



Urban  
Growth  
NSW

# School Workshop

Alexandria Park Community School

Urban Transformation and Transport Program

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The Central to Eveleigh team is developing a draft urban transformation strategy that will outline how a vision for the Central to Eveleigh area can be progressively achieved over the short, medium and long term. The project includes government owned land in and around a 3km stretch of rail corridor from Central to Redfern and Macdonaldtown stations, as well as Redfern and Waterloo public housing estates.

On 6 August 2015 UrbanGrowth NSW held an interactive two hour workshop for 56 students (in years 8-12) at Alexandria Park Community School (APCS). APCS is a comprehensive K-12 school located in the heart of the Central to Eveleigh Study Area. It is located near Australian Technology Park and a short walk from Redfern Station.

The workshop was designed to give younger people an opportunity to provide feedback on the urban transformation strategy being developed for the area.

Key ideas and themes emerging from students' feedback included the need for:

- free wifi
- renewable energy and energy efficient buildings
- more affordable accessible housing
- improved, cheaper transport connections and services
- more recycling and environmental awareness
- more green spaces and green walls/roofs
- jobs for the future in the local area that provide flexibility for young people and enable work-life balance
- more community facilities and entertainment events, including cheap/free events and places for young people
- recognition of Aboriginal culture
- more indoor and outdoor sport and recreation facilities and entertainment events
- more welcoming area for people from all cultural backgrounds.

This summary report provides an outline of the workshop proceedings and outcomes.

### Background to school student 'key moves' workshop

Young people can benefit significantly from opportunities delivered through transformation of our city and are an important group in the engagement process being undertaken by the Central to Eveleigh project team to inform the development of the urban transformation strategy.

### Next steps

Our aim is to keep working with young people in the development of the urban transformation strategy for the Central to Eveleigh corridor.

*"Given the transformation will be a 20 to 30 year project, we want to make sure that we hear from young people in the area who, after all, will be the long term beneficiaries, so we were delighted to talk to Alexandria Park students."*

*- Troy Daly, Program Director*

In addition to the workshop, UrbanGrowth NSW is working closely with the school to develop a unit of learning linked to the Year 10 Geography syllabus. This involves members of the project team meeting with students and also accompanying them on site visits.

### **Presentation: The project overview -**

David Apostolidis from UrbanGrowth NSW gave a short presentation to provide context for the workshop activities:

- who is UrbanGrowth NSW
- what they're tasked with doing
- where is Central to Eveleigh
- why Central to Eveleigh

UrbanGrowth NSW is the NSW Government's urban transformation agency. Our ambition is to 'transform city living' by delivering transformation programs that support more vibrant, connected, resilient and globally competitive urban areas for the benefit of all who live and work in them.

David went on to explain the vision and 10 key moves that underpin the success of the Central to Eveleigh program within the areas of LIVING, COMMUNITY, WORKING and ENVIRONMENT.

10 key moves:

1. Renew Redfern Station
2. Create a Green Network
3. Create crossings of the corridor
4. Connect the city with surrounds
5. Created centres of activity around stations
6. Create a centre of Sydney's growing economies
7. Promote live-work environments
8. Strengthen arts, culture and heritage
9. Integrate new tall buildings with surrounds
10. Housing diversity



### **Activity: Open Space**

School students worked in groups to consider how to plan a city that works for young people, not just adults, families and workers.

The key issues identified by student as being important to the future of the area are below:

#### **Technology**

- NBN and free wi-fi in public areas and on transport
- Renewable energy (e.g. hi tech solar panels, windmills) and sustainable buildings
- Mobile phone charging stations
- Money tree



## **Housing**

- Cheap housing - increased supply of affordable housing
- Easy access housing close to transport and shops
- Higher buildings

## **Environment**

- More recycling and schemes to encourage recycling
- More environmental awareness
- More energy efficient buildings and renewable energy (e.g. solar/wind)
- Use more renewable resources – less pollution
- Reuse water
- Environmentally and economically sustainable urban management

## **Clean streets**

- Clean streets
- More cleaners and rubbish bins
- Automation of rubbish collection (e.g. robot from Wall-E)
- Cleaner street frontages and shop windows for window shopping
- Encourage people to put rubbish in bins

## **Green space**

- More green vegetation on rooftops and walls
- More places to rest/eat lunch/chill out
- More water in green spaces
- Animal/dog friendly open space
- Green spaces make the area feel and look better
- Creative floral design for buildings

## **Employment and Jobs**

- Redfern to be a small business hub
- More flexible workspaces that are convenient and fun places to work
- More local jobs and employment opportunities for young people with flexible hours
- More workspaces that are convenient to access, including opportunities to work from home
- Better work life balance
- Raise the minimum wage – pay more
- More training opportunities for low skilled workers
- More tech savvy jobs
- More mixed environment jobs with opportunity to work both indoor/outdoor

## **Community**

- Safe, comfortable, relaxed and comfortable areas for everyone to use
- Cheap or free entertainment options (e.g. parks or free movie nights)
- More accessible sporting facilities

- Places for drawing
- More after school events
- More cafes and restaurants
- A wider variety of multicultural food offerings
- More conventions, festivals, markets and multicultural community events to bring community together (e.g. Vivid)
- More shops, shopping centres and overseas brands (e.g. more H&M), a larger variety of shops (e.g. not just chain stores) and locally made stuff (e.g. know the suppliers)
- Community centres
- Upgrade and modernise schools
- Ensure schools and hospitals support community need
- More support groups for young people

### **Heritage**

- Story walls to learn about Aboriginal culture

### **Transport**

- More roads and bridges over rail corridor
- Hoverboards and flying cars
- Food options at transport stations/on transport services
- Shops near train stations, including Redfern Station
- Encourage more walking and cycling – bike storage, rental bikes and bike tracks
- More reliable transport services
- Less complicated transport system
- Light rail/trams
- Glow in the dark walkways
- Cheaper transport tickets
- More weekend and night services
- More services and stations to Eastern Suburbs
- More energy efficient transport services
- Make trains and buses colourful
- Less crowded, more frequent transport services
- Provide incentives or things that attract people to use transport services (e.g. air conditioning, wi-fi)
- Real time bus timetable information (e.g. SMS) and timers for next bus (e.g. like Transport in Perth) and announcements for next stop
- More ticket selling machines/windows

### **Food**

- Promote fresh and healthy food
- Grow local food using technology e.g. aquaponics
- Ensure easier access to food e.g. Coles/Woolworths delivery
- Cheaper food or free food
- Multi-cultural food (e.g. more halal food)
- More McDonalds
- Food gardens for restaurants

## **Sport and recreation**

- More facilities - tennis courts, swimming pools, skate parks, basketball courts, fun gyms
- More indoor facilities for outdoor sports
- More sporting grounds
- A library for young people to study
- Movies and theatres
- More amusement parks e.g. Harry Potter World, Krustyland, Jurassic World, Legoland, waterpark, safari park, sky zone
- More nightlife (e.g. light tours, markets and events)
- Unknown sectors to explore

## **Engaging young people**

- Be at festivals – stuff to interact with music – rap competition
- Social media to promote and get people to know about – events on FB /Instagram
- Flow-on events – get interest first and then encourage feedback
- Hold more workshops on weekends or during holidays
- Get famous person to be a spokesperson e.g. football player
- Phone app – game to build a city
- Get out there more – build project profile
- Aesthetics as well as utility incorporating the youth on the design – online platform
- Create a challenges e.g. ALS (ice bucket challenge) - can raise money and awareness needs to be fun
- Plan ideal city and hold competition
- Get kids involved rather than talk at them
- Use computer model for building/ planning city
- More school workshops – connect/network through schools/ student reference groups.

## **Safety**

- More lighting to make areas safer, more light so the area is more visual for people to see surroundings, use recycled energy for lighting
- Police
- Safer pathways and public areas
- Safe from terrorism

## **Multiculturalism**

- Ensure area is welcoming for all cultures
- Enforce anti-discrimination legislation
- More community events to bring people together e.g. festivals, foreign movies
- More religious centres
- Share culture and knowledge sharing, teach young people about cultures
- Support diverse clothing.

**Activity: Newspaper article headlines**

Students were asked to reflect on city areas they are familiar with, are fun to visit and to think about planning issues that need to be considered to ensure cities are great places for young people. The students then reported their headlines back to the group.



### NEWS FLASH

Cheap housing  
free NBN wi-fi – every where  
delivery drones via Aus post  
Incentivise recycling/ Waste disposal  
Signs in various languages to assist foreigners

### DAILY TRIBUNE

Amusements  
More festivals

### THE GLOBE

Looking forward to welcoming multiculturalism  
Diverse restaurant cuisines in your community  
Redfern turns into small business's harbor  
Encouraging Australian investments from all over  
The support groups behind Redfern people today  
Your region... Catering to people from all over  
Government grants 5 mill to small businesses Go to a club near your area  
Shades of green covers city summer rooftops  
Redfern station, the heart of Sydneys culture Touch the sky!... Public rooftops upgrade Complete Solar panels and windmills installed on roofs Access granted for rooftop sport activities  
Aquaponics – A new form of backyard gardening  
City lights up with new extended city hours  
Food gardens – The backbone of restaurant dining  
Redfern Station – Form platforms to shopping centres  
The rise of concrete jungles ..... literally  
More accessible than ever! New footpaths and trails open  
Keeping the neighborhood safe: The 24hr city watch  
Revolutionising office jobs... new places open for interaction

### THE NEWS

Safe, comfortable and relaxed area that is easily accessible (e.g. near a train station) for everyone  
Cheap entertainment (e.g. parks) or free  
Transport

### SYDNEY DAILY MAIL

Easy to get to  
Interactive and fun – instead of stairs have slides  
Free wi-fi  
Attractive  
Markets  
Very safe technology with anti virus for computers to prevent hacking

### THE NEWS AND NOTHING BUT THE NEWS

Digital and interactive  
Interactive panels on the streets to easily access shops  
Technical help for tourists  
Vending machines for eg umbrella's  
More power sockets in the city (solar paneled)  
More bike renting stores  
Recycling bottles in exchange for transport tickets  
Plastic bottles in exchange for money (like SA and WA)

### DAILY TRIBUNE

Community events turning multicultural  
Cultural music and concerts  
Cultural food festivals  
Explore different languages  
Easy to get to  
Experience new and different types of food  
Diverse clothing stores  
Showcase of foreign movies  
Celebrating other significant cultural events e.g. Chinese full moon festival  
Enforce laws that do not tolerate racism  
Workshops that teach people about other cultures

### NEWS FLASH

Special events  
Many conventions for people with similar interests as you e.g. supa nova/comic club (for people interested in pop culture)  
What makes events/ convention work is to make it more organised

### MORNING SUN

More reliable transport  
Charging stations – in shopping centres  
Rooftop Parks  
More smoke free zones

### EVENING POST

Faster trains  
Stations in the Eastern Suburbs  
Charging stations on trains  
Increased frequency and on time  
Comfortable seats

### **MERCURIAL ADVERTISER**

Darling Harbour  
Shops/ parks /performers / movies / open space / attractions / events / hold multicultural events/ festivals  
Environmentally friendly buildings and energy efficient  
Should be more accessible: more transport: to and from Darling Harbour buses and trains light rail Community centres should be open longer  
More trees and park benches for people to use: creates a friendly environment for people to use

### **THE STAR**

Festivals (Music)  
Circus  
Carnivals (Rides)  
Cafes (Erskineville, Redfern)  
Outdoor Cinema  
Shopping Centre (Easy, convenient)  
A MUST: Charging shacks (phone charging everywhere)  
Umbrella vending machines (all stations)

### **EVENING HERALD**

Cinema  
VIVID – Brings people together  
Botanical Gardens – scenery , atmosphere, tours  
Playground in Darling Harbour – phone charging – fast free  
WIFI – water park  
4D cinema on Centrepoint Tower – exciting and engaging the senses  
Harbour Bridge climbing  
New Years Fireworks  
Luna Park - Easter Show  
Galaxy World  
Capital Square  
Secret rooms

### **DAILY MIRROR**

More culture – based streets eg China Town – different types of food – Country Specialties  
Arcades  
Branded Shops  
Theme Parks  
Cafes for young people  
Green environment: lots of nature (flowers)  
Wi-fi (free)  
Concept cafes eg vintage, cats and movie themed  
Visually appealing drinks and food  
Cheap and affordable  
A place like Times Square: shops, food, entertainment and seating

### **TRIBUNE**

Food, gaming, story on walls, learning about biology, learning about aboriginal and cultures, learning about architecture, solar sustainable buildings

### **THE CHRONICLE**

Student discounts  
City – Entertainment – pool – karaoke – fun café – ice drink – hotel – walking scenery – arcade – restaurants – cinema – bowling – clubbing – cat café – thrift shopping – theatre for musicals – shopping centres – small cruise – Sydney Festival, Vivid concerts, animals  
Secret room – cheaper and bigger  
More library spaces  
More toilets/ restrooms  
More food markets – like Friday market  
Easy access transport  
WIFI  
More H&M

### **THE PLANET- WHAT GOES AROUND**

We get to fly out of space  
The growth of the shopping centres – Westfield  
Shopping  
Cinemas  
Restaurants  
Hang out place  
Some places have ice rink  
Markets  
Renovation  
Environmentally  
Roof top cafes  
Public musical instrument  
Coupon books

### **THE CHRONICLE – WE NEVER MISS A STORY**

Fun places we enjoy  
Bowling alleys  
Cafes  
Shopping  
Movies  
Laser skirmish  
Internet café  
Air con  
Free wi-fi  
Seating  
Good infrastructure  
Improved access  
Amusement parks

### **THE PLANET – WHAT GOES AROUND**

Skate Park in schools  
Free wi-fi everywhere  
30 years flying cars

### **THE STAR**

Food will change and should get better  
There will be more entertainment  
Improved technology (in the CBD )  
More space , more parks, more freedom , free wi-fi, in person communication, art, music, interesting monuments, play grounds  
Easy transport to the CBD – trains, trams, cycle lanes, busses

### **REDFERN MERCURY**

Light up our pathways, glow in the dark streets  
Bus timer in motion  
What we like about Darling Harbour:  
Playgrounds – water fountains – sea view – food stores everywhere – festival area – mall – entertainment – bridge – Chinese gardens – IMAX – walking, no cars – stepping stones – branded stores – mac forever 21 – open space  
Alexandria Park Post  
Dubstep gym  
Solar, hydro, wind farms

### **AFTERNOON HERALD**

Bankstown Improvement - A decade ago the area around Bankstown has been considered as an unsafe and poorly built place. The Bankstown trains were old and not as advanced as the other trains. In present time people had come together to improve the environment and lifestyle around this suburb.  
For example:  
The quality of the trains has been improved such as the aesthetic component, the mechanical component and the comfort  
Improved housing  
More parks so people could be more active outdoors  
Free wi-fi

### **CENTRAL NEWS**

More often open markets ( food markets -halal, vegan and clothing)  
Larger variety and unique products and food  
More affordable prices  
Overseas brands

### **REDFERN MERCURY**

IMAX: enhanced technology/ entertainment  
Free wi-fi in cafés  
City Streets: music, atmosphere, nightlife in the Town Hall, playgrounds – A lot of people sit around playgrounds creating a safe atmosphere.  
Hyde Park – Scenery, music , busy streets, entertainment – more stuff to do on the streets

### **EVENING HERALD**

Rap Festival- C2E wins Aria award  
Young people living in Redfern and Waterloo write award winning song through a rap competition promoted by UrbanGrowth NSW using social media that culminated in a music showdown where young voices battled it out to express how the area needs to grow and change to meet the needs of the younger generations

### **DAILY MIRROR**

Starbucks- Drinks – Maccas – Subway – fast food restaurants  
We have fun at the park, it is easy to access, fun to hang out and it never gets boring  
Movies - because they are entertaining. New subjects to talk about to friends, common interests, discussions and disagreements or arguments  
Pool is a great place to hang, especially in summer so we can cool down  
Space for young people to play sports  
Basketball courts are fun as well because we can play sport with friends as well as work out or train  
Events, to sit and chill  
Play around and have activities  
Mini gym areas (working out areas) across the park is fun and also helps us workout or exercise with friends or to train  
Karaoke to sing and have fun with friends and family  
Shopping (Haymarket/ World Square/ Westfield) to look at sales or just go to buy food/ clothing the usual  
Music concerts  
Beach  
Youth clubs  
Sing choirs  
Fitness groups for young people after school  
Dance clubs – coaching places (tutoring)

### **WATERLOO DAILY**

A Bright and Creative Future  
There are bright paths, many efficient facilities everywhere. Attractions such as statues, fountains, public art and youth groups bring people, especially the younger generation together. Even children know how to access and get around. You don't have to walk far to get to restaurants or shops. Roads are narrow and slow allowing pedestrians to walk anywhere safely and efficiently. More roads and bridges means more convenience, encouraging walking and cycling. Attractions and creative paths should be bright and pretty so that people would want to come close, not in a car but on foot. Attractions such as glowing walkways bring people and families together into a warm and welcoming environment. It should also have many trees, hedges, flora in general, signs, directions so that people confident to walk. A green environment looks good and helps save other resources. More bins and recyclable products would be a healthy option also. Shops near train station. More parks and playgrounds. In suburbs with pets, there could be animal parks (parks/ spaces created for pets e.g. dog playgrounds) They should be public, bringing people with similar interests and lifestyles together. Gathering information online about public interests, by polls/ social sites e.g. facebook, youtube and create groups and sites for these people. Building unique and convenient and comfortable.

### **MORNING SUN**

Entertainment : Car park theatres – outdoor theatres – playgrounds ( for adults and children) – youth centres – sporting facilities

A lot of people like to go to playgrounds or basketball courts to burn energy off or relieve stress. To socialise with others and to not be revolved around technology

Outdoor, car park and pool theatres

There something different other than normal movie theaters and they are fun. More youth centres create a reliable and safe environment for young people. It gives the opportunity to communicate with other people their age and is a good environment to be entertained in for an afternoon. Youth groups also help teens stay out of trouble and they get advice and help to guide/help them with challenges they may face during their young adulthood

### **MORNING NEWS**

Boat transport to Lake Rouse, Cronulla, Newcastle, Wollongong

Affordable lifestyles e.g. transport, housing, entertainment, access to everything at your fingertips

Safe and secure Australia from here or more things like OSB

A high speed reliable cheap NBN

### **Feedback from students:**

Students appreciated the opportunity to participate in the workshop. They enjoyed the catering (pizza, sushi and drinks) and were each rewarded with a movie ticket as a thank you for their engagement in the project. All students indicated they would be keen to participate in a similar future workshop. Ten students registered interest to be involved as student ambassadors for UrbanGrowth NSW transformation projects.