

**G N  
A S W**

# GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT NSW

**Australian Centre for Climate and Environmental Law**  
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**IF WE CARE  
FOR COUNTRY  
IT WILL CARE  
FOR US**

# Who we are

GA NSW is a small, multi-disciplinary team of qualified design professionals which supports the NSW Government.

GA NSW has a high-level of experience in government and industry and draws on a range of disciplines, including urban design, architecture, landscape architecture and planning.

Our focus is on the design quality of the built environment and the public domain. We play a key **strategic** and **advocacy** role providing **independent advice**.

# Our role

GANSW has three roles aimed at delivering good design outcomes:

**Champion:** Promote, educate and advocate for design awareness and excellence on behalf of Government, its agencies and partners.

**Connect:** Foster public and private sector partnerships, collaboration and design coordination across built environment initiatives.

**Advise:** Provide strategic and independent advice and quality review to support best practice and outcomes for design projects.

# How we operate

- Spatial, strategic and delivery frameworks for complex government led precincts
- Policy including design excellence processes
  - Design review panels and advice
  - Project formation and definition
- Best practice processes for procurement



**GOOD DESIGN IS  
GOVERNMENT  
POLICY**

# The NSW EP&A Act

The Act has been amended to include a new design object, elevating the role of design;

(f) to promote good design and amenity in the built environment

(g) to promote the sustainable management of built and cultural heritage (including Aboriginal cultural heritage)

(h) to promote proper construction and maintenance of buildings, including the protection of the health and safety of their occupants



# NSW Priorities

Health

Climate Resilience

Rapidly growing population

Changing lifestyles and demographics

Infrastructure and urban renewal

Biodiversity loss

Providing consistent and timely review  
of major projects

# BETTER



# PLACED

An integrated design policy for the built environment of New South Wales

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# GREENER



# PLACES

An urban green infrastructure policy for New South Wales

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Good design makes better places. Better Placed is a policy for our collective aspirations, needs and expectations in designing NSW. It is about enhancing all aspects of our urban environments, to create better places, spaces and buildings, and thereby better cities, towns and suburbs.

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**BETTER**

**PLACED**

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# The role of Better Placed

Better Placed focuses on people and how NSW communities live, work and enjoy the environment in which they live. From this premise, it sets a framework for defining and achieving better places for the people of NSW by:

**Advocating** for the importance of design for better places, spaces and outcomes.

**Supporting** industry and government to deliver good design.

**Enabling** effective design processes to be supported in the planning system.

The policy will:

**Raise awareness of what the NSW government means by good design in the built environment.**

**Provide clear, consistent, rigorous objectives to achieve good design throughout the development process.**

**Outline the value of design thinking and what is involved in supporting effective design process.**

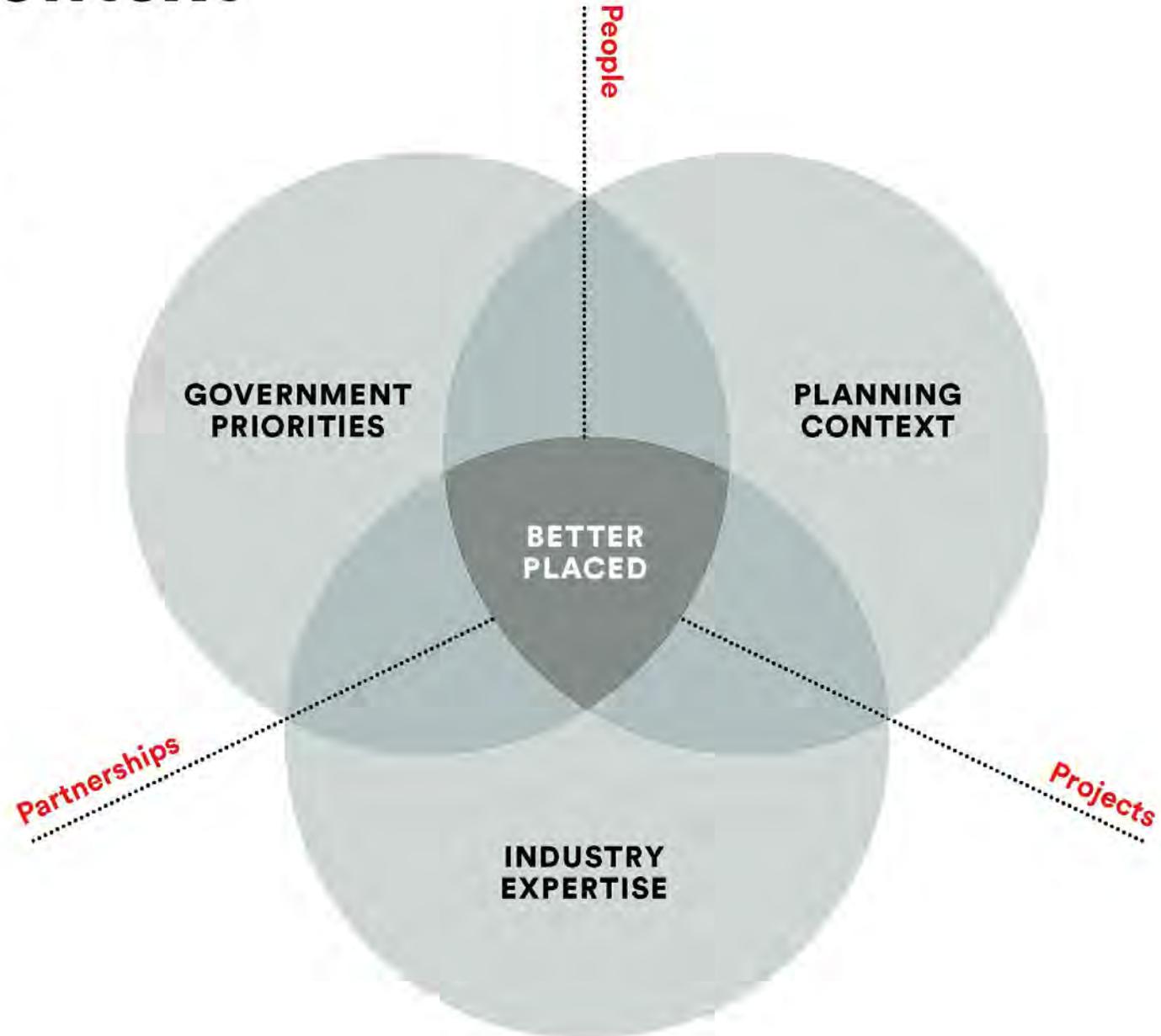
**Provide a framework for examining places and reviewing proposals from a good design perspective.**

**Establish key concepts of design and shared terminology for the built environment.**

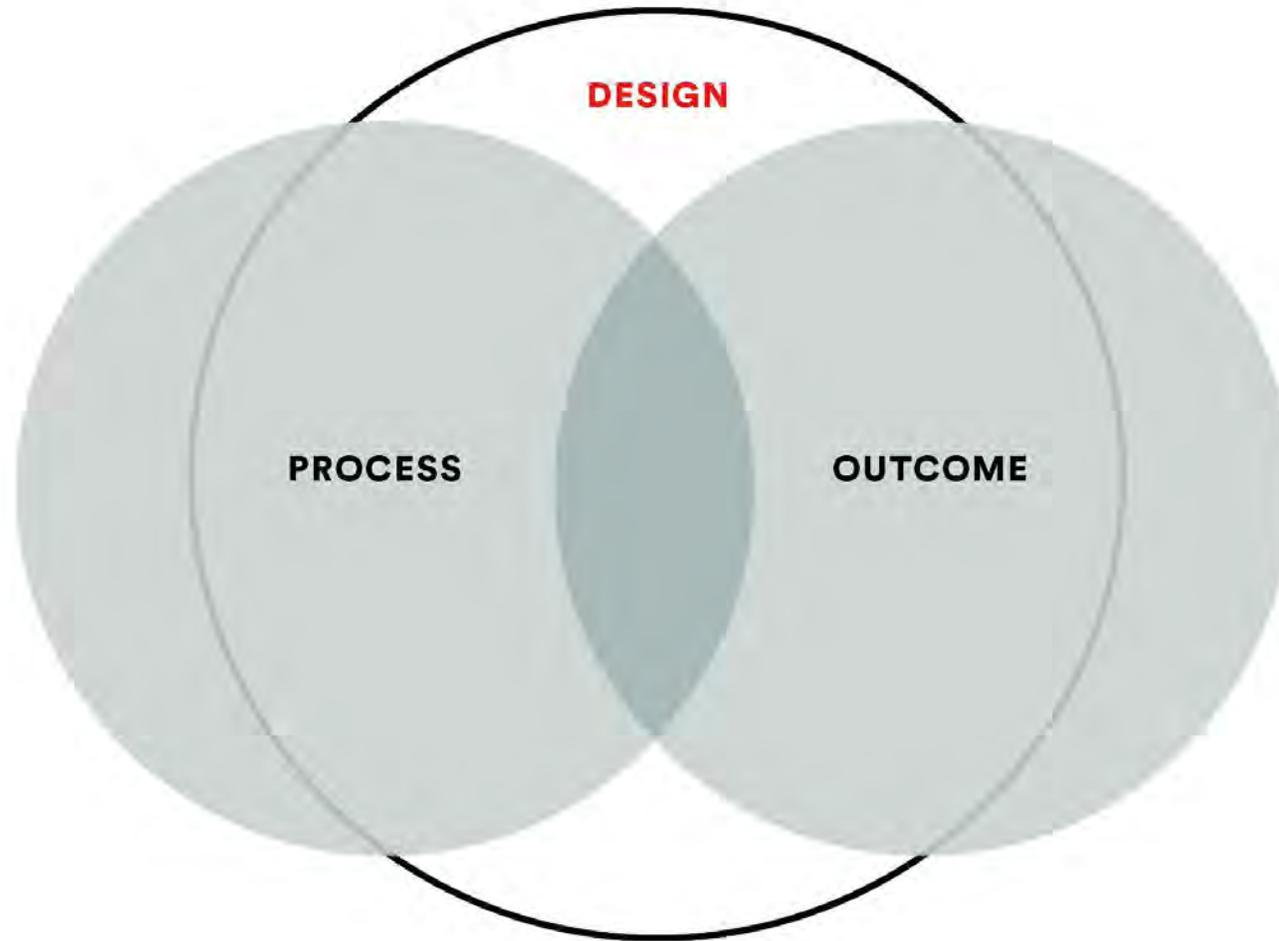
**Encourage a stronger design culture and active engagement in design.**

# Better Placed context

Better Placed sits at a nexus of State-wide priorities, the mechanisms of planning and the expertise of industry as a framework for our collective aspirations, needs and expectations for NSW.



# The role of design



# What is a well-designed built environment

HEALTHY

RESPONSIVE

INTEGRATED

EQUITABLE

RESILIENT

# Better Placed objectives for good design



OBJECTIVE 1.

## Better fit

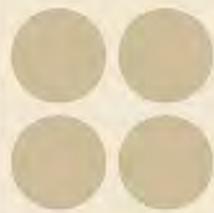
contextual,  
local and  
of its place



OBJECTIVE 2.

## Better performance

sustainable,  
adaptable  
and durable



OBJECTIVE 3.

## Better for community

inclusive,  
connected  
and diverse



OBJECTIVE 4.

## Better for people

safe,  
comfortable  
and liveable



OBJECTIVE 5.

## Better working

functional,  
efficient and  
fit for purpose



OBJECTIVE 6.

## Better value

creating and  
adding value



OBJECTIVE 7.

## Better look and feel

engaging,  
inviting and  
attractive

# GREENER



# PLACES

An urban green infrastructure  
policy for New South Wales

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## What is green infrastructure?

**It is the interconnected network of open spaces, natural systems and semi-natural systems including parks, rivers, street trees, bushland and private gardens that are strategically planned, designed and managed to support a good quality of life in an urban environment.**

# Elements of green infrastructure



1. Green roofs and walls



2. Private and semi private residential gardens



3. Squares and plazas



4. Streets



5. Parks and gardens



6. Greenways



7. Sports and recreational facilities



8. Natural green space



9. Agricultural and other productive land and farms



# NSW priorities

Greener Places advocates for Green Infrastructure to help respond to key challenges and directions for NSW including:



Health



Climate resilience



Rapidly growing population



Changing lifestyle and demographics



Infrastructure and urban renewal



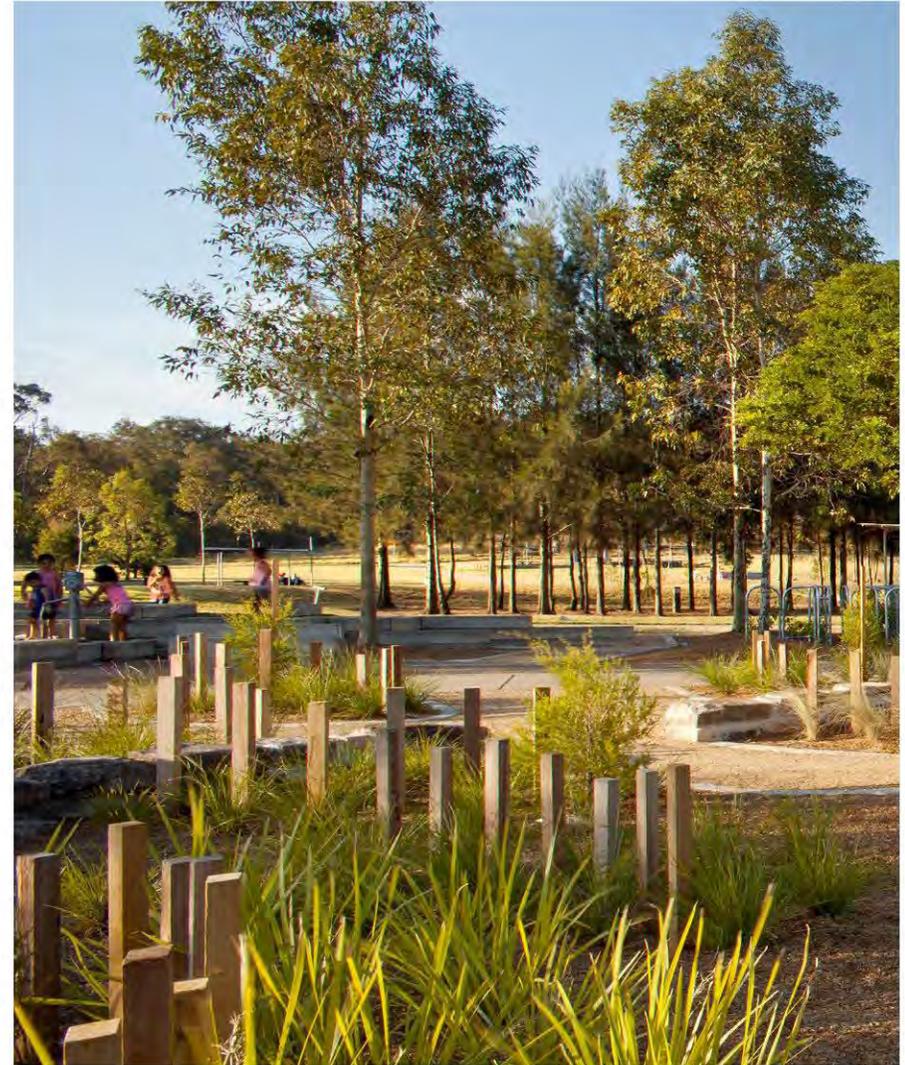
Biodiversity loss

# What this draft policy will do

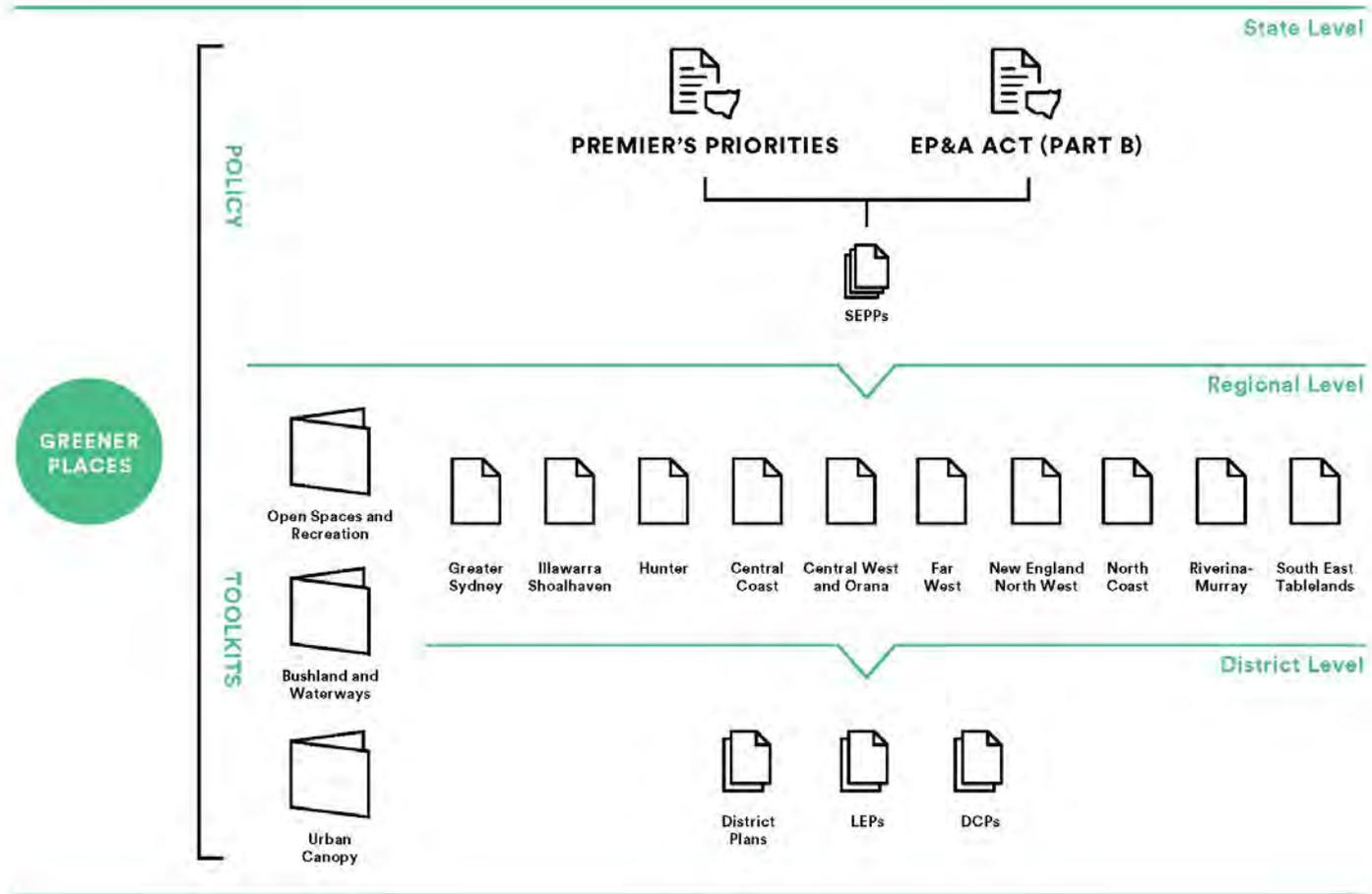
**Greener Places focuses on people and how NSW communities live, work and enjoy the environment in which they live.**

Greener Places draft policy will:

- Raise awareness of what the NSW Government means by Green Infrastructure and its importance
- Provide clear, consistent principles to achieve Green Infrastructure throughout the development process
- Provide a framework for examining places and reviewing proposals from a Green Infrastructure perspective
- Establish key concepts and shared terminology associated with Green Infrastructure
- Outline the value of Green Infrastructure and what is involved in supporting effective implementation processes.



# Where Greener Places fits



*Working draft for discussion*

MANUAL



# OPEN SPACE FOR RECREATION

Green Infrastructure for people

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*Working draft for discussion*

MANUAL



# BUSHLAND AND WATERWAYS

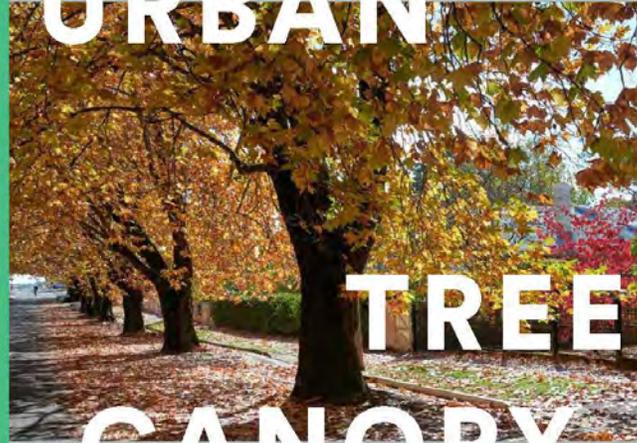
Creating good urban environments for people and nature

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*Working draft for discussion*

MANUAL



# URBAN TREE CANOPY

Green Infrastructure for climate adaptation and resilience

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# Who benefits from Green Infrastructure



# The benefits of Green Infrastructure



SECTION

TWO

# CREATING GREENER PLACES



# Principles of Green Infrastructure



## **Integration:**

combining green infrastructure with urban development and grey infrastructure



## **Connectivity:**

creating an interconnected network of open space



## **Multifunctionality:**

delivering multiple ecosystem services simultaneously



## **Participation:**

involving stakeholders in development and implementation

# Integration



Stormwater Harvesting - Rejoin Ponds and Wetlands



Green Links, Parks and Street Tree Planting



Public Transport Infrastructure



Public Spaces    Cycleways    Pedestrian

# Connectivity



The High Line, New York City by James Corner Field Operations, with Diller Scofidio + Renfro



The Goods Line, Ultimo by Aspect Studio



The 606, Chicago, by Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates



The West Toronto Rail Path, Toronto by Scott Torrance Landscape Architect Inc. with Brown+Storey Architects Inc.

# Case Study: Sydney's Green Grid

## QUICK FACTS

### PROJECT TYPE

Strategic planning project for Sydney

### LOCATION

Greater Sydney region, NSW

### PROJECT SCALE

Extra large

### SITE AREA

Approx. 12,000 square kilometres

### PROJECT TEAM

Government Architect NSW,  
NSW Planning and Environment,  
NSW Water Solutions GIS team

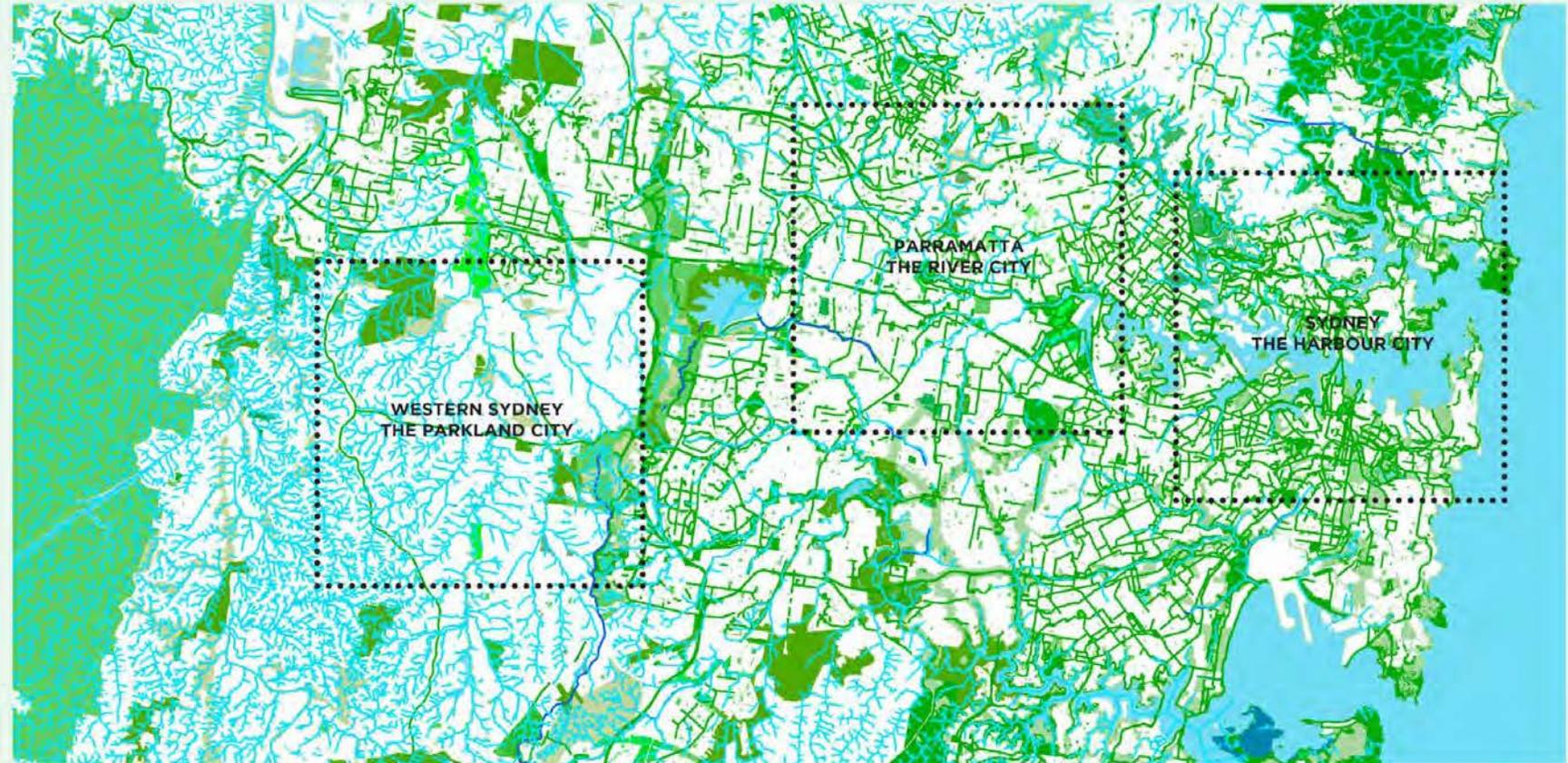
### YEAR COMPLETED

2014-ongoing

### AWARDS

2016 National Award for Research and  
Communication, Australian Institute  
of Landscape Architects (AILA)

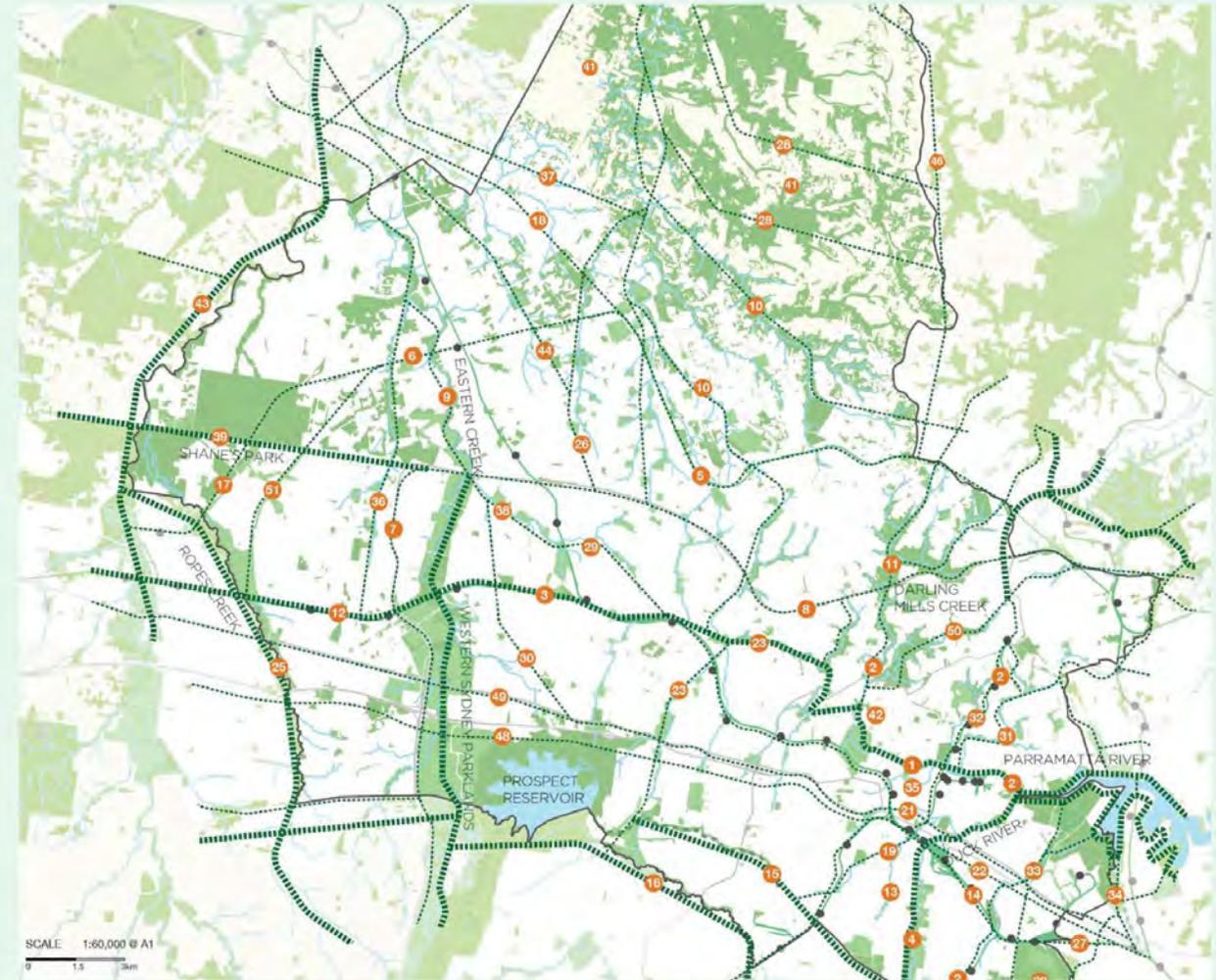
2014 NSW award for Planning,  
Australian Institute of Landscape  
Architects (AILA)



# Case Study: Sydney's Green Grid

## District – West Central Open Space Audit Report

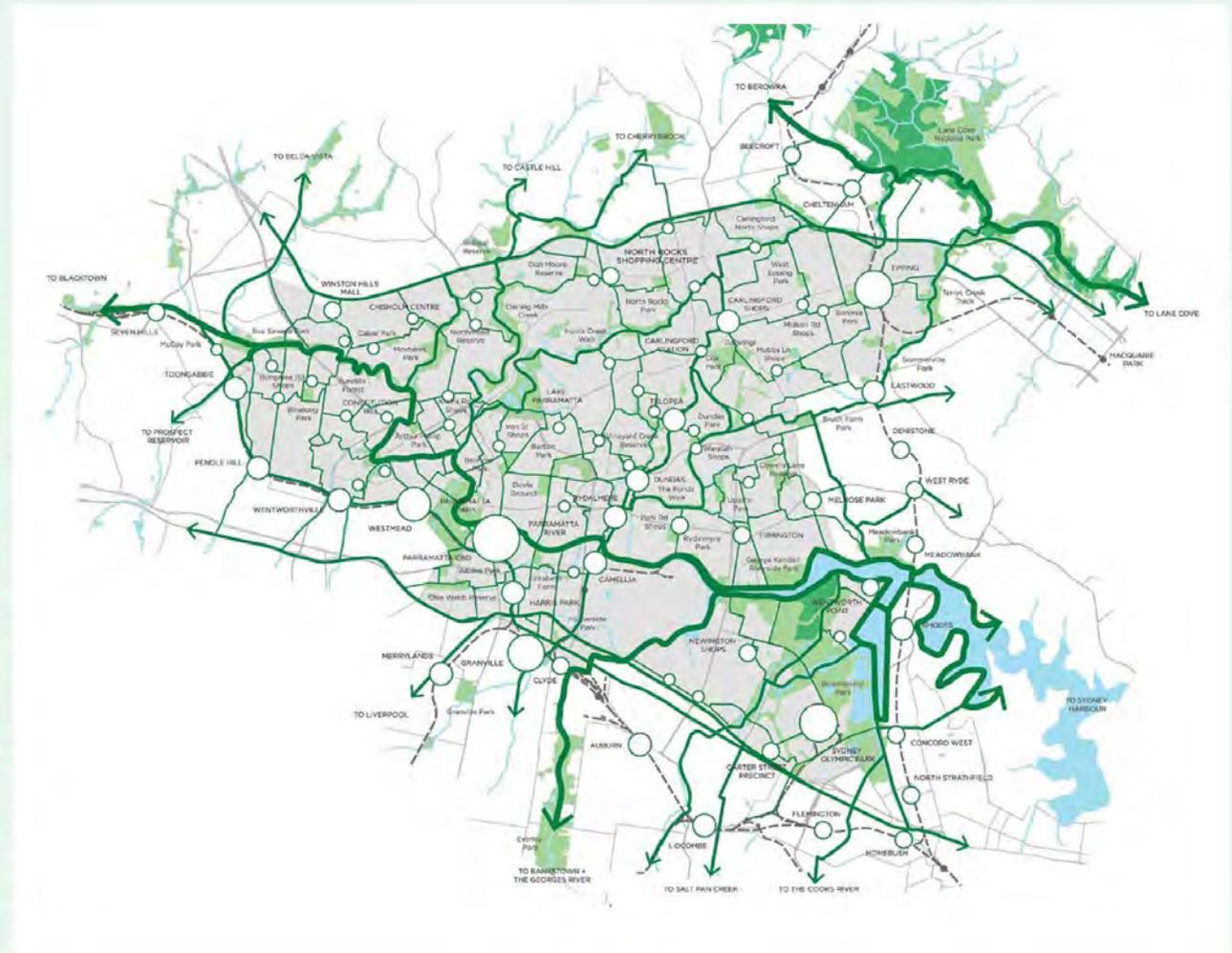
West Central Green Grid spatial audit map showing project opportunities in orange, as a result of the audit process.



# Case Study: Sydney's Green Grid

## Local Government Area (LGA) - Parramatta

Parramatta Ways route map highlighting major, intermediate and local route upgrades



# Case Study: Sydney's Green Grid

## Site Specific - Duck River

The montages show the proposed upgrades and improvements to Duck River, as a result of the master plan.



# Multifunctionality



Sydney Park Water Re-Use Project by Turf Design Studio & Environmental Partnership



Sydney Park Playground by JMD Design



Sydney Park Children's Bike Track by Turf Design Studio & Environmental Partnership



Water Falls, by Turpin + Crawford Studio

# Participation



Creating places for community gathering



Stakeholder workshops



Community facilities



Community consultation

SECTION

THREE

# IMPLEMENTING GREENER PLACES



## Implementation

- **Statutory measures**
- **Collaborative action**
- **Funding**
- **Monitoring and reporting**

## Monitoring and reporting

**Monitoring and reporting of policy outcomes is essential. Monitoring and reporting will be achieved through mandatory reporting on implementation of regional and district plans and LEPs, and through the Department's NSW Liveability Dashboard.**

## Outcomes

- **Conservation of the natural environment**
- **Increased access to open space**
- **Improved connectivity to promote active living**
- **Increase urban greening to ameliorate climate extremes**



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**Increased access to open space**







**Increase urban greening to create shade and comfort**

**[governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au](http://governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au)**