OUR PRIORITIES

BUILDING A LIVEABLE FUTURE

LIVEABILITY · PROSPERITY · CONNECTIVITY · SUSTAINABILITY · WELLBEING







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INTRODUCTION

The Western Parkland City is a powerhouse of the nation.

With one of the fastest-growing economies and populations in Australia, the region has untapped potential to drive prosperity and wellbeing for the community of today, and the people who will call it home in the years ahead.

Over 1.2 million people live in the eight council areas sitting at the epicentre of Western Sydney - and the Western Parkland City's population boom means one in three people in Sydney will call the region home by 2036.

The region's economic influence continues to grow - with \$59 billion in economic output coming from a diverse mix of industries.

It also has an enormous array of strengths including its multilingual workforce, natural world heritage setting, culturally diverse communities, emerging high-tech industry potential and firstclass health and educational institutions.

When plans for a new airport in Western Sydney were first announced, policy makers at federal, state and local level saw the opportunity to unleash economic, social and environmental dividends that would fuel the region for decades to come.

Partnerships across all tiers of government were forged to set clear objectives that reflected the aspirations of the region and drive investment and solutions that would propel the region towards a stronger future.

These partnerships could now be leveraged effectively to address the national housing crisis, given the significant volume of zoned land that we could provide for the construction of homes and new communities.

As we close in on the opening of Western Sydney International Airport (WSIA) in 2026, the councils behind the partnership are urging political and civic leaders to renew their commitment to the game-changing initiatives needed in the region.

We need to act fast to bridge the divide between jobs and population growth, unlock economic and social opportunities, and get on with the job of delivering projects and initiatives that build a sustainable, resilient future.

In particular, we need to invest in next-generation transport solutions that reduce the car dependency that currently plagues the Western Parkland City. Otherwise, we risk losing momentum from the once-in-a-generation investment in the airport and miss the chance to make the region more liveable and prosperous.

Acting now will also allow the Western Parkland City to play an outsized role in helping to solve flagship national priorities such as resolving the housing crisis, achieving net zero, and building an economy sustained by innovation.

We have bipartisan acknowledgement of the region's endless potential, but now is the time to act.

WHY THE WESTERN PARKLAND CITY MATTERS





34% of Sydney's population growth by 2041



















5 million airport passengers a year in 2026 - rising to $\triangle \triangle \triangle$ 80 million a year once the

full airport is completed



Western Parkland City has a high prevalence of residents speaking a non-English language at home: 79% Fairfield | 64% Liverpool | 40% Campbelltown compared to the rest of NSW 30%





Home to the iconic **UNESCO-listed Greater Blue Mountains World** Heritage Area



Blue Mountains, Campbelltown, Hawkesbury, Penrith + Wollondilly have 3 or more (of the top 5) long-term health conditions above the NSW prevalence.



PILLARS OF SUCCESS

The Commonwealth Government's investment of more than \$5 billion to deliver Western Sydney International Airport was always about more than building an airport.

It represented a catalytic decision that promised to unleash economic, social and environmental gains across the region.

The partnership approach that was adopted by the three levels of government was dependent on substantial collaboration - underpinned by robust frameworks for delivering on these aspirations.

Clear recommendations, commitments and \$11 billion in city-building initiatives - backed by an obligation to provide ongoing reporting and accountability for progress - served the region well.

Whilst progress has been made on some initiatives, there is a need to revive others to ensure the region is poised for success by anchoring ongoing work around five priority objectives.

It's the best way to ensure the Commonwealth Government gets maximum benefit from its investment and the Western Parkland City reaches its full economic, social and environmental potential.

The five priority objectives are centred on the experiences and aspirations of our community by ensuring they are at the heart of this once-ina-lifetime opportunity - to amplify the benefits of building an international airport and adding to the prosperity of its immediate region.



1. LIVEABILITY

The region is a desirable place to live, work and play because of its accessibility, open public spaces and deep cultural threads.



2. PROSPERITY

Employment and economic opportunities mirror those available in Sydney's east, with 200,000 new jobs delivered as promised.



3. CONNECTIVITY

Enabling infrastructure that improves the productivity and mobility of the region, to fully realise the 30-minute city.



4. SUSTAINABILITY

A region resilient to the changing climate, protecting its world-class natural assets and leveraging opportunities of a Net Zero future.



5. WELLBEING

Boosting high-quality, accessible essential services that keep people healthy and safe enriches the quality of life of all residents.



PRIORITY PROJECTS

THE 10 BIG IDEAS TO POWER THE WESTERN PARKLAND CITY

Complete the North-South Rail Link & future metro extensions



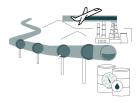
Deliver rapid bus services by 2026



Fund enabling infrastructure to deliver housing diversity and supply



Accelerate the delivery of a fuel pipeline to the airport



Fund a roads package, boosting employment and freight links for The Parks



Move Government agencies and institutions to The Parks



Expand the economic mix driving the Western Parkland City



Position Western
Sydney as a
global tourism
destination



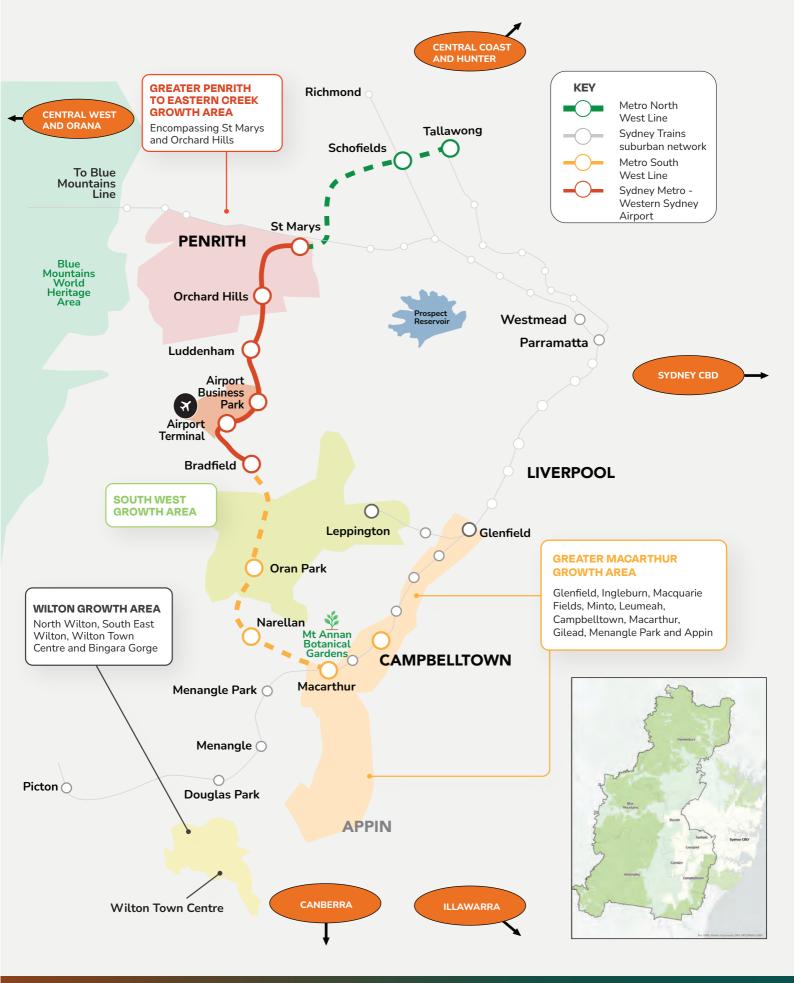
Establish Community Vitality and Resilience Initiatives



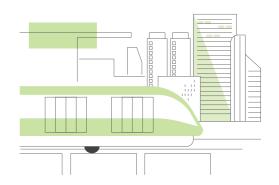
Rapidly grow health & medical workforce to meet community needs



CRITICAL RAIL PRIORITIES



COMPLETE THE NORTH-SOUTH RAIL LINK & FUTURE METRO EXTENSIONS



RECOMMENDATION

Fund and deliver the next generation of rail projects needed to unlock economic opportunity and boost mobility across the Western Parkland City - starting with an immediate commitment to the full North-South Rail Link.

THE ISSUE

Infrastructure investment across the region is already at a deficit compared to other parts of Sydney - with the Western Parkland City receiving approximately \$20 billion over the past decade, compared to more than \$100 billion in Sydney's east.

We need to reverse the decades-long trend of allowing population to surge - with the Parklands poised to absorb 34 percent of Sydney's growth by 2041 - but essential infrastructure consistently lagging.

The full North-South Rail Link is the priority project that binds the Western Parkland City.

The link is critical to the success of the WSI Airport, Aerotropolis and Bradfield City, connecting these new economic assets to labour pools and the travelling public.

It also helps ease car dependency that currently defines the region and lower carbon emissions, which was reflected in its recognition in the Western Sydney Transport Infrastructure Panel report as a critical priority.

THE SOLUTION



The Commonwealth Government should negotiate a funding package and project delivery deadline with the NSW Government to ensure full delivery on the north-south rail link. The metro links to Campbelltown-Macarthur via Oran Park in the south and Tallawong in the north are essential first steps before other rail projects in the region can advance and will deliver nationally significant economic benefits.

Delivery of this rail link would expand access to jobs, health, education and leisure activities, provide a platform for well-designed urban centres and finally give the region the public transport it deserves.

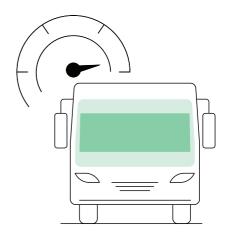
Delivery of this rail link would represent a gamechanger in lifting the economic, employment and housing opportunities available in the Western Parkland City - as well as provide fast and efficient rail needed to ensure the success of the airport.

Planning also needs to commence on linking the Airport and surrounding region to Westmead and Parramatta. Such a link - running through major town centres like Prairiewood, Fairfield and other locations across the Western Parkland City - is the best way to provide direct and efficient rail access to and from Sydney's major cities. And an extension from the airport to Leppington also represents a project deserving attention.



Prosperity Connectivity Liveability Sustainability

DELIVER RAPID BUS SERVICES BY 2026



RECOMMENDATION

Deliver on the promise of rapid bus services from the metropolitan centres of Liverpool, Penrith and Campbelltown to the airport before it opens in 2026.

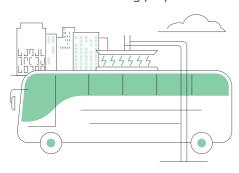
A THE ISSUE

There has been bipartisan understanding of the critical value of delivering rapid bus services from major centres across the Western Parkland City to the Airport by the time it opens in 2026.

They would provide a link between housing and employment centres and maximise the efficiency of transport links to the airport. It was also intended to be delivered ahead of the opening of WSIA to facilitate early patronage across Western Sydney.

This was reinforced by the Western Sydney Transport Infrastructure Panel report released in 2023, which said: "rapid bus services should be implemented as an interim and short-term measure and not preclude/be at the expense of a final metro rail solution".

Instead, an inefficient bus service with travel times of approximately one hour from centres such as Liverpool, Campbelltown, and Penrith is being proposed.



THE SOLUTION



The Commonwealth and State should negotiate a funding package and delivery schedule to fulfil their commitment to create rapid bus services, dedicated bus lanes and associated infrastructure.

The need is particularly acute given the gaps in mass transit that will exist until the southern rail link from the Airport to Campbelltown-Macarthur and southwest link to Leppington come online.

Rapid bus services will assist in connecting communities, reducing car dependency, lowering congestion on existing roads and curbing emissions.

It would also give people better access to jobs, educational, cultural and other services - as well as maximise the efficiency of airport transport.



FUND ENABLING INFRASTRUCTURE TO DELIVER HOUSING DIVERSITY AND SUPPLY



RECOMMENDATION

Leverage existing housing funds to deliver the enabling infrastructure needed to support greater housing diversity in the Western Parkland City.

THE ISSUE

Western Sydney has long carried the load for Sydney's new housing supply, despite a deficit of government spending on enabling infrastructure.

Over the five years to June 2023, over 32,000 homes were built in the eight council areas comprising the Western Parkland City - accounting for 25 per cent of new supply across Sydney.1

According to the NSW Government's housing supply forecasts, the state is expected to deliver another 59,100 new homes over the next five years.

The continued escalation in housing supply demands a more balanced approach to the diversity of housing available, and greater commitment to the enabling infrastructure needed to support the growth.

Until now, the NSW Government's Transport Oriented Development program has largely focused on intensifying land use in the city's east.

Several councils within the Western Parkland City are seeking participation in the program

to create density around transport nodes and town centres.



THE SOLUTION



A key factor limiting housing supply is the need for funding and acceleration of enabling infrastructure including water, sewer, and roads for the existing housing supply pipeline. The Commonwealth Government has several funding streams and bodies, largely administered by Housing Australia, to help unlock additional housing. These include initiatives that support the delivery of enabling infrastructure essential to support additional supply, as well as consider future demand on health and education services.

We would encourage the Commonwealth to establish a \$10bn Enabling Infrastructure Fund that can be directed to support delivery of enabling infrastructure on the ground. This would enable acceleration of housing in land already zoned across the Western Parkland City, particularly in greenfield areas where this is a barrier to supply.

It would boost housing diversity, affordability, and the creation of mixed-use, walkable and high-quality communities. This could also provide supplementary funding for the TOD program in the new precincts attached to the delivery of the north-south rail line.

¹Source: Greater Sydney Urban Development Dashboard, NSW Planning







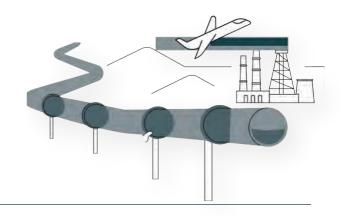


Connectivity Sustainability

Liveability

Wellbeing

ACCELERATE THE DELIVERY OF A FUEL PIPELINE TO THE AIRPORT



RECOMMENDATION

Apply incentives to accelerate the delivery of a dedicated fuel pipeline to service Western Sydney International Airport

THE ISSUE

Ongoing delays in establishing a fuel pipeline for WSI Airport have serious implications for the Western Parkland City.

The Western Sydney Airport Environmental Impact Statement released in 2016 and other studies have presented stark numbers²:

- By 2030, the forecast fuel demand would require the mobilisation of approximately 43 B-doubles per day
- If a dedicated fuel supply pipeline was not provided, the number of truck movements would need to increase in line with the growth in air traffic
- Fuel demand from airlines using WSIA would be sufficient for a fuel pipeline to become commercially viable by 2034.

There is no current plan to deliver a dedicated fuel pipeline. The transportation of fuel by trucks represents a potential safety hazard for other road users and adjacent facilities. It also adds to pressures on local roads given the trucks cannot use tunnels due to safety concerns.

THE SOLUTION



The Commonwealth Government has an active interest in seeing an efficient fuel supply to the airport established, given the critical role the pipeline will play in the successful operation and growth of WSIA. It would also radically reduce the number of heavy vehicle trucks needing to navigate local roads, which will further diminish air quality in the region if it continues unabated.

WSIA's review of Aviation Fuel Supply Options released in May 2023 states:

"The 2034 feasibility timeline . . . could also be brought forward by government incentives for a pipeline investor."

It also recommended governments formally consider the broader socio-economic benefits of a fuel pipeline to create a case to incentivise construction.

The Commonwealth should now act on those recommendations by reserving a corridor, designing a package of incentives to fast track construction, and ensuring the fuel pipeline gets built now.

² https://westernsydney.com.au/media-releases/wsi-review-aviation-fuelsupply-options



FUND A ROADS PACKAGE, BOOSTING EMPLOYMENT AND FREIGHT LINKS FOR THE PARKS

RECOMMENDATION

Create a dedicated roads funding package to deliver on the priorities outlined in the Western Sydney Infrastructure Panel Report.

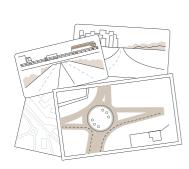
A THE ISSUE

Whilst the highest priority of The Parks' councils is the rail links recommended in this paper, continuing investment in a fit-for-purpose road network across the region is essential and needed now.

The volume of freight trucks travelling to and from the airport will escalate regardless of investment in rail infrastructure - a fact compounded by the need to service the airport's fuel needs by truck when it opens.

The region also has a spectrum of employment land precincts spanning the full range of uses from traditional industrial manufacturing to emerging high-tech and knowledge economy, including the Bradfield City Centre. It is also home to the iconic Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area - a staple of the nation's tourism industry and a gateway for transport from Western NSW.

A high-calibre road network that doesn't just close the gap on existing demand, caused by



the infrastructure funding deficit but seeks to anticipate future pressures - including those due to climate change - and connections to pending infrastructure is essential.

THE SOLUTION



The Commonwealth Government should commit to funding the full list of road projects identified in the Western Sydney Transport Infrastructure Panel Report released in 2023.

The report recognised there was a significant gap between the region's growing needs and the future pipeline of projects and investment. It also detailed specific recommendations to inform immediate, short and medium term priorities.

And whilst there was some welcome progress in the last Federal Budget - both on funding commencement and business case development - a concrete commitment to an ongoing funding envelope that sees the full list of projects slated for completion is an essential next step.

We would also recommend a specific stream of work focus on building resilience and mitigating against the risks of climate change to both the existing road network and future additions, as well as improving road safety.



MOVE GOVERNMENT **AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS TO** THE PARKS



RECOMMENDATION

Conduct an audit of federal departments, agencies and institutions which can be moved to the Western Parkland City, and then move them.

THE ISSUE

Over the past decade, the Commonwealth and State Governments made an active commitment to move a suite of government headquarters to Parramatta, which helped fortify its status as Sydney's second CBD.

It also had the benefit of delivering services closer to the growing bulk of Sydney's population, as well as reducing travel for a majority of employees.

For example, the Commonwealth Government recognised the merits of moving the ABC from Ultimo to a new headquarters in Parramatta, which officially opened in 2024.

They had previously moved a substantial number of staff in agencies like the ATO, and State agencies such as Sydney Water also followed.

It's now time for a similar approach to be taken to the cultivation of opportunities for the Western Parkland City.

The region is home to a burgeoning economic mix, has a range of natural strategic advantages, a highly capable workforce and would benefit from a reduction in the number of people forced to travel east to other parts of greater Sydney for work.

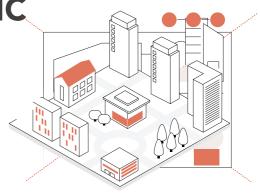
THE SOLUTION

The Commonwealth Government should commission an audit of other departments, agencies and institutions (such as Infrastructure Australia), which would be more appropriately headquartered in the Western Parkland City.

The development of business cases to support the shift would add to the breadth of economic activity in the region, boost skilled jobs and honour the region's untapped potential.



EXPAND THE ECONOMIC MIX DRIVING THE WESTERN PARKLAND CITY



RECOMMENDATION

Establish a taskforce to build the economic arc between Western Sydney Airport, the Illawarra, and Newcastle.

A THE ISSUE

The Western Parkland City is already home to a burgeoning mix of employment precincts that will lift the region's prosperity, capacity for innovation and ability to succeed in the knowledge economy.

Bradfield City, based within the Liverpool local government area, sits at the epicentre of these endeavours - with over 2 million square metres of gross floor space development potential, focused on high-tech manufacturing.

The Advanced Manufacturing Readiness Facility (AMRF) will give the region unprecedented capability in areas such as additive manufacturing, advanced composites, engineering design, factory digitisation, manufacturing automation, metrology and inspection, precision machining and quality assurance.

And there is currently close to \$11.6 billion in private investment into the Western Sydney Aerotropolis working its way through the planning approvals system, which will help fulfil the vision for Bradfield City.

Other projects are also changing the face of the region, ranging from major institutions such as cutting-edge health and education precincts to the contribution of universities based in Western Parkland City. But there is opportunity to go further.

THE SOLUTION



The Commonwealth Government should audit flagship programs of national strategic interest to identify opportunities to broaden the economic and employment base of Western Parkland City.

A Future Made in Australia, The National Reconstruction Fund, and the pending Net Zero Plan are all examples of initiatives that have the potential to align with the economic, employment, skills and research capabilities in the region.

For example, the Net Zero Plan requires Australia to develop a new high-skilled workforce and industry capability. It will also demand a paradigm shift in the technology available to support Australia's economy through the transition to net zero.

These programs should be audited for dedicated initiatives and funding streams that can be delivered by tapping the potential of the Western Parkland City, turbocharging economic and employment growth in the region, including agriculture. In addition, consideration needs to be given to the establishment of a taskforce to build the economic arc between the Illawarra through WSIA to Newcastle.



POSITION WESTERN SYDNEY AS A GLOBAL TOURISM DESTINATION



RECOMMENDATION

Capitalise on the construction of Western Sydney International by fulfilling the region's potential as a pre-eminent tourist destination.

THE ISSUE

Western Parkland City is home to a spectrum of treasured tourism assets and natural attractions.

They include the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, Western Sydney Parklands, small rural communities, rich Indigenous heritage and Australian Botanic Gardens at Mount Annan.

The opening of Western Sydney International has the potential to accelerate the economic dividend on offer from the region's tourism industry and ensure international visitors don't simply migrate east to traditional tourism hotspots across Sydney.

However, it requires the city's west to have a strong identity, with the capacity to grow and leverage tourism infrastructure and assets to ensure it can service tourists' needs.

Positioning Western Sydney as a global destination would help capitalise on its tourism potential while promoting long-term prosperity, environmental sustainability, and an enhanced quality of life for residents,



THE SOLUTION



The Commonwealth should task Tourism Australia with commissioning dedicated research that focuses on three priority pillars:

- 1. Identifying and developing a clear brand proposition for Western Sydney that can be used to drive marketing, visitor attraction and other promotional activity;
- 2. Understanding the gaps and opportunities among the existing mix of tourism assets - both public and private - in the region, and priorities for growth, as well as tourism infrastructure (ie: signage);
- 3. Reviewing 'bed' capacity in the region to identify the ideal mix of accommodation needed to service the forecast growth in tourism.

This foundational work will enable partnerships with airlines to offer direct international flights to and from Western Sydney International Airport, establishing it as a key entry point for global travellers.

Understanding the gaps and opportunities will help drive the development of local businesses, such as boutique accommodations, cultural tours, and eco-tourism ventures, to create jobs across skill levels for residents, including youth and Indigenous communities.

It will also ensure we leverage the region's rural and peri-urban areas to develop farm stays, food tours, and local produce markets, adding value to agricultural sectors and increasing visitor spending.

Under a clear brand, annual events that celebrate Western Sydney's multicultural heritage and Indigenous culture, will attract both domestic and international tourists while boosting the local economy.

ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY VITALITY AND RESILIENCE INITIATIVE



RECOMMENDATION

Establish a community vitality and resilience initiative to enhance and empower the communities of the Western Parkland City.

THE ISSUE

The Western Parkland City's rapid population growth and demographic shifts require substantial updates to infrastructure and services.

The region faces a mix of challenges including the need for new amenities for an aging population, and increased services for new residents like migrants and refugees. This is on top of the existing needs of young families who are seeking to build their lives in our community.

The region has World Heritage-listed bushland and areas rich in Aboriginal history. However, the community must provide the infrastructure visitors need and build resilience against environmental pressures such as extreme heat, floods and bushfires.

The Western Sydney Health Alliance identified ongoing support for the existing Liveability Program as key to attracting and retaining health workers to work and live in peri-urban areas.

The Western Parkland City Liveability Program has proven to be an effective mechanism to deliver vital community infrastructure, including:

- Parks/waterparks/playgrounds,
- Sports facilities,
- Libraries,
- Arts and cultural event spaces.

These projects have not only contributed to the liveability of Western Parkland City through improved public spaces, but they also created new jobs and acted to stimulate local economies.

An expanded community vitality initiative would enhance the quality of life, community cohesion and sustainability in the face of growth and environmental challenges.

⚠ THE SOLUTION

The Commonwealth Government should immediately commit to funding a community vitality and resilience initiative to support projects designed to sustain and enhance the quality of life across the Western Parkland City.

Existing initiatives such as the Thriving Suburbs Program have merit, however the Western Parkland City also needs a dedicated program that recognises the scale of growth and unique challenges of the region.





Liveability





Wellbeing

Sustainability

By funding a diverse array of projects, the community vitality and resilience initiative would provide essential infrastructure, programs and services for current and future residents. Additionally, it would support climate resilience and disaster recovery after events like severe flooding, affordable housing, tourism and job creation through the development of projects and programs that build healthy, vibrant, and sustainable communities.

This targeted investment would enable and empower the Western Parkland City to thrive as a diverse, resilient and more sustainable region.

RAPIDLY GROW HEALTH AND MEDICAL WORKFORCE TO **MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS**



RECOMMENDATION

Increase access to primary healthcare by establishing integrated hubs and rapidly growing the available health and medical workforce in Western Parkland City.

THE ISSUE

A study that tracks wellbeing as perceived by the people who live in Greater Western Sydney shows access to quality healthcare is residents' number one concern³ (June 2024).

Blue Mountains, Campbelltown, Hawkesbury, Penrith and Wollondilly have 3 or more of the top 5 long-term health conditions above the NSW prevalence.

According to Primary Health Networks, 20 practices across the Western Parkland City have closed since September 2022 and another handful are at risk of closing due to burnout, inability to recruit GPs to keep up with patient demand, and difficulty maintaining financial viability.

Many practices are reporting a transition from bulk-billing to mixed-billing to keep their doors open - forcing patients to turn to a hospital system already under stress.

Many internationally trained medical professionals face delays due to Australia's complex qualification recognition processes. Recent changes by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency have begun to reduce processing times by streamlining registration⁴. These adjustments have already resulted in a 27% increase in international registrations for doctors in Australia, which could be further leveraged in Western Sydney to address GP shortages.

THE SOLUTION

We need facilities that can cater for both current and future populations across The Parks' councils. Expediting the recognition of overseas qualifications and incentivising health and medical graduates to live and work in Western Sydney would greatly benefit a region characterised by rapid population growth, significant migrant and Aboriginal populations, and an expanding demand for high-quality healthcare services.

These changes would not only enhance the region's healthcare capacity and contribute to greater job stability and service availability, essential for supporting a diverse, expanding population - but also sustain investment in the next generation

of health infrastructure needed in the region.

Addressing the healthcare needs of the Western Parkland City involves faster, more accessible pathways for recognising overseas qualifications and targeted incentives for new health graduates to live and work in the region. It also requires a greater number of integrated hubs and a focus on preventative health programs.



Prosperity

Liveability

Wellbeing

³ GWS Community Wellbeing Survey June 2024, Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue https://westernsydney.org.au/articles-and-news/health-safety-cost-of-living-top-first-

⁴ Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, 10 September 2024 https://www. ahpra.gov.au/News/2024-09-10-media-release-Intl-Medical-workforce.asp



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