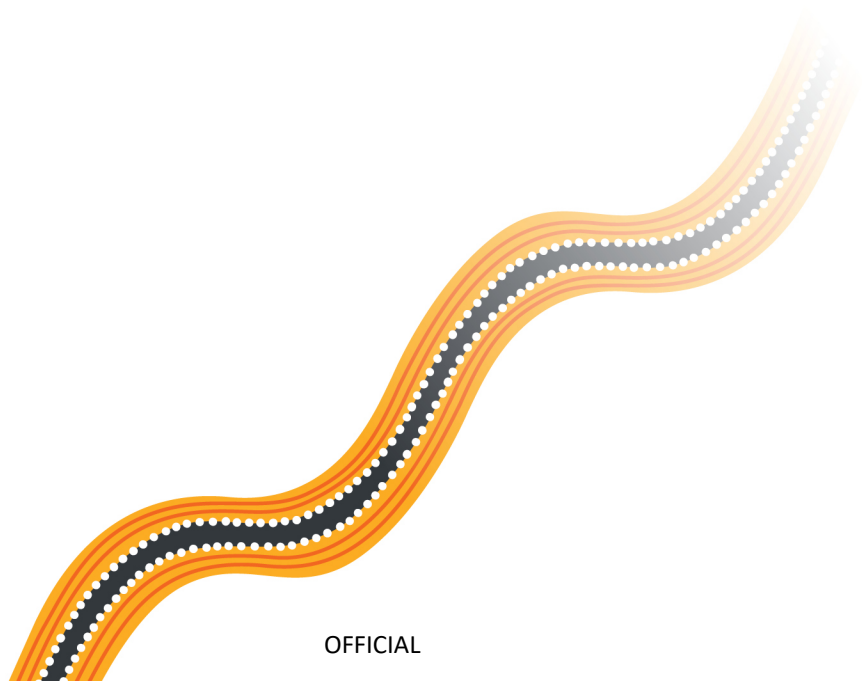
- Central Precinct must balance **commercial, residential, and educational** uses as well as **affordable and social housing**.
- The City of Sydney would like **commercial use** to remain prominent in the CBD, but recognises the need for other uses at Central Precinct
- There were differing views on the **desirability of housing**, particularly student housing. Some participants noted housing would be important to **liven and activate the precinct** outside of business hours, and one participant asked for **confirmation of the number of student housing** units planned for the precinct
- There is strong support for **Central Avenue** and TfNSW must consider **comfort and amenity** in this location
- Consultation on the future of Central Precinct should include consultation on the **amenity of the precinct**
- **Diverse building grain** will allow the precinct to blend into local neighbourhoods, however the local community may be concerned about the **height of built form** on the east of the precinct near Prince Alfred Park
- TfNSW should consider how built form can **bring the life of Tech Central out of office buildings** and into the Precinct
- **Wayfinding and landmarks** (including information centres) are important for people with a disability and visitors
- **Heritage buildings** are important and add authenticity and grain to the precinct. TfNSW should consider sight lines and overshadowing of heritage buildings.

Creating a place for all people

In this breakout group, participants discussed how Central Precinct can become an inclusive place for diverse communities. The key themes raised by participants were:

- Central Precinct must be **inclusive** and **attract and cater for diverse people** to create a sense of **community**
- Public places should be truly public and be **open to all people**
- Barangaroo is exclusive and does not feel like a place for all people
- The **character** of the precinct will be determined by the planning, procurement and market strategies and these need to be set up to ensure **diversity of businesses, uses and services** can operate across the Precinct
- **Mixed uses on site** (including mix of retail and hospitality) will lead to greater diversity of precinct visitors
- TfNSW must consider **how the precinct can remain vibrant** when workers and students aren't there, for example on weekends

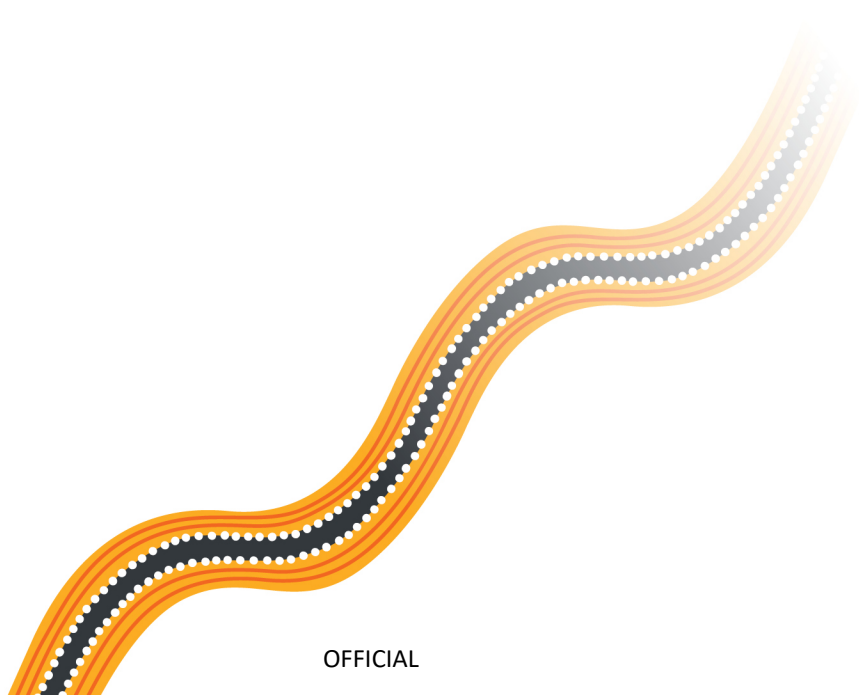
- **Activation** will generate interest in the precinct and help to create a sense of community
- **More consultation is needed. Consultation with diverse groups** is important to build community buy-in and ownership of the Precinct. This ownership can lead to a sense of pride and care for a space.
- UTS has several existing **diversity and inclusion networks** which TfNSW can consult or co-design with
- There is concern that **existing communities and people could be displaced**
- There should be **affordable spaces for community gathering and events** to make the most of Central Precinct's accessible, central location in Sydney



4. Appendices

4.1 Appendix A – List of participating stakeholders

	Organisation
1	Christ Church of Saint Lawrence
2	Chippendale Residents Interest Group
3	Urban Development Institute of Australia
4	Greater Sydney Commission
5	Disability Council
6	Atlassian
7	Notre Dame University
8	City of Sydney
9	City of Sydney
10	Unknown
11	Dexus
12	Greater Sydney Commission
13	Central Place Sydney
14	Investment NSW
15	University of Technology Sydney
16	University of Technology Sydney
17	Atlassian
18	Greater Sydney Commission
19	Tourism and Transport Forum
20	Department of Planning and Environment
21	TAFE NSW



4.2 Appendix B – Break out group questions

Public places, connectivity and green infrastructure

- Which elements of the proposed green infrastructure interest you most? Why?
- Which connections and places resonate for you most?
- Are there any connections that need more thought?
- How do you see different people using the proposed public spaces?
- What do you think about the three place characters you've seen today? (Civic, innovation and living). What do you think will ensure the success of these characters?
- Is there anything missing from the proposal that would make public domain at Central Precinct work better?

Urban design and built form

- What is missing from this part of the city that Central Precinct can offer?
- We've put forward some ideas about how the Terminal can be activated and integrated fully into the precinct. What are your thoughts on these opportunities? Is there anything missing from the proposed plans that would further integrate the Terminal Building?
- Does our current thinking for built form across Central Precinct integrate with the surrounding context/neighbourhoods? Could you suggest any improvements?
- In these initial plans, we've located smaller buildings near the Central Avenue and higher buildings on the eastern edge near the rail lines. What do you think about this approach?

Creating a place for all people

- How do we make Central Precinct a place for diverse communities? For example, local residents, commuters, tech workers, students, businesses, people experiencing disadvantage, and others.
- What particular issues or aspects of the renewal project do we need to focus on to create a precinct that is – and feels – inclusive of this rich diversity? How do we harness this opportunity to create a vibrant new place for everyone?
- Does what you've seen and heard today 'work' for the communities you represent? Do you envisage that it will meet their needs, their aspirations?
- How could the renewal project best contribute to enhancing community wellbeing and resilience, which are key goals of the project?

4.3 Appendix C – Transcript of the Zoom Chat

09:15:48 From Support 1 to Waiting Room Participants:

Good morning all. Thank you for joining us this morning. We will begin the workshop at 9:30.

09:22:57 From Support 1 to Waiting Room Participants:

Good morning all. Thank you for joining us this morning. We will begin the workshop at 9:30.

09:24:11 From Support 1 to Waiting Room Participants:

Good morning. Thank you for joining us this morning. We will begin the workshop at 9:30.

09:26:56 From Support 1 to Waiting Room Participants:

Good morning. Thank you for joining us this morning. We will begin the workshop at 9:30.

09:28:25 From Support 1 to Waiting Room Participants:

Good morning. Thank you for joining us this morning. We will begin the workshop at 9:30.

09:29:23 From Support 1 to Waiting Room Participants:

Good morning. Thank you for joining us this morning. We will begin the workshop at 9:30.

09:30:18 From Support 1 to Waiting Room Participants:

Good morning. Thank you for joining. We are waiting for a few people to join. We will kick off in a few minutes.

09:31:57 From Support 1 to Waiting Room Participants:

Good morning. Thank you for joining. We are waiting for a few people to join. We will kick off in a few minutes.

09:37:55 From Stakeholder to Everyone:

Will this presentation deck be shared?

09:39:57 From Support 1 to Everyone:

Hi stakeholder. Unfortunately these consultation slides are for the workshop only, and won't be shared. Thank you for checking.

09:40:29 From Stakeholder to Everyone:

Ok, thank you.

10:02:59 From Stakeholder to Everyone:

Thank you, I love this!

10:18:41 From Support 1 to (Direct Message):

Can you ask Mark to move his mike away from his mouth a little bit

10:18:47 From Support 1 to (Direct Message):

It might help with that sound

10:19:18 From Support 1 to (Direct Message):



10:23:58 From Support 1 to (Direct Message):

Panel may need to be shorter as we are quite over time already. Haven't had any q

10:24:06 From Support 1 to (Direct Message):

s yet from community

10:24:26 From Stakeholder to Everyone:

what are the blue grid opportunities?

10:26:48 From Stakeholder to Everyone:

What will the rejuvenation of Mortuary Station involve-how will it be used by the community?

10:36:50 From Stakeholder to Everyone:

Toga as part of the their unsolicited proposal is looking for freehold title for the western end of the devonshire tunnel l / lower level henry dean plaza. what are the implications for public space, and its effective privatisation?

10:39:35 From Stakeholder to Everyone:

the slides online for the western gateway show the loss of the sight lines to the clocktower, from Broadway and Regent Street as well as Prince Alfred Park. Is this still the case?

10:50:09 From Stakeholder to Everyone:

some of the key design elements were lost through modifications over time to the concept plan for Central Park. how are the key elements retained in any plan? Also what can be done to reduce the overshadowing to the adjacent neighbourhood of Chippendale

10:52:33 From Stakeholder to Everyone:

Nicholas thanks for the update. however as we can see with Central Park, some areas are now being privatised, where the access was supposed to be retained over the longer term. hence the concerns re Toga Proposal, etc.

10:52:36 From Stakeholder to Everyone:

With the overshadowing caused by 187 Thomas on the Third Square, what influence can we have to address that?

10:57:31 From Stakeholder to Support 1(Direct Message):

Message - for feedback later from Nicholas. re the overshadowing. when you mentioned non for the residential areas in Chippendale. does this include the mixed use zones, queen street, wellington, and west of these areas, where there are large residential areas.

Central Precinct Renewal Program

Key Stakeholder Workshop 3

April 2022

transport.nsw.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Central Precinct, the Gadigal and recognise the important of the place to Aboriginal people and their continuing connection to Country and culture. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

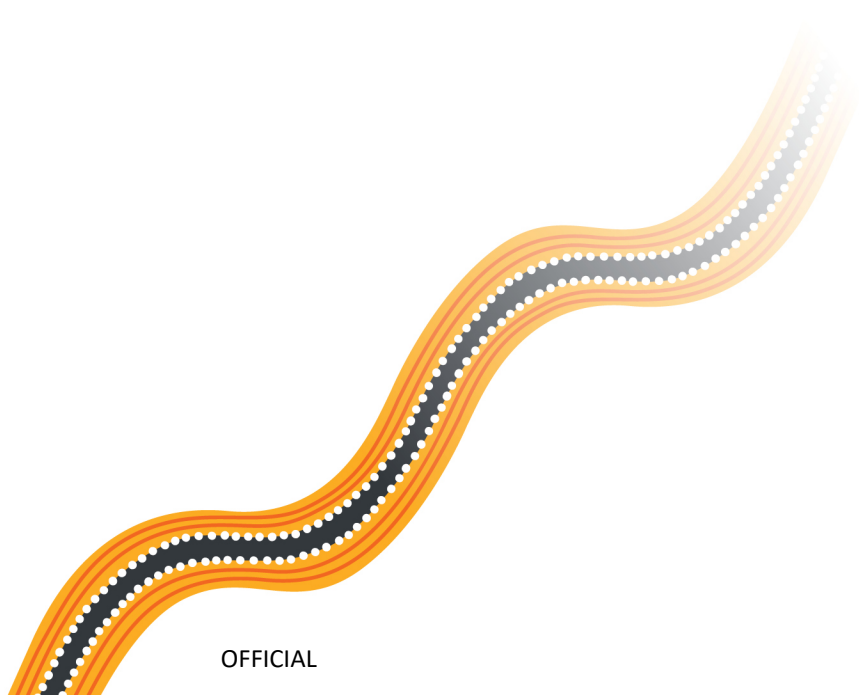


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Versions

Version	Amendment notes
1	

1. Engagement Overview

Elton Consulting was engaged by Transport for NSW (TfNSW) to deliver three, key stakeholder workshops for the Central Precinct Renewal Program (the Program). These workshops were designed to encourage and capture stakeholder **hopes, expectations** and **concerns**, foster **ownership of the vision** for Central Precinct, and satisfy the Department of Planning and Environment's (DPE) **State Significant Precinct (SSP) Study requirements**.

The third in this series of workshops was held via Zoom on Thursday 7 April 2021. The purpose of this workshop was to:

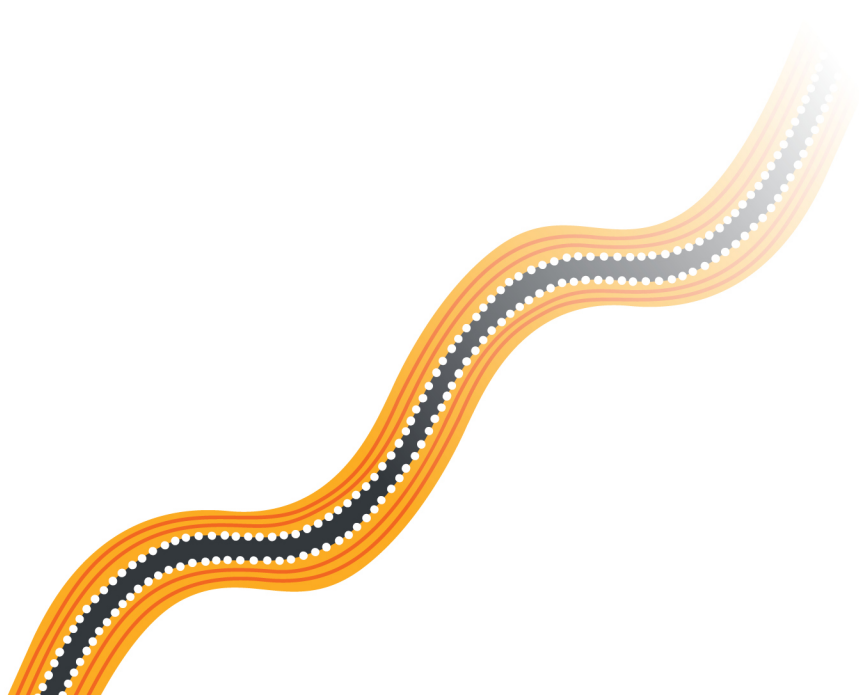
- a) Present the key renewal themes guiding the State Significant Precinct Study for Central Precinct and to explain how these themes have been informed by feedback from stakeholders and the community
- b) Explore how Central can become a place for everyone and discuss how the key renewal themes might apply to diverse precinct users.

The workshop ran for two hours, and was divided into three parts:

Part 1: Introduction. Nicholas Wolff (Program Director for the Central Precinct Renewal Program, TfNSW) welcomed participants and provided an update on the progress of the Program, including consultation.

Part 2: Introducing the key renewal themes. The TfNSW Program team introduced five, key renewal themes guiding the delivery of the Program. The Program team included Colin Sargent (Director Design and Planning), David Barnard (Design Manager), Jenene Flick (Senior Manager Sustainability), and Pratibha Acharya (Transport Requirements Manager). During the presentation, participants were invited to provide feedback on the themes through a series of Mentimeter questions.

Part 3: Personas. Colin Sargent and Chris Wan (Senior Service Design Lead) introduced five personas representing diverse users of Central Precinct and discussed how Central could meet their needs and aspirations. Participants were invited to share their thoughts on these personas using the chat function or by providing verbal feedback.



2. Participants

In early March, TfNSW sent invitations to 74 stakeholders. 25 of these stakeholders registered for the workshop and 17 attended on the day. A list of attendees can be found in Appendix A.

Invited stakeholders	74
Registered stakeholders	25
Attendees	17

Participants represented a range of stakeholder groups including:

Local Government (City of Sydney)

NSW State Government agencies

Community and special interest groups (including disability and active transport)

Precinct neighbours, including universities

Western Gateway Proponents

Peak bodies (including tourism, planning and transport).

3. What we heard

3.1 Activity 1: Key renewal themes

Activity 1 focussed on the following key renewal themes for Central Precinct.

- Culture and Heritage
- Mobility and Access
- Economy and Innovation
- Place and Destination
- Social and Environmental sustainability

In this activity, the Program team introduced each of these themes and presented how they have been considered and implemented at Central Precinct following feedback from stakeholders. Workshop participants were asked to provide feedback on these themes through a series of Mentimeter questions. The responses to these questions are provided below.

Culture and heritage

Participants were asked: 'How else could we celebrate heritage and culture at Central'

12 people responded to this question. Responses included a range of suggestions to interpret and celebrate heritage, including:

- Events such as steam train events
- Interactive installations
- Public art
- Accessible placards and signs
- Heritage interpretation (in museums and events) should be accessible

- Support for Connecting with Country and the celebration of diverse local histories, including China Town.

Place and destination

Participants were asked: 'Is there anything else you would like to see to improve open space at Central?'

Three people responded to this question. Responses included:

- An outdoor amphitheatre for live music and performance
- Reducing clutter in the avenues and laneways to improve flow, accessibility and comfortable movement
- Interactive play spaces for children.

Mobility and access

Participants were asked two questions in this section. The first question was 'How else could we improve connectivity at Central?'

Four people responded to this question. Response included:

- Wayfinding support including digital signs or prints on the ground
- Wayfinding should be accessible to diverse groups and should be co-designed
- Accessibility improvements including better pathways and ensuring main thoroughfares are accessible
- Cycling access and end of trip facilities.

The second question was 'Do you support a car free precinct? Why?'

Three people responded to this question. Two people said they supported a car-free precinct and one person responded, 'I don't know'. Open-ended responses to this question included:

- The opportunity to reduce emissions and pollution for pedestrians
- Providing an entertaining commute for pedestrians.

One respondent also suggested the example renders on the presentation slides gave an impression of clutter and congestion in public spaces.

Social and environmental sustainability

Participants were asked: 'Is there anything else we should consider for our sustainability ambition?'

Five people responded to this question. Responses included:

- Using Sustainability at Central as an opportunity to educate Precinct users. This could include opportunities to educate on the circular economy, or an innovation lab for schools that could leverage of the knowledge of nearby higher education providers
- Using Central as a research tool or a living-lab for the nearby education precinct
- The need for more shade
- Procurement from businesses that support employment for people with disabilities.

Economy and innovation

Participants were asked: 'How else could we create an environment that fosters innovation and creativity?'



Nine people responded to this question. Responses included:

- Opportunities to connect with local universities and students. Central Precinct should provide learning and innovation outcomes for these students
- Students should be able to access technology (Tech Central) face to face, or through a remote learning environment across NSW
- Tech activations including a VR facility for overseas visitors to Sydney, or small, tech incubation areas
- Faster connectivity to mobile services
- Ensuring people with various disabilities are including in projects and procurement, and that recreation opportunities are also available for people with disabilities.

For a full list of responses to the questions in Activity 1, please see Appendix B.

3.2 Activity 2: Persona exercise

In this exercise, participants were introduced to five personas that represent diverse, future users of Central Precinct. For each persona, Chris Wan described the persona’s goals and motivations, challenges and information needs before Colin Sargent discussed how Central Precinct will cater to this persona. Workshop participants were asked to provide feedback on how Central Precinct can meet these persona’s needs using the chat function or by raising their hand and speaking to the group.

Persona	Feedback from participants
 <p>Hannah is a 19-year-old student in her first semester of Law and International Studies at UTS. Hannah is enjoying getting to know the uni, the local area and her classmates. She is keen to make the most of her uni experience and get involved in Tech Central initiatives.</p>	<p>Central Precinct could meet Hannah’s needs by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offering affordable food options, including better connections to China town for access to food - Ensuring safety and security, including people to speak to if she feels unsafe and ensuring pathways are well lit in the evening - Having more ‘eyes on the street’ to generate a feeling of safety. This can be done by encouraging more walking and cycling - Providing wayfinding support including better signage and an interactive app.
 <p>Sandra is a 72 year old, retired Surry Hills resident who is a well-known character in the community. She enjoys people watching and loves it when someone stops to say ‘hi’ or have a chat. She has lived with a disability for 20 years and uses a walking stick when she is out and about. Sandra is concerned how the renewal may change the character of the local area.</p>	<p>Central Precinct could meet Sandra’s needs by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring accessibility, including making pathways wide and smooth to allow a friend to walk alongside her, removing obstacles like holes or grates, ensuring easy vertical access through ramps and lifts, and providing opportunities to cross the street easily, including driveway lips instead of gutters. - Supporting accessible wayfinding through interactive apps for people with disabilities or offering volunteers to help with wayfinding - Providing seating for Sandra to stop and rest - Offering social and community support, for example inclusion programs for people with a disability (e.g. art programs

Persona



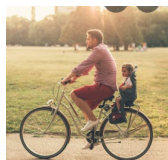
John is 51 years old and has been sleeping rough at Central for three weeks when he hasn't had access to short-term or emergency

accommodation. John has been looking into the different services available to him in the precinct. John knows the service providers operating on the ground.



Emma, Tim, Sacha and Luke are a family from Dubbo visiting Sydney for a few days during the school holidays. The family is excited to explore the City and the surrounding quirky and diverse inner city suburbs. They are going to see Billie Eilish at Qudos Bank Arena on their first day in Sydney. Sacha is a 15-year-old who uses them/they pronouns.

Emma, Tim, Sacha and Luke are a family from Dubbo visiting Sydney for a few days during the school holidays. The family is excited to explore the City and the surrounding quirky and diverse inner city suburbs. They are going to see Billie Eilish at Qudos Bank Arena on their first day in Sydney. Sacha is a 15-year-old who uses them/they pronouns.



Nick is a 31-year-old from Redfern working in a start-up at the Quantum Terminal. Nick and his partner, Jack have an 18 month old daughter called Jessie. Nick

drops Jessie to preschool each morning before starting his work day. He likes to make the most of the valuable 'me time' he gets at lunch and in between meetings. On Fridays, Jack joins Nick and Jessie for an early dinner at Central Precinct.

Other feedback

or bootcamps) and employing community service workers who are well-versed in disability and vulnerability.

Central Precinct could meet John's needs by:

- Providing access to necessary amenities, like a laundromat
- Identifying opportunities to make John feel welcome at Central Precinct, not displaced.

Central Precinct could meet Emma, Tim, Sacha and Luke's needs by:

- Offering family friendly, alcohol-free, late-night activities
- Welcoming the LGBTQIA+ community with the ACON rainbow registered sticker program or apps that rate LGBTQIA+ locations and businesses
- Providing more art in public spaces and curated walks to enjoy the city
- Supporting wayfinding through the branding and identification of public paths and a system of directional signs
- Offering luggage storage areas and recreation opportunities while passengers wait for regional trains.

Central Precinct could meet Nick's needs by:

- Ensuring offices have welcome facilities and bike storage
- Offering food at reasonable prices
- Providing opportunities for families, including play structures, child minding and family friendly restaurants
- Allowing dual-curbside use including pick-up and drop-off points for ridesharing and taxis.

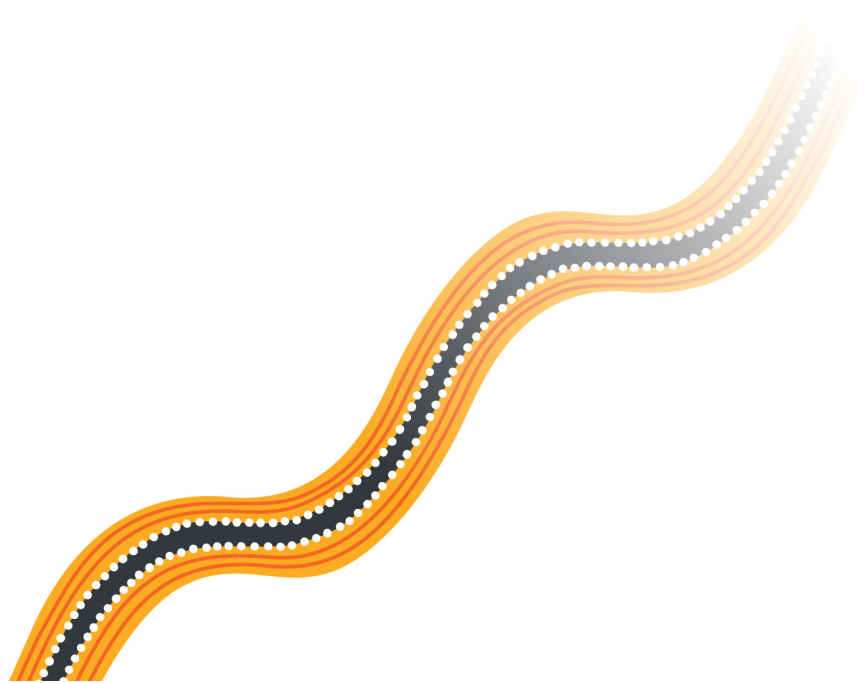
Other feedback provided during this exercise included:

- Providing local Wi-Fi would benefit everyone
- Activate Eddy Avenue with useful stores and community services
- Ensuring procurement/tender processes for public art are accessible for all people, including people with a disability
- The use of autonomous vehicles on the over station development was supported
- Considering down-town check in stations (e.g. in Hong Kong) for customers travelling to the airport.

Persona

Feedback from participants

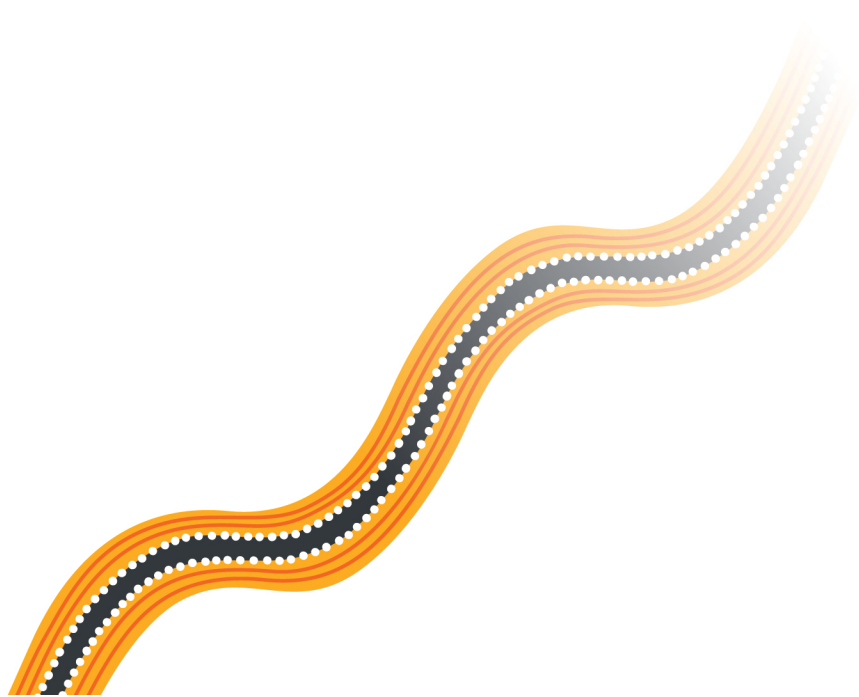
- It was also noted that lifts at Central are currently chaotic and not easy to navigate.



4. Appendices

4.1 Appendix A – List of participating stakeholders

	Organisation
1	TAFE NSW
2	Accor – Mercure Sydney
3	Investment NSW
4	Investment NSW
5	Greater Sydney Commission
6	NSW Disability Council
7	Atlassian
8	Notre Dame
9	Greater Sydney Commission
10	City of Sydney
11	Create NSW
12	UTS
13	Central Places Sydney
14	UDIA NSW
15	Transport and Tourism Forum
16	Vision Australia
17	BikeEast Inc



4.2 Appendix B – Mentimeter responses

Culture and Heritage

How else could we celebrate heritage and culture at Central?

- Connection to the heritage of Chinatown
- As a non-Aboriginal person, I would appreciate learning about how the various concepts of First Nations culture has been adopted, for example by way of placards around the spaces e.g. bird song and sound, what have you done and how and why is this important to First Nations people?
- Public art and storytelling embedded in landscape installations
- Fantastic to see the commitment to Connecting with Country
- Interactive historical information
- By holding regular cultural events for people from different backgrounds
- As a member of the disability community, it would be great if the placards could be written in simple sentences, as opposed to large blocks of writing using complex words as well as provided in a way that can be linked to hearing devices or press a button for audio description. Also, any applications for public art should be accessible. Contact Accessible Arts Australia for further information. Art that is commissioned to be accessible
- Multi-sensory spaces for people with different preferences e.g. quiet spaces vs interactive space appealing to different senses
- Events celebrating transport (steam trains etc) and other heritage of the site for example the history as the Sandhills Cemetery and stories of those historically significant persons once buried there as well as incorporating First Nation peoples' stories
- An interpretive learning journey of Aboriginal history and stories for the c.60,000 years before the station. For example, RMITs Timer app
- Make sure there are spaces available that can easily be activated to include heritage and cultural activations

Place and Destination

Is there anything else you would like to see to improve open space at Central?

- Outdoor amphitheatre for live music and performances
- Less clutter in the avenue/laneways. The renders show water features and other things cutting into the access areas. This limits flow and comfortable use
- Interactive play spaces

Mobility and Access

How else could we improve connectivity at Central?

- Include cycling access throughout as well as end of trip facilities
- Better pathways that allow for greater people movement. Wayfinding signage e.g. prints on the ground or digital signs that can be updated

- It would be really good to see that people who use mobility aides including walkers and wheelchairs as well as people with prams etc access the main thoroughfare e.g. Central Park has stairs on either side of the grassed area, this does not foster inclusion
- Wayfinding methods between transport modes to communicate to various communities. This should be co-designed

Do you support a car free precinct?

- Yes – 2 responses
- No – 0 responses
- I don't know – 1 response

Why?

- Reduced emissions and pollution for pedestrians
- A site that has history but also that will have many eyeballs passing every day so the opportunity to educate but also entertain on their either daily commute or accessing the site for work or play or to commence an exciting journey
- Renders show very few people yet that are starting to look congested. The Goods Line west of Ultimo Road is a good example of clutter in a high use access corridor

Sustainability

Is there anything else we should consider for our sustainability ambition?

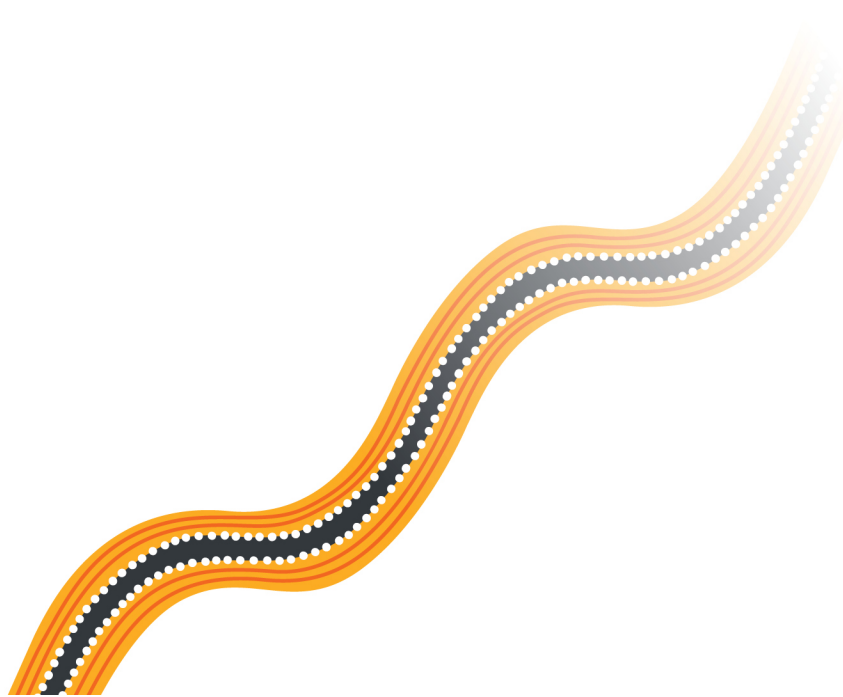
- Interactivity. Not just incorporating sustainability but using that as a tool to educate users, to encourage their own sustainability journeys. And as a training and research tool for the nearby education precinct and as a living lab to trial tech
- Love love love the goals set forth. Would be good in a social sense to try to procure people and businesses that support employment for people with disability
- More shade
- Education on sustainability principles embedded in design for the general community in a range of accessible formats. We as consumers want to know how we can partake in the circular economy as we move through the space which we take to other spaces
- The living lab would leverage the nearby unis and TAFE but also leverage its excellent transport access to schools throughout NSW as a go to sustainable and climate science destination for schools

Economy and Innovation

How else could we create an environment that fosters innovation and creativity?

- Encourage the local unis especially UTS and TAFE NSW at Ultimo nearby to provide a learning and innovation outcome for these students – not just research but also innovation tech exemplars for engagement with trades and technician students
- Ensuring that people with various disability, including intellectual disability are included in projects and procurement, ensure there is an Inclusion and Diversity Officer overseeing initiatives that include people with disability and other groups
- VR facility for overseas visitors to Sydney
- Small incubation type areas. Street stall format along laneways
- Faster connectivity of mobile services

- Recreation opportunities need to be accessible to people with varying disabilities, considered during design process. E.g. a person using a wheelchair may need a plate available at all times to throw shot put. Accessible elements to be available 24/7



4.3 Appendix C – Transcript of the Zoom Chat

- 14:10:08 From Stakeholder to Support 1 (Direct Message):
Hi Brendan - will the presentation be sent out afterwards
- 14:12:19 From Support 1 to Stakeholder (Direct Message):
Stakeholder I will check but at the moment I think it is a work in progress. Good to see you again. B
- 14:12:59 From Stakeholder to Support 1 (Direct Message):
Great thanks - good to see you as well
- 14:40:32 From (WSP Tech Support)-0413 605 880 to Everyone:
To join in the menti questions, please visit www.menti.com and enter the code 14 09 62 5
- 15:30:25 From Stakeholder to Support 1 (Direct Message):
The key to social safety (public spaces) is to have more 'eyes on the street'. Encouraging more walking and cycling trips through the area are really important.
- 15:30:45 From Stakeholder to Everyone:
From Stakeholder:
Affordable food options! On Swanston Street in Melbourne there are three restaurants with all you can eat options starting at \$7.50 with drinks and deserts included catering to vegan/vegetarian/dairy free etc Check out OM and Gopals for examples Information needs: if I do feel unsafe after dark, who can I go to? Where can I go? What are my options for security
- 15:31:44 From Stakeholder to Everyone:
Ensure pathways are well lit in the evenings
- 15:31:53 From Stakeholder to Everyone:
Better connection into Chinatown for more food options
- 15:31:58 From Stakeholder to Everyone:
Signage
- 15:32:13 From Stakeholder to Everyone:
Interactive app that can give you information
- 15:32:32 From Stakeholder to Everyone:
Interactive app yes! Especially important for people with different disability
- 15:35:51 From Stakeholder to Everyone:
Autonomous vehicles so appreciated! Making sure pathways are wide e.g. for a person to be able to walk beside Sandra as a friend or someone to provide support with nothing that will trip her up such as drainage grates, holes in the ground where the electrify cables go, there should be plenty of opportunities to cross from one side of the street to the other for example a driveway lip is preferred to a step type gutter
- 15:36:30 From Stakeholder to Everyone:
Wide, flat and smooth pathways
- 15:36:38 From Support 2 to Waiting Room Participants:
👍
- 15:36:43 From Stakeholder to Everyone:
Perhaps volunteers around to provide way-finding
- 15:36:56 From Stakeholder to Everyone:
Ensuring easy vertical access - ramps & lifts
- 15:36:57 From Stakeholder to Support 1 (Direct Message):
Differences in grade are a barrier to personal mobility. Stairs are good for able bodied people but ramps, escalators and lifts are needed for others. The current system of lifts in Central is chaotic and hard to navigate. Not really a 'transport system'.
- 15:37:23 From Stakeholder to Everyone:
Seating or points to rest

15:38:49 From Stakeholder to Everyone:

Finding human connection is quite difficult especially if you have a disability. Inclusion community programs in the area might be a nice option e.g. inclusive bootcamps in the park or art program for people with and without disability which really means targeting promotion to both communities

15:40:03 From Stakeholder to Everyone:

Community service workers who are well versed in disability and other vulnerabilities who act as connectors

15:41:04 From Stakeholder to Everyone:

Allowing for a spread of amenities e.g. laundromat

15:41:08 From Stakeholder to Support 1 (Direct Message):

An important element of a well-rounded human-centred development. Well done!

15:41:23 From Stakeholder to Everyone:

I wonder if John actually feels welcome in his community? As opposed to forced out?

15:44:18 From Stakeholder to Everyone:

Allowing for spaces that provide family friendly, late night activities that aren't alcohol focussed

15:44:42 From Stakeholder to Everyone:

ACON rainbow registered sticker program promoted to local business that are friendly to Sacha and their family

15:44:53 From Stakeholder to Everyone:

Creating more art in public spaces

15:45:02 From Stakeholder to Support 1 (Direct Message):

The Central precinct is a large and complex area to navigate. In a roads environment we have a system of main roads supported by a system of directional signs. Common paths through Central could be identified and branded appropriately.

15:45:34 From Stakeholder to Everyone:

Utilise and promote apps that identify and rate LGBTQIA+ locations and businesses

15:46:59 From Stakeholder to Everyone:

Curated walks to enjoy the city

15:49:25 From Stakeholder to Everyone:

Luggage storage areas for people arriving earlier than hotel or air bnb access

15:50:32 From Stakeholder to Everyone:

Great point Catherine...what kind of spaces and leisure/recreation for passengers who are waiting, and where can we find PowerPoints for our laptops, phones etc

15:51:15 From Stakeholder to Brendan Blakeley(Direct Message):

The office buildings should all have a bike storage (shower/locker) facilities similar to many modern office buildings (see Barangaroo development)

15:51:47 From Stakeholder to Everyone:

Food at reasonable prices

15:51:56 From Stakeholder to Everyone:

Where can a family with small children hang out?

15:52:11 From Stakeholder to Everyone:

Family friendly restaurants

15:52:15 From Stakeholder to Everyone:

Definitely play structures

15:52:21 From Stakeholder to Support 1 (Direct Message):

Child minding in the precinct

15:52:54 From Stakeholder to Everyone:

Play structures will encourage locals to use the spaces on weekends -eg Darling Harbour play areas

15:53:13 From Stakeholder to Everyone:
Excellent!!!

15:57:13 From Stakeholder to Everyone:
Downtown checkin at major train stations is done really well in Hong Kong

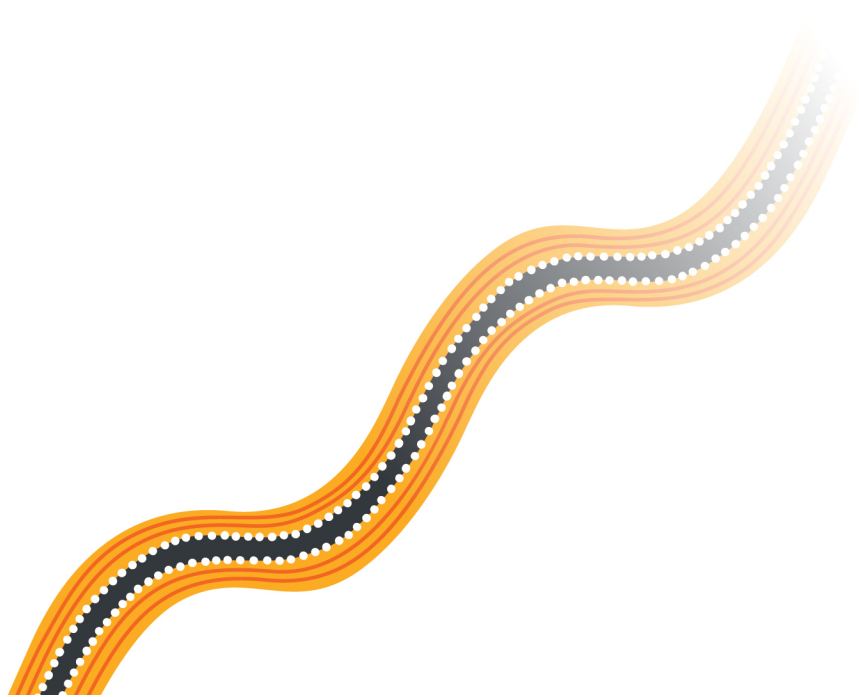
15:57:42 From Stakeholder to Everyone:
Free local wi-fi would benefit everyone

15:58:38 From Stakeholder to Everyone:
Dual curbside use -pick up and drop off points for ridesharing services as well as taxis

15:59:36 From Support 1 to Everyone:

From Stakeholder:

Love the public art procurement-it would be great to ensure procurement/tenders are super accessible-some people who make great art cannot demonstrate as they find the application process too hard!



Transport
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Central Precinct Renewal Program

ROM Customer Research

April 2022

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Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Central Precinct, the Gadigal and recognise the important of the place to Aboriginal people and their continuing connection to Country and culture. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

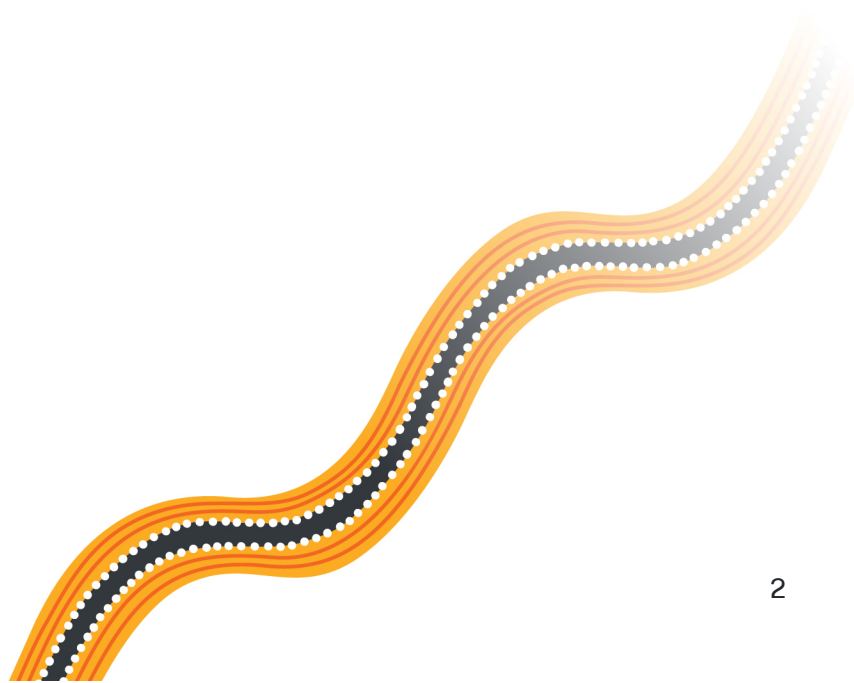
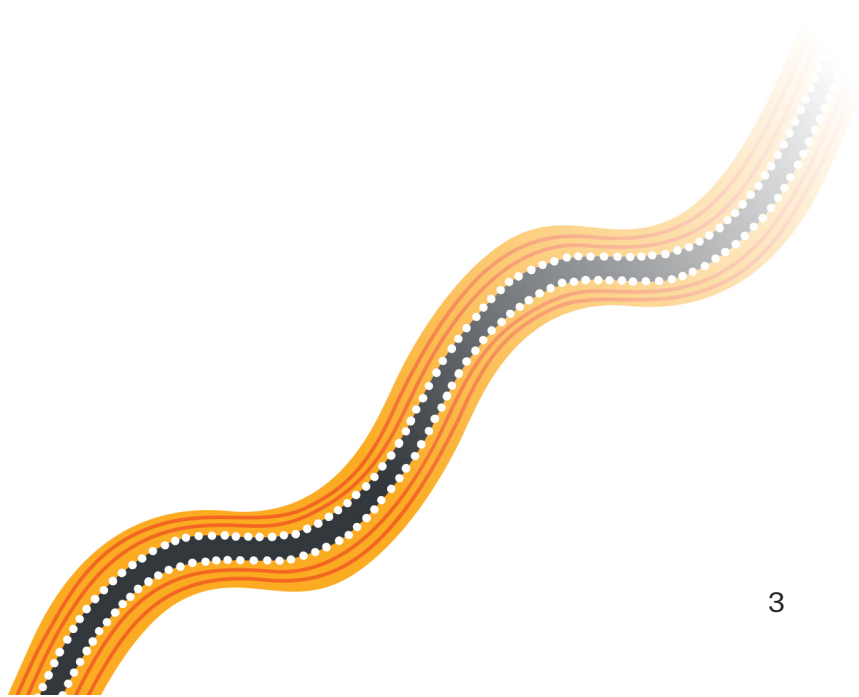


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1. ROM customers

1.1 Customer research

Up until 2021, customer research undertaken as part of the Central Precinct Renewal Program (CPRP) focused on current users of Central station, people who live locally, students and other groups that are familiar and frequent in using Central Precinct. Central Station functions as Australia’s main transport interchange and as it grows and transforms over the coming years, it will need to serve the needs of both the local, regional and international community. To ensure customers from outer suburbs of Greater Sydney and Outer Metropolitan and Regional (ROM) areas’ voices are embedded in the planning of Central Precinct, regional focused research was undertaken with customers who may be less familiar or frequent in visiting Central and where time and distance are key barriers to visiting.

The research aimed to understand their current perceptions and experience of Central Precinct; needs and barriers to visiting; as well as aspirations for the precinct as a destination and attributes that would provide compelling reasons to visit. It also aimed to identify specific unique behaviours, needs and experiences that differentiate these customers from those living within inner Sydney.

Transport for NSW (Transport) engaged The Lab Insight & Strategy Pty Ltd., a research consultancy to conduct qualitative research that included online ethnography, facilitated individual in-depth interviews, and focus group discussions with these customers.

1.1.1 Methodology

A Human Centred Design (HCD) approach was used to help understand customer behaviours and needs that will inform strategic decisions and future relevant services for the CPRP. Within this HCD approach, interviews were used as a form of qualitative customer research. This type of analysis enables us to understand our customers deeply - to identify their behaviour, understand their context, and understand what values drive their behaviour.

It is important to note that qualitative research is not representative, nor does it correlate to a city's wider population. However, it is used to understand and empathise with the people in this group - to go deep rather than broad.

1.1.2 Online ethnography and individual in-depth interviews

The first section of the customer research was conducted with 24 recruited participants who were required to complete ethnographic tasks over three days before being followed up with 60-minute individual in-depth interviews. Participants were recruited according to where they live and their frequency and reasons for coming into Sydney CBD.

	Greater Sydney (outer suburban) 8 participants	Outer Metropolitan 8 participants	Regional 8 participants
Frequent (once a week or more)	2 x work reasons	2 x work reasons	N/A
Occasional (less than once a week but more than once a month)	2 x social reasons 1 x work or personal reasons 1 x leisure	2 x social reasons 1 x work or personal reasons 1 x leisure	2 x social reasons 2 x work or personal reasons 2 x leisure
Infrequent (more than once a year but less than once a month)	2 x leisure (mix of major events and tourism reasons)	2 x leisure (mix of major events and tourism reasons)	2 x leisure (mix of major events and tourism reasons)

Additionally, the sample fulfilled the following key prerequisites:

- Mix of ages 18-75 years
- Mix of male, female & non-binary
- Mix of life stages across the sample
- Minimum of 4 who identify as CALD and ATSI across depth sample
- Minimum of 2 with a disability across depth sample
- All must have travelled to Central Precinct in the past 3 years
- All must have resided in their local area for at least 6 months

1.1.3 Focus Group Discussions

The second section of the customer research engaged 36 recruited participants across six 2-hour focus group discussions, divided according to the following demographics and attributes:

Greater Sydney		Outer Metropolitan		Regional	
18-39 years work or work/personal reasons (mix across sample)	40-65 years social or leisure reasons	18-39 years social or leisure reasons	40-65 years work or work/personal reasons (mix across sample)	18-39 years social or leisure reasons	40-65 years social or leisure reasons

Additionally, the sample fulfilled the following key prerequisites:

- Mix of ages 18-75 years
- Mix of male, female and non-binary
- Mix of life stages across the sample
- Representation across sample of those who identify as CALD and ATSI
- Representation across sample of those with a disability
- All must have travelled to Central Precinct in the past 3 years
- All must have resided in their local area for at least 6 months
- Mix of frequency of visitation (frequent, occasional, less frequent) to the area in each group

1.2 Barriers for visiting

COVID-19 has caused some (potentially short term) trepidation about travelling to Sydney for residents living beyond inner Sydney, especially those in outer metro and regional areas. This is due to feelings of safety (close contact in busy places such as public transport) and uncertainty in planning (new COVID variants, last minute cancellation of events and getting into venues due to social distancing regulations).

Table 1 highlights the main barriers for ROM customers to visit Sydney and Central Precinct and the opportunities the precinct renewal presents to attract these customers back into Central.

Table 1: ROM barriers for visiting Sydney CBD and the opportunity for Central Precinct.

	What we heard	Opportunity for Central Precinct
Safety and familiarity	Regional audiences especially are more concerned about safety and getting lost. They tend to stick to places that they know (especially when visiting with children) as there is a sense of a lack of safety – especially around Central Station.	There needs to be a fine balance in providing a feeling of safety and familiarity but also having elements that change to keep it interesting and different every time they visit.
Affordability	There is a lack of affordable hospitality and activities for ROM customers who typically stay for longer than just ‘popping in’ when visiting Sydney. They tend to make a full day or weekend of their visits.	There is an opportunity for Central Precinct to offer affordable hospitality and activities which is a key barrier to visiting more often.
Off-peak transport and station amenities	Those whose primary reason for visiting is work tend to make the most of being in the city when they come in. However, the lack of later services for ROM customers causes frustrations and can be a deterrent from visiting the city or staying late after work. This is further exacerbated by the lack of facilities and limited places to sit or get food around Central Station while waiting.	Aside from providing better off-peak transportation options, Central Station needs to upgrade its facilities and amenities to provide greater comfort, safety and convenience for customers who typically need to wait longer for low frequency transport services to get home.
Lack of nightlife	The decline of Kings Cross and perceived lack of a night-time economy acts as a barrier to going into the city. It has left a gap for a go-to night spot in the city. Lockout laws also contribute to this.	Central Precinct could fill in the gap that Kings Cross left behind – providing a quirky yet palatable and inclusive go-to destination for all that’s not exclusive/corporate or mainstream (see Figure 1).

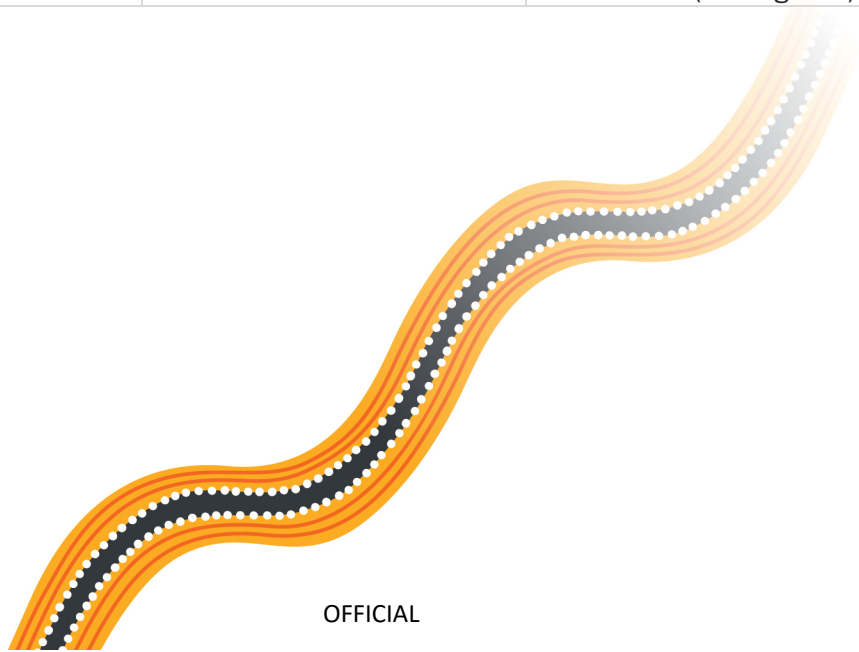
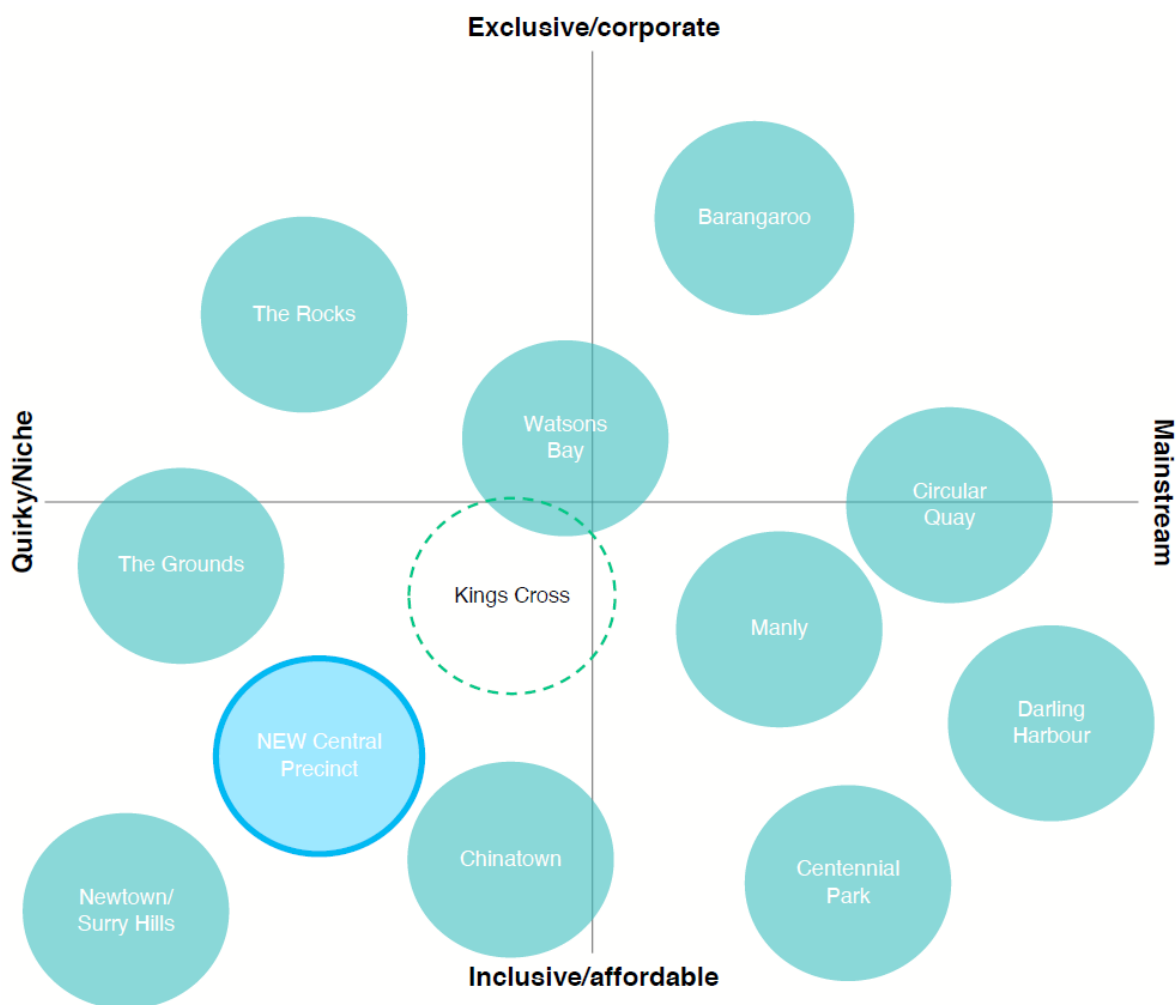


Figure 1: The gap left behind by Kings Cross that can be addressed by the 'New Central Precinct'



Source: The Lab’s Regional and Metro Augmentation Qualitative Debrief report

1.3 Drivers for visiting Sydney

Table 2: Key drivers for making a leisure or social trip to the city vary for ROM customers

	What we heard	Opportunity for Central Precinct
Central meeting place	Sydney CBD is a convenient place for everyone to get to and a central place to meet up – especially for Greater Sydney and Outer Metro residents who have moved away from the inner city.	The city is already a meeting point for people today, as well as historically for Traditional Owners. There is an opportunity to elevate Central into not just a meeting place but also somewhere people would like to stay and linger – as a destination as well as a meeting place.
Events and special occasions	Many ROM customers travel to Sydney CBD for specific events, such as festivals, theatres, concerts and Easter shows. Special occasions such as a birthday dinner and outing.	Central Precinct needs to offer exciting one-off events and entice this audience to travel and visit the precinct.

	What we heard	Opportunity for Central Precinct
	For many living in the outer suburbs of Greater Sydney, they have pubs, shops, cafes in their local suburbs so they need something special to trigger a trip into Sydney CBD.	
Close to the water	The harbour and being by the water is a major drawcard for coming to Sydney CBD – especially for those living further out west that don’t get to experience the ocean where they live.	As Central Precinct does not have the luxury of having the water and harbour as an attraction, there needs to be a focus on other advantages of the location, such as its proximity to Surry Hills, Chippendale, and Chinatown. Water could also be incorporated in parts of the precinct design.
Diversity	The diversity of experience offered by the city is something the ROM audience does not have in their own area or suburb. However, the diversity is spread out vastly across Sydney and it can be challenging to walk everywhere to experience it all.	This is an opportunity for Central Precinct to offer the diversity they want in one place without the need for customer to walk long distances.
Inclusivity and acceptance	The diversity of the city allows people to find other like-minded people and feel they are welcomed and accepted no matter what sub-culture they may identify with: e.g., alternative, heavy metal, LGBTQIA+, etc.	Central Precinct is inherently diverse and should emphasise this trait. Inclusivity is key to making the precinct a welcoming place for all.
Sense of excitement	The city has an energy and pulse that creates a sense of excitement that doesn’t exist in smaller towns or outer suburbs. However, there’s a fine balance between the joyful hustle and bustle of the city and the stress that comes from crowds and chaos. ROM customers can be put off by the hectic pace of the city.	Having amenities such as outdoor eating spaces can create an energetic vibe and holiday feeling that will appeal to ROM customers. However, it’s also important to provide quieter areas away from the crowds where they can retreat to for rest and restoration.

1.4 Central Precinct

Legacy perceptions of Central as dirty and unsafe are so ingrained for the ROM audience, that there is a need to disrupt this perception with evidence of a clean, safe, and well-lit precinct, by ensuring that it’s free from rubbish and clean amenities are available, with cameras and police presence. This could be further enhanced with interactive maps and public transport boards to keep late night travellers informed, or art installations that can be used to light the precinct at night.

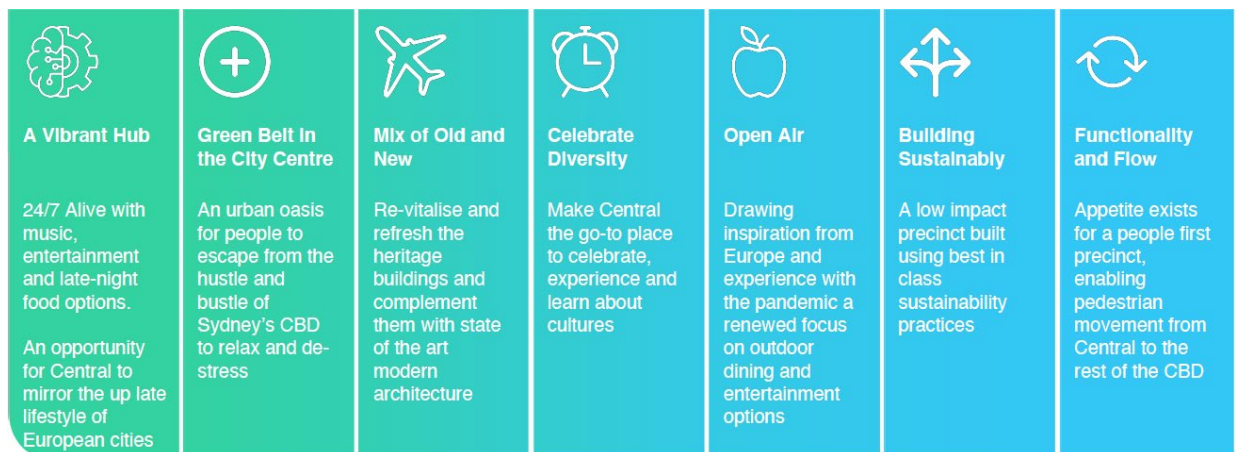
Like many Greater Sydney customers, the ROM audience do not perceive Central as a destination, but rather as a thoroughfare that is disjointed, stressful and confusing to navigate. However, Central Station is a gateway to the city and there is a desire for a stronger sense of arrival and excitement for what is currently an anticlimactic experience.

ROM customers prefer to come to Sydney by train rather than by car (especially for working trips) as trains are cheaper and less stressful (cost of parking, tolls and the stress of city traffic). This contributes to ROM customers' reliance on walking and public transport in Sydney. Central Precinct should therefore focus on walking paths and trails, and a pedestrian first mindset of movement in the design of the area.

ROM customers also feel that First Nations culture, history and origins is not currently being celebrated or highlighted in Sydney and is a gap in the city's offering that Central Precinct could fill. Figure 2 highlights the 7 key themes that ROM customers believe the new Central Precinct should be structured around.

Figure 2: 7 key themes for ROM customers' ideal new Central Precinct

Source: The Lab's Regional and Metro Augmentation Qualitative Debrief report



Transport
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Central Precinct Renewal Program

Aboriginal Engagement Report

May 2022

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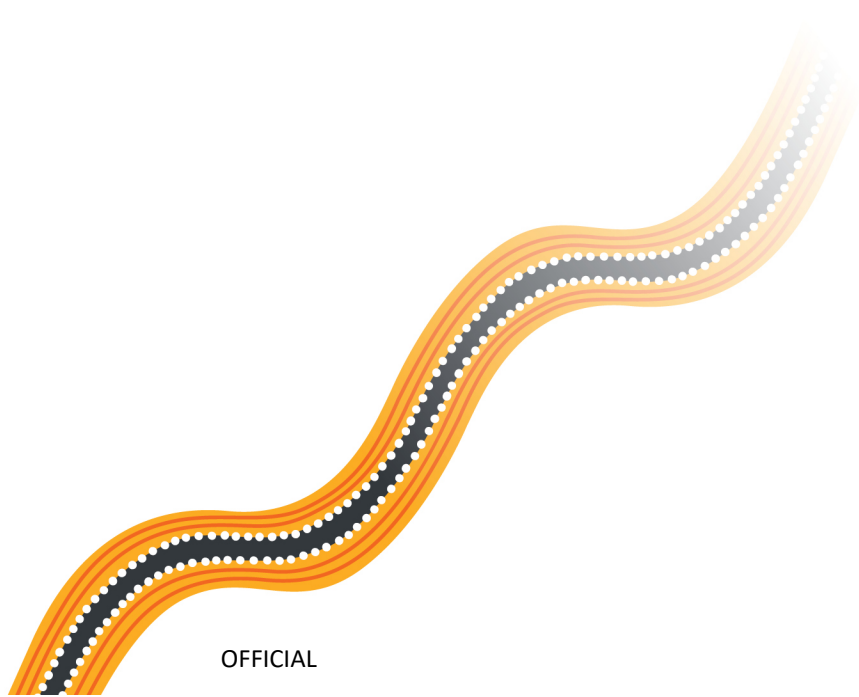


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1. Executive summary

1.1 Background

This Summary Report has been developed by Cox Inall Ridgeway (**CIR**) for Transport for NSW (**TfNSW**) to support the SSP Study for the Central Precinct Renewal Program (the **Project**).

CIR is a First Nations communications agency that specialises in social research, evaluation, strategic policy, stakeholder engagement, public relations and communications, and Indigenous design projects.

CIR is a proudly Supply Nation registered business and a member of the NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce.

The core CIR project team included:

- Senior Consultant – Nick Harvey-Doyle,
- Senior Research Manager – Julia Martignoni, and
- Junior Consultant – Grace Harding.

This document has been authored by CIR. It reflects the independent insights and analysis of CIR, not TfNSW or any organisation or individual consulted for the project. While all care has been taken by CIR to ensure information is accurate, this document may contain errors.

1.2 Who we spoke to

Between June 2021 and September 2021, CIR conducted eleven consultations and workshops, interviewing seventeen critical Indigenous stakeholders in total. CIR also received one piece of written feedback. Participants included local and Gadigal Elders, local First Nations community members, relevant Local and State Government agencies, and representatives from peak Indigenous organisations.

Consultations were led by suitably qualified and experienced First Nations staff members and conducted under COVID-19 safe conditions, with all consultations being conducted remotely.

A targeted social media campaign was rolled out on CIR's social media channels to identify local First Nations residents with an interest in the Project. Six residents expressed interest in providing input, five of which did so through virtual consultation, with the remaining resident providing written feedback.

Except for representatives from government agencies and peak Indigenous organisations, all stakeholders were remunerated for participating in the Project's engagement processes.

Table 1: Consultation method and number of participants

Method	No. of activities	No. of participants
Consultation (conducted remotely)	12	16
Written feedback	1	1
Total	13	17

1.3 What we heard

CIR analysis of feedback collected from all First Nations stakeholders identified six key themes as outlined briefly below.

More detail about each of these six themes, including quotes from First Nations people, are included in the main part of this report.

Key Theme 1 – *The Project was widely supported and endorsed by First Nations stakeholders, but future engagement is recommended*

Theme 1 explores the desire for the Project to acknowledge and celebrate First Nations culture, history, and connection to Country across the Central Precinct. First Nations community members endorsed the adoption of a Connecting with Country Framework and the multiple opportunities the Project presents.

Strong engagement from Indigenous stakeholders is important in creating TfNSW’s ongoing relationships with Indigenous stakeholders and businesses as the Project progresses.

Key Theme 2 – *The project must be anchored in a Gadigal identity to properly connect with Country*

Theme 2 explores understanding Country and culture at the Project site as connected to Gadigal landscape and Gadigal identity.

Stakeholders expressed the importance of the Project site celebrating and reflecting the natural environment, connection to Country, and what it means to be a Gadigal person in the Project through creative and educational design propositions.

Key Theme 3 – *Central Precinct has a strong Aboriginal history, but this is not reflected in the Precinct’s current design*

Theme 3 explores the significance of the Central Precinct area to Aboriginal people and culture, both historically and today.

There is little to no recognition of this significance in the current Central Precinct and stakeholders expressed the importance of exploring key First Nations historical events and stories in the design.

Defining moments of Aboriginal history relevant to Central Precinct are further outlined in this Theme.

Key Theme 4 – *The Project’s design should explore and respect Aboriginal culture and heritage*

Theme 4 explores several design ideas suggested by stakeholders. Specific design ideas identified in this theme are centered around Country and Aboriginal culture and heritage.

Stakeholders expressed the importance of these themes being explored through design thinking to ensure Country and culture are embedded in the overall Project direction in ways that are culturally appropriate and authentic.

Key Theme 5 – Embedding Aboriginal voices at all stages of the Project is key in ensuring Central Precinct is a welcoming and inclusive place for First Nations people

Theme 5 explores the ways in which TfNSW can ensure Indigenous voices are captured and included in all stages of the Project.

This includes a detailed outline of Aboriginal Governance Structures and ways in which the Project can ensure First Nations people feel welcomed and included at Central Precinct.

Key Theme 6 – Relationship building with peak Indigenous stakeholders is critical in identifying opportunities for Indigenous economic development and improving Project processes

Theme 6 explores the opportunities for TfNSW and the Project to support Indigenous economic development.

Stakeholders expressed that this may be achieved through relationship building, strategic and considered Indigenous procurement practices, and anchoring Aboriginal voices in the Project.

Key examples of peak Indigenous stakeholders for relationship building as well as barriers for economic development are also explored.

Other feedback

Stakeholders provided feedback outside of the six key themes which may be relevant to the Project. This section explores the concepts of dual naming and Sky Country and other relevant Project considerations and concerns as heard from stakeholders.

2. Introduction

About this report

This report summarises the First Nations research and engagement completed by CIR for TfNSW to support the Project. It highlights key themes from the feedback received by CIR about First Nation's views and aspirations for the Project.

The Central Precinct

Central Precinct is Transport for NSW's (TfNSW) vision for the future of Central Station and its surrounds. Central Precinct will be a new and exciting place that unites a world class transport interchange with innovative and diverse businesses and high-quality public spaces. It will embrace design, sustainability and connectivity, celebrate its unique buildings and cultural heritage, welcome communities and become the centre for jobs for the future and economic growth.

Unlocking 24 hectares of prime Government-owned land, Central Precinct will drive the success of Tech Central; the NSW Government commitment to create the biggest technology hub of its kind in Australia. Central Precinct will become a connected destination for living, creativity, jobs, entertainment and community services. It will prepare for the future of transport and commuting at Central Station with improved connections and accessibility, while transforming the Precinct into a welcoming destination for people to visit and enjoy.

Figure 1 Location plan of Central Precinct



In July 2019, Central Precinct was declared a nominated State Significant Precinct (SSP) because of its potential to boost NSW investment and deliver new jobs. The SSP planning process will identify a new statutory planning framework for Central Precinct.

This involves two key stages:

Stage 1: Development of a draft Strategic Vision which has since evolved into the Central Precinct Strategic Framework

Stage 2: Preparation of an SSP study with associated technical analysis and community and stakeholder consultation.

2.1 Barriers to engagement

At time of writing, there are multiple factors that are likely to have impacted stakeholder availability and appetite in engaging with the Project, including:

- Consultation fatigue due to large numbers of projects in the Sydney market over the preceding 18 months,
- Consultation overload specific to Central Precinct due to multiple projects underway,
- Stakeholders being preferential for TfNSW's Redfern North Eveleigh Renewal Program, which many stakeholders being relevant for both projects, and
- COVID-19 restrictions, which has meant many Indigenous organisations are ill-equipped to work from home, and Elders reluctant to engage in virtually based engagement activities.

Despite the above, CIR asserts that this report has been supported by an inclusive, diverse, and representative cross-section of Indigenous stakeholders

3. Research and public engagement

3.1 Stakeholder identification

CIR's identified stakeholders for the Project include representatives from:

- Peak or lead First Nations community-controlled organisations that represent First Nations people in NSW or locally,
- Aboriginal Land Councils,
- Traditional Owners (who may or may not be recognized native title claimants or holders),
- Respected local Elders,
- Local Council First Nations Advisory or Reference Groups,
- Other key First Nations community-controlled organisations and groups that support or represent target demographics (such as young people and people with a disability),
- First Nations business representatives,
- Local Decision-Making bodies (where these have been established), and
- Local First Nations residents/public transport patrons.

These communities were selected by CIR and approved by TfNSW when the Aboriginal engagement strategy for the Project was developed from December 2020 to May 2021.

3.2 Principles and methodology

The CIR project team applied the following principles to the Project:

- **Co-designing projects and solutions** – by working flexibly and in ways that are responsive to our clients and the needs of communities,
- Using diverse and innovative methods – which are economical, effective and fit-for-purpose,
- **Taking a knowledge-informed approach** – to understanding issues and identifying solutions that are evidence-based,
- **Using a strength-based approach** – by focusing on the opportunities, abilities and strengths of clients and communities, so that solutions identified are those that are most likely to succeed,
- **Presenting quality, accessible information** – by delivering reports and materials that present information clearly and will be readily understood by different audiences, and
- **Focusing on creating social change** – by delivering innovative activities and initiatives that we believe will benefit communities.

In its engagement with First Nations peoples and communities, the CIR project team adhered to the following participatory principles:

- **Respecting cultural protocols** – including engaging with First Nations peoples and communities in ways that are appropriate to their immediate and local circumstances,
- **Keeping First Nations voices at the centre of the discussion** – throughout our planning, practice and decision-making processes, through the way we understand and interpret information and present findings back to clients and communities,
- **Respecting the knowledge held by communities** – particularly the

knowledge held by communities about the issues that affect them, and the solutions to address those issues, and

- **Providing feedback to communities where possible** – to provide transparency about how communities' information has been used and what decision the feedback has influenced.

In practical terms, applying these principles meant CIR:

- Undertook research to ensure the CIR team were sufficiently briefed about issues and views of critical and key stakeholders, prior to beginning community engagement,
- Presented information in a way that was accessible and easy to understand, including using plain English and visual tools where possible,
- Was flexible and responsive to the way stakeholders wished to be consulted, recognising that Indigenous organisations and individuals are often busy, under-resourced, and over-consulted,
- Ensured an appropriate and senior Aboriginal member of the CIR project team facilitated the consultations,
- Respected the role of Aboriginal community-controlled organisations in representing the views of the Aboriginal community,
- Ensured facilitators at workshops and targeted consultations presented concepts and posed questions, focusing on listening rather than pre-empting ideas, suggestions or options, and
- Ensured community input genuinely shaped project outcomes.

3.3 Development of the Aboriginal Engagement Strategy

From December 2020 to May 2021, CIR was engaged by TfNSW to develop an Aboriginal engagement strategy to support the Project.

The engagement plan was extensive and informed by:

- Researching relevant Project documentation and past engagement processes relevant to Project,
- Extensive stakeholder mapping activities,
- Collaboration with TfNSW communication team and other Project consultants,
- CIR's extensive experience in First Nations engagement, particularly in relation to inner-Sydney city-based projects, and
- Obtaining final approval from the Project's Director within TfNSW.

At a high level, the engagement strategy spoke to:

- The key Project objectives and outcomes as they related to Aboriginal engagement,
- CIR's proposed engagement methodology,
- The purpose of Aboriginal engagement and recommended engagement approach,
- Stakeholder mapping and identification,
- Risk management framework and protocols, and
- Engagement collateral and materials including discussion guides and Project imagery. For reference, the discussion guide used to facilitate CIR's consultations can be found at **Appendix A** of this report.

TfNSW engaged CIR to implement this engagement strategy in June 2021.

3.4 Who participated in the community engagement

CIR facilitated 13 consultations with the relevant stakeholders, speaking with 17 people in total. The stakeholders engaged were First Nations organisations and individuals who were identified as having an interest in the Project and included:

- Uncle Ray Davison – Gadigal Elder,
- Uncle Charles ‘Chikka’ Dixon – Gadigal Elder,
- Auntie Margret Campbell – Local Elder,
- Cameron Davis – Gadigal man,
- Debbie Barwick – NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce,
- Peter White – Create NSW,
- Edie Coe – City of Sydney, Indigenous Lead and Engage,
- Preston Peachey – City of Sydney, Indigenous Lead and Engage,
- David Beaumont – City of Sydney, Indigenous Lead and Engage,
- Amy Stevens – an Indigenous anthropologist and archaeologist,
- Kate Munro – Youth Action, and
- Six (6) local Aboriginal residents, a majority of whom wish to remain anonymous.

It is important to note that CIR contacted several other key stakeholders who either declined the invitation to be consulted or did not engage in the process, including:

- Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council,
- Gadigal Information Service,
- Dennis Foley – Local Elder,
- Luke Briscoe – Indigenous tech expert, and
- Indigitek.

Please note that CIR has used learnings from several other engagement processes recently conducted in the Sydney Central vicinity to further inform and support the findings of this report. Permission was granted from these stakeholders to use their learnings to benefit this report and the Project more broadly.

CIR would like to draw specific attention to a small engagement process undertaken from March 2021 to April 2021 with Indigenous stakeholders to support the Aboriginal heritage interpretation strategy for the Project. CIR approached several Gadigal Elders, established community Elders and leaders and Stolen Generation Survivors for this engagement processes. In total, eight (8) Aboriginal stakeholders participated in these consultations.

The overall purpose of this engagement was to deepen the Project’s understanding of the Precinct’s Aboriginal sense of place as to recognise and celebrate the spiritual, intangible, and cultural values that Aboriginal people hold about the Precinct. This enables the Project to address the full story of the place and see landscape through the eyes of its traditional Indigenous inhabitants. Where relevant, the learnings from this process have been weaved throughout this report to provide greater context and ensure all Indigenous voices have been captured and reflected in a holistic and transparent way.

4. What we heard

4.1 Feedback on the project

CIR considered the data collected directly from the consultations with First Nations organisations and individuals. Highlights and key insights are presented against six key themes:

Key Theme 1

The Project was widely supported and endorsed by First Nations stakeholders, but future engagement is encouraged

Key Theme 2

The Project must be anchored in Gadigal culture to authentically connect with Country

Key Theme 3

Central Precinct has a strong Aboriginal history, but this is not reflected in its current design

Key Theme 4

The Project's design should explore and respect Aboriginal culture and heritage

Key Theme 5

Embedding Aboriginal voices at all stages of the Project is key in ensuring Central Precinct is a welcoming and inclusive place for First Nations people

Key Theme 6

Relationship building with peak Indigenous stakeholders is critical in identifying opportunities for Indigenous economic development and improving Project processes

Common feedback was identified within each theme and distilled by CIR to provide common, recurring, and especially important messages and insights. Where the report refers to insights from 'community members' this refers to First Nations people who spoke to CIR during the engagement process.

Direct quotes are presented to demonstrate insights of First Nations people in their own words. Quotes are de-identified for privacy reasons. To present a diversity of voices no more than one quote from a community member is used in relation to any one theme.

Section 4.2 explores feedback relevant to the Project outside of the six key themes.

Key theme 1 – The Project was widely supported and endorsed by First Nations stakeholders, but future engagement is encouraged

Feedback explored in Theme 1 may benefit the following Studies:

- Connecting with Country Framework (Study Requirement 1.8)
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study (Study Requirement 5.1)
- Heritage Interpretation Strategy (Study Requirement 5.4)
- Consultation Outcomes Report (Study Requirement 15.2)

Stakeholders noted that such a significant piece of public Sydney infrastructure is severely deficient in showcasing Aboriginal heritage and culture, with one stakeholder noting that, *“this place has been screaming out for some Aboriginal culture for as long as I can recall.”*

Overwhelmingly, CIR heard that there is a desire from First Nations stakeholders for the renewal of Central Precinct to acknowledge and celebrate Aboriginal culture, history, and connection to Country.

There was a consensus among stakeholders that Central Precinct in its current form is deficient in displaying Aboriginal culture, in desperate need of renewal, and that *“all the grey I see is concrete and all the green I see is foreign.”*

Stakeholders shared that the lack of Gadigal culture and presence at Central Precinct is further disappointing as Central was a significant area for First Nations people, the significance of which is explored further in this report.

Another stakeholder noted that they find the Central Precinct of now conflicting as, *“in its own way, Central is rather beautiful, but in another it is an absolute monstrosity. Given that these buildings and structures are made from materials sourced from Country, the colonial presence of the Precinct and absolute lack of deference to Country is overwhelming. There is a massive dissonance between the structure and our culture.”*

Due to the above, stakeholders expressed strong endorsement that the Project adopt a culturally robust Connecting with Country Framework and approach to support the Project. They expressed that this Framework would ideally provide an opportunity to encourage all design and planning processes to operate in ways that are more inclusive and representative of First Nations peoples.

“There is a strong need for project proponents to change the way they work with Indigenous stakeholders, communities, and businesses.”

The Project has been widely supported and endorsed by First Nations stakeholders in terms of the opportunities it presents. These include the potential to:

- Showcase First Nations culture and connection to Country in a unique way, drawing attention from domestic and international markets,
- Provide economic advancement and employment opportunities for Indigenous-owned businesses, and
- Redesign and renew a significant public asset in Sydney with Indigenous culture in mind.

Ultimately, the Project offers opportunities for “living engagement” with First Nations culture, history, and Country for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

Despite the large amount of consultation activities in and around the Project area in recent years, engagement participation from First Nations stakeholders was relatively strong, as was their hope that the Project will result in positive and beneficial outcomes for Aboriginal people and culture in modern Sydney.

While the Indigenous engagement activities recently facilitated by CIR are ultimately the beginning of Indigenous consultation for the Project, such inroads created by this engagement should provide TfNSW with a solid foundation to deepen its own relationships with Indigenous stakeholders and businesses as the Project progresses.

While stakeholders widely commended TfNSW for facilitating engagement early and genuinely into the Project and appreciated the transparency and opportunity to provide input in crucial stages of the development, they reinforced that TfNSW needs to commit to ongoing and genuine engagement with Indigenous stakeholders as the Project progresses.

“Projects of this scale always rely on capacity building. Creating a commitment to ‘Design with Country’ is great, but how does it facilitate bringing people and community together? If you do not engage with community both authentically and cyclically, then you are going to miss out on the opportunity to develop activated spaces. When you do not engage properly, all you end up achieving is an old museum style approach to design.”

Stakeholders welcomed this Project and are excited at its potential but challenged TfNSW to be receptive to innovative and creative ideas that ensures Indigenous perspectives are included throughout the Project’s life cycle.

Achieving such an outcome is routinely addressed in this report.

Key Theme 2 – The Project must be anchored in Gadigal culture to automatically connect with Country

Feedback explored in Theme 2 may benefit the following Studies:

- Public Art Strategy (Study Requirement 1.4)
- Connecting with Country Framework (Study Requirement 1.8)
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study (Study Requirement 5.1)
- Heritage Interpretation Strategy (Study Requirement 5.4)
- Consultation Outcomes Report (Study Requirement 15.2)

Due to the place-based significance of Aboriginal culture, stakeholders were emphatic in their recommendation that the Project be anchored in Gadigal Country and culture.

CIR heard that understanding Country and culture at the Project site is linked to understanding:

- 1) The Gadigal landscape, and
- 2) What the foundations of Gadigal people and the 'Gadigal Identity' are.

Stakeholders noted all Indigenous design outcomes for the Project should be anchored in and stem from the Gadigal culture.

Gadigal landscape

Aboriginal people are intrinsically connected to Country, meaning the landscape is a key element of Gadigal culture. Nature is understood as being the key holder of unique and sacred cultural knowledge that ultimately facilitates the connection between people and place.

“Nature forever holds knowledge, which is facilitated by ‘families.’ Nature holds source code knowledge that many Aboriginal custodians have today and are passing on to others.”

CIR heard that the key characteristics of the Gadigal landscape that the Project should consider include:

- The elevated rocky escarpment that runs down to Sydney Harbour,
- Sandstone, and
- Native flora and fauna.

When considering Central Precinct more broadly it was commented that, *“Central is truly **central** to Gadigal Country. It is smack bang in the middle of Gadigal land and was a massive transitional area zone for mob. Central was also in the middle of both a Women’s area and Men’s area which bordered Kangaroo Grounds. This was a shared area between the Gadi and the Wangal people.”*

It was further noted that Central is standing on a giant multi-general ecosystem including:

- Kangaroo Grounds – which were described as a giant grass highway from Sydney Harbour to Cooks River,
- East to Central – which were typified by hills and sandstone, and
- North – a strong hydrological influence with waterways and connections from Hyde Park and to the Tank Stream (essentially Pitt Street). Central is estimated to be sitting atop of where the Tank Stream ended.

Due to this, stakeholders encouraged the Project to consider nature and knowledge systems at a subterranean level and explore what is happening beyond the visible landscape. The cultural significance of the complex underground waterway systems was highlighted as being particularly important. These systems are and always have been active and critical in sustaining life above ground.

Community members expressed that this interconnected system of underground waterways connects Central Precinct to the surrounding areas. Identified areas of significance include Moore Park, Hyde Park, and Centennial Park in which it was said that hanging swamps and boars at these sites were sustained by waterways interconnected with Central Precinct.

Anchoring the Project in a Gadigal perspective enables authentic connection to culture and Country for all Gadigal and First Nations people. Stakeholders shared that the ‘identity’ of the environment should be seen as providing an umbilical connection throughout Country.

This broader concept of connectedness is further explored in **Theme 4**.

Gadigal Identity

Knowledge holders shared that the Gadigal Identity can be explored through the characteristics of:

- Sunrise people,
- Moonrise people,
- Sandstone people,
- Stories of whale dreaming, and
- Dreaming stories of mother earth through fig trees, paperbark trees, angophora trees, ironbark trees.

“A Gadigal Identity is explicit to Gadigal Country, and I identify as an extension of the land on which Sydney sits. My Totems include the Xanthorrhoea and the Sydney sand goanna. Whales are particularly central to Gadigal women ... But we don’t see these stories in modern Sydney. It is an odd thing to feel so connected to a place but not having any visual of physical reflection of this in our landscape.”

Due to the limited celebration and representation of Gadigal culture across both Central Precinct and Sydney more broadly, stakeholders noted that a thorough, creative, and educational interpretation of Gadigal history and identity is a preferred outcome.

“I’d love people to understand that the built environment exists on Gadigal Country. It’s still breathing, minerals are all there, and so is Earth Mother’s heartbeat.”

When asked about how the Gadigal Identity could be expressed in the Project, stakeholders suggested the following considerations:

- Developing a native and endemic planting palette in green spaces and the overall Precinct landscape. It was noted that trees should be planted in ‘families’, meaning that trees are not planted individually but instead in little clusters or ‘circle ceremonies’/formations to help build local ecosystems and relationships. Specific recommendations for the planting palette include the eastern suburb banksia scrub, trees including styphelia, xanthorrhoea johnsonii, and xanthorrhoea media, and local wattle species (many of which were traditionally used as indicators to mark the travel of whales as well as the seasonal travel of Gadi people. Twenty (20) species of wattle were also consumed as local bush food). Wattle was noted to have immense ethnobotanical significance for Aboriginal people,
- Exploring opportunities to “*build, develop, and create from the east, as this is where our day starts, and our day ends.*” This is in relation to the sun and moon rising to the east and is a key dictator in how Gadigal people lived their lives. While stakeholders noted that it is not always possible to dictate the direction in which something is built, they did ask the Project to challenge its thinking and explore how this could be interpreted across artworks, art installations, the design of green public spaces, and other creative expressions,
- Displaying Aboriginal artwork telling Gadigal stories (created by Gadigal/Sydney artists) on digital billboards or murals around the Station,
- Using traditional Gadigal language for place names and wayfinding (refer to **Section 4.2** of this report), and
- Utilising the shapes of culturally significant fauna such as emu and kangaroo tracks in design and architecture. This could be explored through designing supporting beams to replicate the shape of these animal tracks and embedding plaques or information material highlighting the inspiration of native fauna and any significant stories surrounding these animals.

Key Theme 3 – Central Precinct has a strong Aboriginal history, but this is not reflected in its current design

Feedback explored in Theme 3 may benefit the following Studies:

- Connecting with Country Framework (Study Requirement 1.8)
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study (Study Requirement 5.1)
- Heritage Interpretation Strategy (Study Requirement 5.4)
- Consultation Outcomes Report (Study Requirement 15.2)

Stakeholders noted that Central Precinct has played an important role in defining significant moments of Sydney's Aboriginal history but that there is little to no recognition of this in the Precinct's current design.

Stakeholders expressed a desire to see an abundance of Aboriginal history and culture included in the renewal design.

Overall, consultations revealed the importance of Central Precinct in relation to the mobility of Aboriginal people, both historically and today. Train journeys taken from Central Station were often a conduit to Country to allow Aboriginal people to return to both theirs and other people's Country for cultural celebrations and responsibilities.

Described by an Elder as the "hub and spoke" of Aboriginal mobility, Central Station was, in some instances, also the final destination for Aboriginal people and families who migrated to Sydney and settled in nearby suburbs.

An Elder also commented on the strong social dreaming lines between Central and Redfern and said that there were many places between these two places that were used by Aboriginal people for social connection and gathering.

When asked where Aboriginal people and families were migrating from, stakeholders commented that due to the job opportunities in the Eveleigh Railway Workshop and the Botany Road warehouses, many Aboriginal people were migrating from Aboriginal reserves across the state to take up residence in Redfern. It was noted that this increase in migration was also due to the desire to live a life free from the control of the Aborigines Protection Board.

Research supports the above assertion, in which it was stated, "*Inner Sydney suburbs within easy reach of Central Railway station became a magnet to Aborigines of diverse communal and Country origins who sought cheap housing, access to public transport, and unskilled employment in the Eveleigh Railway Yards and other industrial outlets.*"¹

Concerning specific and defining moments of Aboriginal history relative to Central Precinct, stakeholders identified the following as especially significant:

- The Stolen Generation,
- Aboriginal Highways,

¹ Anderson, K (1993). Place Narratives and the Origins of Inner Sydney's Aboriginal Settlement, 1972-73, *Journal of Historical Geography*, 19(3): 314-335.

- Cleveland Paddocks (Prince Alfred Park),
- Belmore Park,
- Moore Park,
- The Foundation,
- Aboriginal Employment, and
- Aboriginal Activism (the Burlington Hotel, the Day of Mourning, and the Trades Hall).

The Stolen Generation

The damaging and traumatic role that Central Station played in the history of the Stolen Generation is well documented. The information contained below is derived from a series of conversations held with Survivors of the Stolen Generation. These Survivors asserted an ardent aspiration for their reality, truth and lived experiences to be a key priority and consideration for the Project.

“Our history of being Stolen Generation is a dark one, and it is a history that is significant to this Country. Everyone has a responsibility to make sure that our truth is told, and we can achieve this by creating something that makes people stop and consider, so that events like this never happen again.”

Platform 1 at Central Station is a particularly memorable place for members of the Stolen Generation as it was the place where the trains departed to deliver Aboriginal children to State-run welfare homes.

Stakeholders noted the significance of Platform 1 and the opportunity to use this space as a canvass for design opportunity throughout the Project to tell their stories and history of the place through the eyes of the Survivors.

“I always feel cold when I think of Central Station. It was the last place where I saw the people that loved me the most.”

Survivors also wished to express the effects of separating children from their parents, and particularly separating fathers from their children. Survivors noted that fathers are often excluded from the wider Stolen Generation conversation, and that they wanted to ensure that the voice of children who were taken from their fathers, and the lasting and damaging affects this had on their fathers, was considered.

“Central station was a dark place ... a scary place. Everything looked so tall and so different to anything I'd seen before. I was four years old when I was thrown onto a train at Platform 1. I was taken away from my parents and brothers and forced on to a train with no idea where it was headed. Everyone else on the platform was tall and white and paid no attention to me.”

Community members from the Stolen Generation also noted the importance of being mindful of other materials and promotional collateral in Central Station which can significantly impact and change the experience of the public transport audience.

A community Elder recalls seeing a billboard advertisement for foster carers in close proximity to Platform 1, which the Aboriginal community considered to be inappropriate, offensive, and tone deaf with regards to the history attached to the site.

Aboriginal “Highways”

A local Elder provided the concept of “Aboriginal highways”, especially in relation to the routes and paths that Aboriginal people tracked and camped along. It was said that these “highways” could likely be mapped out and that they would follow similar routes to modern major road and railway systems as Aboriginal people guided early colonists through Country.

One of the most common routes traversed by Aboriginal people was George Street which led to Warrane – a key focus point for access to water, food, and recreational activities. Elders noted that further research and consultation is likely required to unlock the history and common routes travelled by Aboriginal people. Elders also revealed that mob traditionally traversed to Waterloo to conduct men’s business.

Cleveland Paddocks

“Prince Alfred Park, earlier known as Cleveland Paddocks, was an Aboriginal camp site until the mid-19th century. Sydney’s Aboriginal people lived here, west of the city center, until the coming of the railway in 1855 and the subsequent use of the park as the showground for the Agricultural Society. Sydney’s Aboriginal population had been earlier pushed to the fringes of the city, away from their traditional camping grounds around Sydney Cove at The Domain and Woolloomooloo.”²

In 1890, the Echo Newspaper reported that, *“There are many people living who recollect when the Cleveland Paddocks, where the railway station and the exhibition building now stand, were a favourite camping place for the blacks. Then their ‘corroborees’ kept the few residents in Redfern awake til far into the night.”³*

When queried about Cleveland Paddocks, stakeholders commented that they were aware that it was a mission for Aboriginal people and that played an important part in “trade” of food and other goods. *“Aboriginal people back then had a very subsistence lifestyle,”* said a local Elder.

Belmore Park

Stakeholders noted that Belmore Park plays a key role in the natural landscape of this part of the city. A stakeholder noted that, *“Belmore Park was previously a big quarry site with sandstone and hardwood trees. These trees were chopped down and removed so the wood could be used to build houses for white settlers.”* Stakeholders expressed an interest in Belmore Park being revitalized and that the landscape should be *“brought back to what it used to be.”*

Stakeholders further asserted that Belmore Park was, and is used, as a regular meeting place. Community members also asserted that Belmore Park was a central place where all modern-day Aboriginal people live (such as Redfern, La Perouse, etc).

Belmore Park has been used in recent times as a gathering place for protests and small marches. An Elder noted that, *“I have seen a lot of activism and social rights movements take place at Belmore Park. From memory, the last major event was the*

² City of Sydney, *‘Barani/Barrabugu (Yesterday/Tomorrow): Sydney’s Aboriginal Journey’*, published 20 October 2017, available from <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/history/barani-barrabugu-yesterday-tomorrow-walking-tour>

³ Echo Newspaper, 12 June 1890

Apology and handover in 2008. Mob came from all over for that day, and it is a significant part of our history.”

Belmore Park was also the starting and gathering point for the 1989 NAIDOC Week march through to the Domain to protest the Government’s policy for mainstreaming Aboriginal services.

Moore Park

Stakeholders revealed that Moore Park was traditionally used as a “payback area” for the Sydney local region. In Aboriginal culture, payback referred to a vendetta and the subsequent satisfaction of a grievance (such as death, wife-stealing, etc) through ritual and ceremony, which may have included gift-giving, corporal punishment or in extreme cases, death.⁴ Elders noted that colonists knew about the area and would often go and watch the payback rituals take place.

The Foundation

“The Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs was established in December 1964 to provide assistance to Aboriginal people living in Sydney. Although it was originally intended as a non-political and non-religious organisation, it soon became an important steppingstone in the push towards community-control within Sydney’s Aboriginal community. The ‘Foundo’ helped with housing, employment, education, welfare, and legal, medical, and financial assistance. It was administered by Aboriginal people including Charles Perkins, Chicka Dixon and Ken Brindle, but non-Aboriginal people were also involved in its operations and helped with fundraising events including dances. The Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs bought a building at 810–812 George Street for its headquarters, which was officially opened in October 1966 by Eric Willis, then the Chief Secretary of NSW. The organisation folded in 1977 due to a lack of funding and a general shift towards Aboriginal-run and administered organisations.”⁵

In addition to helping Aboriginal people with housing, employment and general welfare assistance, community members reflected on the importance of The Foundation from a perspective of young and often marginalized Aboriginal community members. Consultations also revealed that The Foundation played host to ‘Aboriginal Debutante Balls’, and that this tradition is what led to the NAIDOC Balls that happen today. In 1968, Prime Minister John Gorton was reported to have attended The Foundation’s Debutante Ball. Stakeholders commented that it was also common for Aboriginal bands to perform at The Foundation and that alcohol was never served.

“The Foundo played an important role in the socialization of young Aboriginal people. Youth would primarily go out on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights for dances and to connect with each other. It really filled a gap for young Aboriginals who didn’t have many places to meet.”

⁴ See more on Aboriginal payback: <https://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/law/tribal-punishment-customary-law-payback>

⁵ City of Sydney, ‘*Barani/Barrabugu (Yesterday/Tomorrow): Sydney’s Aboriginal Journey*’, published 20 October 2017, available from <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/history/barani-barrabugu-yesterday-tomorrow-walking-tour>

Aboriginal Employment

Stakeholder consultations revealed a long history of Aboriginal employment in the Central Precinct, particularly in relation to industrial jobs. The proximity to Sydney Harbour was also said to have brought a series of industrial job opportunities for Aboriginal people.

“The Central area is so gentrified now that I think younger people would be surprised to find out that, historically, it was a very industrial area with significant Aboriginal employment. Some of the big employers were Carlton United Brewery, the dental hospital, Francis Chocolates, the jam factory, and Australia Post. I can still vividly picture the large neon light of an arm lifting a beer on top of the brewery on Elizabeth Street...”

Research conducted denotes a distinct lack of photos or media concerning Aboriginal people in employment in the project area. When questioned about the lack of photographic evidence of Aboriginal people working in and around the Central Precinct, a community member noted, *“Aboriginal employment schemes and initiatives weren’t on any government or corporate agenda, so it’s not a surprise that there are no photos floating about. There may be some old black and whites [photos] amongst some of the old Sydney families...”*

An Elder also highlighted the story of the first Aboriginal man to become a train driver in NSW, with this man’s daughter later becoming the first female Aboriginal train driver in NSW.

Aboriginal Activism (the Burlington Hotel, the Day of Mourning, and the Trades Hall)

Central Precinct has played home to bouts of activism throughout modern history, with peaceful protests and marches parading down the streets lining the Central Precinct. Below are some other key activist events attached to Central Precinct.

“It is hard for me to pinpoint a particular march or protest because I can remember participating in so many of them. Even as a young boy, and then when I was older, I would march up and down Elizabeth Street and George Street with other mob. My most vivid memory is probably protesting down Elizabeth Street in 1988 with about 30,000 people. We were marching against the bicentennial celebration, and mob were protesting in the streets, dressed in tribal gear...”

Whilst none of the stakeholders consulted were part of the events detailed below, community members highlighted them as being significant to Aboriginal history.

The Burlington Hotel

Aboriginal people were not free to drink in public bars in Sydney through to the 1970s. Although not upheld by law, this informal apartheid was enforced by patrons, publicans, and the police. The imposition of this unofficial ban was a snub to Aboriginal people and reflected the prevailing attitudes of non-Aboriginal people at this time.

On 21 March 1965, a group of 40 Aboriginal men staged a ‘sit-in’ demonstration in the lounge of the Burlington Hotel on the corner of Hay and Sussex Streets in

Haymarket. The group led by Charles Perkins and Ken Brindle was protesting the hotel's policy to refuse admission to Aboriginal patrons. The protest at the Burlington Hotel came a month after a group of Sydney University students took part in an event that became known as the Freedom Ride.⁶

The Day of Mourning⁷

The Aboriginal Day of Mourning was the Indigenous response to Australia's sesquicentenary on January 27 in 1938. It was the first national gathering of Indigenous people protesting the prejudice and discrimination that was a daily part of their lives and marked the beginning of the modern Aboriginal political movement.

One of the events for the sesquicentenary was a re-enactment of the landing of Captain Arthur Phillip. Refusing to take part, a group of Aboriginal people met at Australia Hall (located at 150-152 Elizabeth Street) to mourn the loss of their country, their freedom and self-determination, and the deaths of so many of their kin.

One of the key organisers of the event, Jack Patten, stated that, "*We, representing the Aborigines of Australia, assembled in conference at the Australian Hall, Sydney, on the 26th day of January, 1938, this being the 150th Anniversary of the Whiteman's seizure of our country, hereby make protest against the callous treatment of our people by the whitemen during the past 150 years, and we appeal to the Australian nation of today to make new laws for the education and care of Aborigines, we ask for a new policy which will raise our people to full citizen status and equality within the community.*"

Trades Hall (4-10 Goulburn Street)

When Aboriginal people began to organize politically, there were often sympathetic non-Aboriginal people to help in the struggle, some of them unionists. From the 1950s, unions and Aboriginal organisations worked closely to build momentum towards the 1967 Referendum on Citizenship Rights and Commonwealth control of Aboriginal affairs.

Unions helped Aboriginal people from regional areas to get jobs in Sydney and offered support in the education sector by financing scholarships at Tranby College.

The Builders Labourers Federation was a sponsor of the Redfern All Blacks football team, and later placed a Green Ban on the development of The Block in the early 1970s. In 1963, two Aboriginal unionists, Ray Peckham, and Valentine 'Monty' Maloney, launched The Aboriginal Worker newspaper, which urged Aboriginal people to 'play an active part in their union'.⁸

⁶ City of Sydney, '*Barani/Barrabugu (Yesterday/Tomorrow): Sydney's Aboriginal Journey*', published 20 October 2017, available from <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/history/barani-barrabugu-yesterday-tomorrow-walking-tour>

⁷ See more: <https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/day-of-mourning>

⁸ City of Sydney, '*Barani/Barrabugu (Yesterday/Tomorrow): Sydney's Aboriginal Journey*', published 20 October 2017, available from <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/history/barani-barrabugu-yesterday-tomorrow-walking-tour>

Key Theme 4 – The Project’s design should include Aboriginal culture and heritage

Feedback explored in Theme 4 may benefit the following Studies:

- Urban Design Framework (Student Requirement 1.2)
- Public Domain Strategy (Study Requirement 1.3)
- Public Art Strategy (Study Requirement 1.4)
- Connecting with Country Framework (Study Requirement 1.8)
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study (Study Requirement 5.1)
- Heritage Interpretation Strategy (Study Requirement 5.4)
- Consultation Outcomes Report (Study Requirement 15.2)

Stakeholders reported several considerations to be explored for inclusion in the Project’s design. These ideas are centered around Country, Aboriginal culture, and heritage.

It was suggested that placing these themes at the center of design thinking ensures that Country and culture can be embedded and represented in ways that are culturally appropriate.

As discussed in **Theme 2**, these design ideas have stemmed from the concept of Gadigal Country, culture, and identity. When exploring Indigenous design ideas and propositions, stakeholders reinforced the importance of anchoring design thinking in Gadigal as a “concept” and exploring design propositions that flow on from this concept.

Considering Gadigal as a “macro-theme” and driving concept for the Project, CIR has distilled all stakeholder design-based feedback into “micro-themes” which include:

- Healing,
- Nature as knowledge,
- Connectedness,
- Removing cultural blindness, and
- Using technology in contemporary Indigenous design.

These design micro-themes are explored in detail below and where appropriate, design propositions, considerations, and inspiration reference points as they relate to each micro-theme have been identified.

While all considerations below may not be appropriate or possible to be considered in the Project’s early design stages, such suggestions may provide opportunities to advance the Project’s current understanding and inclusion of Country and culture in their current and future work.

The final section of **Theme 4** also explores considerations for the Public Art Strategy.

Micro-theme 1 – Healing

Stakeholders noted that the project should be anchored in healing, which is a regularly sought outcome from Indigenous stakeholders in government projects. It

was noted that healing is especially important due to the history of the Stolen Generation at Platform 1, in addition to overall healing that is expected as part of the national reconciliation agenda.

Stakeholders expressed that holistic healing outcomes should be embedded into the Project through exploring:

- Healing Country,
- Healing Culture, and
- Healing Spirit.

CIR heard that these share a cyclical, dependent relationship and that a successful Project outcome embodies and commits to all tenets of holistic healing.

“I want to empower all Sydneysiders with our Aboriginal stories. Sharing our stories and being able to do it on a large and public scale is critical in bringing about healing, reconciliation, belonging.”

“Healing happens when you start talking about how Aboriginal people feel and understanding why they feel this way.”

Healing Country through design

From this perspective, stakeholders suggested that the Project’s design can consider strategies to heal Country by:

- Prioritizing the natural environment and health of Country in design outcomes through reintroducing native and endangered species, creating sustainable elements of the Precinct’s design that limit its impact to Country and (where possible) improves the health of Country, and committing to relevant principles of the Connecting with Country Framework that ask proponents to heal Country. One stakeholder noted that, *“Healing Country always comes back to the land and environment. We need to bring back the native plants and look at all layers of the environment from the ground shrubs to the tall canopies of trees. If we do this, the native fauna will come back, too. How can we bring it all back, restore it, and brand it Gadigal?”*
- Moving beyond academic, transient, and memorialized representations of culture. The Stolen Generations plaque on Platform 1 was highlighted as an example of how Aboriginal history is often represented in ways that are clinical and highly ineffective. Stakeholders noted that a key part of healing Country is creating spaces that are truthful and inclusive of place-specific cultural identities that don’t shy away from “colorful” histories of a place, and
- Designing spaces that foster economic development and job opportunities for local Aboriginal businesses, e.g., hospitality vendor spaces, Indigenous tourism opportunities, public spaces for busking, ceremony, and performances, an Aboriginal cultural store or center, and native gardens that can be tended to by community members and Elders. A key part of healing Country is creating a space that is accessible and welcoming to Aboriginal people. Stakeholders noted that an increased presence of Aboriginal businesses and ventures is likely to increase Aboriginal patronage at Central Precinct.

Healing Culture through education

CIR also heard that a key part of healing is educating all people about Aboriginal culture and that this could be achieved through:

- Recognizing and including Gadigal identity, language, and culture through the Project design and operation, which enables non-Indigenous people opportunities to “*learn and see life in new ways ... how we as Aboriginal people see life.*”
- Using highly frequented public spaces for First Nations storytelling to help build the level of cultural understanding held by non-Indigenous people. Stakeholders drew attention to common protest routes around Central Precinct and Australia’s own response to 2020’s Black Lives Matter movement. A community member noted, “*Non-Indigenous people are never truly going to understand why we sometimes behave the way we do and use the symbols we use unless we create educational opportunities through various mediums and platforms,*” and,
- Creating spaces and opportunities for cultural education to be delivered by local Aboriginal businesses and/or knowledge holders (e.g., Bus tours, walking tours).

Healing Spirit through sharing culture

The concept of sharing Aboriginal culture with all people was flagged as a critical factor in closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. For example, stakeholders noted that inheriting custodianship of Gadigal Country and culture is not an obligation exclusive to Indigenous people – non-Indigenous people inherit this obligation, too. To ensure non-Indigenous people become advocates for Indigenous culture, it was recommended that Indigenous cultural and storytelling be shared in both prominent and subtle ways to introduce and immerse people in Aboriginal ways of knowing and being. Understanding worldviews and perspectives is critical in creating empathy.

Stakeholders provided two broad design considerations:

- Creating spaces that are culturally inclusive where Indigenous people are reflected in design and function. A stakeholder noted that all public spaces should be designed in a way that allows Aboriginal people to feel a sense of ownership over space. “Ownership” is not used here as a possessive noun, but rather ownership in the sense that Aboriginal people feel like they belong to a space and are free to be their authentic cultural self with no fear for their spiritual, cultural, or physical safety, and
- As discussed regularly in this report, creating Indigenous tourism opportunities, allowing the Indigenous community the opportunity to care for and access Country, and creating social “stages” or platforms where Indigenous people can publicly perform and celebrates cultural events such as NAIDOC Week.

Micro-theme 2 – Nature as knowledge

Stakeholders reinforced the role that the natural environment plays in not only connecting Central Precinct to Country, but also re-connecting Aboriginal people to Country and culture.

At a high level, stakeholders noted that:

- Water is critical to Aboriginal culture,
- Without nature, Aboriginal people would have no knowledge, ceremony, or celebration, and
- Educating non-Indigenous people on this relationship with nature is vital in creating understanding between cultures.

Geographically speaking, stakeholders relayed that geology, geomorphology, and the overlying vegetative communities determined residential, mobile, and seasonal occupation patterns. The variable landscapes of bushland, sandstone cliffs, sandy beaches, mangrove swamps, intertidal creeks, and lagoons provided a vast array of food and material resources that structured the everyday life of Aboriginal people in Sydney. These were also integral to the development of Law that maintained a balance in the ecosystem and fostered trade relationships with surrounding communities.

When European colonists arrived at Sydney, they saw an uncultivated wilderness that needed to be tamed. To Aboriginal people living here, Sydney was part of a landscape where they had been living for tens of thousands of years and was subject to complex cultural management practices through fire, hunting, and seasonal mobility. The geology, hydrology, and topography determined living space, travel routes, meeting locations, and boundaries between Aboriginal communities. This could be explored in the Project such as the links between flora and Law via the seasonal calendar and the connection between Country, language, and politics via responsibility for land management and protection presents great opportunity for design interpretation.

In relation to nature and knowledge, CIR further heard that:

- Respecting the natural environment is core to Aboriginal culture. Community members notes that they want to challenge the Project team's understanding of nature and Country, and the knowledge it holds, and how this can be reflected in the Project's approach, design, delivery, and operation,
- There is a strong desire to educate non-Indigenous people on the relationships that Aboriginal people have with nature. *"We are the only First Nations people in the world that have kinship relationships with flora and fauna. This is where we come from. These are our family members."* A stakeholder also noted that, *"trees taught us Aboriginal people how to live as families."*
- Water is an important aspect of Aboriginal culture and it was heard that, *"Water defines our identity and is so important to Aboriginal people. Back then, when you look at the tank stream and water system, that was the life giver for us, and this water system ran into the Sydney Harbour, which was the life sustainer for everyone"* and,
- There is a general understanding that without nature, Aboriginal people would hold no knowledge. Therefore protecting nature and Country is integral to the continuation and survival of Indigenous culture.

"We don't tell Country what to do. Country tells us what to do."

"The city needs to be vibrant with our ancient tree stories."

Stakeholders identified the following design considerations:

- Creating walkways and paths that are canopied and lined with native planting to provide a constant reminder that pedestrians are on Country,
- Embedding educational plaques/explainers that about the trees and plants included in the landscape. A community member suggested that such explainers could have a QR code that provided a deeper explanation of the flora and what they may have been traditionally used for. It was noted that

this could be an interesting way in using modern knowledge to tell the story of nature's ancient knowledge that was held and used by Traditional Owners. A stakeholder noted that, "*this could provide commuters a journey within a journey where they can explore our culture and ways of life during their daily routine*",

- Looking beyond the visible landscape and exploring knowledge systems at a subterranean level, as explored earlier in this report. Stakeholders especially highlighted the complicated systems of underground waterways surrounding Central Precinct that connect with Moore Park, Hyde Park, and Centennial Park.
- Exploring the mapping and inclusion of waterways through heritage interpretation and art, and
- Taking colour inspiration from native flora, such as wattle and banksias to challenge the muted, colonial, and industrial colour scheme. A stakeholder noted, "For some reason, buildings are always designed to sit on top of a landscape in a way that is jarring and incompatible with the natural environment underneath and surrounding it. Why is this so? There are so many industrial grey buildings constructed on lands once lush with colourful wattle and banksias. Why can't we create buildings that pay respect to nature instead of opposing it?"

Micro-theme 3 – Connectedness

Environment

In relation to Central Station, stakeholders commented that the concept of it being a connector from a pure mobility and commuter perspective should be challenged. When explaining connection in a broader sense, community members relayed that the 'identity' of the environment should be seen as providing an umbilical connection throughout Country.

CIR heard that if Central Station was viewed as an "impact zone" (from a Project perspective), then the following sites are "umbilically" connected to Central through the natural environment:

- Belmore Park,
- Prince Alfred Park,
- Hyde Park, and
- Moore Park.

Stakeholders also highlighted the following as key natural connectors in the landscape:

- Sunrise,
- Moonrise,
- Saltwater to the east,
- Moonset to the west, and
- Underground waterways.

From a design perspective, stakeholders have asked the Project to explore and represent this umbilical connection as it is relevant to not only Central Precinct's connection to other parts of the city, but also to how Aboriginal people reconcile their own connections to environment and Country.

While stakeholders didn't provide any specific design feedback, an artwork called [Kalyu](#) (2014) at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia was referenced as having synergies to this concept. This artwork was painted by local Parnngurr artists in Western Australia to protest uranium mining and show the mining company where the underground water stream ran and how underground life is vital in local ecology and biodiversity.

"All Aboriginal people have that invisible, umbilical cord that connects us to Country. People are part of Country without even knowing it, but when you're gone, you feel it."

Social, family, and culture

Beyond an environmental connection, community members also reflected on Central Station's pivotal role in forming social, family, and cultural connections for Aboriginal people, including:

- The Foundation (on George Street) was frequented by young Aboriginal people on Friday and Saturday nights for social activities,
- Central Station provided a sense of "arrival" when Aboriginal people began to migrate to Sydney and Redfern, as well as providing a connector to getting back to Country to see their family for holidays,
- The strong connection and role between Central and Redfern. Stakeholders noted arriving in Redfern created a sense of "home" and "arrival" and for some, Redfern itself was seen as the "real Central", and
- A strong sense of community was gathered and dispersed in and around Central Precinct. CIR heard that, *"being part of the Aboriginal community was a powerful thing back then. We supported each other a lot, and we've sort of lost that in today's urban community. But the sense of community and connection was really strong back then [the 1960s and 1970s]."*

"Back then, this place [Central] had a vibrancy about it to Aboriginal people. It would be great to capture this vibrancy again."

While community members provided little specific feedback regarding design propositions here, it was noted that arrival at Central was often cause for celebration and liberation for Aboriginal people, and that design outcomes could attempt to capture these emotions. However, this would need to be juxtaposed by the emotions relative to the dark history of the Stolen Generation.

Micro-theme 4 – Removing cultural blindness

It was commented that, *"people are still blind to the basic principles of our culture,"* and that projects such as this provide a foundation and opportunity to remove some of this cultural blindness. 'Cultural blindness' was described as the result of the lack of Indigenous cultural representation, education, and celebration in Australia. Rather than an outcome of explicit and intentional prejudice, cultural blindness often stems from complex, nuanced, and often changing social and institutional dynamics. This is not-so-dissimilar to the tenets of America's Critical Race Theory.

Stakeholders commented that cultural blindness stems from the dominant and mainstream social dynamics and narratives in non-Indigenous Australia which too-often exclude Indigenous people, culture, and history.

“People walk the streets, but they don’t know what’s underneath.”

“The non-Indigenous people of Sydney are blind to as why our mob still marches, and why we’re still in the streets. We’re not angry for the sake of being angry – we’re angry because things still aren’t right.”

“Being culturally blind is not often a choice but rather a product of Australia’s national psyche and the apathy towards our culture. Challenging and removing cultural blindness is how Indigenous people work toward belonging and equality.”

It was further heard that a key part of removing cultural blindness is through educating non-Indigenous people on Gadigal culture, as noted earlier in this report.

Community members noted that caring for Country is an obligation that extends beyond cultural identities. It was asserted that non-Indigenous people share this responsibility and that *“most people are not yet mature or aware enough to accept this inheritance,”* which too is in part due to an enduring cultural blindness.

“I want to see Sydney people be empowered to enough to own our stories and accept custodianship of this Country. It isn’t difficult to be a custodian – the inheritance of caring for Country is for everyone. How can this project help spread and cement this message?”

In addition to relevant design considerations listed earlier in this report, CIR heard the following suggestions:

- Creating a monument or anti-memorial at the Precinct regarding the history of the Stolen Generation. The design of such a monument should be truthful, educational, and evoke reflection. Stakeholders noted that such a design **must** be developed in partnership with members of the Stolen Generation and their families,
- Creating circular, small amphitheater-like spaces across the Precinct that can be activated for ceremonial purposes in public spaces. This provides a platform for continued and future cultural celebration for events such as NAIDOC Week, as well as other non-Indigenous cultural celebrations,
- Developing dual names for significant streets and public spaces (refer to **Section 4.2** of this report),
- Creating Aboriginal artwork on TfNSW assets, such as buses, trains, and light-rail. Stakeholders noted that this could be used effectively to spread mobile expressions of culture and awareness across Sydney, with these TfNSW assets being anchored and grounded in Central as its “home”. This idea has great synergy with the heritage interpretation themes of Journeys and Gatherings in that Central Precinct is the site in which TfNSW assets “gather” before they embark on their “journeys” across Country. Stakeholders conceded that this was an ambitious concept given the advertising space and revenue attached to public transport assets, but this in itself presents new opportunities for TfNSW to develop relationships with companies such as JCDecaux and other advertising/media organisations in commissioning Indigenous artworks for advertising spaces,
- Developing a Gadigal name for the Precinct, which reinforces to everyone that both the site as well as themselves are on Gadigal Country. TfNSW assets that “live” at Central Station could also be “branded” with the Precinct name, and

- Designing the Precinct in a way that encourages people to look after and care for Country (eg. People are more likely to care for a place that has an inherent sense of occasion or sacredness). This concept would embed Indigenous design principles into the Project and explore the equilibrium between designing spaces that cater for human function and ease and designing spaces that cater to the health of the landscape and Country.

Using technology in contemporary Indigenous design

It was noted that technology is becoming increasingly useful for permanent spaces when facilitating permanent access to cultural perspectives and that technology is a useful tool for displaying and engaging with Indigenous design to showcase First Nations living culture. To feed into the wider narrative and aspiration of developing Sydney's Tech Precinct, stakeholders suggested the following opportunities for exploring and celebrating culture through technology:

- Establishing interactive displays around the Precinct for cultural information, education, and engagement. Examples suggested were a Welcome to Country from a Gadigal Elder or a 'Visitors Directory' that connects visitors to Indigenous tourism opportunities in the Project site area as well as broader Sydney,
- Using QR codes to share information with Indigenous and non-Indigenous people visiting or passing through Central Precinct,
- Augmented Reality apps that enable the georeferencing of old photos, paintings, and rendering of the land so that people can see the space the way Aboriginal people would have seen it. This concept should extend beyond not only without Atlassian Headquarters and Central Station, but how Aboriginal people would have mapped travel routes through to rivers, resource locations, meeting places, and campsites. It was noted that the opportunities are many,
- Welcome to Country and/or Welcome to Central Precinct performed by Gadigal Elders and hosted through digital displays. Stakeholders noted that significant transport interchanges including Central Station, Sydney Airport, and Circular Quay do not have any installations or recognition that they operate on Aboriginal land. Stakeholders asserted that Central Precinct, which is expected to experience large amounts of foot traffic and tourism, provides an excellent platform for an engaging and prominent Welcome to Country. [Wellama](#) at Barangaroo Reserve was highlighted as an effective and engaging example of a similar concept,
- Animated totemic and Dreamtime stories through the lens of VR and AR technology. For example, users can 'watch' whales migrate through sea Country as seasons change, and
- Incorporating digital billboards that showcase a rotating roster of Indigenous digital art, in which artwork can bring to life Gadigal storytelling. For example, a stakeholder suggested telling the stories of the six Gadigal seasons through digital billboards, with each digital artwork being created by different Aboriginal/Gadigal artists. It was noted that this could be an engaging way to permanently activate the space through Indigenous creative expression.

Technology-based initiatives as suggested above should be developed in partnership with Indigenous technology businesses, especially if they are to be used as a medium for Indigenous storytelling. CIR further heard that, *"We have the oldest culture and technologies in the world in this Country, as well as the most modern, cutting-edge technology in the market. Nowhere else on this planet has the*

opportunity to explore technology that dates back 60,000 years using the best technology available today.”

Public Art Strategy (Study Requirement 1.4)

Stakeholders noted several considerations that may be relevant for developing the Project’s Public Art Strategy in ensuring that it include Indigenous culture and history:

- **Gadigal and Sydney artists must be involved.** All stakeholders expressed the importance of ensuring the choice of First Nations artists for being involved in the Public Art Strategy should be Gadigal of Sydney artists, and that the art should ideally be anchored in the local context. Often political in Sydney, the preference for limiting artist selection to Gadigal artists is difficult given the scarcity of Gadigal artists. The scope should be increased to also include First Nations artists with a lived experience of residing in Sydney. An Elder noted that, *“you wouldn’t go to Central Australia and find art from a Gadigal artist being displayed in a public place. It’s not the way it happens in our culture,”*
- **Gadigal storytelling should be the focus of Aboriginal art.** Stakeholders noted that Gadigal storytelling and ways of life must be explored in the Public Art Strategy, including aspects such as native flora and fauna (including totem animals), seasonal calendars, songlines, and ways of life. Stakeholders highlighted Jeffrey Samuels’ piece [Gadigal, Acknowledgement Respect](#) at the International Convention Centre Sydney as a recent example,
- **VR and AR art is on the rise.** CIR heard in recent consultations with Australia Council for the Arts that VR and AR First Nations artists are becoming more prevalent. Noting that Central Precinct will be the Tech Precinct, stakeholders suggested exploring local VR and AR First Nations artists to showcase their work throughout the Precinct. Multiple stakeholders noted that if a large digital display was installed in the Precinct, then this would provide the platform to display digital artwork as well,
- **Think beyond the expected.** The natural world plays a significant role in the inspiration for First Nations artwork, but there were also suggestions from stakeholders to ‘think beyond the expected’ and enable a ‘culturally immersive experience’. Stakeholders recommended liaising with institutions such as Australia Council for the Arts, Museums & Galleries NSW, and Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-Operative to explore what innovative and unique art works are happening in the First Nations art space,
- **Rock art.** Stakeholders noted that while actual rock art may not be suitable for public view, there was recommendations to engage further with local Traditional Owners about the cultural suitability of including an engraving or commissioning an artistic interpretation of people or handprints (for example) as being representative of a public space where people gather were suggested by community as something that could be explored, and
- **Soundscape.** Stakeholders expressed an interest in soundscapes being incorporated into the Precinct to allow opportunities for patrons to engage in a multi-sensory experience to showcase language and Aboriginal culture. The [‘Edge of the Trees’](#) installation at the Sydney Living Museum was highlighted as an example as when walking amongst the pillars in the exhibit, visitors can hear soundscapes of Indigenous voices reciting place names in the Sydney region.

When developing an artist's brief or Indigenous art concept, stakeholders highlighted several cultural layers or aspects that should be canvassed, including:

- Deep time/Country,
- Early contact, including both positive and resistance/frontier violence history,
- Construction of Sydney (noting the important role Aboriginal people played in this, which is often not acknowledged),
- Importance of the Central Precinct, including as a place where Aboriginal excellence in the arts will be championed and celebrated, and
- The cultural landscape of which Central Precinct is part.

Stakeholders also relayed that where possible, Gadigal people should be directly engaged and paid to provide work in the form of stories and artworks to support the Public Art Strategy. This is important benefit sharing. It was noted that large, single, dominant artworks should be avoided where possible. Strong Indigenous Cultural Intellectual Property protocols should be used to ensure control of the stories remains with the community.

Aboriginal people with expertise in history or the arts should also be engaged to facilitate or deliver the work. They can work in partnership with the Aboriginal stakeholders to ensure co-design in signage, artworks, and histories.

In relation to best practice in engaging with Indigenous artists, Create NSW recently drafted the [Aboriginal Arts and Culture Protocols](#) which should be followed when approaching Indigenous creatives to join projects.

Key theme 5 - Embedding Aboriginal voices at all stages of the Project is key in ensuring Central Precinct is a welcoming and inclusive place for First Nations people

Feedback explored in Theme 5 may benefit the following Studies:

- Urban Design Framework (Student Requirement 1.2)
- Public Domain Strategy (Study Requirement 1.3)
- Public Art Strategy (Study Requirement 1.4)
- Connecting with Country Framework (Study Requirement 1.8)
- Consultation Outcomes Report (Study Requirement 15.2)

To ensure that Indigenous voices are captured and included at all stages of the Project, stakeholders were asked to provide broad advice on the following:

- How the Project can include Aboriginal Governance structures to embed local knowledge and advice, and
- How the Project can ensure Central Precinct is a welcoming and inclusive place for all First Nations people.

Aboriginal Governance

Stakeholders suggested several initiatives for TfNSW to consider in embedding Aboriginal Governance into the Project including:

- Bringing Indigenous creatives into the Project,
- Elders-in-Residence model,
- Project-based Reconciliation Action Plan,
- Indigenous Advisory Committee, and
- Cultural Awareness Training.

The common thread connecting these suggestions is that they are Aboriginal led with intended outcomes of:

- 1) Embedding Aboriginal voices throughout the Project's lifecycle, and
- 2) Building cultural competency into both the Project and TfNSW more broadly.

These initiatives are further explored below.

Indigenous creatives

It is becoming more commonplace for projects in the design and development sector to bring Indigenous creatives into the process from the beginning. This ensures that Indigenous design perspectives and culturally appropriate ways of working can be embedded into the project. Stakeholders noted that bringing Indigenous creatives into the Project is especially important due to its size, scale, and duration.

As the Gadigal people were the first impacted by colonization, it is critical that the Aboriginal connection, history, and stories need to be layered or acknowledged alongside the versions of dominant history which exist in the space, to create a

place which can hold all those stories together. Where a Project lacks Indigenous creatives, it is easy for the Aboriginal narrative to get lost.

Indigenous creatives can provide the key to transforming Aboriginal storytelling into design outcomes, especially when non-Indigenous design teams may feel uncomfortable in doing so.

Elders-in-Residence model

Several stakeholders noted that TfNSW could consider adopting an Elders-in-Residence initiative to help guide the Project as it progresses. An Elders-in-Residence model aims to facilitate unique support and learning across an organisation or project by embedding senior cultural knowledge holders to guide and advise the organisation. In practice, this typically involves having Elders embedded into the organisation on a semi-regular basis, whose role also includes supporting and meeting with members of the organisation.

This model promotes and legitimizes the role of Elders as supportive pillars and cultural knowledge holders within an organisation. An Elder-in-Residence program is an avenue for the provision of cultural knowledge and advice whilst promoting the education of First Nations culture and knowledge. It was noted that Elders are too-often engaged on a once-off basis to provide input into large and complex projects which is entirely insufficient in being able to provide meaningful and genuine input.

Elders-in-Residence can provide value through:

- Providing high-level advice and support for First Nations cultural activities in the organisation or project,
- Enhancing cultural perspectives, sharing wisdom and teachings, and promoting awareness of cultural traditions, traditional language, and ceremony, and
- Acting as a mentor to individuals and the wider organisation by providing guidance and consultation.

Elders who participate in such a program are typically senior and respected members of their community with strong cultural knowledge and authority. Any Elder who participates in this model must be remunerated for their time.

From a logistical perspective, stakeholders suggested that the advisory committee should:

- Comprise at least three (3) Elders of diverse gender identities. It was noted that the number “3” also carries cultural symbolism of the kangaroo and emu footprint,
- Ensure at least one (1) of the Elder’s is Gadigal as the Project is being developed on Gadigal Country,
- Reflect a range of knowledge holders (eg. One Elder might have specialist knowledge on trees and horticulture while another might have in-depth knowledge of ceremony and tradition), and
- Be actively and transparently engaged and invited to provide input on the Project at all stages and have the self-determination to decide where Indigenous inputs and perspectives may be beneficial to the Project.

In order to establish an Elders-in-Residence model for the Project, TfNSW should:

- Identify any internal barriers to establishing the initiative,
- Secure funding for the model and agree on remuneration rates for the

Elders (note: the remuneration fee should be decided in consultation with the Elders),

- Develop criteria for the types of experience and knowledge required of an Elder to advise on the Project (note: this should be done in consultation with a suitably qualified advisor),
- Determine the schedule in which the Elders-in-Residence will be consulted for the Project (note: the schedule should be decided in consultation with the Elders), and
- Consider rolling out cultural training to relevant teams within TfNSW to ensure that the Elders-in-Residence are entering a culturally safe space.

Project-based Reconciliation Action Plan

Due to the scale and length of the Project, stakeholders suggested that TfNSW may consider developing a Project-specific Reconciliation Action Plan (**RAP**). This was suggested for the following reasons:

- The RAP can be used to formalize Project commitments to Indigenous people, businesses, communities, and culture across,
- The RAP keeps TfNSW accountable to its Project commitments,
- RAPs enforce their own evaluation and reporting milestones which means that TfNSW can track its progress and measure its successes and opportunities for improvement,
- The RAP can be used to establish Indigenous procurement targets,
- TfNSW can make adhering to the RAP a condition for external consultants who are engaged to work on the project,
- The RAP can be a guiding document for all internal and external Project teams to consult when they are unsure about involving Indigenous stakeholder input,
- The RAP can empower internal and external Project teams to engage and develop relationships with Indigenous stakeholders and community members in their own work,
- The RAP can embed Aboriginal Governance into the Project through appointing an Indigenous chair to lead the RAP or establishing an external Indigenous advisory committee, and
- This type of structure allows TfNSW to position itself as innovative leader in the reconciliation sector and learnings from a project-based RAP can be used to further inform TfNSW overarching RAP.

While project or event-based RAPs are nascent developments in the reconciliation space, an evaluation of the 2018 Commonwealth Games RAP found the RAP framework to be a key success factor in achieving and surpassing intended commitments to reconciliation outcomes.

If a project-based RAP is something that TfNSW considers viable, the relevant TfNSW department/team member should liaise with Reconciliation Australia to discuss how this RAP could be developed and implemented.

Indigenous Advisory Committee

Not dissimilar to an Elders-in-Residence model, several community members suggested the Project establish an Indigenous Advisory Committee, which would ideally comprise a range of Indigenous stakeholders engaged to provide ongoing advice to the Project. As TfNSW is seeking advice on how to include cyclical feedback from Indigenous stakeholders throughout the Project, it was suggested

that establishing an advisory committee of respected Indigenous community members for the Project would enable this to happen.

It is important that such an advisory committee:

- Comprises members of the Indigenous community representing diverse ages, gender identities, professional backgrounds, and lived experiences. It was noted that trans representation from the Indigenous community was especially important,
- Defines remuneration, period of engagement, and expected responsibility and outcomes of members of the advisory committee, and
- Has a dedicated contact point within TfNSW.

When engaging with the City of Sydney's Indigenous Lead and Engage Team, it was noted that such an advisory committee could possibly be formed from a range of members from the City's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel. The City of Sydney noted that it is not possible to achieve meaningful engagement with their Advisory Panel during a 15-minute panel sitting, and that they are open to exploring other arrangements for their panel members to provide advice on the Project going forward.

Cultural Awareness Training

Cultural awareness training typically aims to improve the cultural competency of an organisation through immersive training and education of Indigenous history and ways of knowing, being, and learning. Ultimately, cultural awareness training should increase the personal and organisational cultural safety of an organisation, in turn making it a safer place for Indigenous people to be. This training is a continuum of learning that begins with foundational cultural awareness training as a building block for further education and experiential learning towards cultural safety.

As TfNSW aims to facilitate Indigenous engagement as the Project progresses, stakeholders asserted that TfNSW team members working on the Project may benefit from cultural awareness training, particularly in relation to:

- How to facilitate best practice Indigenous engagement processes,
- The value and benefits of Indigenous engagement,
- How to develop genuine and reciprocal relationships with Indigenous stakeholders, and
- Barriers in developing relationships with Indigenous stakeholders.

There are many providers of Indigenous cultural awareness training who can deliver such sessions both online and face-to-face. Stakeholders commented that cultural awareness training is an endorsement from organisations that they are committed to creating safe spaces for Indigenous people and contributing to the national reconciliation agenda.

Ensuring Central Precinct is welcoming and inclusive for First Nations people

When asked about strategies to ensure Central Precinct is realized as a welcoming and inclusive space for all First Nations people, stakeholders highlighted two key pieces of feedback:

- TfNSW should be aware of the historical relationship between First Nations people and public spaces, and

- Access to, and sense of ownership over a public space is critical in creating a place that is welcoming and inclusive for First Nations people.

First Nations people and public spaces

Best practice place-making in First Nations communities and culture directly impacts the uses and enjoyment of public space. In addition to stakeholder feedback, CIR has undertaken high-level research to provide context around First Nations people and public space.

Australia's First Nations people have a particular affinity with public spaces, gathering as communities and families to socialize and undertake cultural activities and business in spaces that are open to all. First Nations people's concepts of space and place can be different from western notions of the environment.

Danielle Hromek, an Indigenous spatial designer, explains:

The western experience of land is one of property, an appropriated ground given a monetary value, a landscape that is tamed, built upon, produced, owned. In the Aboriginal sense of the word, Country relates to the nation or cultural group and land that they/we belong to, yearn for, find healing from and will return to. However, Country means much more than land, it is their/our place of origin in cultural, spiritual and literal terms. It includes not only land but also skies and waters.⁹

Through a post-colonial lens, Australian First Nations people have at times had a troubled history with public spaces, because many Indigenous people have been excluded (formally and informally) from public spaces, and in some locations continue to experience marginalization from so-called public areas.

Historically and in many public spaces today, anti-social behaviours are used to remove Aboriginal people from civic spaces, which results in First Nations communities prohibited from spaces where the rest of the community can freely assemble.

Land is often contested ground, and the history of First Nations land rights in Australia is one fraught with the ongoing impacts of dispossession, loss of culture, language and family, and the tension associated with two systems of lore/law with respect to ownership of land and resources.

Academic Emily Potter observes:

The acquisition of space, or more concretely land and its resources, is, of course, a driving rationale of the colonial project. It is a marker of the unresolved nature of the settler-colonial state that contestations over spatial ownership, occupancy, and policing feature so strongly in the ongoing experiences of many Indigenous Australians, and in discourses of Indigenous and non-indigenous relations in this country.¹⁰

⁹ Hromek, D. in *Designing with Country: A discussion paper for all stakeholders engaged in built environment projects that impact Aboriginal communities as well as their culture and heritage*, Government Architect NSW, NSW Government, Sydney, 2020, p.2.

¹⁰ Emily Potter (2012) *Introduction: making Indigenous place in the Australian city*, *Postcolonial Studies*, 15:2, 131-142, DOI: 10.1080/13688790.2012.708315

The NSW Government Architect's *Connecting with Country Framework* explains:

“Prioritising people and their needs when designing is widely regarded as fundamental in contemporary design and planning. However, appreciating an Indigenous or Aboriginal world-view suggests that there are limitations imposed by an entirely human-centred approach to design. If people and their needs are at the ‘centre’ of design considerations, then the landscape and nature are reduced to second order priorities. If design and planning processes considered natural systems that include people, animals, resources and plants equally – similar to an Aboriginal world view – this could make a significant contribution to a more sustainable future world.”¹¹

Not only have landscape and nature been reduced to second order priorities in urban landscapes, First Nations values too have been devalued in Australian urban landscapes. This is in direct contradiction to the growing value of First Nations values in the natural environment. Places like Kakadu and Uluru and other significant Indigenous identified environments benefit economically and culturally through being promoted as First Nations land.

Porter (2016) addressed the ongoing and damaging narrative that Indigenous perspectives are incompatible with the built environment and noted that:

“Indigenous values are able to be acknowledged in natural but not in-built environments. These racial stereotypes have been held a long time. They cast Indigenous people in urban environments as “too modern” to make legitimate claims. And they cast urban environments as too modified for ongoing Indigenous cultural connection.”¹²

Behrendt (2006) echoes this frustration when she wrote:

“There does seem to be a greater interest in including Aboriginal people in broader community building activities in relation to green spaces within metropolitan or urban centres. For example, in the national parks that surround our city, there are more active initiatives to engage Indigenous people in co-management arrangements, eco-tourism, educational programs about bush tucker and resource management. While not diminishing the importance of this collaboration, it is noticeable that there is a greater willingness to include Aboriginal people in to the “nature” and “environment” aspects of planning and land management than there is in the planning of urban spaces and communities. It is hard to ignore the “noble savage” romanticism in this preference for Indigenous involvement with plants, trees, and animals over involvement with town planning, infrastructure, and housing.”¹³

Porter (2016) challenges:

¹¹ Connecting with Country - A draft framework for understanding the value of Aboriginal knowledge in the design and planning of places, Government Architect NSW, 2020, p.17

¹² Porter (2016) *How can we meaningfully recognise cities as Indigenous places?*, The Conversation, May 2016 – article accessed 8 January 2021
<https://www.sbs.com.au/topics/voices/culture/article/2016/10/10/how-can-we-meaningfully-recognise-cities-indigenous-places>

¹³ Larissa Behrendt, (2006) 'The Urban Aboriginal Landscape' – accessed 8 January 2021
www.uws.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/6928/Behrendt_Final.pdf

“Imagine if we used density and zoning tools to provide reparation for land theft and to redistribute wealth. Imagine if mainstream urban planning processes recognised continuing co-existing Indigenous methods of land governance. Imagine if we did urban development in a way that honours Indigenous histories, knowledge, and relationships with those places.”¹⁴

The NSW Government has recently taken up this challenge through the development of the *Designing with Country* discussion paper and the *Connecting with Country* Framework, both of which focus on how First Nations cultural knowledge can help inform the design and development of urban public spaces.

In relation to this Project, stakeholders noted that the nature of Central Precinct as a “built up public space” inherently carries challenges in creating a public space that is welcoming and inclusive for Indigenous people. Stakeholders encourage TfNSW to work closely with the relevant *Connecting with Country* consultant to ensure that Indigenous perspectives, heritage, and culture are included in all design processes.

Access and ownership of public spaces

Stakeholders unanimously noted that creating a space that feels safe and welcome impinges on how comfortable Indigenous people feel in accessing the space, and whether they feel a sense of ownership over the space. The concept of safety was a common thread across consultations with stakeholders commenting that design of public spaces should allow all people to feel culturally, spiritually, and physically safe.

Stakeholders discussed that visible elements of local Aboriginal culture are key to ensuring Central Precinct feels accessible, safe, and welcoming, for example flags, totems, Aboriginal artwork, native flora, and plaques. CIR heard that culture being acknowledged publicly and visually typically results in Indigenous people feeling more culturally, spiritually, and physically safe. Participants were further unanimous in their agreement that public spaces must include an acknowledgement of Traditional Owners as a fundamental way to facilitate safety and respect for Country and culture.

Conversely, others commented that not all public spaces need to have obvious signs of First Nations culture to feel safe, but rather have basic amenities such as tidy and accessible bathrooms, good lighting, places to shelter, free Wi-Fi, and clean of rubbish.

Stakeholders also discussed how homelessness/and or sleeping rough is a significant issue for some First Nations people and that the Project must consider the spectrum of social issues impacting public spaces and their various uses by all members of a community. This then turns access issues to public amenities such as toilets and drinking water, and safe shelter as a significant equity matter.

Regarding the concept of ownership of a public space, stakeholders noted that ownership is not meant in its traditional sense, but rather through a sense of belonging to the space and feeling free to practice culture and ceremony at the site.

¹⁴ *Op cit (Porter 2016)*

Key Theme 6 - Relationship building with peak Indigenous stakeholders is critical in identifying opportunities for Indigenous economic development and improving Project processes

Feedback explored in Theme 6 may benefit the following Studies:

- Urban Design Framework (Student Requirement 1.2)
- Public Domain Strategy (Study Requirement 1.3)
- Public Art Strategy (Study Requirement 1.4)
- Connecting with Country Framework (Study Requirement 1.8)
- Economic Productivity Report (Study Requirement 12.1)
- Jobs Creation Report (Study Requirement 12.2)
- Consultation Outcomes Report (Study Requirement 15.2)

Due to TfNSW's aspiration to support Indigenous economic development, CIR sought advice from peak bodies and community members on:

- Building relationships with key Indigenous stakeholders to identify appropriate opportunities for the Project to assist in advancing Indigenous economic development,
- Identifying and addressing barriers in procuring Indigenous businesses,
- Defining the areas in which the TfNSW can create opportunities for Indigenous economic development, and
- Anchoring Aboriginal voices in the Project to improve overall ways of working.

Relationship building

Stakeholders reported that there is a strong need for organisations to change the way in which they work with Indigenous businesses and highlighted that engaging with Indigenous businesses in appropriate ways can be a significant barrier to developing genuine, effective, and reciprocal relationships.

To identify opportunities in which the Project can create opportunities for Indigenous economic development, stakeholders suggested that TfNSW build relationships with the following stakeholders:

- **NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce (NSW ICC):** The NSW ICC is focused on working with both sides of the supply chain to ensure that outcomes for Indigenous businesses are meaningful and that the process of clients engaging Indigenous business is equitable,
- **Supply Nation:** This organisation works with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses along with procurement teams from government and corporate Australia to help shape today's emerging and rapidly evolving Indigenous business sector,
- **Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council:** This organisation can assist in connecting TfNSW with Local Elders should they wish to embed cultural knowledge into the Project, and
- **Stolen Generation Survivor Organisations:** Due to the significant history at Platform 1, it is recommended that TfNSW build relationships with the Survivor Organisations to ensure their story is told in ways that are respectful and truthful.

Stakeholders recommended that TfNSW approach building these relationships with the following principles in mind:

- Transparency,
- Benefit-sharing,
- Genuine and regular interaction,
- Remuneration for time and expertise, and
- Senior representation (e.g., A senior team member of TfNSW should meet with the relevant Indigenous stakeholder.)

It was noted that dealings with Indigenous businesses need to “*move away from a transaction-based model to a genuine relationship-based model.*”

Barriers to Indigenous procurement

Generally speaking, stakeholders noted that there is an extensive amount of duplication and wasted resources from government agencies around areas of Indigenous procurement. An Indigenous peak body representative noted that, “*There is no need to reinvent the wheel when it comes to advice or process for the procurement of Indigenous businesses. There are support services and industry organisations that have the systems in place to advise organisations like Transport for NSW on how projects can and should work with Indigenous businesses.*”

Stakeholders want to draw specific attention to the following barriers to Indigenous procurement:

- **Business maturity:** Stakeholders highlighted that a three-year business history is typically required to be eligible to tender for NSW Government projects. Not only does this requirement exclude a large amount of green Indigenous business from the tender process, it also effectively inhibits growth and success of fledgling Indigenous businesses,
- **Indigenous procurement commitments are often ‘forgotten’:** CIR heard that commitments to Indigenous procurement can get ‘lost’ along the chain of custody in large projects. For example, when a Government asset for construction is sold to a private company for development, the private company doesn’t often have to commit to Indigenous procurement targets like Government agencies do and Indigenous businesses are often excluded from project roles when they leave the custody of the Government agency,
- **Scale and capacity of Indigenous businesses:** Stakeholders noted that it is commonplace for Indigenous businesses to be unable to position themselves competitively due to the size of certain tenders. It was suggested that agencies should consider “breaking down” project outcomes so that smaller businesses (Indigenous and otherwise) can be more competitive, and
- **Indigenous businesses being engaged by culturally unsafe organisations:** It is not uncommon for Indigenous businesses to be engaged by organisations and companies new to working with Indigenous businesses. An organisation’s lack of understanding of Indigenous ways of working can often result in termination of contracts and soured professional relationships. To this end, stakeholders noted that all organisations who wish to procure services from Indigenous businesses undertake cultural awareness training.

Areas for Indigenous economic development

Stakeholders identified the following three areas of Indigenous economic development that TfNSW could focus on throughout the Project:

- Building Indigenous capability within the internal TfNSW Project team,
- Developing robust Indigenous procurement targets during all subsequent stages of the Project, and
- Providing spaces for Indigenous businesses when the Project becomes operational.

These areas are further explored below.

Internal capability

As addressed earlier in this report, stakeholders provided several suggestions for TfNSW which could provide dual benefits in both building Indigenous capability into the Project in addition to fostering Indigenous economic development.

These include:

- Engaging Indigenous creatives to deliver Project outcomes,
- Creating an Elders-in-Residence program,
- Developing a project-based RAP and hiring an Indigenous person to lead and develop the RAP,
- Developing an Indigenous Advisory Committee for the Project, and
- Engaging an Indigenous-owned consultancy to facilitate cultural awareness training with all Project teams.

Indigenous procurement targets

Stakeholders recommended that TfNSW develop an ambitious yet realistic Indigenous procurement strategy to support all future phases of the Project. Several stakeholders recommended that TfNSW engage the NSW ICC to develop a procurement strategy for the Project that is inclusive and appropriate to key services and outcomes sought.

Consultations revealed that the biggest areas and opportunities in the Indigenous business sector include:

- Construction and civil engineering,
- Architects,
- Surveyors,
- Landscaping,
- Indigenous tourism,
- Materials supply for infrastructure projects,
- Training and recruitment,
- Cultural awareness training,
- Creative disciplines, including digital and visual design, and
- General Indigenous advisory services.

The NSW ICC has significant industry contacts, relationships, and nous to develop a robust procurement strategy for the Project. All stakeholders noted that the Project should aspire to exceed minimum Indigenous procurement targets.

Opportunities for Indigenous businesses

CIR heard several suggestions for how Central Precinct can best support Indigenous businesses when it becomes operational, specifically:

- **Indigenous tourism:** Stakeholders expressed the unique opportunity for the Precinct's acknowledgement and celebration of First Nations history, culture and connection to Country to draw attention from domestic and international tourism markets. This tourism industry could be supported by Indigenous-owned businesses specialising in First Nations cultural and history education and walking tours. CIR regularly heard aspirations for a 'hop on, hop off' Indigenous bus tour. A stakeholder especially noted that "*the commodification of cultural tourism*" is a growing industry,
- **Indigenous retail and hospitality spaces:** The renewal of the Central Precinct has the potential to create spaces for and support the economic development of Indigenous retail and hospitality businesses to service the public gatherings at, or commuting through the Central Precinct, and
- **Indigenous pop up, ceremonial, and occasional events:** A strong desire for the facilitation of Indigenous events emerged with Stakeholders articulating the importance of enabling ceremony to continue on Country. When asked what this might look like one local Elder suggested regular markets for Indigenous owned businesses, rather than simply once a year during NAIDOC week. The activation of spaces through ceremony and events is fundamental to revitalising place and showcasing First Nations living culture. An Elder also noted that Blak Markets could be hosted in spaces such as Prince Alfred Park.

CIR also heard the following comments and considerations in relation to Indigenous economic development in inner-city Sydney:

- The lack of affordable, fee-subsidized, or free spaces for Aboriginal businesses and organisations in Sydney is a significant barrier in growing the Indigenous economy,
- Creating spaces where Aboriginal people could more readily meet and participate in cultural activities at low or no cost is commonly requested. This includes low cost or free activity spaces, spaces to display or practice arts and culture, and places to sit, reflect, and connect,
- Business hubs for Indigenous business to start-up and grow as well as for Indigenous people to find employment are highly sought after,
- Indigenous businesses are critical in addressing the concerns about decreasing visibility of Aboriginal people in the city, driven by factors such as gentrification and decreasing Aboriginal resident population, and
- There are very few First Nations businesses, entertainment venues, cafes and restaurants, galleries, or other cultural spaces with prominent shopfronts, or located on high streets or significant public spaces.

To best understand the feasibility of creating spaces for Indigenous business at Central Precinct, and best setting these businesses up for success, it was recommended that TfNSW consider seeking further advice from a suitably qualified professional such as social impact measurement, Indigenous economy specialists, and financial modelling consultants.

Anchoring Aboriginal voices

As well as previous suggestions to actively embed Aboriginal voices into the Project, stakeholders noted that effectively anchoring Aboriginal voices in any project requires reflection. Stakeholders asked all Project team members to ask themselves the following questions:

- Are we aware of relevant frameworks, policies, and protocol that protect the rights of Indigenous people and are we following them (e.g., Arts and Culture Protocol, the Draft Connecting with Country Framework, TfNSW's Reconciliation Action Plan)?

- What does it mean to put Aboriginal culture at the centre of the Project? Do we understand the benefits?
- Do we understand the importance of what acknowledging and conceptualising Aboriginal culture and heritage means for living First Nations communities?
- Do we have an effective “visioning process” in place for the Project? What will this site look like in 50-years time? Are Aboriginal people still embedded in this place?
- Why are we doing this and what does it mean to Aboriginal people? Do we genuinely care about the impact?
- How does the Project actually benefit Aboriginal people and address other issues? Do our commitments and outcomes extend past typical project outcomes such as yarning circles and Indigenous artworks?
- What we are trying to achieve with including elements of Aboriginal culture?
- How do we really acknowledge Country?
- Is our worked guided by an underpinning cultural theme?
- How are we measuring our success in this space?

Stakeholders noted that if the Project is unable to articulate responses to the above questions then engaging in cultural capability activities or with knowledge holders to deepen cultural understanding may be required.

4.2 Other feedback

Feedback explored in Section 3.2 may benefit the following Studies:

- Urban Design Framework (Student Requirement 1.2)
- Public Domain Strategy (Study Requirement 1.3)
- Public Art Strategy (Study Requirement 1.4)
- Connecting with Country Framework (Study Requirement 1.8)
- Heritage Interpretation Strategy (Study Requirement 5.4)
- Consultation Outcomes Report (Study Requirement 15.2)

In addition to the six key themes explored in this report, stakeholders also provided feedback on the following subjects:

- Dual naming, and
- Sky Country.

Dual naming

Developing dual naming options for Central Precinct in Gadigal language is an outcome that was mirrored across all stakeholder groups. However, it was unanimously noted that this requires its own dedicated engagement process as projects around use of language are often political and complex among Indigenous stakeholders and communities.

When asked about how the Project should proceed with exploring dual naming options, or what TfNSW should be aware of, CIR heard the following:

- There are language revitalization efforts underway for Gadigal dialects, but it is a difficult undertaking as it is a fractured vocabulary with much of its language lost. Language revitalization projects require immense time and knowledge commitments and can often trigger trauma for those involved who were victims of policies that resulted in language loss in the first instance. Indigenous communities are often protective of language due to the effort and work involved in bringing it back to life and what the loss of language represents in Australia's Indigenous history. As such, a dedicated engagement process to explore options for dual naming/Indigenous place naming is necessary,
- Language is grounded in the reciprocity of knowledge. A stakeholder commented that, *"there is something everyone can learn from cultural immersion and there are certain lessons about Gadigal culture that you can only learn through language. This is why language should be used and celebrated in modern projects, but the decisions need to come from us"*,
- The University of Sydney recently undertook a consultation process to name and rename parts of its campus. Stakeholders recommending reaching out the University of Sydney to see if they are willing to share any learnings from their own experiences, and
- Only a small handful of people possess language knowledge, which is why dedicated engagement strategies are key when developing dual naming projects.

Ultimately, stakeholders support and encourage dual naming and would like to see Central Precinct adopt a name in language, instead of a dual-naming option. However, these decisions require further dedicated engagement with senior knowledge holders and language specialists.

“Gadi language is an expression of Gadi culture and has different expressions and we can use language as a key to unlock different knowledge systems. For example, a Gadigal day is broken into 7 distinct parts for which we have language for. Language is a different way of learning and seeing the world, which is why it is so powerful in continuing culture.”

Sky Country

Indigenous Australian’s have been developing complex knowledge systems for tens of thousands of years. These knowledge systems encompass that everything that was created and is represented both in the ground and in the sky. Listening to and understanding Country extends to beyond just land and sea.

Indigenous astronomy is the first astronomy that existed long before other global cultures tapped into storytelling from the sky. Australia’s First Nations peoples were the world’s first astronomers and developed several practical ways to observe the sun, moon, and stars to inform navigation, calendars, and predict weather. Meaning and agency was also assigned to astronomical phenomena, including Law and social structure.

While stakeholders noted that understanding the minutiae of Indigenous astronomy was burdensome, it was suggested that stories of Sky Country could be incorporated into the design planning to reference ancient knowledge systems used by First Nations peoples.

While stakeholders agreed that interest in Sky Country is increasing, the consensus from an astronomical perspective was that Sky Country is not sufficiently considered in modern projects. For Gadigal people, Sky Country held valuable cultural knowledge that often influenced their ceremony, movements across Country, and access to resources.

An Elder shared that, *“The moon was seen to influence the tides which signaled to the Gadi people when certain fish and plants were available to hunt and gather. Tracking of the season as they moved throughout the year was also heavily influenced by the astronomy.”* While there are Gadigal language initiatives currently underway to explore Sky Country stories, lore, and constellations specific to Gadigal Country, CIR heard that such knowledge may not yet be unearthed, which would make developing culturally sound design propositions around this subject potentially contentious. It was noted that further advice is likely required.

When asked about knowledge of Sky Country, ideas as to how Sky Country could be explored, and whether there are existing initiatives that the Project should be aware of, stakeholders made note of the following:

- The idea of an “open roof” at Central Station to facilitate visual access to the stars above was flagged as an interesting concept but Sydney’s pollution is a likely concern that often means that only an estimated 20% of stars are visible,
- Embedding small lights in the paving of Central Station that project star constellations on the Station roof at nighttime could be an effective way in

activating the space. The pattern projected on to the roof could somehow be scanned by a smart phone and take the user to resource outlining Indigenous history and stories about the certain constellation,

- The University of Sydney recently included the Pleiades constellation in the design of its new Engineering and Tech Precinct. The University of Sydney may be able to provide some advice on how they achieved this,
- Stakeholders identified known Sky Songlines of significance as being Orion's Belt (a male story) and the Seven Sisters/Pleiades (a female story). Stakeholders particularly highlighted the Seven Sisters as a potentially viable source of design inspiration as while not Gadigal specific, it is a story associated with women's business and ceremony that is known by Indigenous cultures across the globe. As a story shared by Indigenous cultures around the world, stakeholders noted that telling this story in the Project design is a nod Central Precinct's reality and function as being a place that connects and welcomes international people on a daily basis, and
- Knowledge, religion, and spiritual stories are very much entwined with Country. CIR heard that *"Our culture is in the sky, it's in the stars, it's in the micro-organisms. This is why storytelling needs to be done right."*

CIR understands that Sky Country is a key design response in the Project's Connecting with Country Framework.

5. Next steps

Engagement with First Nations stakeholders will continue as the Central Precinct Renewal Program progresses.

6. Appendix A

Introduction

Can you please tell us a little about your role and your organisation?

What was your experience/ can you please tell us about your connection with/ your organisation's connection with the Central area?

Significance of Central

Do you think the Central Precinct is an important place for Aboriginal people? Why/ why not?

What about the area's significance to the wider Aboriginal community?

What are some of the ways that the Aboriginal community is visiting and using the Central area at the moment?

Cultural heritage and Country

How are Aboriginal people and Aboriginal cultural heritage acknowledged now at Central?

How would you like to see Aboriginal cultural heritage acknowledged and celebrated?

How is Country recognized or celebrated now at Central?

How would you like to see Country reflected?

Acknowledging history

The area includes names, places, plaques and statues which mainly reflect British colonial history. How would you like to see Aboriginal history and experiences acknowledged?

Opportunities for the future?

What is your advice for the NSW Government/ Transport for NSW about ways to ensure that Central is welcoming and inclusive of Aboriginal people?

Central Precinct has a focus on becoming a 'tech precinct' in the future. What opportunities do you see for Aboriginal people and businesses involvement in this?

Design opportunities

What types of design and interpretation do you think would best celebrate past, present and future Aboriginal history, culture and perspectives?

What about these sorts of ideas:

- Reflecting the shape of Country in the future design?
- Integrating designs by Aboriginal arts/designers within the buildings and public spaces?
- Spaces for cultural and community gatherings?
- Information about Country including showing the connections between spaces and places?
- Gadigal names for places?
- Integrating designs by Aboriginal artists/designers within the buildings and public spaces?
- Aboriginal artworks and sculptures?
- Interpretive signs recognizing Aboriginal history and/ or people?
- Spaces for cultural ceremony and performances?
- Statues recognizing Aboriginal people?
- An oral histories project to record stories of the area?

As part of the renewal, is there anything that it is important to protect or *not* change at Central?

Aboriginal employment opportunities

How would you/ your organisation like to see Aboriginal employment and workplace participation promoted through the project? What about during the upgrade/ renewal? (if it gets approval to go ahead, the upgrade will take several years).

Protocols and community engagement

Do you have advice about the best way to ensure that custodians, knowledge holders and the Aboriginal community are involved and providing advice through the life of project?

Aboriginal culture x technology

As the world becomes increasingly connected and focused on digitization and automation, what opportunities to do you see for Aboriginal culture in the tech space?

Central Precinct is aiming to become a Tech Precinct – what opportunities for Indigenous digital and tech businesses do you see in this space?

What are the current trends or insights in the Indigenous tech space that could be explored in the Program?

Managing Country

In the future, what role would you like to see for custodians, knowledge holders and the Aboriginal community is managing the areas around Central?

Have you/ your organisation been involved in managing other places and sites or know of models which have worked to properly engage with culturally significant places?

Is there any other information you would like to provide or questions for us?



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8 November 2021
12.30pm–1.30pm
Zoom virtual meeting

Meeting notes

Central Precinct Renewal and National Trust

Attendees

National Trust
Transport for NSW
Heritage Architects

Discussion

Item 1: National Trust presentation on Central Precinct

National Trust representative explained that the National Trust have presented their thoughts and concerns on the precinct renewal to Heritage Council and the City of Sydney.

National Trust representatives presented to the group – Respecting the vision – a plea for place:

- An overview of Central Station in its context
 - This included its history
 - The size of Central Station has had a dramatic impact on the urban fabric of the southern end of Central Sydney. It was noted that Central Precinct is about the same size as Hyde Park and the Domain
- Significance and values
 - Concerns raised that renewal plans did not include a view analysis
 - Keeping city views of the clock tower are imperative
 - Concerns about the private proponents' development of the Western Gateway sub-precinct. This also included overshadowing concerns
- Potential opportunities
 - A detailed masterplan needs to be developed to capture the ideas
 - Any new development needs to engage with heritage
 - Reinforce that it will always be an important transport interchange, not just a new place
 - Reactive Mortuary Station to showcase this iconic heritage item
 - New and improved connections, not only in and around the precinct but linkages to the broader area
 - Suggested to reconfigure the Railway Institute back to its original position

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) thanked the National Trust for taking the time to present to the project team.

TfNSW representative noted that the SSP Study includes a masterplan and view analysis. This will be shared with our stakeholders in the coming weeks at the next stakeholder workshop, as well as other themes raised today. TfNSW representative acknowledged that a National Trust representative has represented National Trust at the previous stakeholder workshop and looks forward to seeing them at the next.

Next steps



TfNSW representative noted in addition to the stakeholder workshop, that the project team are keen to meet with National Trust to talk in more detail on the SSP Study being prepared. TfNSW to organise meetings.

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21 February 2022
9.30pm–10.30pm
Teams virtual meeting

Meeting notes

Central Precinct Renewal and National Trust

Attendees

National Trust
Transport for NSW
Heritage Architects

Discussion

Item 1: Central Precinct Renewal

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) acknowledged and thanked the National Trust for their presentation to the project team in late 2021.

TfNSW representative explained that today would look at the presentation from stakeholder workshop held on 6 December 2021. TfNSW representative provided a project update since the last meeting which included the opening of The Quantum Terminal, located on levels 1-3 in the Sydney Terminal Building.

TfNSW representative noted a renewed Central Precinct will:

- Be a place-based approach
- Revitalise historical connections such as Devonshire Street Tunnel and the Goods Line
- Consider heritage holistically and explore heritage opportunities for adaptive reuse and activation

TfNSW representative provided the stakeholder workshop summary presentation:

- Connecting with Country and key themes that have emerged through consultation
- It was noted that plans for the renewal start with Country, followed by public domain then built form
- Improving connectivity as a key driver and reconnecting Redfern to Central
- Protecting the solar access plane to Prince Alfred Park
- Importance of having varying scale
- The precinct's technical constraints and the opportunities for transformation
- Detailed look at the clock tower views and key sight lines as identified in the Draft Central Sydney Planning Strategy and Draft Heritage Framework. This included:
 - Pitt Street looking south at intersection with Liverpool Street
 - Wentworth Avenue looking south-west at intersection with Goulburn Street
 - George Street, Christ Church St Laurence, looking east
 - Foveaux Street looking west at intersection with Chalmers Street
 - George Street, looking north-east, at intersection with Harris Street
- The proposed masterplan and the place activation character which comes from its historical setting.



- Proposal to extend the Goods Line from Central to the Powerhouse Museum and Darling Harbour. Considerations for the adaptive reuse and integration of Mortuary Station into open space and provide green connections are also being investigated.

During the presentation discussion points were raised by National Trust representatives:

- Raised the solar access plane looks at existing condition and should look at how this may change with the Central Precinct proposal. TfNSW representative explained that the Central Precinct proposal has been developed to ensure it is compliant with the solar access plane and built form tapers to ensure impact of sunlight to Prince Alfred Park is minimised
- Recommended that an overall imagery of the proposal is developed, e.g. 3D model
- Noted potential heritage impact on the Atlassian site
- Asked if steam trains would still be able to access the site. TfNSW representative confirmed steam trains will still be able to operate at Central Station

Next steps

National Trust representative acknowledged the complexity of the site and the detail provided in the presentation. National Trust representative requested that the project team to meet with broader National Trust members and take them through the presentation. This will also allow for a deeper conversation on the project.

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03 May 2022
4.45pm–5.30pm
Zoom virtual meeting

Meeting notes

Central Precinct Renewal and National Trust

Attendees

National Trust
Transport for NSW
Heritage Architects

Discussion

Item 1: Central Precinct Renewal

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) representative acknowledged the recent stakeholder workshop National Trust were unable to attend and the previous meetings with National Trust representatives. TfNSW representative noted National Trust had requested that the Central Precinct Renewal Program team come and speak with the wider National Trust Conservation Taskforce.

TfNSW representative gave an update on the Program including that the team are finalising the SSP Studies and masterplan and would be on public display in the coming months. TfNSW representative noted a stakeholder workshop was held in April but invited National Trust representatives were unable to attend. TfNSW representative noted the recent progress at Central Precinct, including the plans to adaptively reuse Former Prince Alfred Substation and thanked National Trust for their public support with the initiative.

TfNSW representative provided an overview of the Central Precinct masterplan including:

- Sydney Metro, context for change – Central Walk being delivered by Sydney Metro and the plans for the precinct renewal to continue Central Walk west towards the new Central Square to provide a single east/west connection to the intercity, suburban and metro lines. Delivering on Central Walk west is key to the future operation of Central Station
- Overview of the masterplan with built form over the intercity lines, creating new public spaces and connections to surrounding suburbs
- Noted that as part of the masterplan we don't overshadow Railway Square, the Western Gateway is at the height limit of the City of Sydney solar access plane, and all built form as part of the precinct renewal will sit under the Western Gateway
- Three characters of the precinct, civic at the north, innovation in the centre and living to the south. All public domain and built form have been developed with the three characters of the site in mind

TfNSW representatives gave an overview of how the public domain and built form responds to heritage across the site:

- Revitalising the Sydney Terminal Building, reinstating the glass ceiling to provide more natural light into the building to improve the customer experience whilst also respecting the important heritage values of the site
- Mortuary Station, significance as a heritage asset, plans to open it up to the community and connect into the Goods Line



- Noted this will be the only place in the precinct people can connect with the rail heritage of Central
- Explained steam trains will be able to come into Mortuary Station and it will be able to be used for special events
- Central Green – public domain space between the built form and the Sydney Terminal Building to offer a green open space for people to sit and relax
- Central Square – new front door to Central Station and connecting with City of Sydney’s plans for a Third Square
- North/South connection to create new views of the Clock Tower. Central Avenue will be a pedestrian scaled environment connecting the precinct with activated laneways
- City of Sydney have their sun access plane, with all built form as part of the precinct renewal set under this height
- Built form set back from the Clock Tower to ensure primacy of the Sydney Terminal Building, views maintained and new views created
- Detailed look at the clock tower views and key sight lines as identified in the last meeting with National Trust. This included:
 - Pitt Street looking south at intersection with Liverpool Street
 - Wentworth Avenue looking south-west at intersection with Goulburn Street
 - George Street, Christ Church St Laurence, looking east
 - Foveaux Street looking west at intersection with Chalmers Street
 - George Street, looking north-east, at intersection with Harris Street
- Provided an overview of the heritage studies that have been completed as part of the SSP.

During the presentation discussion points were raised by National Trust:

- Asked if steam trains would be able to come into Central. TfNSW confirmed steam trains will be able to come to Central.
- National Trust noted they would like to see other view angles
- TfNSW representative responded that as part of the visual impact assessment many views have been analysed but the meeting is focussing on the views National Trust identified in their presentation to TfNSW earlier this year
- National Trust noted they would like to see a comprehensive assessment of impacts against the heritage values of Central
- National Trust noted they do not support the Atlassian development
- National Trust noted they would like to see further view analysis and documentation of the project.
- TfNSW responded that the views used in the presentation have been identified as the key views
- National Trust requested ongoing consultation as the project progresses

Next steps

TfNSW representative noted the team will come back to National Trust to brief them again on the program as the project progresses

National Trust noted the team would take time to think through the presentation and come to TfNSW with follow up questions.

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28 February 2022
3.00pm–4.00pm
Teams virtual meeting

Meeting notes

Central Precinct Renewal and Mercure Sydney

Attendees

Mercure Sydney
Transport for NSW

Discussion

Item 1: Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves and the role in their respective organisation.

Mercure Sydney representative explained they joined Mercure Sydney back in December 2021.

Mercure Sydney representative noted they have worked alongside Atlassian and TOGA as part of their redevelopment plans in the Western Gateway.

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) representative advised that the Western Gateway private proponents are a key neighbour and that Transport for NSW have been working closely to ensure the precinct is integrated. TfNSW representative also provided an overview of the proposed construction timeline for the Western Gateway.

Item 2: Central Precinct Renewal

TfNSW representative provided a detail overview of the Central Precinct Renewal Program. This included:

- Central Precinct's strategic location in southern Central Sydney and its role in Tech Central, which is being led by Greater Cities Commission
- Central Precinct's vision and the six objectives that the project addresses
- The is a long-term city shaping project which will evolve over the years
- Central Precinct will be a place where everyone is welcomed
- Projects already underway in the precinct: Western Gateway sub-precinct being led by the private sector; The Quantum Terminal and the Former Prince Alfred Substation Adaptive Reuse Project
- State Significant Precinct (SSP) planning process.

TfNSW representative provided an overview of the SSP Study that the project team is currently preparing:

- Connecting with Country and key themes that have emerged through consultation
- Key drivers of the renewal including:
 - Reconnect Redfern to the city and harbour
 - Create a civic destination and world class transport interchange that connects people locally, regionally and globally
 - Connect into the city's green grid
 - Reconnect Surry Hills to Chippendale and stitch into the fabric of the city east-west



- Unlock new space for the expansion of Central Sydney
- The proposed masterplan and the place activation character which comes from its historical setting.
- Visual summary of the proposed views of the precinct and its proposed scale from various viewpoints in and around the site. This included location close to Mercure Sydney.

During the overview discussion points were raised by Mercure Sydney representative:

- Interested to understand more on the plans to extend the Goods Line. Also noted that Mercure Sydney owner, may own green space near the Good Line. This was noted by the project team.
- TfNSW representative explained that improving connectivity is a key driver of the SSP Study. The SSP Study includes the extension of the Goods Line from Central to the Powerhouse Museum and Darling Harbour. Considerations for the adaptive reuse and integration of Mortuary Station into open space and provide green connections are also being investigated.
- Mercure Sydney representative also asked about active transport in the precinct. Mercure Sydney guests have enquired about car parking options when staying due to Covid-19. TfNSW gave an overview of how the renewal of the precinct places pedestrian movement at the top. This will allow for more active transport links in and around the precinct.
- Mercure Sydney representative acknowledged the importance of creating Central Precinct as a new destination and enhancing it as a global transport interchange.

Next steps

TfNSW representative advised that Mercure Sydney representative will be invited to upcoming stakeholder workshop. Engagement between the two organisations will continue as plans for the renewal develop.

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15 March 2022
9.15am-10.00am
Teams virtual meeting

Meeting notes

Central Precinct Renewal and School Infrastructure NSW

Attendees

School Infrastructure NSW
Transport for NSW

Discussion

Item 1: Central Precinct Renewal

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) representative provided School Infrastructure NSW a detailed overview of the Central Precinct Renewal Program. This included:

- Central Precinct's strategic location in southern Central Sydney and its role in Tech Central, which is being led by Greater Cities Commission
- Central Precinct's vision and the six objectives that the project addresses
- This is a long-term city shaping project which will evolve over the years
- Central Precinct will be a place where everyone is welcomed
- Projects already underway in the precinct: Western Gateway sub-precinct being led by the private sector; The Quantum Terminal and the Former Prince Alfred Substation Adaptive Reuse Project
- State Significant Precinct (SSP) planning process.

TfNSW representative provided an overview of the SSP Study that the project team is currently preparing

- Connecting with Country and key themes that have emerged through consultation
- Key drivers of the renewal including:
 - Reconnect Redfern to the city and harbour
 - Create a civic destination and world class transport interchange that connects people locally, regionally and globally
 - Connect into the city's green grid
 - Reconnect Surry Hills to Chippendale and stitch into the fabric of the city east-west
 - Unlock new space for the expansion of Central Sydney
- The proposed masterplan and the place activation character which comes from its historical setting.

During the presentation the following discussion points were raised by School Infrastructure NSW:

- Noted the importance of service needs
- Asked about the signal phasing at the traffic lights and how younger children may find this overwhelming. TfNSW representative acknowledged this concern, that it will be forward to the relevant TfNSW managing the operation of traffic lights. TfNSW representative also noted that Central Precinct is at the stage of long-term planning that will guide the renewal in the future.
- Requested that School Infrastructure NSW is given a briefing on the Central Precinct Strategic Vision.



Next steps

TfNSW representative to set up a follow up meeting as well as the links to the project website and the Central Precinct Strategic Vision.

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30 March 2022
10.30am–11.00am
Teams virtual meeting

Meeting notes

Central Precinct Renewal and School Infrastructure NSW

Attendees

School Infrastructure NSW
Transport for NSW

Discussion

Item 1: Central Precinct Renewal – Strategic Framework

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) representative provided School Infrastructure NSW a detailed overview of the Strategic Framework. This is included:

- Understanding Central Precinct in the urban, state and local strategic planning context
- The need to transform Central Precinct
- The development of the vision, planning priorities, design principles and renewal options for the precinct
- The sub-precinct and the character of the place

TfNSW representative explained how the Strategic Framework was prepared in consultation with government agencies, key stakeholders and the community. The draft Strategic Vision was placed on public exhibition late 2019. It evolved to become the Strategic Framework considering feedback received from stakeholders and the community.

TfNSW representative advised the Strategic Framework is guiding the preparation of the SSP Study, along with technical studies and consultation.

School Infrastructure NSW representative noted that they had worked closely with Urban Growth as part of the Central to Eveleigh Urban Transformation Strategy. Feedback from the preparation of this strategy has helped informed the early stages of the Central Precinct Renewal.

School Infrastructure NSW representative noted a summary of housing that is being considered as part of the SSP Study would be helpful so School Infrastructure NSW can advise Transport for NSW on future education requirements in the new precinct.

Next steps

Transport for NSW to keep School Infrastructure updated as the plans for the precinct renewal progress.

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15 March 2022
2.30pm–3.00pm
Teams virtual meeting

Meeting notes

Central Precinct Renewal and Powerhouse Ultimo Renewal

Attendees

Create NSW
Transport for NSW

Discussion

Item 1: Central Precinct Renewal

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) representative provided Create NSW representative a detailed overview of the Central Precinct Renewal Program. This included:

- Central Precinct's strategic location in southern Central Sydney and its role in Tech Central, which is being led by Greater Cities Commission
- Central Precinct's vision and the six objectives that the project addresses
- Projects already underway in the precinct: Western Gateway sub-precinct being led by the private sector; The Quantum Terminal and the Former Prince Alfred Substation Adaptive Reuse Project.

TfNSW representative outlined the State Significant Precinct (SSP) planning process and the SSP Study that the project is currently preparing:

- Connecting with Country and key themes that have emerged through consultation
- The proposed masterplan and the place activation character which comes from its historical setting
- Improving connectivity is a key driver of the SSP Study. The SSP Study includes the extension of the Goods Line from Central to the Powerhouse Museum and Darling Harbour
- Considerations for the adaptive reuse and integration of Mortuary Station into open space and provide green connections.

TfNSW representative noted that engagement with Create NSW has also taken place via the Stakeholder Workshops. Representatives from Create NSW have participated in the workshops.

Item 2: Powerhouse Ultimo Renewal

Create NSW representative expressed their support for the extension of the Goods Line and the importance to improve eastern and western connectivity in the area

Create NSW representative provided an overview of the Powerhouse Ultimo Renewal:

- The history of the project and where it's at the planning process
- Re-orienting the museum to the Goods Line and adjacent dining, entertaining and cultural precincts
- The design competition underway.

Next steps

Attendees agreed the importance of both renewal projects and will continue to engage as projects develop.



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16 March 2022
4.45pm–5.30pm
Zoom virtual meeting

Meeting notes

Central Precinct Renewal and Camperdown Ultimo Collaboration Area Alliance

Attendees

Camperdown Ultimo Collaboration Area Alliance (CUCAA)
Transport for NSW

Discussion

Item 1: Central Precinct Renewal

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) representative provided an update on the Central Precinct Renewal Program (CPRP). This included:

- Central Precinct's strategic location in southern Central Sydney and its role in Tech Central which is being led by Greater Cities Commission
- Central Precinct's vision and the six objectives that the project addresses
- This is a long-term city shaping project which will evolve over the years
- An update on what is happening across the precinct and the state significant precinct planning process

TfNSW representative noted that representatives from CUCAA were invited to stakeholder workshop 2 but were unable to attend and today's briefing was to update them on the plans for Central.

TfNSW representative gave an overview of content covered in workshop 2 including:

- Five key planning directions
 - Place and destination
 - People and community
 - Mobility and access
 - Economy and innovation
 - Sustainability
- Five city shaping moves of CPRP
 - Reconnect Redfern to the city and harbour
 - Create a civic destination and world class transport interchange that connects people locally, regionally and globally
 - Connect into the city's green grid
 - Reconnect Surry Hills to Chippendale and stitch into the fabric of the city east-west
 - Unlock new space for the expansion of Central Sydney
- Connecting with Country
- Public Domain plan
- Built form at Central including City of Sydney's sun access plane
- Environmental and social sustainability
- Place Activation Characters of CPRP

TfNSW representative noted that this is a rezoning application, and the project is seeking to secure the delivery of public open space and the built form envelope. The delivery of the urban renewal will take 15-20 years and as uses change the masterplan will grow and develop.



During the presentation the following discussion points were raised by CUCAA:

- Noted the need to consider cross government messaging to bring together all the work happening in the area
- Requested that Sydney Dental Hospital should be located on the maps
- Noted would like to see connectivity around the Goods Line and Harris Street
- Noted the team need more time to understand and comment on the work

TfNSW representative noted there is a lot of content to digest and that the team would come back to CUCAA to discuss the project in further detail, answer questions and ensure the precinct renewal aligns with master planning work CUCAA are planning in the area.

Next steps

Central Precinct team to liaise with CUCAA on organising another meeting with the Alliance

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22 March 2022
12.30pm–01.30pm
Teams virtual meeting

Meeting notes

Central Precinct Renewal and Multicultural NSW

Attendees

Multicultural NSW
Transport for NSW

Discussion

Item 1: Introduction

Multicultural NSW representative thanked the project team for inviting Multicultural NSW to comment at an early stage. Multicultural NSW representative noted how Transport planning strategies do already include principles of inclusivity. Multicultural NSW will provide high level thoughts now and make a formal submission during the SSP process. Multicultural NSW representative noted there is a huge population of international students and a place like Central needs to include accessible spaces. Signage needs to be appropriate and incorporated into planning for all groups.

Multicultural NSW representative noted they would like to understand Transport's approach to stakeholder mapping and noted Multicultural NSW can facilitate networking with community groups.

Multicultural NSW representative asked about stakeholder mapping and what type of consultation is occurring as part of the precinct renewal, specifically around women's safety. Multicultural NSW representative noted that studies highlight the most at risk groups are international students and the most impacted and vulnerable groups need to be engaged early.

Item 2: Central Precinct Renewal

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) representative provided an overview of the SSP Study and planning process for Central Precinct Renewal Program (CPRP). This included:

- Central Precinct's strategic location in southern Central Sydney and its role in Tech Central which is being led by Greater Cities Commission
- Central Precinct's vision and the six objectives that the project addresses
- This is a long-term city shaping project which will evolve over the years
- Central Precinct will be a place where everyone is welcomed
- An update on what is happening across the precinct and the state significant precinct planning process
- Five key planning directions
 - Place and destination
 - People and community
 - Mobility and access
 - Economy and innovation
 - Sustainability
- 5 city shaping moves of CPRP



- Reconnect Redfern to the city and harbour
- Create a civic destination and world class transport interchange that connects people locally, regionally and globally
- Connect into the city's green grid
- Reconnect Surry Hills to Chippendale and stitch into the fabric of the city east-west
- Unlock new space for the expansion of Central Sydney
- Connecting with Country
- Public Domain plan, social and environmental sustainability
- Place Activation Characters of CPRP

TfNSW representative noted consultation is being completed with vulnerable groups including women and girls, LGBTQIA+ regarding safety and security and with stakeholders representing the homeless community for how the precinct renewal can help support people sleeping rough. Findings from this consultation will be embedded in the planning for Central Precinct.

TfNSW representative acknowledged there are several complex issues at Central including people sleeping rough and safety and security – we need to work with these communities to understand their needs. TfNSW representative also noted that co-design is part of the process and part of the Connecting with Country framework.

During the presentation discussion points were raised by Multicultural NSW:

- Noted the team need to consider language and accessibility. Accessibility to language can affect the population, particularly around the use of public transport and public spaces.
- Commented that there are homeless communities around transport hubs and these communities cannot be ignored. It is important to look at the issue from an intersectional lens and not in silos. Multicultural NSW representative also suggested looking at the legacy and history of Central – how the richness and interaction of people from different backgrounds intersect and how this could be reflected in the planning and design of Central.
- Commented that wayfinding and navigation need to be planned prior to construction to minimise issues for vulnerable or linguistically diverse communities.
- Responded that wayfinding around the precinct will be considered during the construction phase of the project.
- Thanked Transport for the briefing and noted that Multicultural NSW have networks that can assist Transport in stakeholder mapping and engagement. Multicultural NSW representative also noted Multicultural NSW can help review accessibility of consultation documents during the planning stage.

Next steps

Transport to keep Multicultural NSW updated as the project progresses and get in touch when the team are preparing their collateral to investigate opportunities to collaborate.

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Versions

Version	Amendment notes
1	None
2	Final for CPRP Public Exhibition 2022

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