

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION INSIGHTS SOUTH WEST SYDNEY COMMUNITY AND JUSTICE PRECINCT







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The background of the page is a photograph. The upper portion shows a modern building with a glass facade that reflects the sky and surrounding environment. Below the building, there are lush green trees. In the foreground, a group of people is walking along a paved path, their figures slightly blurred to suggest movement. The overall scene is bright and urban.

INTRODUCTION

The South West Sydney Community and Justice Precinct is a proposal for a new, contemporary space in the heart of Campbelltown's CBD to cater for the needs of south west Sydney's growing population. Community aspirations for the precinct proposal were sought from the 6th to the 20th of June 2022 to inform the design of the master plan.

The 5.7 hectare site is located opposite Campbelltown Station and fronts Mawson Park, Hurley Street and Queen Street (Figure 1). The parcel of land is owned by the NSW and local governments and accommodates existing justice and civic facilities.

The master plan will consider the inclusion of additional district and local courts with associated wrap-around professional and social services, new council chambers as well as a civic presence. Community uses, including a city library, satellite university campus, childcare, cafés, restaurants and retail will also be considered.

The development of the precinct master plan is being led by the Western Parkland City Authority with support from Campbelltown City Council and the Australian and NSW governments, as part of the Western Sydney City Deal. The precinct has the potential to create new jobs, infrastructure and improved access to government and justice services for the local area and south-west Sydney region.

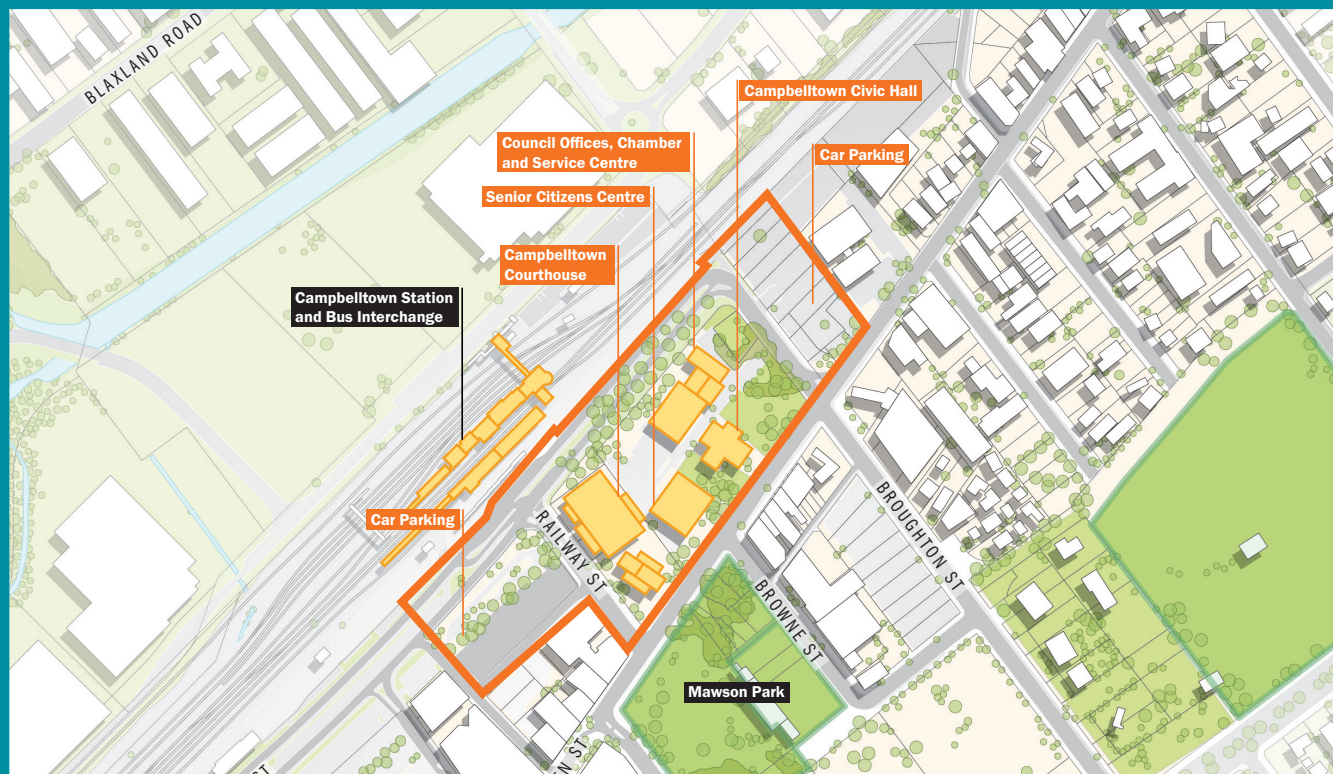


Figure 1
South West Sydney Community and Justice Precinct Location Plan



HOW WE CONSULTED

Communities were engaged using a variety of different platforms during the consultation period.

Online survey:

Respondents from the Campbelltown LGA and wider Western Parkland City completed a total of 542 surveys. Feedback about community values and aspirations for the precinct, with an emphasis on the design of public spaces and range of uses, was collected.

Face to face:

Face to face engagement complemented the online survey and included youth engagement initiatives with local schools, pop-up events across the Macarthur region and in-person discussions with legal and advocacy groups. It's important to note that yarns are held with Aboriginal Elders and local knowledge holders through a separate process to ensure that the principal of designing with Country are a key consideration of the master plan design.

Media campaign:

Static and online media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn, were used to raise awareness across the Western Parkland City about the project and direct people to the survey. More than 1,700 unique website visits were recorded during the consultation period.









THE COMMUNITY SURVEY

A summary of the key survey results follows.

Note that when 'Precinct' is used, this refers to the landholding that comprises the South West Sydney Community and Justice Precinct illustrated in Figure 1.

The profile of the survey participants is detailed in Table 1.

Table 1
The Profile of Survey Participants

Profile	Survey Participants N=542
Gender	
Female	352 (65%)
Male	180 (33%)
Key Age Groups	
26-45 years	232 (43%)
46-55 years	113 (21%)
56-70 years	106 (20%)
LGA of Residence:	
Campbelltown	424 (78%)
Other	118 (22%)

Source: Campbelltown City Council Over To You platform 2022.

SURVEY INSIGHTS QUESTION BY QUESTION

1 **Current community experiences in the precinct** 52% of respondents stated they carried out their business and then left the precinct

A lower percentage of respondents, 11%, said they found it an enjoyable place to meet friends for a coffee, with 8% indicating they found the precinct a desirable place to sit and relax in the outdoor space.

Only 7% indicated they enjoyed walking through the precinct while 13% indicated they did not go into the precinct.

A further 8% indicated they felt uncomfortable in the area.

2 **Features to create a welcoming precinct** Green landscaped spaces and outdoor dining

The community were asked to identify the features and qualities of public spaces they found welcoming.

Features the community could select from included green landscaped spaces, landmark architecture, outdoor dining, a bustling business centre, public art and cultural and creative spaces that tell the story of a place.

Most respondents selected green landscaped spaces (324 responses or 60%) and outdoor dining where people could gather and socialise and relax (244 responses or 45%).

3 **Look and feel of the precinct** Green, uncluttered and contemporary, secure, proud and welcoming

The community were encouraged to share their sentiments for the future of the Campbelltown CBD and to think about a legacy.

The top 3 responses about it should look were:

1. Green (367 responses or 68%)
2. Uncluttered and spacious (205 responses or 38%)
3. Contemporary (203 responses or 37%)

The top 3 responses about how they should feel were:

1. I want to feel Secure (335 responses or 62%)
2. I want to feel Proud (269 responses or 50%)
3. I want to feel Welcome (263 responses or 48%)

4

Qualities that make places and spaces desirable**Winter sun and summer shade, beautiful trees and landscaping, spacious and uncluttered spaces**

The most popular attributes selected were:

- Offers winter sun and summer shade (270 responses or 60%)
- Beautiful trees and gardens (238 responses or 53%)
- Uncluttered and feels spacious (174 responses or 32%)
- Variety of spaces to explore (153 responses or 28%)
- Full of people of all ages (132 responses or 24%)

5

Creating a desirable year-round destination**Outdoor dining, a city library and gardens**

The precinct is over 5 hectares in area and can accommodate a range of uses alongside the proposed council facilities and the Department of Communities and Justice court building and legal services.

Top responses included:

- Restaurants, cafes, and bars (422 responses or 78%)
- A new city library (261 responses or 48%)
- Contemporary gardens (246 responses or 45%)
- Museum or gallery space (182 responses or 34%)
- Performance space (177 responses or 33%)
- Children's playground (171 responses or 31%)

6

Precinct master plan design considerations**Provide a mix of facilities and activities for people of all ages and backgrounds**

Respondents were asked to select three design principles that best resonated with their future vision for the precinct.

Top considerations included:

- Provide a mix of facilities, activities and public spaces that appeal to people of all ages and backgrounds (290 responses or 53%)
- Respect the heritage significance of the Campbelltown Court House (222 responses or 41%)
- Provide generous landscaped areas that incorporate significant trees (205 responses or 39%)
- Consider the Campbelltown climate and provide public spaces with winter sun and summer shade (173 responses or 32%)
- Provide active frontages at Queen Street with boutiques and cafes (147 responses or 27%)
- Create vibrant outdoor spaces that can be used outside of business hours and on weekends for events (144 responses or 26%)

7

Community aspirations for a new city library

Respondents were asked to identify the amenities and features that would make a visit to a library memorable. The most popular responses were:

- A fabulous cafe
- Landmark architecture
- Beautiful art and sculpture
- Community meeting rooms
- Co-working spaces

ENGAGEMENT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

'The city centre is child friendly.'

Capturing insights from Campbelltown's youth was an essential part of the consultation process.

Two consultation sessions were held with students from nearby schools:

- Year 7 students from St Peters Anglican Grammar
- Year 11 students studying legal studies at the Campbelltown Performing Arts High School.

Students have first-hand knowledge of the precinct and the Campbelltown CBD as many walk through the CBD on their way to school.

Student insights were:

- They like the 'open feeling' of the precinct and 'having space between the buildings'.
- Creating welcoming spaces is essential. The existing underpass is not welcoming and should have 'colour and happy vibes'. They suggested a pedestrian crossing, overpass or air bridge would be a better solution.
- They appreciate green spaces and trees and prefer 'larger areas of open space to smaller parks'. They like Mawson Park and the Memorial Oval. There was support for providing more green space, play areas, native trees, weather-resilient picnic spaces and water features in the precinct.
- Adding more seating, colour and improved street lighting was desirable - 'no more dark alleys'.
- Students would like to see more youth-focused amenities. A library is an important place where they 'can do stuff, meet friends, and relax'. Other suggestions included a bowling alley, a pump track, speciality shops, food areas and cafés, places to have fun and a concert hall.
- They have compassion and empathy for the community, identifying the need for more aged care homes and more homeless shelters. They wanted to see reduced pollution, concrete, and cars.
- They like the heritage Court House and feel it is essential to retain heritage buildings. They 'have a trusting feeling' when walking past the court buildings and find these buildings aesthetically pleasing. They did not want the new court buildings to be intimidating and remarked that 'blocky structures' are intimidating.
- They observed the vital role played by council buildings, and felt the Civic Hall is well located and like that it brought people and activity to the precinct. They suggested the Civic Hall could be used more intensely and offer after-school activities.
- They recognise the importance of public transport and found the city an accessible place to visit. They recognise the train station has a good layout and is centrally located. They noted they 'feel safe walking to the station' through the precinct.
- Accessing and moving around the city centre easily and safely is essential. Students suggested that Railway Street be closed and made into one big public space. They want to see wider footpaths and fewer cars in the city centre.
- They value the range of small businesses and like the activity on the street that these small shops provide. Cafés and restaurants are essential, and they have their favourite places to visit - 'We love Waminda - it is the best.'



LOCAL LEGAL PRACTITIONERS AND ADVOCATES

Insights were gathered from local legal practitioners on their daily work experience and as a proxy for feedback from community members using court services that would otherwise not be captured in the survey.

Practitioners and advocates noted that government support services (e.g. Department of Housing for tenancy advice, Legal Aid and Family Advisors Support Service) should be near courts to enable ease of wayfinding. Practitioners also suggested locating federal courts within the precinct would assist community members to access a variety of court services.

The provision of parking near the court for the duration of the sitting time is important, particularly for vulnerable witnesses or victims. Paid parking was suggested as appropriate to manage other users monopolising the parking.

Safety in the precinct was of paramount concern. A library and spaces for children to play were considered appropriate inclusions in the precinct, with careful consideration that access points should not directly face the entrance to the court.

SUMMARY OF THE COMMUNITY DESIGN ASPIRATIONS

Consultation helped identify community design aspirations for the precinct and a range of uses that could effectively co-locate.

Key design aspirations were:

1

The precinct should be welcoming.

Located opposite the train station, the community views the precinct as a major gateway and arrival point to the CBD, setting visitors' expectations about what they will experience.

Green spaces and outdoor dining were identified as welcoming design attributes with youth adding that the choice of colour is important. Youth also suggested the existing tunnel underpass is upgraded and replaced with a pedestrian crossing, overpass, or air bridge.

2

The precinct should deliver uncluttered contemporary spaces offering a green connection to nature and year-round enjoyment.

The community identified that the public spaces should provide year-round enjoyment with access to winter sun and summer shade.

Green and lush spaces with native trees, grasses, sandstone rock outcrops and water elements would provide a strong connection to nature and take the visitor on a journey with layered experiences.

3

The precinct should provide a variety of experiences and be multi-generational and inclusive.

Desirable public spaces are a destination in their own right and provide a range of experiences.

Currently, the precinct functions as a business destination or space to walk through.

The community would like to have a new CBD destination to enjoy with a mix of activities that cater to people of all ages and abilities.

4

The precinct should support various activities and land uses to maintain year-round community interest.

Suggested inclusions were:

- A managed multi-functional space supporting various activities such as performing arts, rainy day market space, gallery space, cultural discovery, community training programs and regional tourism
- Varied green landscaped spaces that support a variety of experiences such as a children's playground, walking trail, and places to sit, relax and have a picnic
- Cultural and public art to add colour and interest
- Speciality boutiques offering unique retail experiences
- Cafés, restaurants and bars, with students highlighting the importance of interesting cafés and food experiences
- A new city library for socialisation and building cross-generation community connections, creating a new community hub.

5

The precinct should transition seamlessly from day to evening and weekday to weekend. It should feel comfortably busy.

The community recognised that successful public spaces:

- are consistently and comfortably busy
- are well maintained
- have good lighting and passive surveillance
- have good public transport
- are accessible and safe.

6

The precinct should respect its heritage, providing a sensitive transition between old and new.

The community indicated that new and contemporary buildings should respect the heritage significance of the Court House, associated Memorial Oval and Mawson Park.

7

The precinct should deliver inspiring architecture that is environmentally sustainable.

The community appreciates quality architecture with landscaping and colourful detailing. Raw concrete and block structures were not favoured.

The community indicated they would like the new city library to display landmark architecture.

8

The precinct should look to activate the Queen Street frontage.

The community indicated they would like the Queen Street frontage to connect to the precinct, with support for speciality retailing and outdoor dining experiences to promote the small business economy.



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