



**NSW BUDGET  
SUBMISSION  
2024-25**

**BUSINESS  
WESTERN  
SYDNEY**

# Introduction

## **BUSINESS WESTERN SYDNEY**

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Business Western Sydney is one of the region's leading not-for-profit business organisations representing more than 130 of the region's largest organisations in industry, business, government, and community sectors. Our goal is to support greater private and public investment that will reduce the region's job deficit and make it a better place to live, work, learn and socialise.

We have consulted with our members and have compiled the following list of recommendations for consideration for funding by the NSW Government.

A summary of our recommendations is included at the end of this submission.

### Contact

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# EMPLOYMENT

## EMPLOYMENT & LIVEABILITY IN WESTERN SYDNEY SUPPORTING MORE JOBS & AMENITY CLOSER TO HOME

Shifting the needle on jobs in Western Sydney has been the main advocacy priority of Business Western Sydney since it was formed in 2012. Western Sydney suffers from a well-documented jobs deficit with more than 300,000 people travelling from the region each day to access work in Eastern Sydney – this deficit drains Sydney’s productivity. Residents spend countless hours in overcrowded trains or gridlocked roads, often deciding to take lower-paying jobs locally to avoid the commute. The strain it places on Sydney’s transport network is only expected to increase without significant intervention.

Business Western Sydney and our members believe that the COVID-19 pandemic provides a once in a generation opportunity to reconsider how our city functions. The response to COVID-19 has demonstrated that clustering employment in the Sydney CBD does not necessarily have to be how our economy needs to operate. Thousands of Sydneysiders and businesses have for the first time experienced what working from home or locally is like. Many people are supportive of retaining this new work-life balance that they have discovered. We believe that encouraging people to work from home or locally at least two days per week would have a strong economic benefit to Western Sydney’s metropolitan centres (Liverpool, Blacktown, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Penrith, Bankstown etc), improving the quality of life for the residents of the region and reduce the need for prohibitively expensive transport projects in the immediate future by taking pressure off-peak demand.

Business Western Sydney released a report, [Closer to Home](#), that explores the opportunities of COVID-19 to restructure employment in the outer suburban centres and makes several recommendations on how Government can make some of these behavioural changes more permanent as we move past the pandemic.

The report identifies a key role for Government in supporting the development of working hubs or “touch down pads” in the metropolitan centres of Western Sydney and developing a Local Centre Amenity Fund with other levels of government and private landowners to significantly improve the quality and attractiveness of our city centres to drive further investment and local job creation.

We encourage the NSW Government to set a target of providing 5,000 sqm of co-working space for public servants in each metropolitan centre in Western Sydney. This investment should be used to leverage an additional 5,000 sqm of private investment to support local job creation and spending in local economies.

Business Western Sydney's analysis of the region's working population that ordinarily travel to the Sydney CBD for employment before COVID-19 instead working two to three days in local city centres would generate an additional \$500 million in economic activity within Western Sydney each year. This would have positive flow-on effects and savings for government in health, transport and other associated costs that come with long commutes. There is also a significant cost saving to both private and public enterprise, with A-grade office space being far more affordable in Western Sydney.

Western Sydney has taken the majority population growth in the past few decades but community amenity has not kept pass. We support the establishment of a \$1 billion Western Sydney Community Amenity and Renewal Fund. This fund could combine financial contributions from Federal, State and Local Governments and industry to drive town centre renewal and improved amenity in Western Sydney.

Business Western Sydney strongly supports the state government funding the Campbelltown Justice Precinct proposal in full and as soon as possible. This regionally significant project will take pressure off the current aging facilities and deliver more equitable access to the justice system to a region that has large communities of vulnerable people.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**NSW Government to continue to pilot and expand work hubs across Sydney. These hubs need to be in the metropolitan clusters including Campbelltown, Liverpool, Penrith, Blacktown, Bankstown and Sydney Olympic Park.**

**Establish a \$1 billion Western Sydney Community Amenity and Renewal Fund combining financial contributions from Federal, State and Local Governments and industry to drive town centre renewal in Western Sydney.**

**Fund the Campbelltown Justice Precinct in full and as soon as possible.**



# **SOUTH WESTERN SYDNEY ACCELERATOR & SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM & COLLABORATION SPACE**

The NSW Government has established a start-up hub in the Sydney CBD (Wynyard Station) and is developing one in Parramatta (Cumberland Campus). The NSW Government is yet to invest in a start up program in support of Sydney's third city – the Western Parkland City.

The Liverpool Innovation Precinct is seeking \$6.26 million investment over three years, of which less than 20% is indirect costs, so it can implement and achieve its next set of ambitious milestones. This includes the delivery of a customised pre-accelerator program, 'Connect2170' for 3 years to assist local researchers and innovators with the commercialisation of their technologies.

The funding will establish a co-working space in Liverpool where Connect2170 can be deployed as well as providing the innovative and collaborative space that start-up founders, innovators and industry players require to advance and commercialise their technologies, which is a vital element of an effective innovation ecosystem.

It is anticipated that up to 40 new local businesses employing 150-200 people and attracting up to \$28 million in capital over 3 years is achievable. Investment attraction is already occurring with the precinct's successes to date and new businesses will only accelerate this while also increasing direct and indirect spending in the local economy.

Please refer to the [Liverpool Innovation Precinct submission](#) for further detail.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

**Allocate funding to support an accelerator & small business program in South Western Sydney**

# LIVEABILITY

## IMPROVING LIVEABILITY IN WESTERN SYDNEY

COVID-19 accelerated the focus on the need for high quality local areas for exercise and recreation in Western Sydney. The Greater Sydney Commission's report City Shaping Impacts of COVID-19 showed that during the early phases of the pandemic, people were spending around double the time they normally would in parks and green public spaces.

Water is at the heart of creating green and connected places but unfortunately for many people in Western Sydney – where residents rate their suburbs as one of the worst in Sydney for liveability – swimming in local waterways is not an option (2021 Australian Liveability Census).

Facilitating swimming in Western Sydney waterways and linking green and blue public spaces has the potential to transform amenity, recreation, health & enterprise across Sydney.

This also presents opportunities to partner with government and community groups to use available Sydney Water-owned property for new or enhanced public access and recreation for local communities. Forming new links between green and blue corridors enables progressing dual outcomes of increasing the proportion of homes within 10 minutes' walk of public space and of maximising community benefit from public sector-owned land.



Parramatta River naturalisation concept



Families in Western Sydney deserve equitable access to waterways for recreation as families in other parts of Sydney. We live in an age where the technology and knowledge exist to restore the health of waterways in Western Sydney. We encourage the NSW Government to provide the investment and strong leadership to achieve this.

As an example, Business Western Sydney released a [concept video](#) of the naturalisation of the Parramatta River adjacent to the site of the future Powerhouse Parramatta between the Lennox and Barry Wilde Bridges. This concept demonstrates how smart investment in our waterways in Western Sydney can change the urban fabric and drive visitation and economic activity to the benefit of local communities.

We also strongly support the concept of a green corridor of walks and trees linking the Australian Botanic Gardens in Mount Annan to the Western Sydney Parklands with a possible extension out to the Blue Mountains. This would help conserve Cumberland Plain Woodland unique to Western Sydney.



Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Support the revitalisation of Western Sydney waterways and increase public access on available Sydney Water property and corridors to improve the quality of life for families and local communities in Western Sydney.**

**Support the naturalisation and activation of the Parramatta River in the heart of the Parramatta CBD.**

**Support the Green Corridor of parklands and bike tracks from the Australian Botanic Garden in Mount Annan to the Western Sydney Parklands in Blacktown.**

# REVITALISING WESTERN SYDNEY CBDs THROUGH DYNAMIC ACTIVATIONS GRANT SCHEME

The Revitalising Western Sydney CBDs through Dynamic Activations Grant Scheme is an initiative proposed to support the resurgence of CBDs and key strategic centres in Western Sydney after the COVID-19 pandemic. This would be in the spirit of the grants provided during the height of the pandemic to encourage people to return to CBDs. This grant program aims to invigorate key precincts by funding vibrant and innovative activations that attract visitors, customers, and tourists, thus promoting economic growth and development in the region.

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The primary objectives of the grant scheme are:

- **Economic Stimulus:** To infuse new life into Western Sydney's CBDs by investing in creative activations that attract people, businesses, and tourists, fostering economic activity and boosting local commerce.
- **Community Engagement:** To create dynamic and inclusive destinations that offer a diverse range of experiences for residents and visitors alike, promoting community engagement and social cohesion.
- **Retail Support:** To drive foot traffic and patronage to local businesses, particularly retailers, within the activated precincts, thereby supporting their growth and sustainability.
- **Extended Operational Hours:** To encourage precincts to operate throughout the day and into the evening, maximizing opportunities for businesses and residents to interact and engage.
- **Tourism Promotion:** To enhance the appeal of Western Sydney as a tourist destination, drawing visitors from across the region and beyond to explore the vibrant precincts.



Revitalise Queen Street Precinct, Campbelltown



The grant scheme could provide financial support across different funding categories:

- Major Activations: Significant, large-scale activations that have the potential to draw substantial foot traffic, boost local economies, and significantly transform the precinct.
  - Minor Activations: Smaller, community-driven activations that contribute to the overall vibrancy of the precinct and engage local residents.
  - Infrastructure Enhancement: Funding to support the development or improvement of infrastructure and facilities within the precinct to facilitate activation initiatives.
  - Promotional Initiatives: Grants for marketing and promotional campaigns aimed at attracting visitors and increasing awareness of the activated precincts.
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By supporting vibrant activations that appeal to residents, businesses, and tourists alike, the grant scheme aims to create enduring destinations that prosper for years to come.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Create a grant scheme to support the activation of Western Sydney's CBDs and strategic centres to drive greater visitations and economic activity.**

# WESTERN SYDNEY RIVERS ACTIVATION STRATEGY

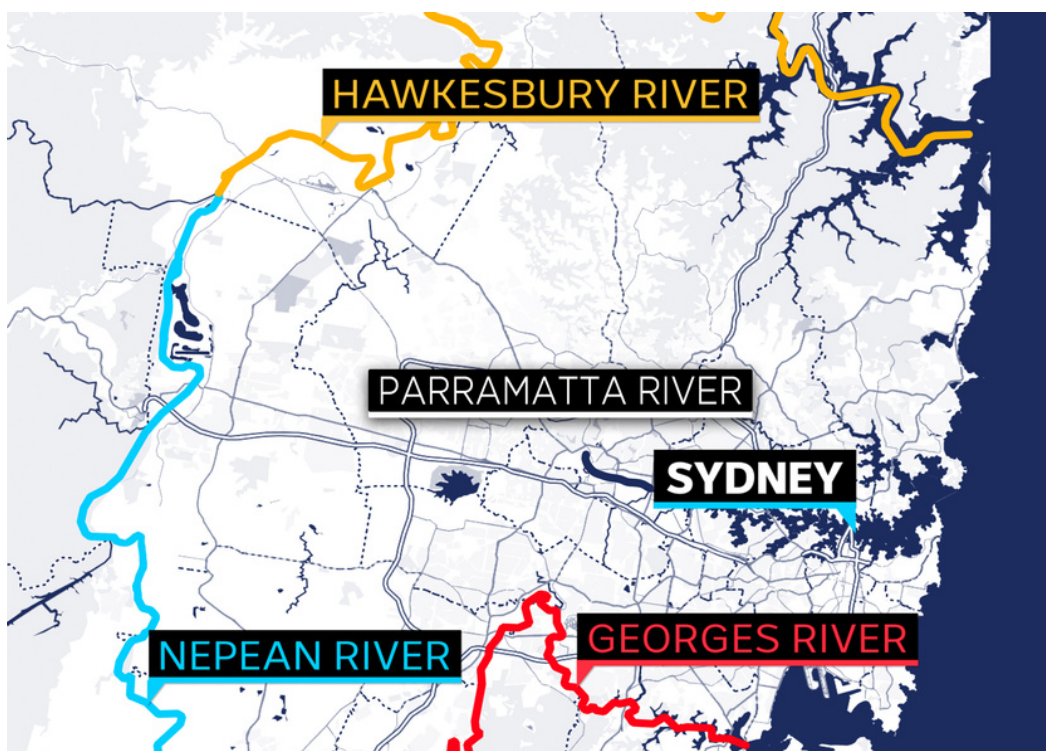
Allocating a \$10 million fund for a Western Sydney Rivers Activation strategy would be a visionary step towards fostering greater community connection to waterways and rivers across Western Sydney.

Western Sydney has some of the best rivers and waterways in Australia and yet their communities often have little opportunity to interact with their blue infrastructure.

We believe there is significant potential for Western Sydney's Georges River, Nepean-Hawkesbury and Parramatta Rivers.

We would like to see the development of grants to support the building of jetties, bike tracks and river beaches.

In particular we see huge opportunity for activation at Penrith Lakes, Rosehill-Camellia and More Point in Liverpool.



Western Sydney Rivers

## RECOMMENDATION:

**\$10 million for a Western Sydney Rivers Activation strategy to lead greater community connection to waterways and rivers.**





# SUSTAINABILITY

## SUPPORTING THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Continued investment in incentives for businesses to invest in a wide range of circular economy partnerships and operations in Western Sydney and NSW can yield numerous benefits for the economy, environment, and communities.

Circular economy practices promote sustainable economic growth by minimising waste, optimising resource use, and fostering innovative business models. As businesses adopt circular principles, they can reduce their reliance on finite resources, lower production costs, and improve overall efficiency, leading to long-term economic resilience. Circular economy partnerships and operations aim to minimise waste generation and pollution. Incentivising businesses to adopt such practices can lead to reduced landfill waste, decreased water pollution, and less littering, thereby benefiting public health and the environment.

We encourage the NSW Government to continue to support and incentivises the growth of the circular economy.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**Continue to support and incentivises the growth of the circular economy in NSW.**

# TRANSPORT

Business Western Sydney encourages the NSW Government to maintain its investment pipeline in new transport infrastructure under the Future Transport Strategy.

## PARRAMATTA LIGHT RAIL STAGE 2



Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2

Business Western Sydney applauds the investment in Parramatta Light Rail Stage 1 and continues to strongly advocate for the NSW Government to proceed with Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2.

Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2 has now received planning approval. We encourage the NSW Government to use the upcoming budget to crystallise the construction timeline and funding for the project.

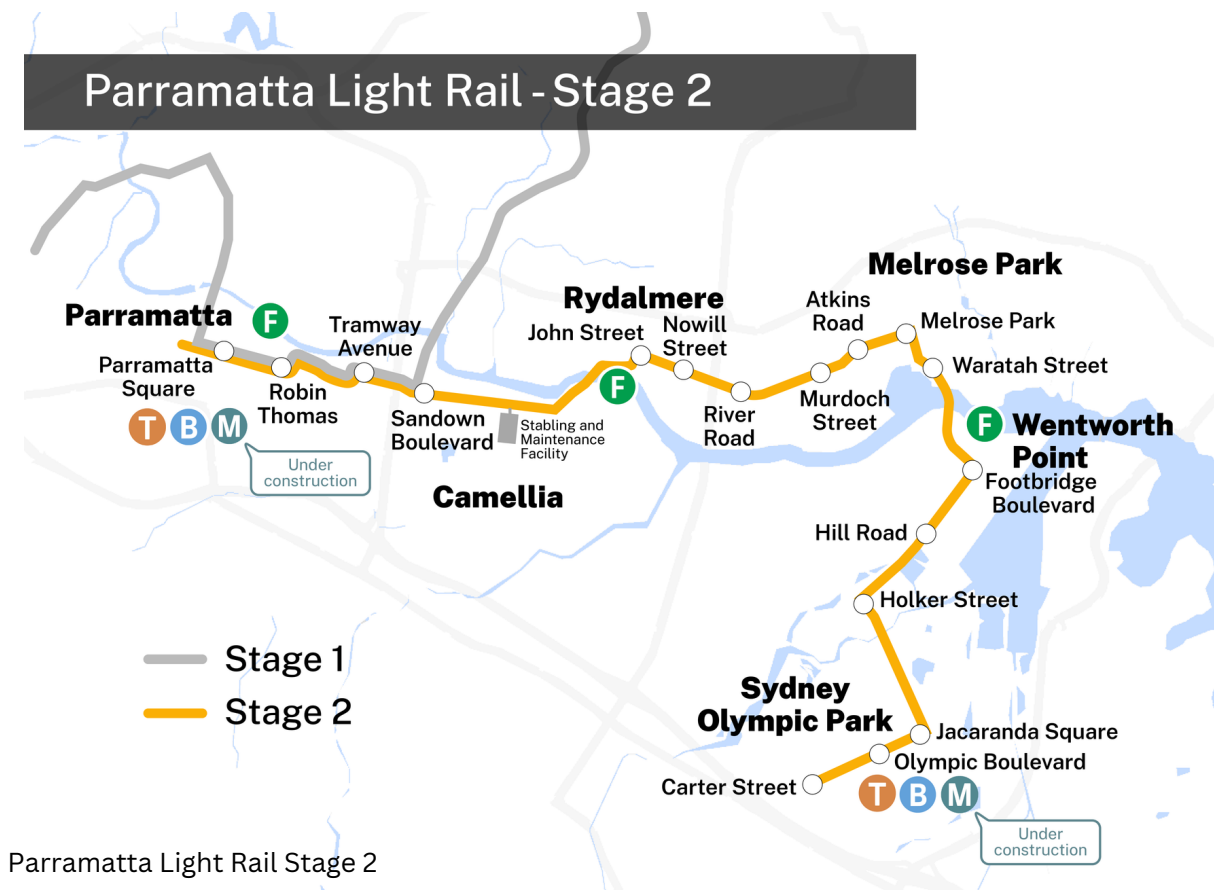
As an appointed member of the Parramatta Light Rail Advisory Group, we have received comprehensive briefings from the Parramatta Light Rail team and recognise the enormous benefits of this project to the communities along the proposed route and to the success of the Greater Parramatta and Olympic Peninsula region (GPOP).

The benefits of Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2 by 2041 include:

- 18,200 additional homes in GPOP;
- 18,800 additional jobs in GPOP;
- More people within 30 minutes access to Parramatta (+23,000) and SOP (+31,000);
- 1.2 million more cycling trips a year;
- Stage 2 will attract 22,800 trips in 2041.



## Parramatta Light Rail - Stage 2



Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2 represents an election commitment by the NSW Government to the businesses and communities in GPOP along the Parramatta River. Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2 is a vital project to support Sydney Metro West and linking the high-density communities of Melrose Park, Wentworth Point and Carter Street, to the new Metro station at Sydney Olympic Park. Without the connection to the Sydney Olympic Park that Stage 2 provides, this Metro station would suffer from the same lack of patronage that current station on the Sydney Trains network currently has.

### RECOMMENDATION:

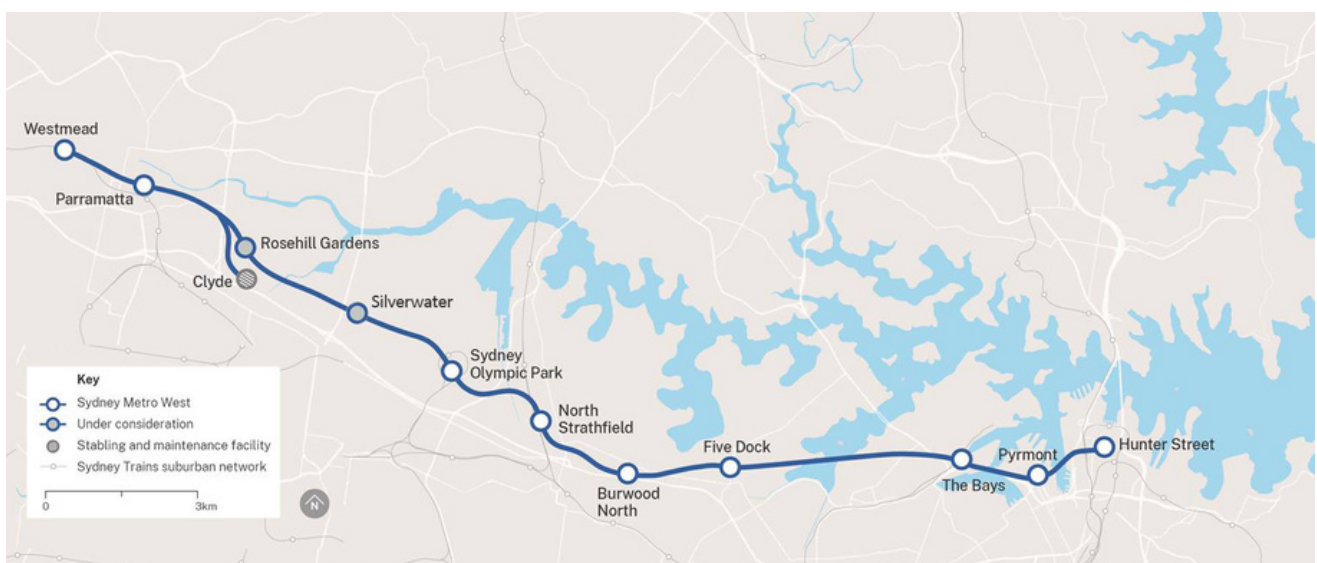
**The NSW Government allocate construction funding to progress Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2 as a priority project in the Budget.**

# MAXIMISING THE COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC VALUE OF SYDNEY METRO WEST

## ADDITIONAL METRO STATIONS IN WESTERN SYDNEY

Business Western Sydney is committed to fostering economic growth, enhancing connectivity, and improving the quality of life in Western Sydney. The Sydney Metro West project presents a historic opportunity to achieve these goals by significantly improving transportation links between the Parramatta and Sydney CBDs. However, to fully realise the potential benefits of this transformative infrastructure project, we propose two critical enhancements to the project's current scope: the inclusion of new metro stations at Rosehill and possibly at Silverwater, and the development of a robust activation plan for the Over Station Development (OSD) of the metro stations in Western Sydney.

The proposed Rosehill metro station, strategically located to serve a diverse mix of residential, commercial, and recreational areas, promises to unlock significant economic, social, and environmental benefits for Greater Parramatta. A metro station would dramatically improve accessibility, encourage sustainable transport modes, reduce road congestion, and support thousands of new jobs and jobs in the corridor between the Parramatta and Sydney CBDs.



Additional Stations along Metro West

Business Western Sydney supports the unsolicited proposal by the Australian Turf Club to redevelop Rosehill Gardens into a new city supporting over 20,000 homes. We encourage the NSW Government and the ATC to continue to negotiate a positive outcome on this proposal.

Similarly, Silverwater is a critical industrial and commercial hub within Western Sydney, with a significant workforce and a growing residential community. The establishment of a Silverwater station on the Sydney Metro West line would provide essential support for local businesses, enhance job accessibility for residents across Sydney, and stimulate economic activities in the area. It would also serve as a catalyst for urban renewal, encouraging the development of mixed-use precincts that integrate living, working, and recreation spaces.



Rosehill-Camellia City Town Centre Concept

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Support two additional stations in Western Sydney on Sydney Metro West.**



# ACTIVATION PLAN FOR METRO STATIONS IN WESTERN SYDNEY



Westmead Metro Station

While the physical infrastructure of the Sydney Metro West is crucial, the success of this project also depends on effective station activation strategies, particularly in key areas such as the Parramatta CBD. An activation plan tailored for the Parramatta CBD metro station and other Western Sydney locations is essential for maximising the economic, social, and environmental returns of the metro project. This plan should include:

- **Integrated Urban Planning:** Ensure that the area surrounding the Parramatta CBD station and other new stations is developed with a mix of residential, commercial, and public spaces that are pedestrian-friendly and conducive to economic activities.
- **Partnerships with Local Businesses:** Work closely with local businesses to create synergies that can lead to increased foot traffic and economic activity around the stations. This could include the establishment of business incubators, pop-up shops, and markets that leverage the increased accessibility provided by the metro.
- **Community and Cultural Initiatives:** Develop community spaces and cultural programs that engage local residents and attract visitors to the area. This could range from outdoor performances and art installations to community gardens and festivals, all designed to make the station areas vibrant community hubs.
- **Sustainable Development Practices:** Incorporate green building practices and sustainable design principles in the development around the stations, contributing to environmental sustainability and creating more attractive and healthier spaces for people to live and work.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

**Develop strong activation plans for the metro stations in Western Sydney.**

# EXTENDING SYDNEY METRO WESTERN SYDNEY AIRPORT FROM BRADFIELD TO GLENFIELD

Western Sydney Airport is a once in a generation city-making project that will help drive the Western Sydney economy for decades to come. Many of the early plans touted a significant benefit to the Macarthur region; however, there are fears that the benefits won't be realised if there is no connection between the first stage of Sydney Metro Western Sydney Airport and the heavy-rail network at Glenfield.

There is less than 10 kilometres between the Bradfield metro station and Leppington train station – it is a short distance to unlock significant value for the Western Parkland City. It would provide a significant enhancement of rail connectivity to Western Sydney International Airport. The line would provide a more direct rail connection and interchange between Sydney International Airport and Western Sydney International Airport, while also allowing a far stronger connection into South-Western Sydney and the Southern Highlands. We would support the addition of a new station at Rossmore between Bradfield and Leppington.

Extending the metro line from St Marys through to Glenfield would establish the first stage of the North-South transport spine to enable the growth of the Western Parkland City. It would greatly enhance the connectivity of the Western Sydney International Airport and Aerotropolis to not just the T1 Western Line at St Marys but also the T2 Inner West & Leppington Line, T5 Cumberland Line and the T8 Airport & South Line through interchanging at Glenfield. The conversion of the South West Rail Link to metro standard would enable this to occur.



Glenfield Metro Station Concept

An East-West rail connection would further leverage Western Sydney International Airport's benefits as a driver of regional socio-economic uplift and have direct benefits to the Aerotropolis' commercial proposition through improved connectivity to the broader Sydney rail network. The connection would provide wide-ranging benefits to multiple local government areas and communities across the region, particularly Campbelltown and Liverpool. These communities could otherwise be waiting for decades for the eventual direct metro rail links to the Aerotropolis and the thousands of jobs we hope to create in this region.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Support the extension of Sydney Metro Western Sydney Airport to Glenfield via the South West Rail Link.**



# EXTENDING AIRPORT METRO FROM BRADFIELD TO MACARTHUR & ST MARYS TO TALLAWONG

Business Western Sydney wholeheartedly endorsing the extension of the Sydney Metro from Bradfield to Macarthur, and from St Marys to Tallawong and we look forward to supporting and reviewing the government lead businesses cases for each extension.

This increased connectivity would fosters greater liveability for the people of Macarthur which have grown faster than any other place in Australia for the past 15 years.

Moreover, extending the metro line from St Marys to Tallawong serves as a vital link——connecting key residential areas to employment centres and educational institutions. This connectivity is crucial for attracting and retaining skilled workers, supporting workforce mobility, and fostering a dynamic business environment, all of which are vital to making Bradfield a thriving city.

Furthermore, the extension of the Sydney Metro demonstrates a commitment to equitable access to economic opportunities. By providing affordable and reliable public transportation options, it ensures that all residents, regardless of their background or location, can participate in and benefit from the region's economic growth.

Currently residents in Macarthur have the longest commutes of any area in the metro Sydney area along with the highest per capita rates of workers required to leave their region for employment across Sydney.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

**Support the extension of Sydney Metro Western Sydney Airport from Bradfield to Macarthur and St Marys to Tallawong**

# SUPPORTING BUS & ROAD ACCESS TO WESTERN SYDNEY AIRPORT

The success of Western Sydney International Airport will depend on transport accessibility. We encourage the NSW Government to continue to invest further to improve local road access around the new Airport including the duplication of Elizabeth Drive, the creation of an Eastern Ring Road, extending and upgrading the Fifteenth Avenue corridor from Liverpool to Bradfield and building the Bradfield Metro Link Road.

We understand that the Elizabeth Drive duplication is currently in the planning phase but no funding has been allocated. Elizabeth Drive is an important access road for Western Sydney Airport and an additional entrance for the Airport alongside the M12. Its current state as a semi-rural road is not fitting for Australia's newest international airport. The road should be upgraded to support the opening of the Airport at the end of 2026.

The NSW Government needs to support the creation of a new Eastern Ring Road, from Elizabeth Drive to the Northern Road via the new city of Bradfield. The current Badgerys Creek Road and its location is not suitable in the longer term to provide this access as it is on the future location of the second runway. The Government should save time and money by creating a new Eastern Ring Road rather than upgrade Badgerys Creek Road to later demolish it.

Improving connectivity between Liverpool and Bradfield also need to be a priority with the development of a plan to extend and upgrade the Fifteenth Avenue corridor between the two cities. This is imperative to support the development of new residential communities in the region as well as provide an economic connection between Bradfield and Liverpool.

Business Western Sydney also encourages the NSW Government to develop a bus transport strategy for Western Sydney Airport. The strategy should contain a combination of local services to support access to the airport for the workforce and faster services for passengers from key centres like Liverpool, Penrith, Camden and Campbelltown.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Fast-track the duplication of Elizabeth Drive.**

**Develop an Eastern Ring Road for Western Sydney Airport.**

**Extend and upgrade Fifteenth Avenue from Liverpool to Bradfield.**

**Construct the Bradfield Metro Link Road.**

**Develop and implement a bus transport strategy for the new Airport.**

# SPORTS & ARTS INFRASTRUCTURE

## RAS SYDNEY SHOWGROUND MASTER PLAN

The not-for-profit Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS), in conjunction with the Sydney Olympic Park Authority (SOPA), has prepared a site Master Plan for the upgrade of Sydney Showground. The RAS is seeking a strategic Government investment in a State-owned asset of which the RAS is the custodian, through a long-term lease, and operator charged with optimising the social and economic benefit and in particular the sustainable support for agriculture in regional and rural NSW.

The site Master Plan is centred on the introduction of a new Convention Centre/Auditorium and the Australian Food Showcase. The new convention centre/auditorium for Western Sydney would have a 3-4,000 seat multi-purpose space, with separate meeting/breakout spaces to cater primarily to the domestic event market. Complementing the ICC, it will enhance Sydney and Parramatta's capacity to stage more lucrative business and entertainment events, effectively doubling the business event capability of NSW and reducing event leakage interstate.



Sydney Olympic Park



The Australian Food Showcase will not only deliver a new and exciting experience for the community in Greater Sydney, but offers a globally unique experience to support NSW producers and encourage stronger visitation from intrastate and international visitors whilst providing significant patronage for the new Metro West and Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2 (PLR2) public transport services.

Supporting the RAS Sydney Showground Master Plan will enable:

- Increase investment in and support for the NSW 'Show' program throughout the State to support regional economies;
- Increases in funding support for the RAS Foundation, in turn increasing investment in scholarships, grants and direct support in and for rural communities;
- Sydney Olympic Park to become 'where the Country meets the City 365' as a major marketing and branding opportunity for Western Sydney to support economic uplift and the visitor economy;
- Increases in education investment and programs to be facilitated at the proposed new Australia's Food Showcase linked with outreach programs in NSW rural and regional locations, and
- Increased awareness and understanding of the very high standards of RAS award winning and nationally significant NSW produce, through the 'Sydney Royal' competition program adding significant value to produce from an export perspective.

The investment, which includes the essential relocation of the Sydney Royal Easter Show Carnival to facilitate PLR2, is anticipated to support 980 direct construction jobs, and over 3,700 ongoing indirect jobs for Western Sydney.

Business Western Sydney endorses the RAS Sydney Showground Master Plan and encourages the NSW Government to provide funding for the Plan. Please refer to the RAS for further details on the project.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Provide funding to support the RAS Sydney Showground Master Plan.**

# A RETRACTABLE ROOF FOR ACCOR STADIUM

It is time to transform our Olympic stadium with a retractable roof that will cement its position as the major events capital of Australia.

The recent Taylor Swift concerts, the biggest international recording artist on the planet, drew 335,000 fans (Swifties) across four nights to Accor Stadium only to have her first concert delayed, support act cancelled and thousands of Swifties running for cover due to a short but sharp storm sweeping over Olympic Park. NSW can and must do better with our major events infrastructure.

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Adding a retractable roof to the 82,500-seat venue that hosted the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games would bolster Western Sydney's ambition to host the 2027 Rugby World Cup Final while ensuring major events such as the NRL Grand Final, State of Origin and the Bledisloe Cup are annual events that drive the NSW visitor economy.



Accor Stadium retractable roof

A weather-proof Accor Stadium would be the largest enclosed multi-purpose venue in the world, capable of significantly broadening its entertainment calendar with more concerts, major cultural events, large scale opera spectaculars such as Aida and Turandot and major international sport and entertainment events where a roof is preferred such as UFC, boxing and WWE.

Venues NSW should be congratulated with their recent food and beverage announcement that is bringing a uniquely Western Sydney offering to Australia's home ground. But more needs to be done to secure this iconic venue's future and a retractable roof is the most effective way at a portion of the cost of a redevelopment at around \$350 million.

A retractable roof significantly enhances the fan experience, guarantees perfect condition for major sporting events – no more sitting in the rain for a State of Origin – and most importantly, offers certainty to hirers, Venues NSW and the many Western Sydney business and thousands of workers from across Sydney that rely on a strong Accor Stadium event calendar and packed audiences.

With the Western Sydney International Airport scheduled to come online in late 2026, it is even more important now that the NSW Government ensure Accor Stadium is ready to leverage the increased tourist foot-traffic.



Accor Stadium retractable roof

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**Develop an investment plan that ensures Accor Stadium remains fit for purpose and competitive with other major stadiums, including a retractable roof.**



# WESTERN SYDNEY WANDERERS' COMMUNITY INDOOR CENTRE

The proposed \$30 million Wanderers Community Indoor Centre (CIC) will cater for an estimated 89,000 visitors from across Western Sydney each year and provide a significant increase in safe indoor sporting facilities in the Blacktown LGA. There is currently only a single indoor court within a radius of 12.5km of Wanderers Football Park. It will also support the development of football for women and girls which is particularly significant given the recent 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup held in Australia.

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The Wanderers CIC will comprise:

- A dedicated Wanderers Women's Centre of Excellence;
- A Futsal centre catering for indoor and powerchair football;
- A community and multipurpose sports hub to accommodate other sports such as netball, basketball and volleyball, as well as community and Wanderers competitive teams such as Wanderers Powerchair.
- Expanded offices for NGO's and NFP's working with the Wanderers Foundation, including Wanderers delivered multicultural and indigenous programs.
- Complementary and ancillary commercial activities to underpin CIC operations and continued community support.
- A media and podcasting hub for community use.
- The Wanderers CIC will be a five-star Green Star rated building and will incorporate environmentally sustainable design initiatives, including:
  - Approximately 1,200 sqm of roof-mounted solar panels with associated battery storage capability;
  - Water capture, storage and re-use; and
  - Efficient mechanical systems with a focus of natural ventilation where possible.

The CIC will leverage the positive brand of the Western Sydney Wanderers to enable increased physical activity levels for a share of the Western Sydney population that is currently underserved by community sport infrastructure.

Based on a \$30 million capital and \$5 million operation cost, an independent economic analysis by Marsden Jacob Associates predicts a Total Benefit Value of \$111.6 million and a Net Present Value of \$75.9 million over a 30-year period of operations - a BCR of 3:1.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

**Support the development of the Western Sydney Wanderers' Community Indoor Centre**

# PERMANENT PERFORMANCE INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE THREE CITIES (SOUNDSHELLS)

Business Western Sydney supports the proposal for the creation of three permanent performance shells across Greater Sydney - The Domain in Sydney's CBD, The Crescent in Parramatta Park, and Thompsons Creek Regional Parkland in Bradfield.

Permanent performance shells are acoustical, high-tech soundshell structures designed to improve the sound and clarity of performances, enhancing both the performers and patrons' experience. They can host a wide range of performing arts, festivals, major concerts, movie screenings and community events. These iconic cultural pavilions, with their minimalist and contemporary design, have become parts of the cultural infrastructure of many overseas cities. Much loved examples are the Rady Shell in San Diego, Red Rocks in Colorado, and the award-winning Orion in Alabama. Closer to home, Melbourne's iconic Sidney Myer Music Bowl and Brisbane's Riverstage are popular among local and international artists. In Sydney, the proposed shells can fill a venues void between theatres and their capacity for up to 2000 people, and arenas that can hold more than 20,000.

Successful, growing cities are known for their liveability, identity, and community cohesion. However, access to culture and entertainment in Sydney has been uneven for too long. The best venues are in the CBD, harbour and inner-city. Evenly distributing the construction of performance shells across Greater Sydney will give residents of Western Sydney much better access to performances and events.

Our paper '[Greater Entertainment for Greater Sydney: Permanent Performance Shells in Sydney's Iconic Parklands](#)', maps out how permanent performance shells would revitalise Sydney's outdoor entertainment sector, bringing over 2,300 permanent jobs and \$450 million to its economy every year.

In the lead up to the March 2023 State Election, NSW Labor committed to undertaking a business case for the performance shells. Now in government, we encourage this business case to be undertaken.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

**Undertake a business case on three performance shells in line with election commitments.**

**Explore options for a fourth performance space in the Macarthur region.**



# HEALTH

## **SOUTH WESTERN SYDNEY INTEGRATED COMMUNITY HEALTH HUBS**

South Western Sydney is home to more than one million people and is one of the fastest growing and most diverse regions in Australia. The investment in Integrated Community Health Hubs would mean that instead of having to go to a hospital, people can access many of the same health services closer to home, including cancer care, cardiac rehabilitation, occupational therapy and preventative screening.

The range of services to be operated from the hubs include:

- Cancer care including infusion and chemotherapy/haematology chairs, cancer co-ordination and survivorship, renal dialysis;
- Allied health services including occupational therapy, physiotherapy, audiology, cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation;
- Community health services including mental health (adult and child and adolescent mental health), drug health, oral health, sexual health and sexual assault service, paediatric and antenatal health, child and family health, refugee health services, geriatrics and neuro-degenerative health; and
- Preventative screening including breast screening.

There will be a focus on services tailored to South Western Sydney's culturally and linguistically diverse communities, such as multicultural health and refugee health. The hubs will be designed to facilitate digital health and future developments in models of care, including a multidisciplinary virtual care hub. There will also be a virtual interpreter hub, to better assist the community with its care needs.

The hubs are also designed to attract the co-location of other NSW Government human services centres, pharmacies, general practices, university partners and community centres to create a one stop shop for the community's health needs. Sites are proposed across South West Sydney – with Liverpool and Glenfield as key initial priorities.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**Support the creation of Integrated Community Health Hubs in South Western Sydney.**



# GENE TECHNOLOGIES BUILDING AT WESTMEAD



Gene Technologies Building

The Children's Medical Research Institute (CMRI), home of Jeans for Genes® and Australia's first paediatric medical research institution – is a biotechnology R&D leader located within the Westmead Health & Innovation District. CMRI's high-technology R&D is driving major scientific advances, biomedical innovations, job-creation and attracting industry to the Westmead Health & Innovation District.

The Children's Medical Research Institute is seeking funding for a critical Western Sydney infrastructure project of State significance – called the Gene Technologies Building. The project will include the redevelopment of CMRI's existing leasehold at Westmead into a larger than 28,000 sqm GFA R&D building with specialised PC2 laboratories and high-tech research facilities. It will expand CMRI's (therefore NSW's) globally leading R&D, deliver life-saving health benefits, and drive the Western Sydney and NSW economy.

The building will be located adjacent to a new Viral Vector advanced manufacturing facility at Westmead, The Gene Technologies Building will expand and accelerate CMRI's and its Westmead partners' R&D on novel treatments that will feed directly into advanced manufacturing on-site. This expanded research-to-advanced manufacturing link via the Gene Technologies Building will seed an Australian-first new \$1 billion+ biotech industry in novel treatments for inherited diseases, led from Westmead. It will also house new R&D jobs linked to advanced manufacturing, to help create a new workforce.

The Gene Technologies Building is a critical R&D infrastructure in the Westmead Health Precinct with far-reaching benefits – it will deliver:

High-tech R&D + cures and hope for sick children:

- Health benefits, lives saved, new ways to treat cancer and inherited diseases, and greater wellbeing for sick children and families

Health economic benefits:

- Cost savings for the health system, patients & carers + productivity and quality-of life (QoL) benefits
- Improved cancer care for rural and regional NSW cancer patients via ProCan technology

Economic prosperity:

- Job-creation: >500 high-tech R&D STEM jobs + over 200 construction jobs
- New \$1 billion+ biotech industry (gene technology start-ups) in Western Sydney
- Novel IP generation and R&D commercialisation
- Expanding industry partnerships
- New treatments for worldwide export
- Global talent attraction
- Precinct growth
- New advanced manufacturing workforce
- Increasing clinical trials at Westmead
- Biotech industry attraction and co-location
- Higher-degree education (PhD and Honours students) in medical science and medtech

The Gene Technologies Building Final Business Case has been evaluated through Infrastructure NSW (INSW) Gateway Assurance processes (INSW Gate 2 Final Report issued in August 2023, confirming the project's benefits and readiness for implementation).

The NSW Government has recognised the urgent need for the Gene Technologies Building Project for its significant health and economy-acceleration benefits for Western Sydney and NSW, approving access to the requested first tranche funding for the project in FY2023-24 for detailed design and early and enabling works.

It is critical for the building program to remain on track through confirmation of the remainder project funding in the FY2024-25 Budget, cash flowed over the forward estimates.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Continue funding support for the Gene Technologies Building at Westmead.**



# ARTS & CULTURE

## WESTERN SYDNEY ARTS & CULTURE

Western Sydney's population has continued to grow dramatically, but cultural arts funding has not kept up. There are now an additional 600,000 people living in Western Sydney and an extra 80,000 businesses. It's time the 2.6 million residents and 230,000 businesses of Western Sydney were given the opportunity to develop their talents and experience cultural assets closer to home.

From 2015 to 2023, Western Sydney secured a mere 3.4% share of arts funding and a mere 1.7% slice of the \$200 million RISE fund, which was earmarked for economic revival post-pandemic. At the state level, Western Sydney's cultural infrastructure funding was limited to just 36.6% between 2015 and 2022. In the fiscal year 2021-2022, Western Sydney institutions received a modest 12% of the grants awarded by Create NSW, with the lion's share of 88% going to institutions located in Eastern Sydney.

The NSW Government must increase funding for cultural arts venues and programs in Greater Western Sydney. For cultural arts to prosper in our region the disparity of funding needs to be addressed and greater certainty provided for the arts community to plan their programs, invest in the development of their facilities, promote local artists and their place in their local communities.

A new funding approach needs to be adopted that improves the level of and long-term commitment for funding recipients in Western Sydney.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

- **A new \$25 million Destination NSW fund reserved solely for Western Sydney.**
- **Equitable and proportional funding for regions across Sydney and NSW.**
- **Predictable minimum funding for established institutions.**
- **New funding models that support CALD community groups.**
- **A 1% levy on major NSW infrastructure projects to support arts and culture.**



# ALLOCATE DESTINATION NSW FUNDING TO EVENTS IN WESTERN SYDNEY

The lack of investment by Destination NSW in the Western Sydney visitor economy is a glaring oversight that warrants immediate attention. Despite the region's immense potential as a cultural, recreational, and economic hub, it has been consistently overshadowed by more established tourist destinations in the Eastern Harbour City. The NSW Government must recognise the urgency of this matter and take proactive steps to rectify the disparity in investment.

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Data provided in response to questions on notice to a Budget Estimates hearing in September 2022 showed a large gap in funding provided to each of Sydney's "three cities" by Destination NSW. Of the \$82.6 million spent funding Sydney events in the 2021-22 financial year, \$65.9 million went towards 35 events in the Eastern Harbour City. There was \$15.8 million invested in the Central River City's 20 events, \$14.1 million of this was spent on 10 events at Sydney Olympic Park and seven of the remaining 10 events were motorsports at Eastern Creek. Just three events were funded in the Western Parkland City, totalling a \$899,500 spend.

Western Sydney boasts a rich tapestry of diverse attractions, including vibrant cultural precincts, historical landmarks, and natural wonders that can rival any other region in the state. By redirecting a portion of Destination NSW's activities towards focusing on Western Sydney, the government can unlock untapped potential and bolster the region's tourism industry, thereby generating significant economic benefits and employment opportunities for the local community.

Ignoring the vast possibilities of this rapidly growing area is a disservice to both residents and visitors, and it is high time for the NSW government to demonstrate its commitment to equitable development by prioritising the growth of the Western Sydney visitor economy. Failure to act on this matter will only perpetuate the existing disparities and prevent the region from realizing its full potential as a prominent and thriving tourist destination in New South Wales.

Developing a strong major events calendar for Western Sydney needs to be a priority for Destination NSW.

Western Sydney International Airport is anticipated to come online by late December 2026. It is imperative that Destination NSW be tasked with the development and funding of a visitor economy strategy to leverage the multi-billion investment in the new Airport and surrounding infrastructure.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**NSW Government direct and resource Destination NSW to support the visitor economy in Western Sydney including the creation of a major events calendar.**

**Direct Destination NSW to start to develop a visitor economy strategy to leverage the Western Sydney Airport and allocate appropriate funding.**

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## EMPLOYMENT

- NSW Government to continue to pilot and expand work hubs across Sydney. These hubs need to be in the metropolitan clusters including Campbelltown, Liverpool, Penrith, Blacktown, Bankstown and Sydney Olympic Park.
- Establish a \$1 billion Western Sydney Community Amenity and Renewal Fund combining financial contributions from Federal, State and Local Governments and industry to drive town centre renewal in Western Sydney.
- Fund the Campbelltown Justice Precinct in full and as soon as possible.
- Allocate funding to support an accelerator & small business program in South Western Sydney

## LIVEABILITY

- Support the revitalisation of Western Sydney waterways and increase public access ~~on available Sydney Water property and corridors to improve the quality of life for~~ families and local communities in Western Sydney.
- Support the naturalisation and activation of the Parramatta River in the heart of the Parramatta CBD.
- Support the Green Corridor of parklands and bike tracks from the Australian Botanic Garden in Mount Annan to the Western Sydney Parklands in Blacktown.
- Create a grant scheme to support the activation of Western Sydney's CBDs and strategic centres to drive greater visitations and economic activity.
- \$10 million for a Western Sydney Rivers Activation strategy to lead greater community connection to waterways and rivers.

## SUSTAINABILITY

- Continue to support and incentivises the growth of the circular economy in NSW.



## TRANSPORT

- The NSW Government allocate construction funding to progress Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2 as a priority project in the Budget.
- Support two additional stations in Western Sydney on Sydney Metro West.
- Develop strong activation plans for the metro stations in Western Sydney.
- Support the extension of Sydney Metro Western Sydney Airport to Glenfield via the South West Rail Link.
- Support the extension of Sydney Metro Western Sydney Airport from Bradfield to Macarthur and St Marys to Tallawong
- Fast-track the duplication of Elizabeth Drive.
- Develop an Eastern Ring Road for Western Sydney Airport.
- Extend and upgrade Fifteenth Avenue from Liverpool to Bradfield.
- Construct the Bradfield Metro Link Road.
- Develop and implement a bus transport strategy for the new Airport.

## SPORTS & EVENT INFRASTRUCTURE

- Provide funding to support the RAS Sydney Showground Master Plan.
- ~~Develop an investment plan that ensures Accor Stadium remains fit for purpose and~~ competitive with other major stadiums, including a retractable roof.
- Support the development of the Western Sydney Wanderers' Community Indoor Centre
- Undertake a business case on three performance shells in line with election commitments.
- Explore options for a fourth performance space in the Macarthur region.

## HEALTH

- Support the creation of Integrated Community Health Hubs in South Western Sydney.
- Continue funding support for the Gene Technologies Building at Westmead.

## ARTS & CULTURE

- A new \$25 million Destination NSW fund reserved solely for Western Sydney
- Equitable and proportional funding for regions across Sydney and NSW
- Predictable minimum funding for established institutions
- New funding models that support CALD community groups
- A 1% levy on major NSW infrastructure projects to support arts and culture
- NSW Government direct and resource Destination NSW to support the visitor economy in Western Sydney including the creation of a major events calendar.
- Direct Destination NSW to start to develop a visitor economy strategy to leverage the Western Sydney Airport and allocate appropriate funding.