

ITEM 8.3

Resilience Strategy for Canterbury-Bankstown

AUTHOR

City Future

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

To seek Council's endorsement for the public exhibition of the attached *Draft Resilient CBCity Strategy*, which has completed extensive internal and external consultation, and provides 5 Directions to steer how we will create a more connected, collaborative and responsive City.

ISSUE

Resilience is "the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems to survive, adapt and grow no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience".

There is increasing focus on the role of local government in planning for community resilience. Recent events, including heatwaves, floods, bushfires, and a disease pandemic, demonstrate the increasing impacts on Council and our community. At the same time, many people in our community experience daily pressures such as financial and housing stress, a lack of transport, and social isolation that can make it harder for them to cope during emergencies.

Council has prepared a *Draft Resilient CBCity Strategy* (Attachment A) which provides a framework for supporting and creating a more connected, collaborative and responsive City that can withstand and recover from shock events and chronic stresses, ensuring that no one in our community is left behind and recognising our responsibility to future generations. The strategy presents 5 Directions that will guide our approach to building and strengthening the resilience of Council and our community.

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council endorse the *Draft Resilient CBCity Strategy* and the strategy be placed on public exhibition.
2. A further report be brought to Council following public exhibition.

ATTACHMENTS

[Click here for attachments](#)

- A. Draft Resilient CBCity Strategy
- B. Resilience Strategy Staff Engagement Report
- C. Resilience Strategy Community Engagement Report

POLICY IMPACT

The *Draft Resilient CBCity Strategy* has no policy impact and is Council's first resilience strategy. The strategy addresses Council's commitment to resilience, identified in *Evolution 9 Sustainable and Resilient Places of Connective City 2036*.

Council's adoption of this strategy is in alignment with the Resilient Sydney program (of which Canterbury Bankstown is a member council) and in line with relevant Australian and NSW Government policy on resilience and disaster preparedness.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no immediate financial implications related to the adoption of this strategy.

Financial risk is greatest if no action is taking to address resilience challenges, as investment in resilience and disaster risk reduction minimises human and economic losses. Financial implications will be more clearly identified and quantified in developing a 'Resilience Action Plan'.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Adoption of this strategy will articulate Council's commitment to leadership and accountability in building and strengthening resilience.

The *Draft Resilient CBCity Strategy* addresses a range of shocks and stresses that are increasingly affecting residents, businesses, the environment and other relevant stakeholders. With an estimated resident population of more than 500,000 by 2036, it is essential that Council and the community focus on building resilience to better manage the acute shocks and chronic stresses that will inevitably impact the City.

The strategy has been developed with extensive community engagement. The *Resilience Strategy Community Engagement Report* (Attachment C) captures and reports the community views on the local resilience challenges and community strengths and vulnerabilities. The outcomes of this report (Attachment C), along with the *Resilience Strategy Staff Engagement Report* (Attachment B), have been used to inform the strategy.

There are reputational benefits associated with implementing a local resilience strategy.

DETAILED INFORMATION

Background

The City of Canterbury Bankstown has been an active participant in the Resilient Sydney program since its inception in 2015. That program delivers on the aims and actions of the 2018 metropolitan-wide Resilient Sydney Strategy. The Resilient Sydney Strategy was developed in collaboration with 33 metropolitan councils across Greater Sydney, including Canterbury-Bankstown.

The role of local government in planning for community resilience has become increasingly central. In December 2022, the Resilient Sydney Office reported that one in two (52%) of its 33 member councils have or are developing local resilience plans.

The *Draft Resilient CBCity Strategy* is Council's first resilience strategy, and it demonstrates our commitment to ensuring CBCity is able to survive, adapt and thrive, no matter what challenges we face today and as our diverse community grows and changes in future.

Approach

In 2021 Council commenced the preparation of the *Draft Resilient CBCity Strategy*. Extensive internal and external engagement was undertaken, with more than 200 people contributing feedback to inform the strategy's development. The engagement activities undertaken included:

Internal staff engagement:

- Targeted interviews across a range of Council's functional areas
- 50 participants in an online workshop

External community engagement:

- 35 participants across 3 online focus groups
- 3 interviews with community groups
- An online workshop with service providers
- 74 responses via an online survey

The timing of the engagement sessions, during a COVID19 lockdown, meant that activities had to be facilitated remotely and the challenges associated with the pandemic were front of mind for many stakeholders. Even considering these conditions, stakeholders still identified strengths in community diversity, local networks and community organisations.

Resilient CBCity

The *Draft Resilient CBCity Strategy* (Attachment A) includes 5 Directions to strengthen resilience, tailored to the local challenges that our City faces. These directions align with and build on those outlined in the Resilient Sydney Strategy, recognising that many of the challenges faced by CBCity are similar to those experienced across metropolitan Sydney. These shocks and stresses include:

Acute shocks:

- Extreme weather
- Disease pandemic
- Digital network failure
- Infrastructure failure
- Cyber attack
- Financial crisis
- Terror attack
- Water crisis

Chronic Stresses:

- Housing affordability
- Health services demand
- Transport diversity
- Social cohesion
- Employment diversity
- Poverty
- Chronic disease
- Drug and alcohol abuse

Figure 1 presents the 5 Directions that will guide Council's strategic approach to building and strengthening resilience.

Next Steps

The *Draft Resilient CBCity Strategy* and the outcomes of community and staff engagement will guide Council's approach to resilience, inform action planning and improve our success in applying for relevant funding opportunities.

Following endorsement of the strategy, a 'Resilience Action Plan' will be developed to guide delivery against the 5 Directions and embed a resilience mindset across Council.



Direction 1 A people-centred City

People are connected to where they live and are able to access transport, affordable housing, education, and employment opportunities.



Direction 2 Live with our Climate

People have access to clean air and water, natural environments and adaptive technology throughout the city for climate comfort and safety, health, and city connections.



Direction 3 Connect for Strength

People have equal access to engage in society, the economy, and all the City has to offer.



Direction 4 Get Ready

Understand the risks we face and how to work together to respond, recover and build our capacity to cope, now and in the future.



Direction 5 One City

Key governing organisations pledge to build their capacity and cooperate to understand and manage shocks for everyone.

Figure 1: 5 Directions of the Resilient CBCity Strategy