

# 2008



Parramatta Twenty25

# STATE OF THE CITY REPORT

MEASURING PROGRESS

Parramatta 



## PARRAMATTA AT A GLANCE



Parramatta City is located in Sydney's western suburbs, about 24 kilometres from the Sydney GPO. Parramatta City is bounded by Baulkham Hills Shire and Hornsby Shire in the north, the City of Ryde in the east, Auburn, Bankstown and Fairfield councils in the south and Holroyd and Blacktown councils in the west.

Parramatta City has a current estimated population of 157,505 people (2007) and includes the suburbs of Camellia, Carlingford, Chester Hill, Clyde, Constitution Hill, Dundas, Dundas Valley, Eastwood, Epping, Ermington, Granville, Guildford, Harris Park, Melrose Park, Merrylands, North Parramatta, Northmead, Oatlands, Old Toongabbie, Toongabbie, Parramatta, Pendle Hill, Rosehill, Rydalmere, South Granville, Telopea, Wentworthville, Westmead and Winston Hills.

Parramatta is named from an Aboriginal word meaning "the place where eels lie down". It was originally known as Rose Hill.

Parramatta City is a predominantly residential area with substantial institutional, industrial and commercial land use. Major features of the City include Westfield Shoppingtown, the Parramatta City Centre, Westmead Hospital, The Children's Hospital at Westmead, TAFE NSW South Western Sydney Institute (Granville College), University of Western Sydney (Parramatta Campus and Westmead Precinct), Old Government House, Elizabeth Farmhouse, Parramatta Heritage Centre, Rosehill Gardens Racecourse, Parramatta City Raceway, Parramatta Stadium, Parramatta Regional Park, Lake Parramatta and the Parramatta River. The City is served by the Western (M4) Motorway, the Great Western Highway and the main western, main northern and Carlingford railway lines.

The City encompasses a total land area of about 61 square kilometres.

## ABOUT THIS REPORT



In 2004 a group of residents, businesses, government representatives and other interested people came together to discuss ways to improve the sustainability of our city. The first step in creating a more sustainable Parramatta was to redefine the future. As a result, **Parramatta Twenty25** was created. Expressed in seven destinations, Parramatta Twenty25 outlines the vision for Parramatta and the strategies required to get there.

### The Seven Destinations in Parramatta Twenty25



1. Land and water that is protected, respected and sustained



2. A society that is healthy and compassionate



3. Businesses that are dynamic, prosperous and socially responsible



4. Neighbourhoods that are liveable and distinctive



5. A community that is diverse and cohesive



6. People and places that are linked by sustainable transport and communication networks



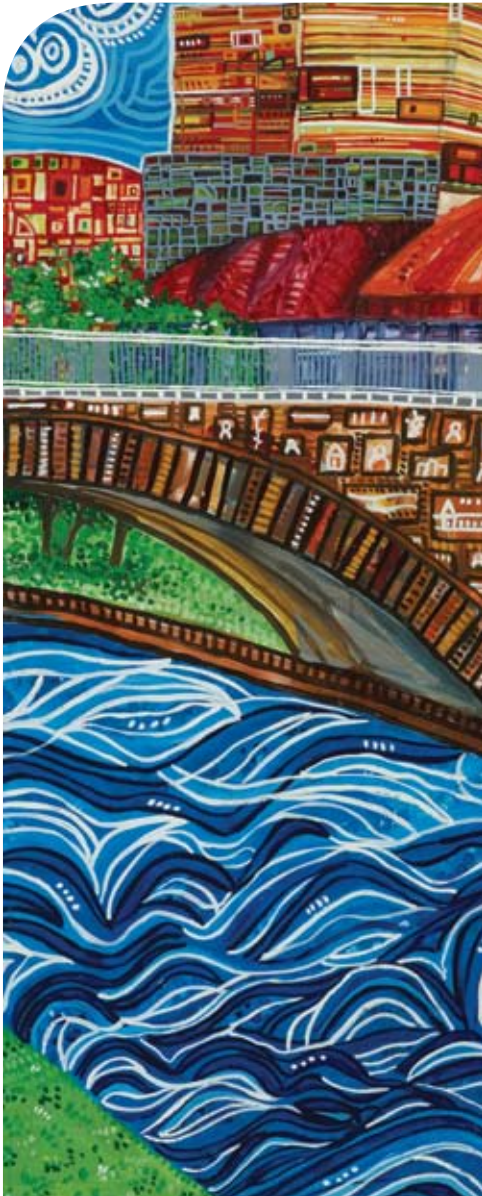
7. A city that is innovative and inspirational

While the community vision and desired destinations have been determined, the real challenge is to move towards this future. But the question then becomes – “how will we know if we are reaching our destination?”. Good planning is not just about setting a future path but also determining if we are staying on that path over time. This report explores this issue.

Using available indicators presented in the context of the future destinations, this report highlights how our region is doing, helping begin to answer the question, “Are we getting there?”

This report does not identify specific actions or policy changes. Instead, its purpose is to be a catalyst for action by engaging the community and other readers in thinking about their future and where we are today. It provides knowledge and understanding on which informed public policy can be built.

You will find as you read through this years report that some of the destinations are not yet supported by robust data. As Council and stakeholders strive to improve the City in accordance with the Parramatta Twenty25, data will continue to be gathered to form a more complete picture of the State of the City.



### DESTINATION 1. LAND AND WATER THAT IS PROTECTED, RESPECTED AND SUSTAINED

- A very small percentage of the land in the Parramatta LGA is known to be contaminated (2% in 2008).
- Most of the rivers and streams in Parramatta are in poor shape. Mild to severe pollution was recorded in 2003-2004.
- Residents increasingly value or highly value the natural environment (89% in 2008, up from 81% in 2005).

### DESTINATION 2. A SOCIETY THAT IS HEALTHY AND COMPASSIONATE

- In 2006, just over half the people aged 15 years and above completed Year 12. However, there is noticeable variation between education levels across the LGA.
- A growing number of residents are experiencing housing stress (14% households were in housing stress in 2006, up from 8.8% in 2001).
- Homelessness is increasing. There are at least 300 people homeless each night in Parramatta.
- Health status of residents is mixed. They have lower prevalence of asthma, overweight, obesity and diabetes compared to NSW but significantly higher reports of high and very high levels of psychological distress (17% in 2007).
- Residents health behaviours are concerning. 27% engage in risk alcohol drinking; 19.7% are current smokers; only 48% participate in adequate physical activity; and only 82% of households are smoke free (2007 figures).

### DESTINATION 3. BUSINESSES THAT ARE DYNAMIC, PROSPEROUS AND SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE

- Parramatta boasts competitive commercial space. Over 2005-2008, rents for Grade A stock averaged \$245 per square metre per annum.
- Whilst vacancy rates in January 2009 spiked, the market remains healthy.
- The unemployment rate (3.7% in 2008) has been consistently lower than the national average, though there is disparity between suburbs.

#### DESTINATION 4. NEIGHBOURHOODS THAT ARE LIVEABLE AND DISTINCTIVE

- Crime trends over the 5 years to 2006 are positive. 9 out of 17 offences recorded a decrease in incidents, whilst 5 remained stable and only 2 increased (1 was unable to be reported on).
- The majority of residents perceive Parramatta overall as a place that feels somewhat or very safe (66% in 2008). However, residents perception of safety in the City Centre has declined (59% in 2008 down from 77% in 2005).
- In the 3 years to 2008, water usage reduced between 5 and 25 percent in most property/landuse types.
- Resource consumption amongst residents has improved. Recycling increased to 15,458 tonnes per annum in 2007/08 up from 13,571 tonnes per annum in 2004/05; garbage decreased to 32,883 tonnes per annum in 2007/08 down from 36,858 tonnes per annum in 2004/05.

#### DESTINATION 5. A COMMUNITY THAT IS DIVERSE AND COHESIVE

- Parramatta is attracting a growing number of residents from China (5.5% in 2006 up from 4.3% in 2001), and India (4.7% in 2006 up from 2.3% in 2001).
- Parramatta is seen as a cohesive community and this view is growing. Most residents perceive Parramatta as a place that is somewhat or very inclusive of all people, lifestyles and culture (73% in 2008 up from 64% in 2005), as well as a place where people sometimes or often pull together as a community (78% in 2008).
- Resident involvement in civic life is limited. The percentage of people who volunteer is low (13.1% in 2006). Residents belief that they are involved in council decision making is mixed (39% agree/strongly agree, 24% disagree/strongly disagree, 33% neither agree nor disagree).

#### DESTINATION 6. PEOPLE AND PLACES THAT ARE LINKED BY SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION NETWORKS

- Overall there is good internet connection (60% of households in 2006) but lower levels of broadband internet connection (42% of households in 2006). There are wide disparities in technology access across the LGA with less access in southern suburbs.
- The car remains the most popular mode of transport for journeys to work (60% of all trips in 2006 and 2001).
- The amount of cycling to work (0.4% in 2006) is unchanged, but walking to work has increased (4.5% in 2006 up from 4.1% in 2001).
- The use of public transport for journeys to work is slowly growing. The train is the most popular mode (17% in 2006).

#### DESTINATION 7. A CITY THAT IS INNOVATIVE AND INSPIRATIONAL

- Parramatta is increasingly viewed by residents as an inspirational place. Most say Parramatta City is somewhat or very attractive (56% in 2008 up from 49% in 2005).
- 49% of residents perceive Parramatta as a place that is somewhat or very innovative and creative (up from 37% in 2005), and that Parramatta is a city that sometimes or often uses technology to learn and get ahead (51% in 2008).

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
BCSR	Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research NSW
CBD	Central Business District
DECC	Department of Environment and Climate Change
GPO	General Post Office
HOIST	Health Outcomes Information and Statistical Toolkit
HPIC	Homeless Persons Information Centre
LGA	Local Government Area
NSW	New South Wales
OAM	Order of Australia Medal
PCC	Parramatta City Council
SD	Statistical Division
SIGNAL	Stream Invertebrate Grade Number – Average Level
SWAHS	Sydney West Area Health Service
TAFE	Technical and Further Education

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Ben Campbell	Page 9, 13
David Wallace Photography	Pages Cover, 2, 11, 19
Kym Thomson Clear View Imaging Pty Ltd	Page 14
PCC Collection	Page 1, 7, 15, 17, 22
Tia McIntyre	Page 21
Tulip Das	Page 5
Will Allison	Page 4

### DESIGN

Coyne & Co. Design Pty Ltd  
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This document is printed on Monza 55% Recycled paper, an environmentally friendly stock produced from Forest Stewardship Council accredited forests and recycled wood and fibre.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE DATA WITHIN THIS REPORT

ABS Census	<a href="http://www.abs.gov.au">www.abs.gov.au</a>
Bureau of Crime Statistics & Research NSW	<a href="http://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au">www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au</a>
Community Atlas & Community Profile	<a href="http://www.parracity.nsw.gov.au/business">www.parracity.nsw.gov.au/business</a>
Parramatta Residents Panel & Management Plan	<a href="http://www.parracity.nsw.gov.au/residents/residents_panel">www.parracity.nsw.gov.au/residents/residents_panel</a>
Sydney Water	<a href="http://www.sydneywater.com.au">www.sydneywater.com.au</a>
Sydney West Area Health Service	<a href="http://www.wsahs.nsw.gov.au">www.wsahs.nsw.gov.au</a>

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