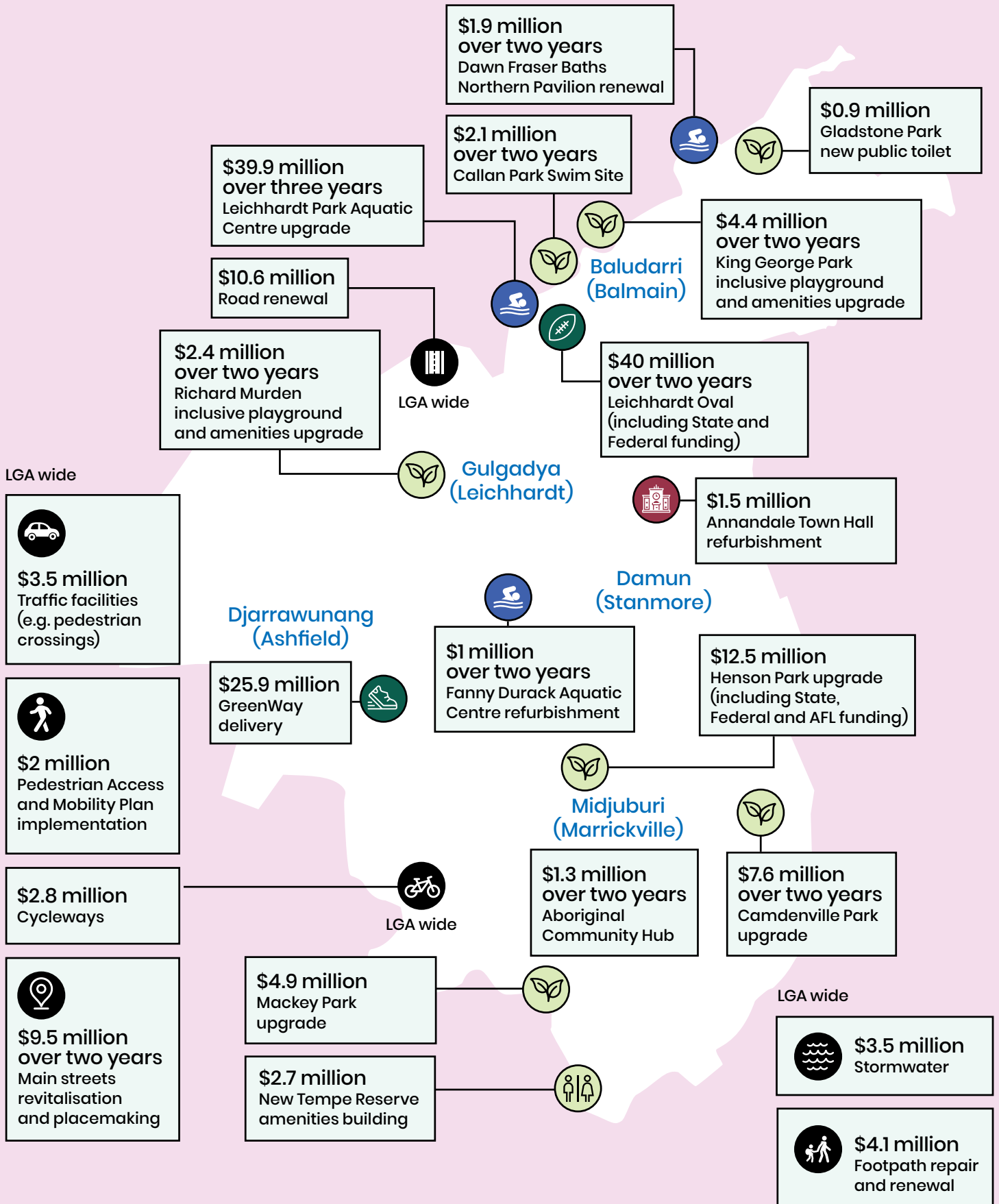


# Budget update





Our weekly customer service stalls are designed to make life easier

## Investing in customer service

- ▶ Held 21 Local Matters Forums in every suburb, where councillors and executive staff hear from residents and are available to solve problems and provide assistance.
- ▶ Established a mobile customer service team with weekly street stalls rotating across every suburb so residents can get stuff done conveniently.
- ▶ Funded 8 additional customer service staff and reduced call waiting times to an average of 21 seconds.

## Budget highlights

Council has allocated \$125.1 million for capital works this year. Investment includes new assets such as \$25.9 million on the GreenWay and exciting projects such as the renewal of Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre. Some highlights to look out for include:



**\$10.6 million**  
Road renewal projects



**\$4.1 million**  
Footpath improvements



**\$3.6 million**  
Stormwater works to reduce flooding and water pollution



**\$2 million**  
Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan implementation



**\$2.8 million**  
Cycleways



**\$730,000**  
Improving customer service



Visualisation of the GreenWay section at Hercules Parklands

## Delivering the GreenWay

The GreenWay is one of the Inner West's most significant investments in public spaces.

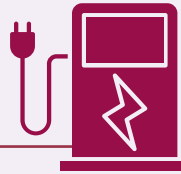
This \$59.9 million project will deliver a once-in-a-generation biodiversity and active transport corridor. Following the light rail line, the GreenWay will create a continuous link from the Cooks River in Earlwood all the way to the Bay Run at Iron Cove. This year, Council has been working

to connect up the "missing links" with works on the Constitution Road tunnel, Hercules Parklands and Longport Street tunnel.

With work complete in 2025 on connecting these missing links of the GreenWay, features will include bike paths, foreshore walks, cultural and historical sites, cafés, bushcare sites and a range of parks, playgrounds, public art and sporting facilities.

## Delivering strong sustainability initiatives

- ▶ Secured NSW Government grant funding to install **136 electric vehicle charging stations** throughout the Inner West over the next year. This will be the biggest expansion of electric vehicle infrastructure anywhere in Australia.
- ▶ The only council in Australia to become **100% powered by renewable energy** and **100% divested** from fossil fuels.
- ▶ In the first 8 months of the new **food recycling** service diverted 6,000 tonnes of food waste from landfill, reducing our community's carbon emissions by an extraordinary 12,600 tonnes.
- ▶ Funded the planting of **1,000 trees** each year, the biggest ever investment in increasing our tree canopy.



## Strong financial management delivers results

When the Inner West won the Bluett Award for Best Performing Council in NSW for 2024, the judges cited our strong financial performance as a reason for the award.

Since the Inner West Council was formed in 2016, we have kept rates as low as possible with no increases above government indexation.

We have a very small deficit for the upcoming financial year followed by increasing surpluses in the following three years.

By paying close attention to the management and renewal of community infrastructure and facilities, we are managing our community's funds very effectively.

This is enabling us to invest in improved roads, footpaths, libraries, parks, and pools.

Careful and professional financial management will continue to be the cornerstone of making sure Inner West Council is working for you.

If you would like to track our progress on delivering our budget throughout the year please scan the QR code.



The \$40 million funding of Leichhardt Oval preserves its history and ensures its future

## \$40 million upgrade for Leichhardt Oval

Leichhardt Oval has been saved! Thanks to a joint funding arrangement between the Federal Government (\$20 million), Inner West Council (\$10 million) and the NSW Government (\$10 million), the eighth wonder of the world will be getting a much-needed renovation. As one of Sydney's most beloved local sports grounds, this funding is the answer to the community's prayers. The upgrade will see the mighty Tigers continue

to play at Leichhardt and the hallowed ground become a hub for women's sport with Sydney FC's Championship women's team moving in.

The renovation will include:

- ▶ An increase of 3,000 in seating capacity
- ▶ A new northern grandstand
- ▶ 4 new female-friendly change rooms

## Investing in community and park facilities



**\$10 million**  
Leichhardt Oval  
(over two years)

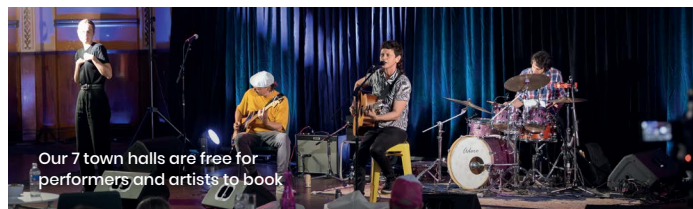
**\$4.9 million**  
Mackey Park  
upgrade

**\$2.4 million**  
Richard Murden  
inclusive  
playground  
(over two years)

**\$1.5 million**  
Annandale Town  
Hall refurbishment

## Creative town halls

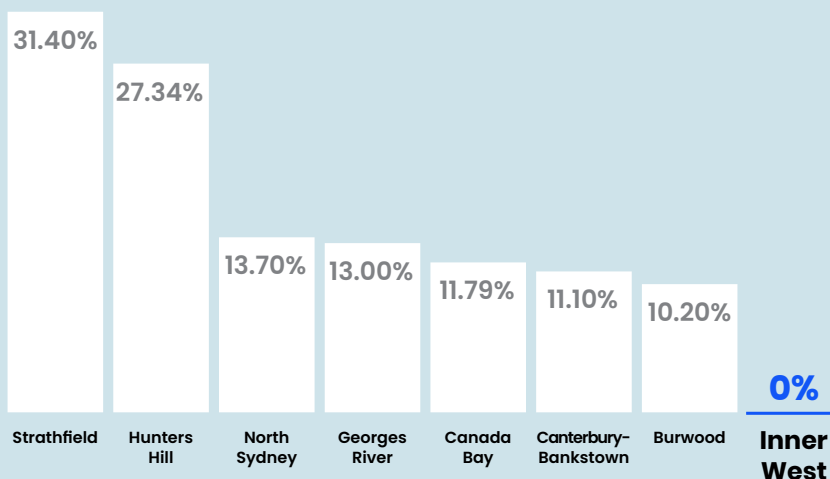
All 7 of the Inner West's town halls have now been converted to arts and cultural venues available free of charge as spaces for live performance, rehearsal and exhibition. The town halls have been customised for use by artists with an \$800k investment in sound systems, audio-visual equipment, performance and recording studios to be used across all the venues. Council has also created a concierge service to assist artists and organisations to identify the best venue for them and to curate the best use of these amazing spaces. This investment supports our creative community.



Our 7 town halls are free for performers and artists to book

## We're keeping your rates as low as possible

Rate rises above indexation from 2016/17 - 2023/24



## How we spend your rates and other income

Every \$100 collected will be distributed as follows across a range of services

Capital and major projects	\$30	Events, living arts, community wellbeing, social and cultural planning	\$3
Resource recovery planning and operations	\$12	Facilities management	\$2
Parks and streetscapes operations	\$9	Engineering services	\$2
Children's services	\$8	Development assessment	\$2
Sports and recreation	\$7	Building certification, environmental health, and building regulation	\$2
Civil maintenance	\$7	Urban ecology and sustainability	\$2
Libraries, history, community venues and centres	\$5	Urban forest	\$1
Parking and ranger services	\$4	Traffic and transport planning	\$1
Strategic planning and economic development	\$3		

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