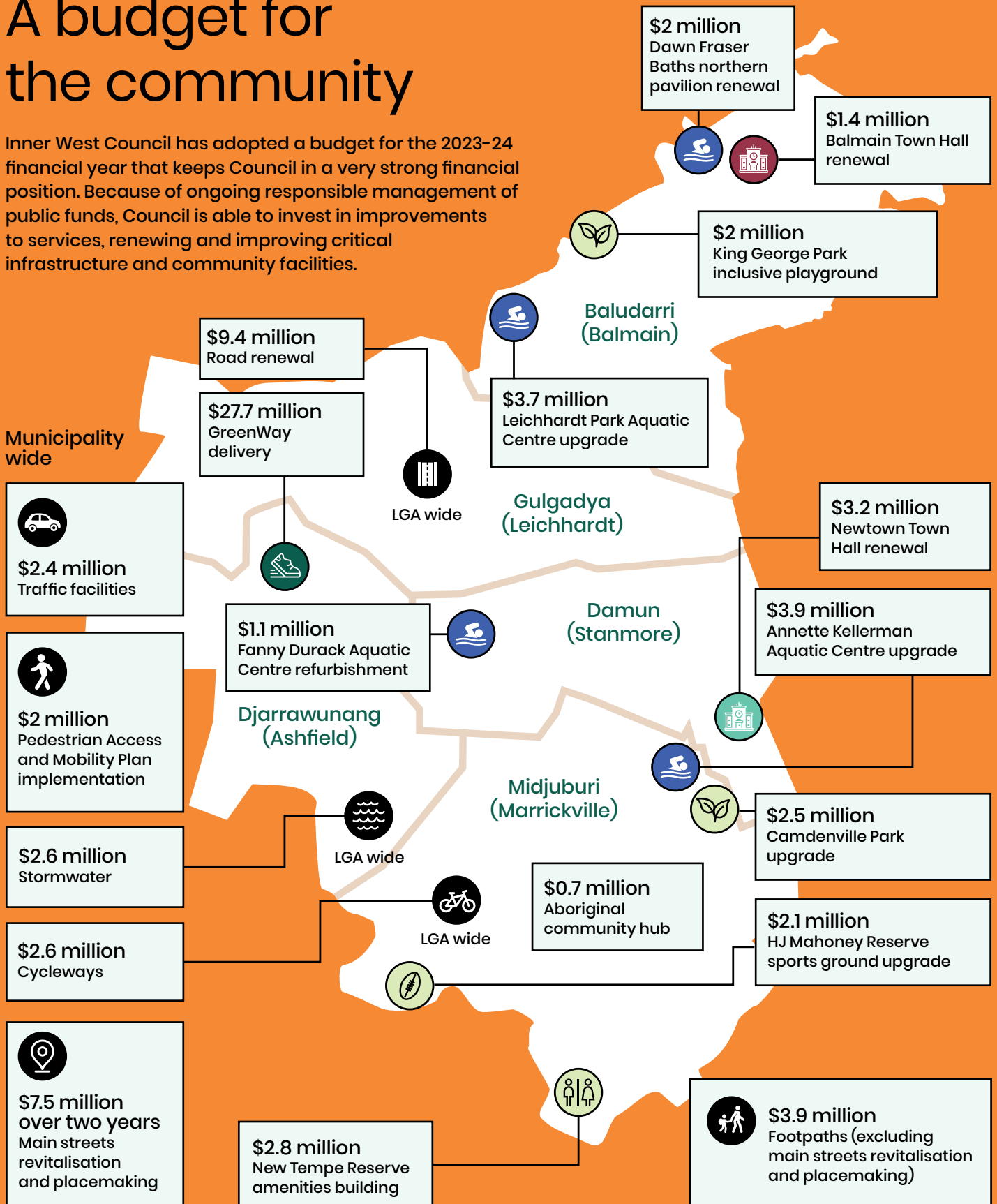


Budget update

A budget for the community

Inner West Council has adopted a budget for the 2023-24 financial year that keeps Council in a very strong financial position. Because of ongoing responsible management of public funds, Council is able to invest in improvements to services, renewing and improving critical infrastructure and community facilities.





Investing in the GreenWay

This year we are investing \$27 million to complete the missing links in the GreenWay. This will include new connections through Summer Hill and Lewisham to create one continuous corridor from the Cooks River to Iron Cove.

We are completing this active transport, biodiversity and public art corridor in stages and have already invested over \$4 million in improving the parks, pathways and recreation facilities at the northern and southern ends.

Construction of the missing links of the GreenWay is starting from August this year. The GreenWay is expected to be completed in 2025.

Budget highlights

Council has allocated \$98.4 million for capital works this year, with half being spent on creating new assets such as the Leichhardt Park Skate Park and Tempe Reserve and half on renewing existing assets. Some highlights to look out for include:



\$9.4 million
Road renewal projects



\$3.9 million
Footpath improvements



\$2.6 million
Stormwater works to reduce flooding and water pollution



\$2 million
Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan implementation



\$2.6 million
Cycleways



\$760,000
Improving customer service



Customer service priorities

Improving customer service is an ongoing focus for Council. We have successfully introduced the monthly Local Matters forums. These are a series of face-to-face meetings where ward councillors and the executive staff of Council attend to listen to your ideas and concerns about how your community can be improved.

Our fortnightly customer service stalls takes customer service to the community and we host

stalls in highly visible locations. In the coming year, we will continue to invest in improving our customer service.

This will include:

- ▶ More customer service staff going out into the community to assist you
- ▶ A new customer service strategy and charter that will see Council improve our responsiveness across the board

Food recycling is coming to every Inner West house

Following our successful delivery of a food recycling program to apartments throughout the Inner West, a full food organics and garden organics (FOGO) program is being rolled out to every Inner West house in October.

When we recycle our food waste, we are making a real contribution to reducing landfill and carbon emissions. Inner West Council is providing the new bins and processing for the whole community. Here's what you need to know:

- ▶ A comprehensive education program will lead up to the

launch in October

- ▶ Every apartment in the Inner West already has a burgundy-topped kitchen caddy
- ▶ In September, a green-topped kitchen caddy will be delivered to every house in the Inner West
- ▶ Weekly pick-up of green and burgundy bins will begin in October

Over time, eliminating organic material from what we take to landfill will also save ratepayers millions of dollars.



Henson Park upgrade

Council's vision for Henson Park to become the home ground of the Sydney Swans women's team as well as the home of the mighty Newtown Jets has been cemented in a 21-year partnership. The AFL, in conjunction with Inner West Council, Federal and State Governments and the Newtown Jets, are working together on expanding and upgrading the existing Henson Park King George V Memorial Grandstand and constructing a new multi-purpose building alongside it. The \$12.5 million spend will include:

- ▶ Upgrade of the grandstand to current accessibility standards
- ▶ Two new changing rooms that are female-friendly
- ▶ Protection of the historic and heritage qualities of the grandstand, in particular the concrete structure, lettering and arched openings
- ▶ Reconfiguration of back of house areas and service areas
- ▶ A new multipurpose building including the kiosk, media and coaches' facilities, new PA system, ventilation and lighting

Prudent financial management

Back in 2019 when the State Government compulsorily acquired Council-owned land in Tempe for the Sydney Gateway project, it created an annual \$3 million hole in Council's budget.

To mitigate against savage cuts to services and infrastructure, Council embarked upon a program of sustainable revenue generation. Council has purchased two commercial buildings in Liverpool and Wollongong which will deliver an annual combined income of \$4.5 million. This revenue allows Council to supplement its operating expenditure at no further cost to residents.





Big ideas

Council has designated a total fund of \$7.5 million for projects such as street furniture, art works, decorations and infrastructure in our main streets. These projects asks businesses and organisations to come together in partnership to suggest revitalisation ideas for their main street.

The ideas will include real plans to deliver results such as improved occupancy rates, greater foot traffic, events and local participation. While Council will deliver the improvements, the ideas, activation and community involvement will come from the partnerships. Council funding can be up to \$1.5 million but smaller amounts will be very welcome as well.

HJ Mahoney Reserve

The picturesque HJ Mahoney Reserve's sports ground along the Cooks River will be upgraded, including the amenities building with more accessible and inclusive facilities including much-needed provisions for women in sport. The field will be upgraded with new irrigation, drainage, regrading, turfing and improved sports lighting.



Investing in community and park facilities



\$3.2 million

The new LGBTIQ+ Pride Centre in Newtown Town Hall

\$2.5 million

Camdenville Park upgrade

\$1 million

Leichhardt Oval Field No. 2 new amenities block

\$3.9 million

Tempe Reserve field upgrade and new amenities block

Where do your rates go?

For every \$100 collected, Council allocates:

	Capital and major projects	\$26
	Resource recovery planning and operations	\$12
	Parks and streetscapes operations	\$10
	Children's services	\$9
	Sports and recreation	\$8
	Civil maintenance	\$6
	Libraries, history, community venues and centres	\$6
	Parking and ranger services	\$4
	Strategic planning and economic development	\$3

	Facilities management	\$3
	Events, living arts, community wellbeing, social and cultural planning	\$3
	Engineering services	\$2
	Development assessment	\$2
	Urban forest	\$2
	Urban ecology and sustainability	\$2
	Traffic and transport planning	\$1
	Building certification, environmental health, and building regulation	\$1

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