

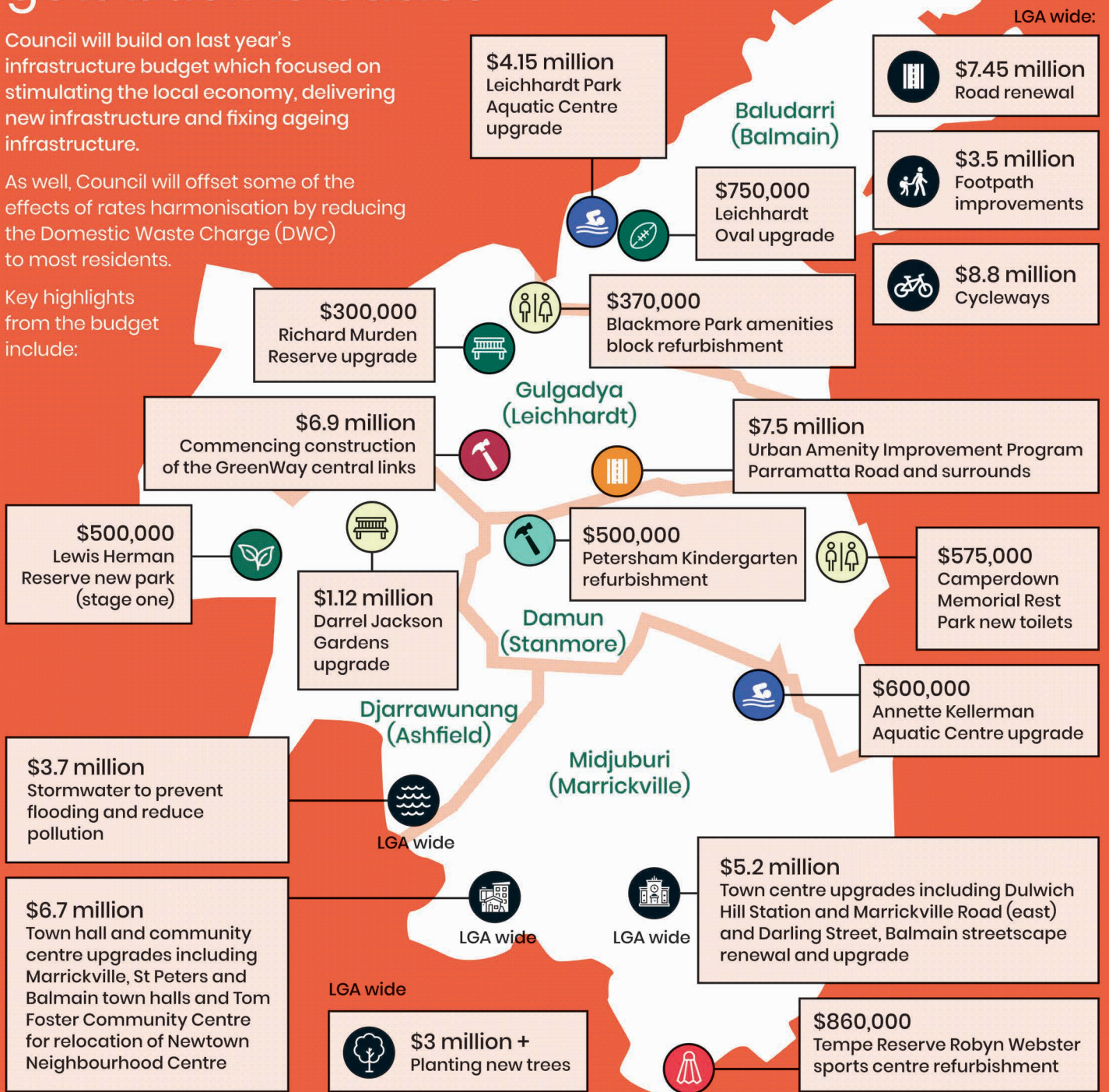
Rates Newsletter

Responsible Budget gets back to basics

Council will build on last year's infrastructure budget which focused on stimulating the local economy, delivering new infrastructure and fixing ageing infrastructure.

As well, Council will offset some of the effects of rates harmonisation by reducing the Domestic Waste Charge (DWC) to most residents.

Key highlights from the budget include:





Alex Trevallion Plaza

Council has spent \$1,250,000 upgrading Alex Trevallion Plaza, based on the Marrickville Town Centre Public Domain Master Plan. The final design was completed recently and includes:

New bluestone and granite paving	Relocating bins, meters, drainage pits and pipes	Upgrading lighting and providing decorative LED lighting
More seating	New landscaped garden beds with passive irrigation and replacing trees with native shade trees in the beds	Installing a totem and signs with historic information
Replacing the shelter		
New ramp access and dining platform adjacent to Post Office		

Council will spend \$5.2 million on major upgrades for town centres, including:

Dulwich Hill Station Centre upgrade

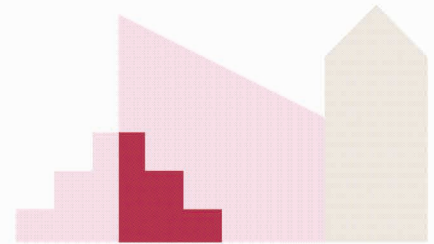
\$1.250 million to commence transforming the streets and public spaces around the station into a pedestrian oriented village

Marrickville Road (East)

\$1.720 million for traffic calming, improved pedestrian crossings and lighting and shade trees, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure such as seating, bicycle lanes and bike racks

Darling Street Balmain and Rozelle

\$1.330 million for streetscape renewal and upgrade



Where do your rates go?

For every \$100 collected, Council allocates:

Operations Roads, footpaths, parks and gardens maintenance, and fleet	\$30	Children and Family Services	\$4
Capital Works	\$28	Engineering Services	\$2
Library and Historical Services	\$9	Community Events	\$1
Community Services and Culture	\$6	Economic Development	\$1
Sports and Recreation	\$5	Resource Recovery	\$1
Planning	\$5	Traffic & Transport Planning	\$1
Environment and Sustainability	\$5	Regulatory Services	\$1
		Corporate Support Services	\$1



Council's new flexible clean up service

Council's new service is for large amounts of household items that cannot be re-used, donated or sold.

These clean-up collections can be booked when you need it, with these benefits:

- ▶ Online management of bookings
- ▶ Flexibility to book a service when needed
- ▶ Keeping our streets tidier

Bookings can be made quickly and easily through the waste booking

system, a new online platform that can be accessed via Council's website 24-7. Be sure to plan ahead and book the right category for collection.

A total of two cubic metres (2m x 1m x 1m) is allowed for each clean-up service collection.


For more information about the new booking service and how to be more sustainable, visit innerwest.nsw.gov.au/Cleanup



Council is in a sound financial position

Despite the impacts of COVID-19 Council is in a sound financial position. This year Council has identified further savings and reduced its budget deficit to \$4.395 million for the 2021-22 financial year. The deficit will reduce to \$500,000 in 2022-23 as we implement our Real Estate Property Investment Strategy. Purchasing commercial property will provide Council with an ongoing revenue stream to supplement the loss of \$4 million rent due to the acquisition of the Sydney Gateway by Transport for NSW.

Since the merger Council has identified more than \$18 million worth of efficiencies and harmonised services however there is more to do, and Council is committed to further budget repair. We will adopt a program of continuous improvement, measure our progress against the Australian Business Excellence Framework and benchmark our services against other organisations. Going forward we will review opportunities to increase fees and charges to improve cost recovery from users of the service, and reduce the subsidy paid by the general rate.

 This year we'll deliver our Reconciliation Action Plan and three critical strategies that have been years in the making: Cultural, Healthy Ageing and Gender Equity.

Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre upgrade

Council will spend \$4.15 million upgrading Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre.

Council will also spend \$600,000 upgrading Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre.



Council is prioritising building solar capacity, extending food organics recycling to all households in the Inner West, and spending record amounts on tree planting.



New and better parks

The Inner West has a new pocket park in Croydon, Bell Reserve (pictured).

Council spent \$580,000 turning the former home of Betty Bell into an inclusive community space that celebrates the site's history, has interactive nature areas for children to play and explore and also a rain garden that will naturally filter storm water.

This year Council will spend:

- ▶ \$575,000 on new toilets in Camperdown Memorial Rest Park
- ▶ \$370,000 on refurbishing Blackmore Park amenities block
- ▶ \$750,000 on upgrading Leichhardt Oval
- ▶ \$300,000 on upgrading Richard Murden Reserve
- ▶ \$1.12 million on Darrel Jackson Gardens upgrade
- ▶ \$500,000 on Lewis Herman Reserve new park (stage one)

Council will also refurbish Tempe Reserve Robyn Webster sports centre (\$860,000).

Satisfied community

Council's latest community survey has found that 92% of residents are satisfied with Inner West Council. Some of the survey highlights include:

SERVICE	SATISFACTION
 Library services	97%
 Local parks, playgrounds and sporting fields	93%
 Swimming pools and aquatic centres	93%
 Community centres and facilities	93%
 Garbage collections	92%
 Festival and events programs	90%
 Maintenance and cleaning of town centres	90%
 Appearance of your local area	90%



Marrickville Library has been nominated for the International Public Library of the Year Award 2021.

The five finalists competing against Marrickville Library come from Norway, Belgium, China, and Holland.

The nomination adds to the long list national architecture, design and heritage awards already won by Marrickville Library.

The winner will be announced on Thursday 19 August.

Faster Development Applications

Council has improved the median processing time for Development Applications to just 79 days – the quickest turnaround time since Inner West Council was established.

The faster DA times have been achieved through ongoing implementation of the NSW ePlanning program and Inner West's OneCouncil system.

These systems provide greater transparency and accountability of development and associated application assessments.

Council has also established an Internal Acceleration Panel which monitors the progress of applications and identifies applications that are eligible to be fast tracked.