

Mr Craig Wrightson
General Manager
Lane Cove Council
PO Box 20
Lane Cove NSW 1525

14 October 2019

Dear Mr Wrightson,

**Lane Cove Council Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement
(Northern Sydney Local Health District Submission)**

Thank you for the opportunity for Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD) to provide feedback on Lane Cove Council's draft Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS). NSLHD Health Promotion commends Council's inclusion of Health and wellbeing in its 'Vision' section, as is its focus on '30 minute' strategic centres such as St Leonards.

NSLHD Health Promotion is committed to ensuring that the built environment has a net-positive impact on the health and well-being of individuals and the wider community. There is a growing body of evidence^{3,2,3} linking the built environment and the health of its community, by influencing:

- Physical activity
- Healthy eating
- Tobacco use and alcohol consumption
- Community strength, social cohesion and mental wellbeing
- Planetary health

We look forward to further collaboration with Lane Cove Council on a range of health promotion and strategic planning projects. Health Promotion will be happy to assist with additional health-related indicators to assist future planning.

Please find attached a detailed list of comments and recommendations on the Statement. If you require any further information, please contact Jono Noyes, Health Promotion Officer, on 9462-9568 or jonathon.noyes@health.nsw.gov.au.

Kind regards,

Paul Klarenaar
Director NSLHD Health Promotion

³ L. Kent, J & Thompson, S (2019). Planning Australia's Healthy Built Environments. 10.4324/9781315524573.

² NSW Healthy Planning Expert Working Group (2018) NSW Healthy Planning Action Resource No. 2 - Creating Walkable Neighbourhoods <https://www.activelivingnsw.com.au/resources/>

³ Giles-Corti B, Ryan K, Foster S, (2012), Increasing density in Australia: maximising the health benefits and minimising the harm, report to the National Heart Foundation of Australia, Melbourne. <http://www.heartfoundation.org.au/density>

Recommendations for Lane Cove Council's LSPS.

General Comments and Recommendations

NSLHD Health Promotion commends Lane Cove Council for including "health and well-being" in the Vision section of the LSPS, the focus on St Leonards as a walkable '30-minute- strategic centre and the inclusion of example indicators for each Priority Area. The LSPS also incorporates images throughout the document to provide the current local context. The inclusion of maps within the four Priority Areas would effectively outline the identified strategies and actions to achieve the desired outcomes set out in the LSPS.

Recommendations:

- Incorporate maps throughout the document to provide additional context and label main roads/key facilities to orientate the reader.

Infrastructure and Collaboration

NSLHD Health Promotion commends Lane Cove Council identifying open space, cultural and recreation facilities as major infrastructure priorities, including four key sites in the St Leonards Commercial Core area. Council also has a strong focus on collaboration with state and other local governments to ensure infrastructure is delivered to support its growing population. However, parking is listed as a priority for the Lane Cove CBD. This potentially conflicts with the Liveability aim of encouraging people to walk or cycle for leisure, transport or exercise. Parking availability is a major determinant of car usage. A stronger focus on sustainable transport and innovative public transport options to and from the Village is recommended to reduce vehicular commuting and subsequent parking demand.

Recommendations:

- Map out current and proposed infrastructure for the LGA (including pedestrian and cycle infrastructure).
- Consider strategies to reduce vehicular commuting to and from Lane Cove CBD to encourage active travel options (e.g. on-demand public transport options).
- Have a stronger focus on active transport as a strategy to address traffic management.
- Consider shared-use arrangements for open space/sport and recreation facilities.

Liveability

NSLHD Health Promotion commends Lane Cove Council's commitment to street design and delivering healthy built environments, as is Council's commitment to prioritising housing diversity and affordability. Whilst development should absolutely be prioritised in locations that are well serviced by transport and services, the LSPS states that this can help offset a lack of open space. Open space is essential to liveability and should be well located within 400m of any new development and within 200m for areas of higher density development.

Recommendations:

- Consider opportunities other than culture and creativity to support social connectedness, such as community groups, local and major events, social infrastructure and the public domain in general (e.g. walkable neighbourhoods, plazas, open space etc).
- Council to identify how suburbs other than St Leonards can contribute to achieving housing targets and develop a housing strategy that delivers in the short, medium and long term.
- Ensure adequate quality open space is planned for locations with high-density development.
- Consider collaborative housing concepts to deliver lower cost quality housing for key workers and to achieve affordable housing targets.
- Map out the current open space and opportunities for additional open space, in support of the Premier's Priority to increase the proportion of homes in urban areas within 10 minutes' walk of quality green, open and public space by 10 per cent by 2023.

- To better manage limited resources, consider a regional approach to sport and recreation facilities in the Northern District, rather than a local approach.

Productivity

NSLHD Health Promotion supports Lane Cove Council's vision for the St Leonards' commercial centre, of improved connectivity to St Leonards and Crows Nest Stations and public domain revitalisation.

Recommendations:

- To map the proposed connectivity of the St Leonards Commercial Centre, highlighting the four pilot sites, as well as the current and proposed travel networks throughout the LGA.
- Prioritise sustainable transport infrastructure and advocate for improved public transport services to and from Lane Cove Village.

Sustainability

NSLHD Health Promotion supports Council's rationale for increasing its tree canopy. Locations within the Lane Cove LGA that are particularly vulnerable to urban heat stress could be identified within the LSPS to

Recommendations:

- To map the current tree canopy coverage.
- To identify locations within the public and private domain, which are vulnerable to urban heat stress, for increased tree canopy coverage.