

Fairfield City Plan

Top 10 Priorities Issue Paper

Priority 5 - Cleaner Environment

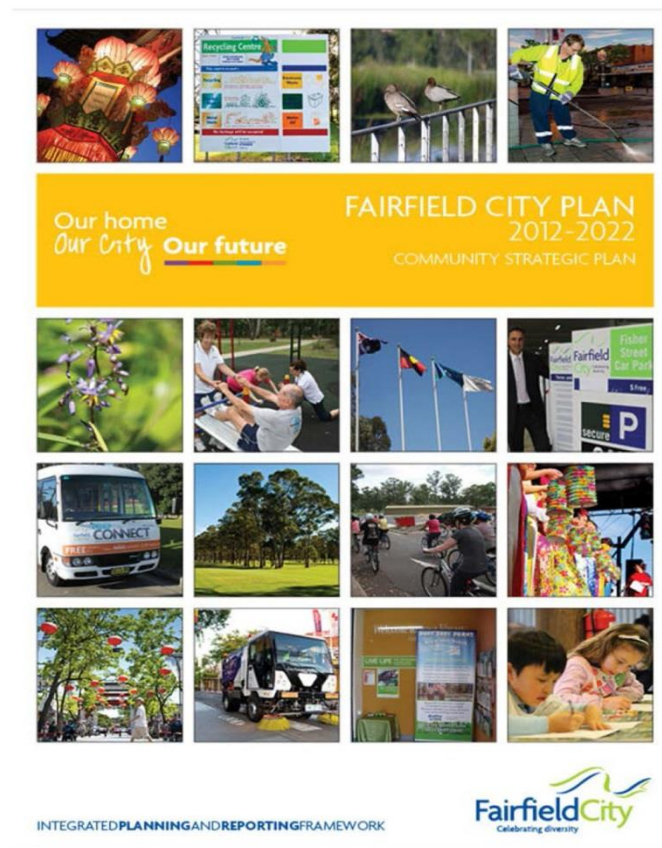


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INTRODUCTION

The Fairfield City Plan 2012-2022 is a compilation of the local community's vision, goals and priorities for Fairfield City over the next 10 years. It is important to stress that the City Plan is not the Council's plan – it belongs to the community and it summarises their views on what is important to them for the future of our City.

We all have an important role to play in delivering the future outcomes identified in the City Plan – all levels of government (Federal, State and Council), organisations, institutions, and agencies as well as every local resident and business operator.

The community came together in 2010 and again in 2012 to share their ideas about the future, and the City Plan includes a summary of that feedback in "The Top 10 Things We Would Like to See in Fairfield City by 2022". Priority number 5 on that list is Cleaner Environment.

CITY PLAN GOALS & STRATEGIES

The City Plan 2012-2022 defined Goal 1: **Protecting and Improving Our Natural Environment** (in Theme 3 – Environmental Sustainability) as:

Our City values its natural environment especially its biodiversity and its waterways.

- 1.1 Rehabilitate waterways and riparian zones
- 1.2 Improved water quality in our waterways
- 1.3 Significant habitats, biodiversity and native vegetation are protected
- 1.4 We value our vegetation and open space
- 1.5 The Western Sydney Regional Parklands and the rural lands of the City are valued for their environmental and visual quality

The City Plan 2012-2022 defined Goal 2: **Contributing to the Actions that Address Climate Change** (in Theme 3 – Environmental Sustainability) as:

Our City responds to climate change by contributing to the world's attempts to reduce carbon pollution and minimise temperature increase by reducing our ecological footprint.

- 2.1 Individuals and community take responsibility and action to reduce our environmental footprint
- 2.2 Reduce resource consumption
- 2.3 Responsible resource recovery and management of waste
We build up the resilience of the community to adapt to the impacts of climate change

The City Plan 2012-2022 defined Goal 3: **Supporting Sustainable Activities and Development** (in Theme 3 – Environmental Sustainability) as:

Our City supports the eco-friendly design of buildings, sustainable practices and resource management.

- 3.1 Water is valued through harvesting and reuse
- 3.2 Improved air quality in our region
- 3.3 Minimise excessive noise that could impact comfort and health
- 3.4 Individuals, businesses, industries and governments optimise their environmental performance

The City Plan identifies the following related strategies for achieving these goals-

- Return creek systems where possible to a more natural condition
- Take a catchment based approach to managing our natural resources
- Minimise pollution and undertake clean-ups where spills/emissions occur
- Increase tree cover and vegetation
- Regenerate local native plants
- Increase biodiversity across the City
- Regenerate local native plants
- Protect native flora and fauna and controlling pest species
- Protect environmentally sensitive lands
- Implement 'Avoid, Reduce, Recycle, Reuse' in managing our waste
- Provide shade, native plants, bush regeneration and sustainable facilities in public and open spaces
- Enforce appropriate noise, odour and emissions controls
- Plan controls and guidelines to protect environmentally sensitive land and waterways and promote sustainable practices

OUTLINE OF PRIORITY (DEFINITION)

'Cleaner Environment' is a broad strategy that made up of a number of priorities within the community. The main issues identified by residents during the Community Consultation in 2010 and 2012 were:

- Cleaner creeks and bushland, natural environment to be cleaner
- Illegal rubbish dumping,
- Pollutions (noise and air), and
- Needs for more trees and shrubs planted along roadways and pathways
- Clean factories
- Recycling in public venues and shopping centres
- Tidy up roads and gardens

OVERVIEW OF PRIORITY IN FAIRFIELD

The City of Fairfield is a complex system of natural and built components that reflect the urbanisation of the area. It is dominated by a generally flat topography, clay soils and floodplains adjacent to the creeks within the City. These conditions have produced unique vegetation communities including Cumberland Plain Woodland, Moist Shale Woodland, Shale-gravel Transition Forest, Western Sydney Dry Rainforest in moist gullies, and Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest along riparian corridors.

Fairfield City has eight major creeks within its boundaries, containing approximately 80km of creeks. The western area of the City, South Creek, Eastern Creek and Ropes Creek flow into the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment

Fairfield City currently has 580 parks, which allow residents to easily enjoy their open space. As a result of having these parks, 70% of the housing in Fairfield City is within 400m of open space.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Everyone has a role to play in ensuring a cleaner environment, from all levels of government through to the individual. Whilst Government has a larger role in scale and capacity, businesses and individuals play an important role in ensuring that they dispose of waste correctly and do not cause further impacts on the environment.

WHAT HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED OVER PAST FOUR YEARS?

NSW STATE GOVERNMENT

The NSW State Government's priorities are identified in NSW 2021 and South Western Sydney Regional Action Plan. The priorities related to 'Cleaner Environment' are stated below.

NSW 2021 – A PLAN TO MAKE NSW NUMBER ONE

Strengthen Our Local Environment and Communities

- *Goal 22:* protect our natural environment (managing weeds and pests, protect and conserve land biodiversity and native vegetation, protect rivers and wetlands and coastal environments, target illegal dumping, and provide information to local communities on air quality)
- *Goal 23:* Increase opportunities for people to look after their own neighbourhoods and environments (by 2016, NSW will have the lowest litter count per capita in Australia, increase recycling to meet the 2014 waste recycling targets, reducing graffiti, and increase neighbourhoods crime prevention)

SOUTH WESTERN SYDNEY REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

- Improve water quality and quantity in the Hawkesbury-Nepean River system and address the risk of weed infestation caused by increasing urban run-off
- Manage the impact of coal seam gas and long-wall mining
- Improve air quality
- Minimise the effects of climate risk and variability
- Improve waste management services
- Protect natural habitats.

In the 2015, the NSW State Government released *NSW Making it Happen* which identified State and Premier's priorities.

PREMIER'S PRIORITIES

Keep Our Environment Clean

Reduce the volume of litter by 40%, by 2020.

Littering harms ecosystems and our natural environment, and is linked to anti-social behaviours.

The NSW community consistently identifies littering as an area of environmental concern. NSW will overtake Victoria as the least littered state in Australia if we reduce our volume of litter by a further 40% by 2020. A new container deposit

scheme and other waste management initiatives will reduce littering, increase recycling, and help us reach this target.

A PLAN FOR GROWING SYDNEY,

Goal 3: Sydney's Great Places to Live

Direction 3.2: Create a network of interlinked, multipurpose open and green spaces across Sydney

- Action 3.2.1: Delivery the Sydney Green Grid Project, including open spaces, parks, bushland, natural areas, waterway corridors and tree-lined street scapes in a network that connects our homes to centres, public transport, jobs, and recreation.
- Action 3.2.2: Investigate options for a bushland renewal program, including preservation and improvement of the environmental quality of the bushland within the city.

Direction 3.3: Create Healthy Built Environment

- Action 3.3.1: Deliver Guideline for a Healthy Built Environment

Goal 4: Sydney's Sustainable and Resilient Environment

Direction 4.1: Protect Our Natural Environment and Biodiversity

Direction 4.3: Manage the Impact of Development on the Environment

- Action 4.3.2: Identify and Protect Land for New Waste Management Facilities

FAIRFIELD CITY COUNCIL SERVICES AND PROJECTS

INCREASE TO SERVICES

The Council's review of service levels resulted in a number of increases to address improvements to 'cleaner environment'

- Street and Public Amenities Cleaning – increase the service to include a full-time attendant to service the Fairfield and Cabramatta town centres with cleaning and handyman services to ensure they are kept clean and maintained.
- Street and Public Amenities Cleaning – increase in the service level of scrubbing and steam cleaning of footpaths in major centres to be closer to all fixtures and fittings.
- Waste Enforcement Group – increase this service to permanently appoint a Waste Enforcement Group which includes four staff that are dedicated to reducing the amount of dumped rubbish throughout Fairfield City.

Council also committed to a number of new initiatives that make the City's environment cleaner.

Waste services:

- Implementation of new mulching service to facilitate the recycle of green waste, and reducing the illegal dumping of mulch in open space.
- Continuation of drainage, kerb and gutter upgrades

Waste Strategy and Sustainability:

- Expansion of CCTV camera program including covert and overt surveillance cameras to detect illegal dumping activities
- Implementing trial program on household asbestos disposal scheme
- Implementing E-waste and chemical collection annual events

CURRENT SERVICES

Waste Services

Waste services currently collects waste from 56,000 domestic homes and 10,000 home units. The waste services also

- Home units dumped rubbish collection
- Residential and industrial street sweeping
- Illegal dumping clean up – flying squad
- The Waste Operations picked up about 600 tonnes of rubbish reported as illegal dumping in the 2014/15 financial year.
- In addition, nearly 2,000 tonnes of rubbish was collected in street cleansing and CBD areas.
- The Waste service is providing domestic mulching service and provide back to the residents.

Waste Education and Projects

Council provides the community with various educational materials and endorses projects to help educate the community. These include:

- Illegal dumping newspaper advertisements
- Recycling calendar
- Clean up brochure
- RID Squad information brochure and information sheet
- Community enforcement cards
- Waste information booklets
- Keep Australia Beautiful schools program
- Clean Up Australia Day events
- Household’s Asbestos Disposal Scheme
- Multi-Unit Dwelling waste contamination management and illegal dumping project

Waste Enforcement Team (WEG)

The Waste Enforcement Team has been established within Council. This is a specialist team focussing on pro-actively investigating and reducing the amount of illegal waste from being deposited in the Local Government Area (LGA).

A suite of strategic tools will be used to investigate, detect and deter persons and others from illegal waste dumping in the LGA.

In the 2014/2015 financial year, the WEG attended a total of 2893 illegal dumping incidents.

Community Enforcement/Environmental Management and Public Health

The community enforcement team is responsible for investigation and enforcement of regulatory and compliance laws within Fairfield City. The team will respond to community complaints relating to abandoned articles and vehicles.

Similarly, the Environmental Management and Public Health team is responsible for investigation and enforcement of regulatory and compliance laws relating to the environment and public health. The team will respond to community complaints relating to incidents concerning environmental issues and environmental health relating to waste management

Creek Clean Up – Natural Resources

Council's Natural Resource Management team is implementing Creek Care Program to maintain the creeks and their surrounding areas. In the 2014/2015 financial year, a total of 88.5 tonnes of litter and rubbish was removed from City's waterways. In addition, a total of 128.9 tonnes of rubbish were collected in Gross Pollutant Traps with about 20% was floating litter, 40% was vegetation and 40% was sand.

Catchment Management

- Implements projects to reduce the risk to life and property from mainstream and stormwater flooding as well as to improve water quality, reduce creek bank erosion
- Regenerate and maintain our creek and wetland corridors
- Manage Stormwater Management Program
- Upgrade drainage to ensure that it meets the needs of the City by reducing potential flooding and contributing to cleaner streets and waterways.

Asset Management

- Monitor and maintain community assets (roads, footpaths, car parks, kerb & gutter, traffic facilities, bus shelters, buildings, street signs, bridges, cycleways, drains, open space, sportsfields, play equipment) to an agreed standard by undertaking condition inspections to identify and program any required maintenance and renewal works
- graffiti removal on Council owned assets
- tree preservation, maintenance and street tree planting
- open space acquisition

Place Management

- Manage and coordinate initiatives, activities and project opportunities in business centres and industrial lands with particular attention to public domain improvements
- Centres Improvement Program which upgrades public domain in smaller neighbourhood shopping strips
- Fabulous Fairfield Program which recognises beautiful gardens and front yards throughout the City

Building Control and Compliance

- investigate community complaints, serve legal orders/directions and manage court prosecutions/appeals in relation to building and land use compliance

Built Systems

- scope, design and manage civil, urban and landscape projects

Construction and Maintenance

- provide the construction, maintenance, repair, inspection and testing of Council assets including fleet, plant, roads, signs, footpaths, drainage, kerbs, gutters, car parks, parks, sportsfields and community buildings

EXTERNAL KEY STAKEHOLDERS

WESTERN SYDNEY REGIONAL ILLEGAL DUMPING (RID) SQUAD

In order to tackle the problem of illegal dumping the NSW Environment Protection Agency, along with partnering councils have formed two Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squads to solely focus on and tackle the problem of illegal dumping.

Both the Western Sydney and the Greater Southern RID Squads operate across member Council boundaries to investigate and enforce breaches of NSW regulations on illegal dumping and illegal land filling.

Specifically the RID Squad aims to:

- encourage a more strategic coordinated approach to dumping incidents
- investigate incidents and take action against offenders
- organise clean-ups
- track down illegal landfills
- identify changes and trends in illegal dumping across a regional area
- Deter and educate community members about illegal dumping.

The Western Sydney RID Squad was established in 1999 to solely combat illegal dumping incidents. With support from DECCW, the RID Squad member Councils of Blacktown, Fairfield, Holroyd, Liverpool, Penrith, Parramatta and The Hills have formed a partnership to ensure illegal dumping issues are addressed in a regional manner.

In the 2014/2015, the Western Sydney RID Squad investigated 2,625 illegal dumping incidents involving 9,787 tonnes of waste in which there were 432 incident in the Fairfield LGA.

The Squad currently patrols dumps throughout the City with a particular focus on the Wetherill Park, Horsley Park and Smithfield areas.

WESTERN SYDNEY REGION – WESTERN SYDNEY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (WSROC)

The WSROC adopted its regional waste strategy in 2014 which identified reducing litter and illegal dumping is one of the six key strategies. Its targets are to work towards reducing the incidence of litter by 40% and illegal dumping incidents by 10% by 2017. The strategy also identified key actions to reduce litter and illegal dumping, including seeking funding to augment the RID Squad, and establishing a regional baseline for litter and illegal dumping.

GEORGE RIVER COMBINED COUNCIL'S COMMITTEE (GRCCC)

The GRCCC's mission is to advocate for the protection, conservation and enhancement of the health of the Georges River, including programs for the removal of litter and improvements to the habitat along the river banks and tributaries.

GREATER SYDNEY LOCAL LAND SERVICES (LLS)

The LLS was established in 2014 to replace the Catchment Management Authorities (CMA). The LLS is accountable for delivering services that add value to local industries, enhance natural resources, protect industries from pests and disease and help communities response to emergencies like flood, fire and drought.

NSW ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) – ILLEGAL DUMPING STRATEGY

The NSW EPA adopted its Illegal Dumping Strategy in 2014 to combat illegal dumping with target to reduce large scale illegal dumping incidents reported in Sydney, the Illawarra, Hunter and Central Coast regions by 30% by 2016. The strategy identified six focused areas, as

- Partnerships – build local community partnerships
- Building an evidence base
- Strategic enforcement – ramp-up waste compliance and enforcement
- Capacity building – help build expertise
- Education – spread the word
- Community engagement – motivate local communities

NSW ROAD AND MARITIMES SERVICES (RMS)

The NSW RMS is responsible for cleaning up all litter and illegal dumped rubbish in T-way and arterial roads.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA

Clean Up Australia is a non-government organisation who is organising the annual Clean Up Australia Day events for the community, government and business. In the past 25 years, the organisation has engaged more than 27.2 million hours of volunteering to collect over 288,000 tonnes of rubbish in Australia.

KEEP NSW BEAUTIFUL (KNSWB)

The KNSWB is a not-for-profit organisation for litter reduction and environmental sustainability in NSW. The organisation's focus is to engage local communities in NSW to achieve the State Government's 2021's target of being the least littered state in Australia.

QUESTIONS FOR FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

We all need more information about the community’s priorities for ‘Cleaner Environment’ to help advocate for the right improvements and implement the right projects. Feedback from the community will be included in the next update of the Fairfield City Plan.

Questions about ‘Cleaner Environment’

1. What do you think the three main priorities in ‘Cleaner Environment’? (please rate from 1 to 3 for three items only.)

- a. Cleaner creek, bushland and waterways
- b. Cleaner parks and reserves
- c. More street scapes and natural landscape
- d. Less litter and rubbish dumped in the public area (i.e. town centres, car parks...)
- e. Less air pollutions
- f. Less water pollution incidents in creeks, Prospect creek, Orphan School creek, Cabramatta creek, Chipping Norton Lake, Prospect Reservoir
- g. More CCTV cameras to detect illegal dumping
- h. Cleaner nature strips and gardens
- i. More street tree planting
- j. More tree planting in reserves and parks
- k. More volunteer groups to maintain and preserve the natural bushlands and creeks
- l. Others

2. Where are improvements to ‘Cleaner Environment’ needed (top 3 only)

a. Fairfield town centre	b. Cabramatta town centre
c. Chipping Norton Lake	d. Smithfield/Wetherill Park Industrial area
e. Orphan School creek	f. Sporting fields
g. Parks and reserves	h. Shopping centres
i. Surround railway stations	j. Other town centres (please specify)

Other/comments:

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3. What are your top three improvements for ‘Cleaner Environment’?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

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