

2008



Parramatta Twenty25

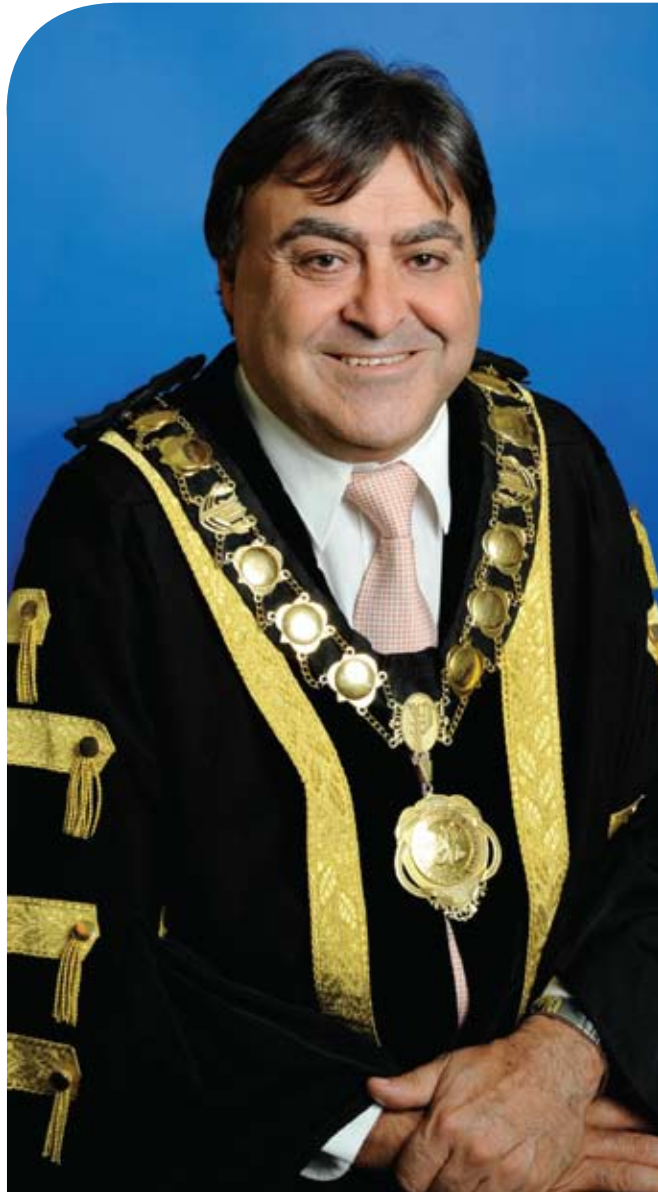
STATE OF THE CITY REPORT

MEASURING PROGRESS

Parramatta 



LORD MAYOR'S MESSAGE



It is my pleasure to present to you, the *Parramatta Twenty25 State of the City Report for 2008*.

Following a period of extensive consultation with our community in 2004, we created a long-term strategy for our city called Parramatta Twenty25. This State of the City report is the first of its kind for Parramatta and provides a snapshot of progress towards that future for Parramatta.

Based on statistical data from a variety of sources, including the most recent Census and the Parramatta Residents Panel consultations, this report measures trends across all aspects of the lives of Parramatta residents and helps to shape our future planning for the area.

This report is a living document, and is one which we will continuously look to improve to inform decision making.

Parramatta City Council looks forward to giving you further updates on progress as this information comes to hand.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. ISSA" followed by a stylized flourish.

Councillor Tony Issa OAM
LORD MAYOR

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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, Ermiton, 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



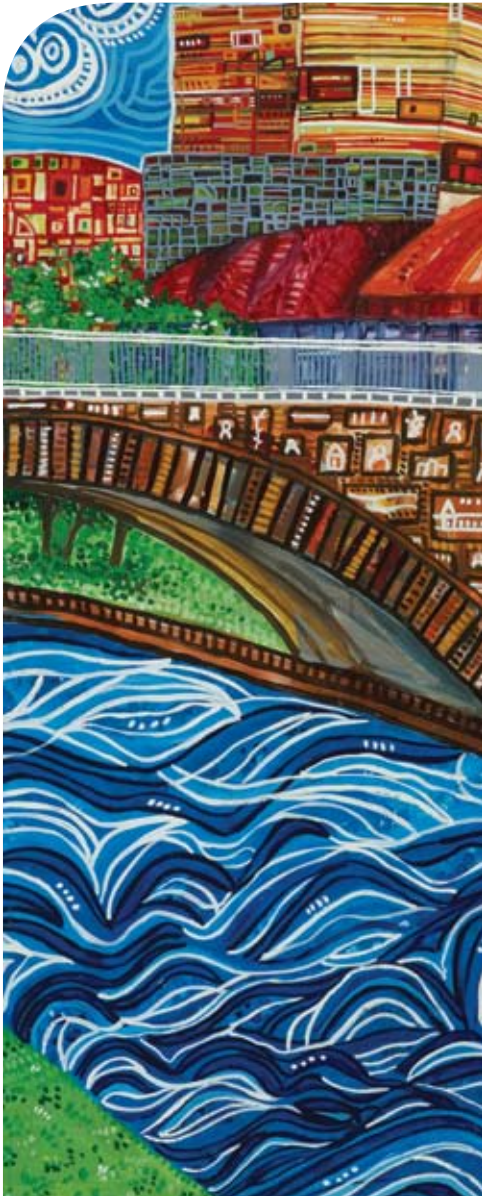
7. A city that is innovative and inspirational

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).



DESTINATION 1: LAND AND WATER THAT IS PROTECTED, RESPECTED AND SUSTAINED

GIVING PRIORITY TO PARRAMATTA RIVER AND ITS CREEKS AND FORESHORES



HOW WE WILL KNOW WHEN WE ARE REACHING OUR DESTINATION

- The health of our waterways is improving
- Our land is fit for human occupation
- There is an increase in vegetation cover that improves the land, stabilises the soil and cleanses the water
- The community values its natural heritage

A HEALTHY RIVER SYSTEM

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

To understand the quality of our waterways and whether they are healthy places for animals and plants to live, we use a common set of biological indicators, known as macro invertebrates. These water bugs provide a very good indication of the quality of our streams. The SIGNAL index is a scientific tool that separates out the macro invertebrates in order of tolerance to water quality conditions and gives a score for the stream based on its condition to support these water bugs. More information on the SIGNAL method can be obtained online at the Australian Government's Waterwatch website. <http://www.waterwatch.org.au/publications/module3/signal.html>

A healthy aquatic ecosystem assures there is an abundance and richness of life, clean water quality and enhanced scenic amenity.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Condition of Streams in Parramatta LGA

CREEK	2003 SIGNAL SCORE	2004 SIGNAL SCORE	WATER QUALITY CONDITION
Lake Parramatta	-	6.06	HEALTHY HABITAT
Toongabbie Ck	2.6	5.57	Mild Pollution
Quarry/ Toongabbie Cks	2.43	5.2	Mild Pollution
Coopers Ck	2.5	5.08	Mild Pollution
Toongabbie Ck	2.16	4.21	Moderate Pollution
Devlins Ck	2.16	4.07	Moderate Pollution
Duck River	-	3.75	Severely Polluted
Subiaco/Bishop Ck	3.7	3.67	Severely Polluted
Domain Ck	-	3.64	Severely Polluted
Hunts Ck	-	3.27	Severely Polluted
Vineyard Ck	3.6	3.12	Severely Polluted
Ponds Ck	4.4	3	Severely Polluted
Terrys Ck	3	-	Severely Polluted
Duck River	-	2.94	Severely Polluted
Ponds Ck	3.6	2.86	Severely Polluted
Finlaysons Ck	2.57	2.85	Severely Polluted
Vineyard Ck	-	2.82	Severely Polluted
Ponds Ck	2.6	-	Severely Polluted
Quarry Branch	2.16	2.1	Severely Polluted
Vineyard Ck	2.6	2	Severely Polluted
Brickfield Ck	1.8	-	Severely Polluted
Pendle Ck	2.75	1.56	Severely Polluted

Source: Results from biological monitoring completed by PCC 2003/04. Further sampling expected 2009/10

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

The data indicates that most of the streams in Parramatta are in poor shape. A problem for the waterways is the degree of urbanisation – this brings many impacts to our waterways such as loss of habitat, increased runoff and pollution. Contractors have been monitoring water quality in the area since 1990 and found that the condition of many streams in Parramatta often failed to meet aquatic ecosystem health guidelines for nutrients and bacteria particularly after periods of wet weather.

A HEALTHY LANDSCAPE

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

In the past, a large number of activities that generated contaminated waste or by-products were left unchecked and unregulated. Waste was often buried and/or dispersed through the soil at each site. This resulted in the soil and receiving waters (ground water/creeks) being contaminated from toxic chemicals. These contaminants can have a detrimental impact on both human health and the health of the surrounding ecosystems.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Percentage of known contaminated land in the Parramatta LGA 2008

Total Area of Contaminated Land	1.41 sq km
Total Area of LGA	61.33 sq km
Percentage of Contaminated Land	2%

Source: Geographic Information Systems, PCC, 2008

The New South Wales Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) has over 20 sites listed as contaminated or potentially contaminated, of which 7 are sites that have been gazetted unhealthy under the provisions of the Unhealthy Building Land Act, 1990.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

The exact number of contaminated sites across Parramatta is unknown. Previous land uses that may have contaminated lands include asbestos production and disposal, service stations, former landfill and night soil sites, industrial sites (eg Chromium/hydrocarbons) and waste storage and treatment. Under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997 lands can be remediated, however the cost often involves millions of dollars per site.

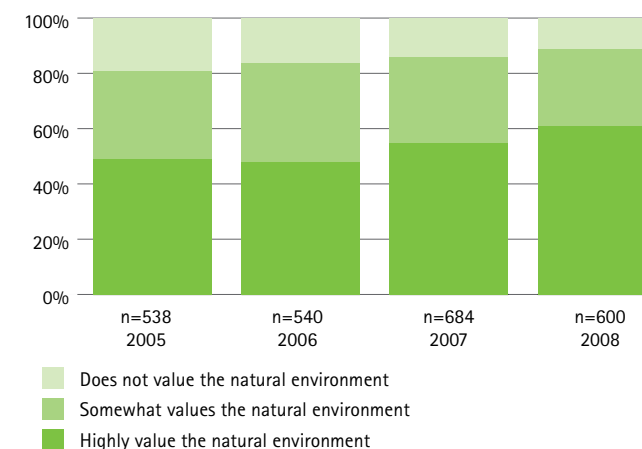
VALUING OUR ENVIRONMENT

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The natural environment is a defining part of the Australian character and lifestyle and is integral to the way we experience our neighbourhood, city and quality of life. The natural environment is a global commons - in other words we all share a responsibility for its protection. The natural environment is rich in biodiversity providing important habitat for many species of flora and fauna.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Residents Perceptions – Percentage that value the natural environment (2005–2008)



NOTE: Measurements were taken on a rating scale of 1 to 10, 1 being not at all, and 10 being completely. Residents that selected 1 to 4 were allocated to "Does not value". Residents that selected 5 or 6 were allocated to "Somewhat value". Residents that selected 7 to 10 were allocated to "Highly value".

Source: PCC Management Plan Survey

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

The majority of the Parramatta residents, 89% in 2008, value or highly value the natural environment. This has increased from 81% in 2005.

Despite our largely urban and suburban character, communities still place a value on the natural environment as it is an important part of people's everyday lives and connection with the natural world. A significant shift in awareness is occurring as issues such as drought, climate change and loss of biodiversity are getting increased media and community exposure. This is resulting in a change in values and expectations for how the natural environment should be managed.



DESTINATION 2: A SOCIETY THAT IS HEALTHY AND COMPASSIONATE

GIVING PRIORITY TO HIGH QUALITY REGIONAL SERVICES



HOW WE WILL KNOW WHEN WE ARE REACHING OUR DESTINATION

- The City is an affordable place to live
- There are sufficient services and support for people in need of assistance
- The health of people in the community improves
- There are improved schooling and learning opportunities

AN AFFORDABLE PLACE TO LIVE

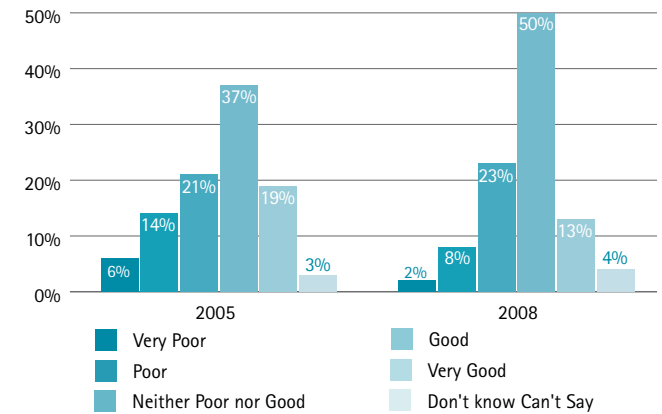
WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Housing is the backbone of quality of life, wellbeing and independence. Without appropriate housing, many other basic human needs will be compromised including family life, privacy, freedom of movement, healthcare, growth and development and the ability to assemble and associate with others. The image that housing creates also influences people's decisions about where to live.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Residents rating of housing in the LGA (2005-2008)

How would you rate "housing" as it relates to you?



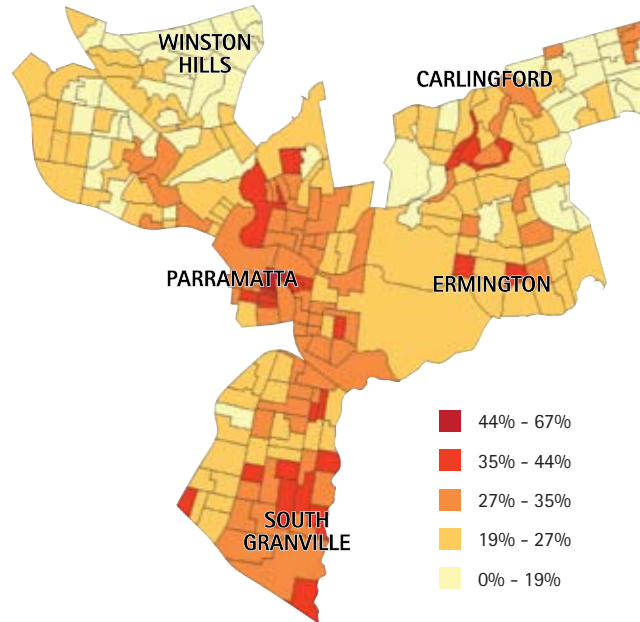
Source: PCC Management Plan Survey

Housing tenure (percentage of households) in Parramatta (2001, 2006)



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census of Population and Housing, 2001, 2006

Households with housing costs 30% or more of gross income (2006)



NOTE: housing costs includes rent and mortgage repayments for private dwellings, and site fees if the dwelling is a caravan or manufactured home in a caravan park or manufactured home estate. Excludes water rates, council rates, repairs, maintenance and other fees

Source: ABS Census 2006

Calls to the Homeless Persons Information Centre (HPIC) from people in the Parramatta LGA (2004-2008)

	JUL 04 - JUN 05	JUL 05 - JUN 06	JUL 06 - JUN 07	JUL 07 - JUN 08
No calls to Homeless Persons Information Centre	1,740	1,866	2,074	2,493

Source: HPIC City of Sydney

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Whilst two-thirds of residents currently rate their housing to be good or very good, analysis of the housing tenure of the population of Parramatta City in 2006 compared to the Sydney Statistical Division (SD) shows that there was a smaller proportion of households who owned their dwelling; a smaller proportion purchasing their dwelling; and a larger proportion who were renters. Tenure data, to some extent, also provides insights into the socio-economic status of an area as well as the role that the area plays in the housing market. There is considerable diversity in housing affordability across the LGA with an evident "North-South" divide. Of real concern however, are the increasing incidences in homelessness being seen in Parramatta. There are 300 people "physically" homeless every night in Parramatta.



HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Health is a concept that relates to and describes a persons state of being. Good health means different things to different people. The definition of good health also depends on individual and community expectations and context. Average life expectancies have increased significantly with Australians expecting to lead longer and healthier lives, and to remain productive and independent over an extended period. Enabling individuals and families to make choices that lead to healthy, productive and fulfilling lives will yield both economic and social benefits.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Self-reported health behaviours for persons 16 years and over from NSW Population Health Survey, Parramatta LGA (2002–2007), SWAHS and NSW (2007)

	PARRAMATTA LGA 2002–2007	SWAHS 2007	NSW 2007
Risk alcohol drinking	28%	29%	32%
Current smoking	20%	20%	18%
Smoke-free households	82%	88%	88%
Recommended fruit consumption	48%	53%	53%
Recommended vegetable consumption	7%	7%	11%
Adequate physical activity	49%	51%	55%
Currently vaccinated against influenza	78%	71%	72%
Currently vaccinated against pneumococcal disease	55%	59%	58%

Source: NSW Health Survey Program, NSW Department of Health

Self-reported health status for persons 16 years and over from NSW Population Health Survey, Parramatta LGA (2002–2007), SWAHS and NSW (2007)

	PARRAMATTA LGA 2002–2007	SWAHS 2007	NSW 2007
Current asthma	8%	9%	11%
Obesity	15%	17.50%	17.50%
Overweight and obesity	52%	54%	52%
Diabetes or high blood glucose	6%	6%	6.50%
High and very high psychological diseases	17%	14%	12.10%

Source: NSW Health Survey Program, NSW Department of Health

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

The health status of Parramatta residents is mixed. Lower prevalence of asthma, overweight, obesity and diabetes were reported by residents of Parramatta LGA compared with residents of NSW. However 17% of residents reported high or very high levels of psychological distress which is significantly higher than NSW.

Residents health behaviours are also of concern. 27% of residents were engaged in risk alcohol drinking and 19.7% were current smokers. The percentage of residents participating in adequate physical activity (48%) was lower than NSW and the percentage of smoke free households (82%) is considerably lower than NSW rates.

There is significant room for improvement in health status and health behaviours for residents of the LGA. Making change is hard but we know that prevention is much better than cure – for individuals, for families, and the broader community.

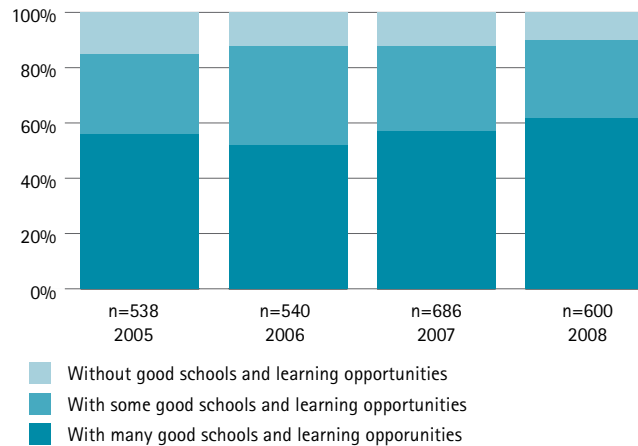
EDUCATION FOR LIFE

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Education is for life—it is an investment that cannot be lost, spent or taken away. Providing people with educational opportunities, training options and life skills enables them to meet the demands of the workplaces of tomorrow. A good education prepares people to build on their abilities and sets them up for lifelong learning, so that they can further enhance their opportunities over time.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Residents Perceptions – Percentage that describe Parramatta as a place with good schools and learning opportunities (2005–2008)

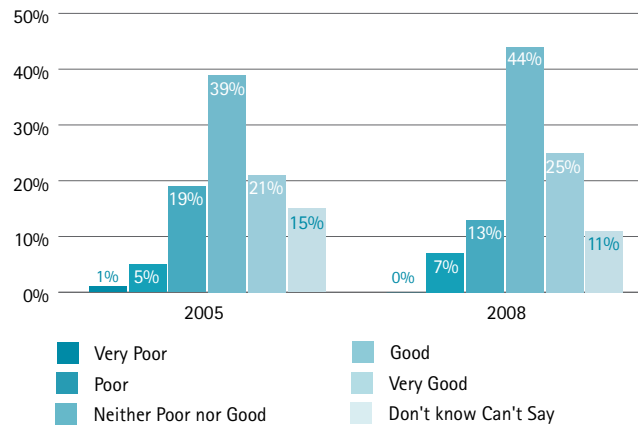


NOTE: Measurements were taken on a rating scale of 1 to 10, 1 being not at all, and 10 being completely. Residents that selected 1 to 4 were allocated to "Without". Residents that selected 5 or 6 were allocated to "With some". Residents that selected 7 to 10 were allocated to "With many".

Source: PCC Management Plan Survey

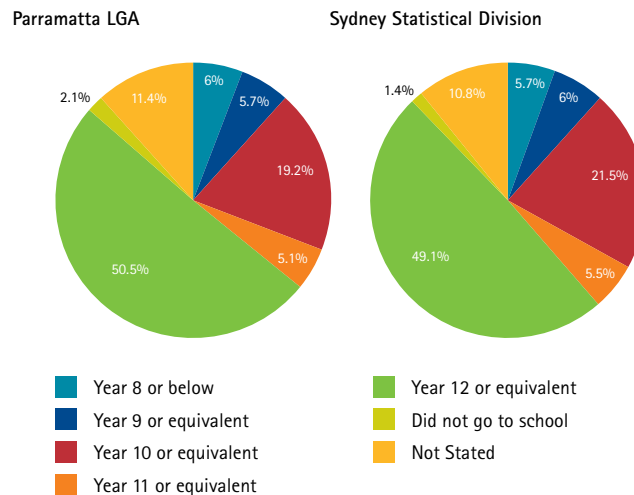
Residents rating of education in the LGA (2005,2008)

How would you rate "education" as it relates to you?



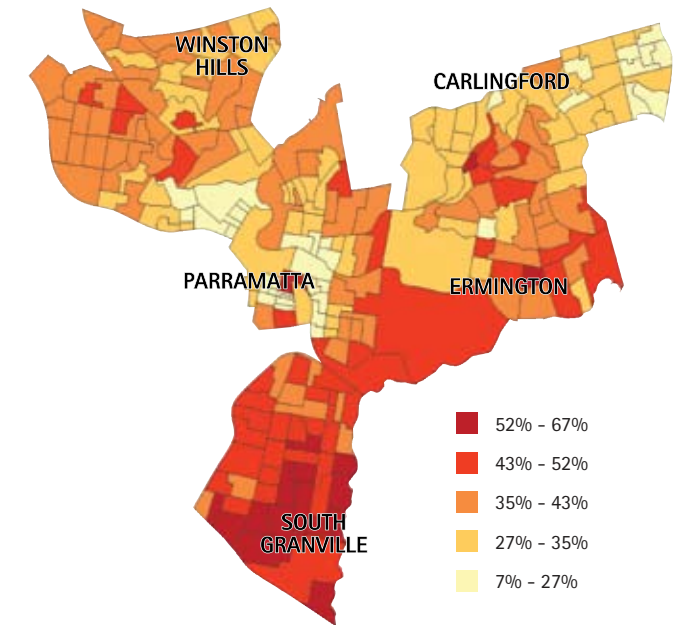
Source: PCC Management Plan Survey

Percentage of Respondents – Highest level of schooling completed (persons aged 15 years and over) (2006)



Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2006

People in the labour force without qualifications (2006)



Source: ABS Census 2006

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Residents continue to describe Parramatta as a place with good schools and learning opportunities. In 2008, 69% of residents rated education in Parramatta as good or very good, up slightly from 60% in 2005.

The 2006 Census also indicates comparable levels of education attainment with the wider-Sydney region. However, an evident North-South pattern is noticed in relation to educational levels across the LGA.



DESTINATION 3: BUSINESSES THAT ARE DYNAMIC, PROSPEROUS AND SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE GIVING PRIORITY TO THE CITY CENTRE AND THOSE BUSINESSES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO ENHANCING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY



HOW WE WILL KNOW WHEN WE ARE REACHING OUR DESTINATION

- Businesses are stable and maintain a long term presence in the city
- More businesses are contributing to community services
- Increasing proportions of jobs for the resident workforce

COMPETITIVE COMMERCIAL SPACE

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Supply and demand together with the cost of commercial space are important indicators of commercial activity in the local economy. Whilst the vacancy rate measures the amount of space that is not occupied, it can also point to slowing economic activity, business failure, or migration, if rates begin to increase.

Controlling overheads is also a key imperative for all businesses, and therefore, maintaining competitive costs in the supply of commercial space ensures the local market remains a viable option for new entrants and existing business.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Commercial Vacancy Rates (from January 2004 – 2009)

	PARRAMATTA	CHATSWOOD	NORTH SYDNEY	NORTH RYDE	SYDNEY CBD
Jan-04	5.8	14.8	12.4	0.0	9.5
Jan-05	9.0	15.9	13.4	14.4	11.3
Jan-06	9.2	13.0	9.8	9.8	9.7
Jan-07	8.8	13.0	8.1	9.2	7.9
Jan-08	7.4	10.5	11.4	6.1	3.7
Jan-09	10.1	14.2	8.3	9.8	5.4

Source: Property Council of Australia, Australian Office Market Report Jan 2009

Commercial Office Rents, Grade A Stock (\$/sq m/year)

	PARRAMATTA	SYDNEY CBD	NORTH SYDNEY	CHATSWOOD
Jul-05	200	350	290	280
Jul-06	225	380	300	270
Jul-07	260	410	330	300
Jul-08	280	470	405	300

Source: Laing and Simmons Commercial Research

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Commercial vacancy rates have fluctuated over the last five years similar to other commercial centres in the Sydney Office Market. In January 2009, vacancy rates spiked to 10.1%. However, this masks the fact that A-Grade space remained extremely tight with only a 3.1% vacancy rate, up from 3% in the 6 months previous.

Commercial Office rents have been increasing but still remain extremely competitive within the Sydney Office Market.

Rents for A Grade commercial space in Parramatta averages \$245 per square metre and remains considerably lower than most other offices markets in the Sydney region.

A PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

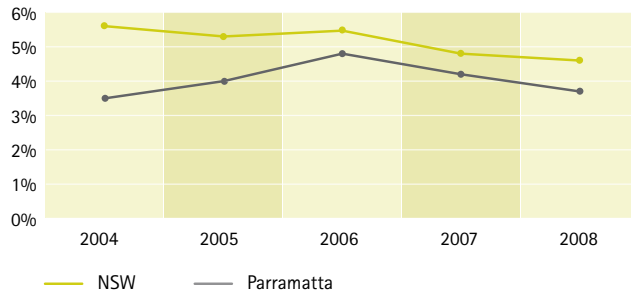
WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The availability of paid work is a fundamental necessity for economic growth and prosperity. A dynamic local economy should therefore offer a diverse range of employment opportunities.

Levels of unemployment are another important indicator of the socio-economic status of an area. It represents the number of persons aged 15 years and over who are not employed.

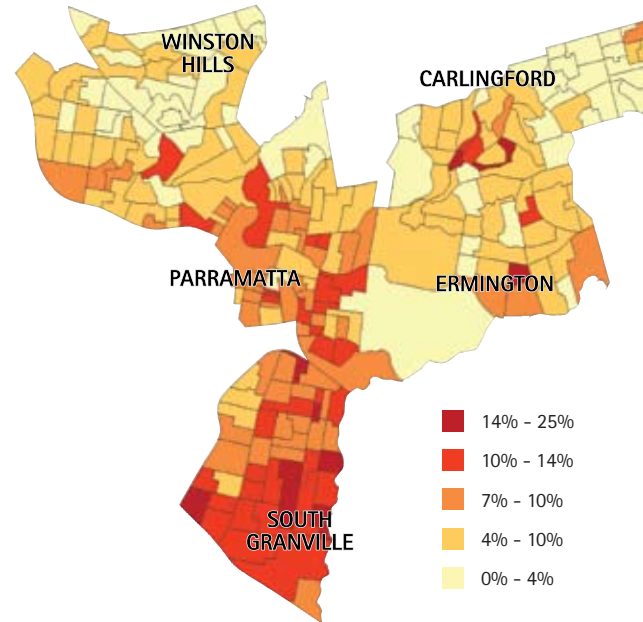
HOW ARE WE DOING?

Unemployment percentage rate in Parramatta versus NSW (2004-2008)



Source: Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations

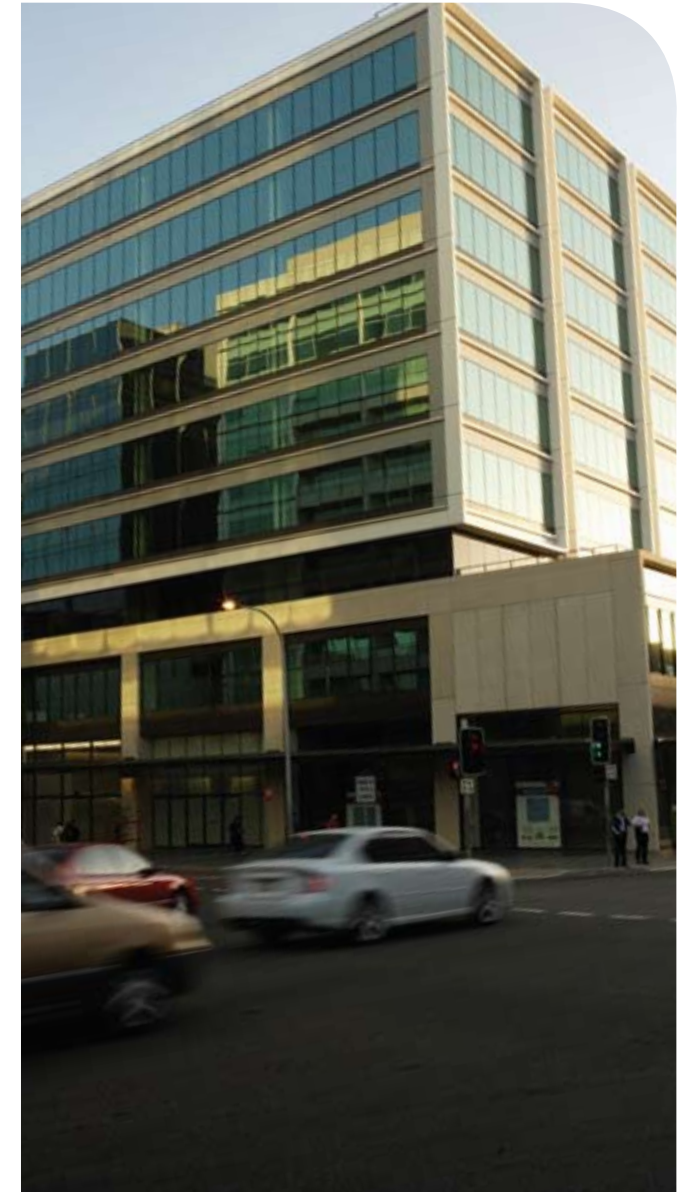
Unemployed People as a percentage of the labour force across Parramatta (2006)



Source: ABS Census 2006

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Unemployment rates for Parramatta have been consistently lower than the national average, falling continuously since 2006. Analysis at a suburb level, however, shows a very mixed picture across the LGA.





DESTINATION 4: NEIGHBOURHOODS THAT ARE LIVEABLE AND DISTINCTIVE

GIVING PRIORITY TO SAFETY, LEISURE AND ATTRACTIVE PUBLIC SPACES



HOW WE WILL KNOW WHEN WE ARE REACHING OUR DESTINATION

- Residents are satisfied with the shops, open space and leisure facilities in their neighbourhoods
- There is a decrease in the incidence of household and personal crime, and the perception of feeling safe is increased amongst residents and visitors
- Residents feel comfortable where they live
- Neighbourhoods are clean and attractive

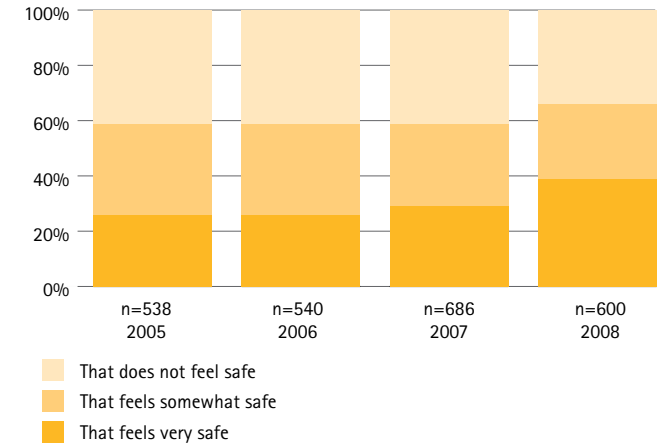
A FRIENDLY AND SAFE COMMUNITY

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

We all want to feel safe enough in the community to live, work and play. If we do not feel safe this can impact on our levels of stress, our trust of others, and our desires and motivation to interact, connect and contribute productively to the community. Visitors are less likely to come to a place they perceive is unsafe or unfriendly.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Residents Perceptions – Percentage that describes Parramatta as a place that feels safe (2005–2008)

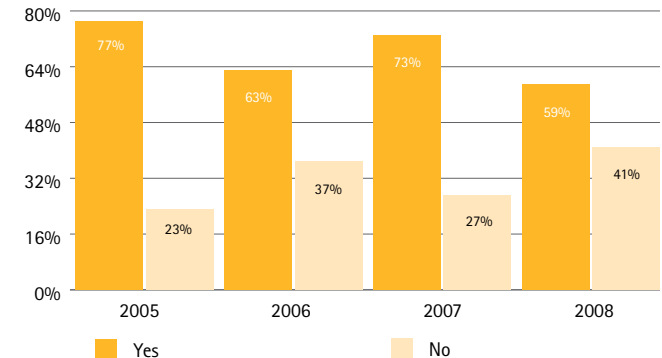


NOTE: Measurements were taken on a rating scale of 1 to 10, 1 being not at all, and 10 being completely. Residents that selected 1 to 4 were allocated to "That does not". Residents that selected 5 or 6 were allocated to "That somewhat". Residents that selected 7 to 10 were allocated to "That feels very".

Source: PCC Management Plan Survey

Percentage of residents who feel safe in the Parramatta City Centre (2005–2008)

Do you feel the Parramatta City Centre to be a safe place?



Source: PCC Management Plan Survey

Local Area Crime Summary; overview of recent trends; number of incidents recorded in the Parramatta LGA, 24 and 60 month trend change and NSW ranking (2006) for the 17 major offences

OFFENCE TYPE	JAN-DEC 2006	60 MONTH TREND [^]	AVERAGE ANNUAL % CHANGE OVER 60 MONTHS	2006 LGA RANK (N=143)
Murder [^]	5	nc*	**	nc*
Assault - domestic violence related	681	Up	6.10%	52
Assault - non-domestic violence related	1174	Up	3.50%	50
Sexual assault	81	Stable	**	97
Indecent Assault, act of indecency and other sexual offences	93	Stable	**	97
Robbery without a weapon	227	Down	9.00%	6
Robbery with a firearm	21	Down	23.10%	6
Robbery with a weapon not a firearm	135	Stable	**	6
Break and enter - dwelling	1377	Down	6.80%	24
Break and enter - non-dwelling	572	Down	12.60%	79
Motor Vehicle theft	1003	Down	11.20%	9
Steal from motor vehicle	1589	Down	7.50%	13
Steal from retail store	775	Down	3%	5
Steal from dwelling	376	Down	3.10%	118
Steal from person	423	Down	12.40%	6
Fraud	1301	Stable	**	5
Malicious damage to property	1960	Stable	**	97

NOTE:

[^] For murder, the data are counts of recorded victims, not criminal incidents.

* Trend information is not calculated (nc) if at least one 12-month period in the selected timeframe had less than 20 incidents.

** No annual percentage change is given if the trend is stable or if a trend has not been calculated.

Source: Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research NSW, 2006

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

The percentage of residents who perceive that they feel somewhat or very safe in local areas of the LGA has increased over the last 4 years; however, the number of residents who feel safe in Parramatta's City Centre has been declining.

Objective data about recent crime trends in the LGA tells a positive story. In the last 5 years, only two major offences out of 17 increased while nine actually decreased. Six major offences remained stable or were unable to be reported on.

CONSUMING OUR RESOURCES

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Over the past century, Parramatta's resident and business population has increased considerably. This growth presents significant challenges in minimising the consumption of natural resources. The challenge is to improve environmental outcomes as well as secure high living standards, extracting natural resources at sustainable rates and maximising the efficiency of production systems.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Parramatta Residential Waste and Recycling, tonnes per annum (2004-2008)

SERVICE	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Garbage	36,858	35,175	31,543	32,883
Recycling	13,571	13,250	13,965	15,458
Green Waste	6,179	7,353	11,856	13,171
Clean Up	1,370	1,504	4,447	4,780

Source: JJ Richards & Sons Pty Ltd, WSN Environment Solutions, TPI Cleanaway Ltd.

Water Usage in Parramatta LGA (2005/06-2007/08)

PROPERTY TYPES	TOTAL MEGALITRES		
	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008
Residential (incl. single, dual occupancy dwellings, residential strata units)	11611	11759	11168
Industrial	3732	3827	3547
Commercial Properties (incl. Clubs, hotels, other commercial)	2252	2225	1902
Miscellaneous Non-Residential (incl. non-residential developments, vacant land, standpipes)	736	626	466
Medical Facilities (Public & Private Hospitals only)	512	627	618
Community Services (incl. baby health centres, libraries, community halls, amenity blocks, Aboriginal land, Guide & Scout halls, Public Reserves)	389	416	370
Educational Institutions (Public and Private)	142	160	139
Mixed Development (Residential/Commercial)	110	122	148

Source: Sydney Water

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

In Parramatta, the main measures of resource consumption involve water use, energy use, and waste generation. Since the introduction of Level 3 water restrictions by Sydney Water in June 2005, there is a noticeable reduction in water use across the majority of property/landuse types over the 3 years (between 5 and 25% reductions). Similarly, garbage to landfill has significantly decreased and recycling effort has increased over the four year monitored period.



DESTINATION 5: A COMMUNITY THAT IS DIVERSE AND COHESIVE GIVING PRIORITY TO THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY AND CIVIC LIFE



HOW WE WILL KNOW WHEN WE ARE REACHING OUR DESTINATION

- People in our city value and enjoy the city's built and cultural heritage
- People in our city appreciate each other and the city's cultural diversity
- People living and working in Parramatta appreciate and acknowledge the traditional land owners

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Australia's rich community life has been forged by people of diverse backgrounds and experiences, contributing to our society through many types of involvement. Cultural diversity includes (but is not restricted to) language, race, ethnic background, country or region of origin, dress, values, religion and associated practices, social and community responsibilities, sexuality, disability, notions of family, family responsibilities, and political views. A community that can celebrate differences and maintain harmony and stability will achieve more.

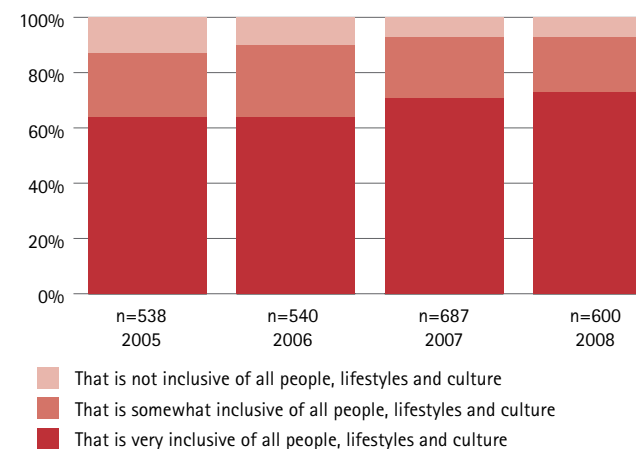
HOW ARE WE DOING?

Country of birth (top 10), Parramatta LGA and Sydney Statistical Division (2006)

AREA	2006	PARRAMATTA %	SYDNEY STATISTICAL DIVISION %	2001	PARRAMATTA %	SYDNEY STATISTICAL DIVISION %
China	8246	5.5	2.7	6130	4.3	2.1
India	7088	4.7	1.3	3346	2.3	0.9
Lebanon	6307	4.2	1.3	5998	4.2	1.3
United Kingdom	3785	2.5	4.2	4475	3.1	4.7
New Zealand	2761	1.8	2.0	2830	2.0	2.1
Korea, Republic of (South)	2611	1.7	0.8	2425	1.7	0.7
Philippines	2197	1.5	1.3	2119	1.5	1.2
Hong Kong	1936	1.3	0.9	1965	1.4	0.9
Sri Lanka	1724	1.2	0.4	1411	1.0	0.4
Vietnam	1496	1.0	1.5	1439	1.0	1.6

Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing 2006

Residents Perceptions - Percentage that describe Parramatta as a place that is inclusive of all people, lifestyles and culture (2005-2008)



NOTE: Measurements were taken on a rating scale of 1 to 10, 1 being not at all, and 10 being completely. Residents that selected 1 to 4 were allocated to "That is not". Residents that selected 5 or 6 were allocated to "That is somewhat". Residents that selected 7 to 10 were allocated to "That is very".

Source: PCC Mangement Plan Survey

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

The community of Parramatta has many small and diverse social groups with varying strengths and needs. We have more adults than children and teenagers and our indigenous community is very small. The number of residents born overseas is growing slightly, with Parramatta attracting growing numbers of people from China, India and Lebanon.

The majority of the residents in 2008 (93%) perceived Parramatta as a place that is somewhat or very inclusive of all people, lifestyles and culture.

Continuing to embrace and maximise the benefits of diversity will be critical for a well functioning community in Parramatta that demonstrates cohesiveness, harmony, and respect. Determining the most equitable way to use limited resources to improve the wellbeing of our many small social groups, often with unique and sometimes complex needs, will be the challenge.

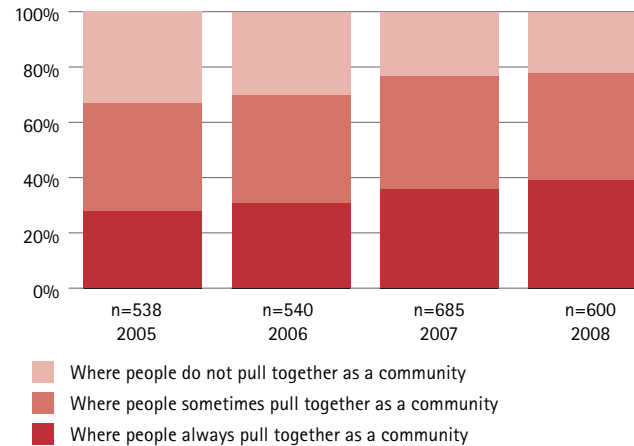
INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITY AND CIVIC LIFE

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

In the complex and changing global environment that we live in today, it is easy for people to feel powerless and dislocated from society. Being involved in civic life, through participation in events, volunteering and by taking part in priority setting and decision making that influences and shapes a local community, can make us feel more connected to our community. This sort of involvement can be rewarding in its own right, but can also lead to unforeseen personal and career opportunities that can be life changing.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

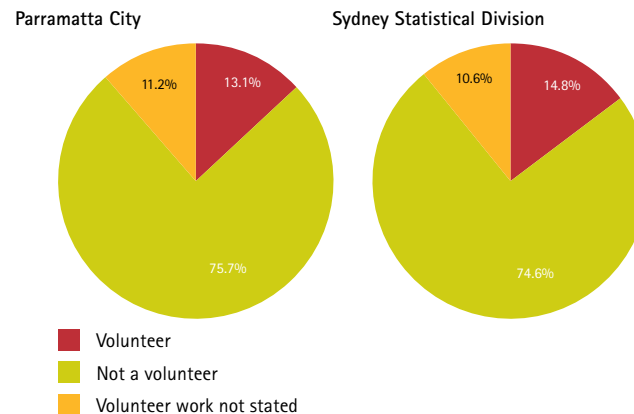
Residents Perceptions - Percentage that describe Parramatta as place where people pull together as a community (2005-2008)



NOTE: Measurements were taken on a rating scale of 1 to 10, 1 being not at all, and 10 being completely. Residents that selected 1 to 4 were allocated to "Do not". Residents that selected 5 or 6 were allocated to "Sometimes". Residents that selected 7 to 10 were allocated to "Always".

Source: PCC Management Plan Survey

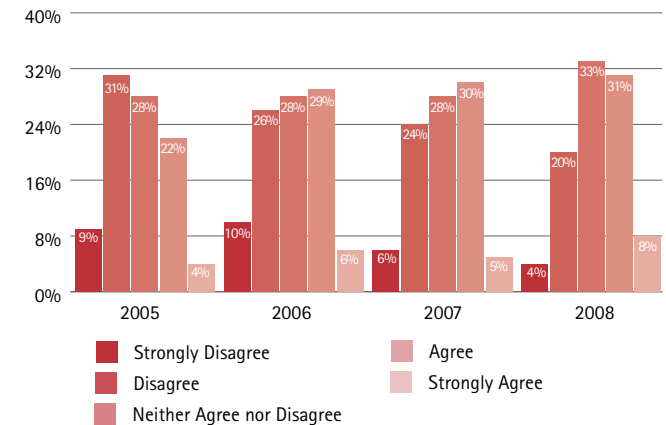
Volunteering for an organisation or group (2006)



Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2006

Residents Responses - Percentage that believe they are involved in Council decision making (2005-2008)

I believe that I am INVOLVED in Council decision making



Source: PCC Management Plan Survey

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

The majority of residents perceive Parramatta as a place where people sometimes or often pull together as a community. This figure is relatively high, 78% in 2008 up from 67% in 2005.

Residents rating of their active engagement in community and civic life is more limited. The percentage of residents who work as volunteers has room to improve (13.1% in 2006), as has the percentage of residents who agree or strongly agree they are involved in Council decision making (39% in 2008).

The future challenge is to continue to develop and implement strategies that grow inclusive participation, community empowerment and leadership, life-long learning, and active citizenship (e.g. volunteering and voting) as a means of energising and strengthening communities.



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

GIVING PRIORITY TO RESPONSIVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT, WALKING AND CYCLING



HOW WE WILL KNOW WHEN WE ARE REACHING OUR DESTINATION

- People can access their workplaces easily
- Transport is available for all
- More people are using public and passive forms of transport rather than a private vehicle
- People have access to a variety of good quality and reliable communication tools
- People can safely use a variety of transport modes

GETTING AROUND

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Travel is an essential part of our daily lives for work, education and generally getting around the community in a safe, efficient and sustainable manner. Parramatta is well connected by train, bus, road and cycle networks. If more people relied less on cars and walked, cycled or caught buses or trains more often, we would reduce air pollution in the city. The need to travel to work may also change with better technology making it easier for more people to work from home.

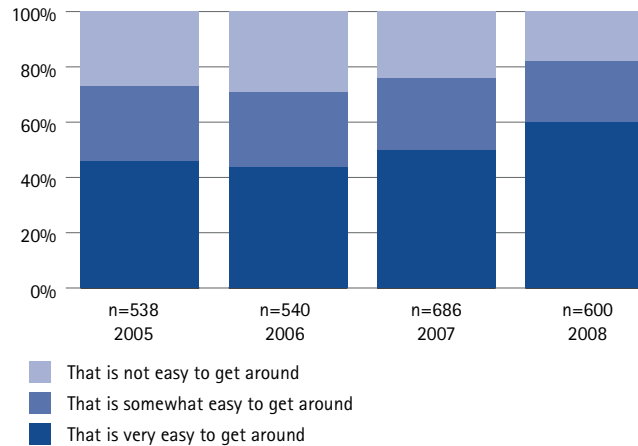
HOW ARE WE DOING?

Mode of travel to work (2001,2006)

	2001 PARRAMATTA CITY	2006 PARRAMATTA CITY	2001 SYDNEY STATISTICAL DIVISION	2006 SYDNEY STATISTICAL DIVISION
Train	16.2	16.6	13.3	12.3
Bus	3.2	3.5	5.3	5.4
Tram or Ferry	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.4
Taxi	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3
Car - as driver	52.8	53.1	52.1	53.7
Car - as passenger	6.1	5.6	5.6	5.3
Truck	1.6	1.3	1.7	1.4
Motorbike	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5
Bicycle	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6
Walked only	4.1	4.5	3.8	4.2
Other	1.1	0.8	1.1	0.9
Worked at home	2.7	2.5	4.1	3.9
Did not go to work	9.3	8.9	9.8	9.5
Not stated	1.8	2.0	1.7	1.9
Total	100	100	100	100

Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2001, 2006

Residents Perceptions – Percentage that describe the place of Parramatta as is easy to get around (2005–2008)



NOTE: Measurements were taken on a rating scale of 1 to 10, 1 being not at all, and 10 being completely. Residents that selected 1 to 4 were allocated to "That is not". Residents that selected 5 or 6 were allocated to "That is somewhat". Residents that selected 7 to 10 were allocated to "That is very".

Source: PCC Management Plan Survey

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Parramatta is increasingly using public transport for the journey to work (2001 data compared to 2006 data) which is opposite to the general trend for Sydney. The car accounts for nearly 60% of trips while the train is the most important public transport mode (16%) with the Western Line being the most important service. The performance of this service over the past year has been below the target of 92% of peak period trains being punctual. The use of cycling has not changed but walking has increased to 4.5%. The majority of residents (82%) perceive that Parramatta is a place that is somewhat or very easy to get around. This figure has increased from 73% in 2005.

The Loop – a free city bus service funded by Council was launched in 2007 with patronage above expected levels and steadily increasing.

CONNECTION TO THE WORLD

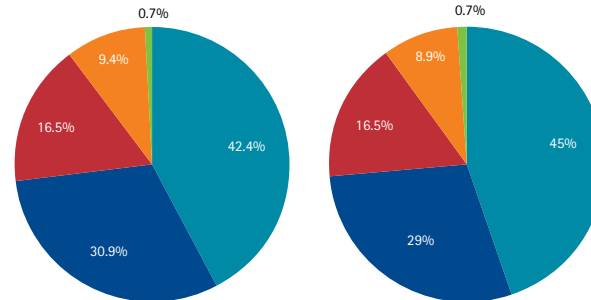
WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Being connected to the community, family, friends and the world via telephone or internet services and a fast reliable connection is essential for both personal (social and educational) and business needs and can significantly contribute to reducing the need to travel and the associated negative impacts on the environment.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Proportion of households with internet connection and type of internet connection (2006)

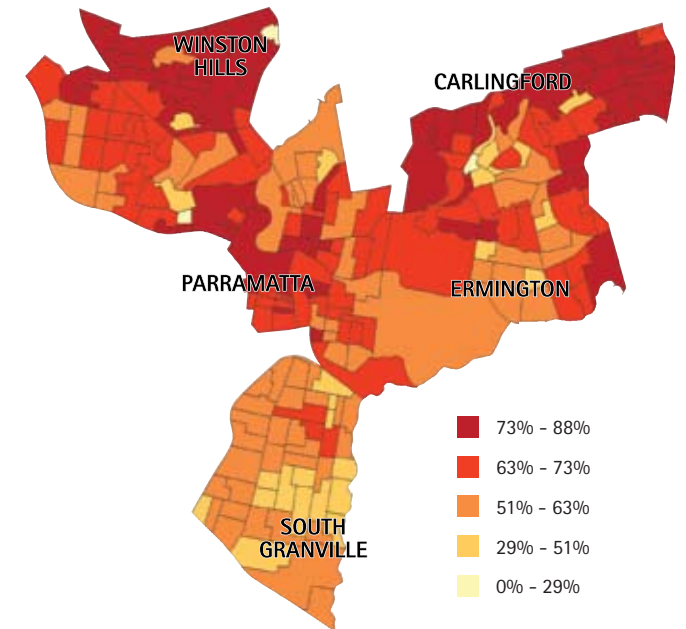
Parramatta City Total internet connections 59.6%
Sydney Statistical Division Total internet connections 62.1%



- Broadband connection
- No internet connection
- Dial-up connection
- Internet connection not stated
- Other connection

Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2006

Percentage of the population with any type of internet access (2006)



Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2006

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Parramatta has a good level of internet connection (60%) which is comparable to Sydney. Parramatta households have a slighter low level of broadband internet connection at 42% compared with Sydney as whole at 45%. Mapping levels of access across the LGA however, highlights wide disparities in access across the North and South of the LGA.



DESTINATION 7: A CITY THAT IS INNOVATIVE AND INSPIRATIONAL GIVING PRIORITY TO INNOVATIVE AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



HOW WE WILL KNOW WHEN WE ARE REACHING OUR DESTINATION

- Our community enjoys and participates highly in the city's arts and cultural activities
- Most people like the look and the feel of the city
- Parramatta's role in research and innovation is visible

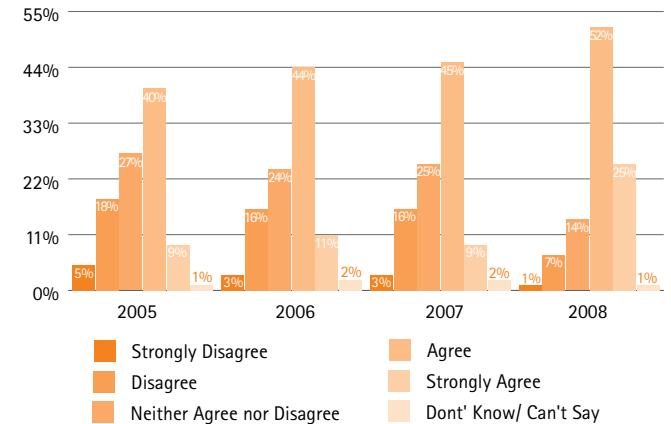
AN INTERESTING AND CREATIVE CITY

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

A creative city has the ability to attract and retain creative people that will improve the local economy and make Parramatta a more interesting and attractive place to live, visit and invest in. By focusing on the arts, cultural activities and research we attract and maintain a strong group of creative, talented people while at the same time encouraging local people to contribute to and belong in their local community.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Residents Perceptions – Percentage that believe Parramatta is recognised as being an interesting and attractive city (2005–2008)



Source: PCC Management Plan Survey

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

The majority of residents, over 70%, agree or strongly agree that Parramatta is recognised as being an interesting and attractive city, with only 8% of residents disagreeing. An attractive city often results from the presence of arts and cultural activities. These form a key part of people's connection with their community.

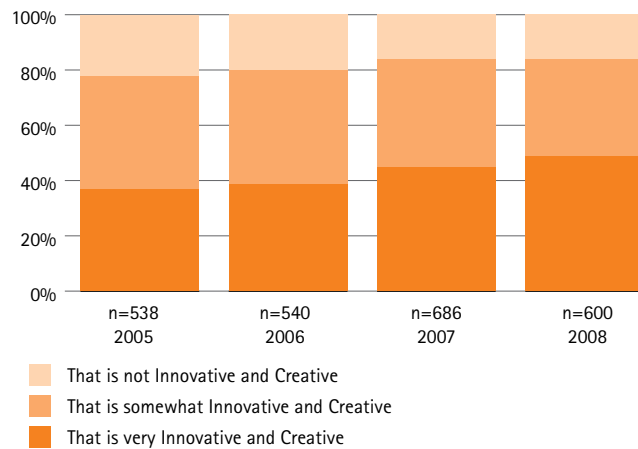
AN INNOVATIVE CITY

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

An innovative city is a one which leads in the supporting and nurturing of innovation. Developing and promoting Parramatta as an attractive destination for creative and innovative industries through initiatives that support, nurture and attract intellectual capital to the area adds considerable strength to the local and regional economy.

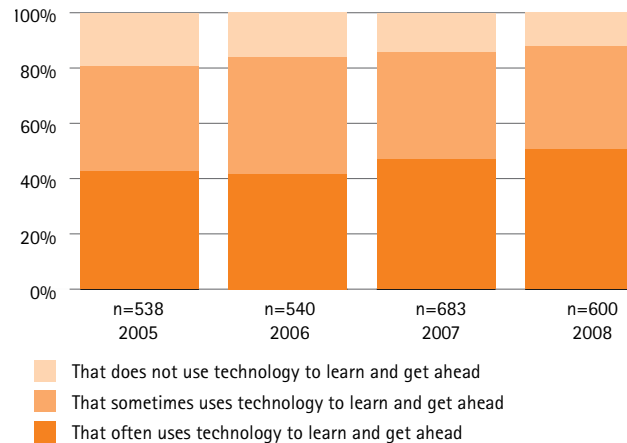
HOW ARE WE DOING?

Residents Perceptions – Percentage that describe Parramatta as a place that is innovative and creative (2005–2008)



NOTE: Measurements were taken on a rating scale of 1 to 10, 1 being not at all, and 10 being completely. Residents that selected 1 to 4 were allocated to "That is not". Residents that selected 5 or 6 were allocated to "That is somewhat". Residents that selected 7 to 10 were allocated to "That is very".
Source: PCC Mangement Plan Survey

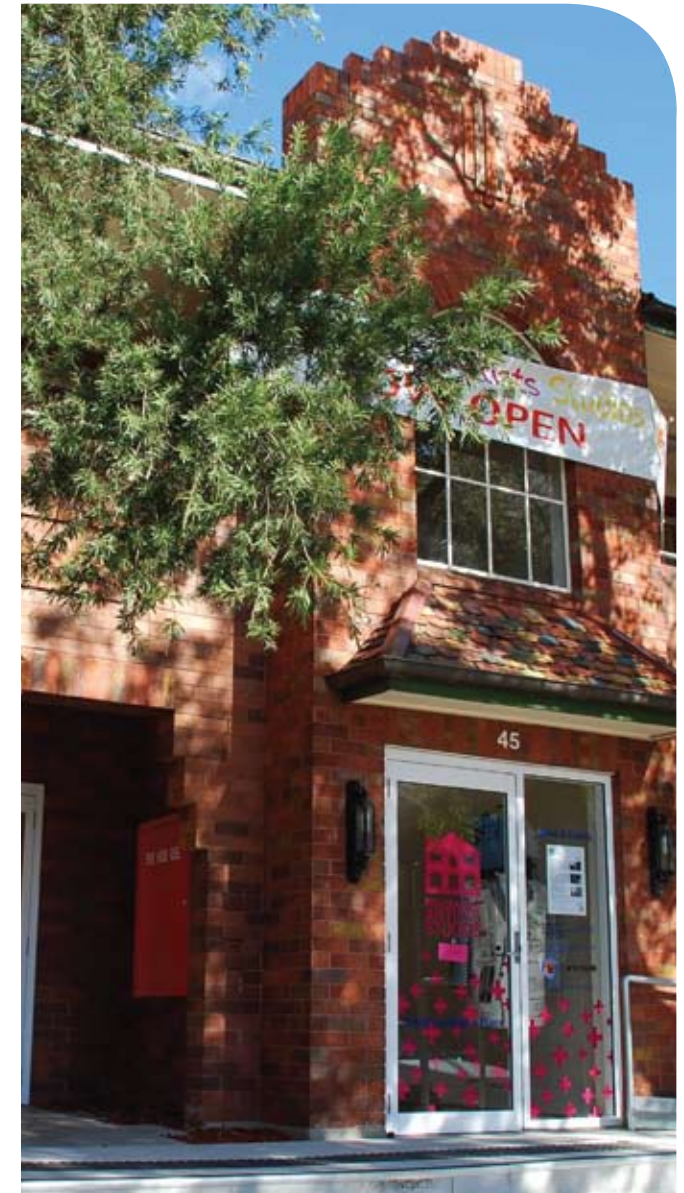
Residents Perceptions – Percentage that describe Parramatta as a place that uses technology to learn and get ahead (2005–2008)



NOTE: Measurements were taken on a rating scale of 1 to 10, 1 being not at all, and 10 being completely. Residents that selected 1 to 4 were allocated to "That does not". Residents that selected 5 or 6 were allocated to "That sometimes". Residents that selected 7 to 10 were allocated to "That often".
Source: PCC Mangement Plan Survey

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

The data indicates that, since 2005, residents perception of Parramatta as a place that is somewhat or very innovative and creative has been increasing steadily from 78% in 2005 up to 84% in 2008. Most residents also perceive Parramatta as a place that sometimes or often uses technology to learn and get ahead.



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

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FURTHER INFORMATION

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE DATA WITHIN THIS REPORT

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THIS STATE OF THE CITY REPORT 2008, CONTACT

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Parramatta

