

FACT SHEET

SHAPING OUR FUTURE

Neighbourhood Renewal program and urban design in established areas



Asset Renewal and Established Areas Strategy (AREAS)

In 2005, following community consultation, Council was given Ministerial approval to introduce a 10 year special rate variation (SRV) known as the Asset Renewal & Established Areas Strategy (AREAS). This allowed Council to direct extra resources and investment to infrastructure and public domain renewal (including roads, buildings, graffiti removal and street cleaning), as well as enhancements to the Penrith City and St Marys Town Centres through urban design enhancements. AREAS also included funding for the Neighbourhood Renewal Program tasked with revitalising of the City's older suburbs in collaboration with residents. The AREAS SRV will cease in June 2016.

This fact sheet provides information on the achievements of the neighbourhood renewal and urban design components of AREAS and how the different rate options currently being proposed will affect this service.

Neighbourhood Renewal program and achievements

The Neighbourhood Renewal Program revitalises older suburbs through improved coordination and service delivery, working directly with local residents. The Program aims for equity and participation and works with residents to identify the strengths of the social, economic, cultural and physical environment within each unique place.

Since 2007 the Neighbourhood Renewal Program has held more than 140 community engagement events, activities and programs in 12 older established suburbs, involving more than 10,000 residents. Suburbs are: Kingswood Park, Londonderry, Oxley Park, Kingswood, St Marys, Llandilo, Penrith, Colyton, Werrington, North St Marys, Cranebrook and Cambridge Park.

In addition to the development and delivery of Neighbourhood Action Plans this team works to develop projects which engage residents in creative place-making, community celebrations, and public art, education and employment initiatives. The program also specialises in innovative design processes for enhancements to local public spaces such as playgrounds. More than 70% of the 369 actions included in those plans is complete or underway.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Program also plays a key role in advocating for improved services, from within Council, from other Government agencies, local non-government community services and the business sector, in delivering innovative responses to localised disadvantage.

MAGNETIC PLACES

The Magnetic Places Grants Program provides \$50,000 per annum for community projects which celebrate diversity, innovation and culture in Penrith's established neighbourhoods. It has produced 60 successful placemaking projects, positively impacting the lives of more than 12,000 residents since 2007. These impacts have included greater community cohesion, improved wellbeing and increased civic participation along with the development of safer, vibrant and more attractive public spaces in our neighbourhoods.

MAYORAL CHALLENGE

Launched in 2015 the Penrith Mayoral Youth Challenge is working with students from schools in Colyton to co-design new playgrounds. This exciting project involves highly participatory processes where participants develop leadership skills by conducting interviews with peers, neighbours, and family, consider the planning needs of the diverse community they represent and make key design and budgeting decisions. Further projects are planned for Kingswood and Cambridge Park in the coming years.

TEAM COLYTON

A pilot program is currently underway which pushes the boundaries of resident participation by creating a local team which develops a Community Action Plan including actions for local schools, businesses, faith groups, residents, non-government community services as well as Council and other government services. This approach is being tested with the community of Colyton in 2015 with a project called Team Colyton. For more information about Team Colyton go to yoursaypenrith.com.au/Colyton

The Neighbourhood Renewal Program is unique to Penrith and has won numerous awards for its important work in engaging residents and putting them in the centre of decision making about their community, supporting the development of creative projects and importantly enabling access to employment and training in disadvantaged communities.

Urban design in established areas

The urban design component of AREAS assists in the delivery of quality design outcomes in developments and place making projects across the City. Initially, this involved the engagement of a consultant urban designer to assist in understanding and setting the strategic context for place making interventions in both small and large commercial centres. Later consultant landscape architects and planners have been engaged to prepare public domain design guidelines for future implementation and the assessment of sites for future urban parks in the Penrith City Centre. Examples of urban design work completed include public domain manuals for the Penrith City Centre and the Kingswood Centre, accessibility reviews, development impact design reviews, evaluation of the Pop Up Park trial and the new City Park and the Penrith Night Time Economy Study and Strategy.

The urban design component guides Council in decisions about how our communities develop, and will redevelop in a managed way over the coming decades.

How will the rate variation being proposed affect the neighbourhood renewal program?

Council has outlined 3 different options for our rates:

- **Improve services:** This option will see our current quality of Neighbourhood Renewal Program and urban design in established areas continued plus an increase in asset renewal initiatives across the City.
- **Maintain services:** This option will see our current quality of Neighbourhood Renewal Program and urban design in established areas continued.
- **Decrease services:** The Neighbourhood Renewal Program and urban design in established areas would cease under this option resulting a significant decrease from our current quality of investment and engagement in our older suburbs.

How can I get more information and give feedback on the proposed srv?

More detailed information can be found at yoursaypenrith.com.au, at the Penrith Council Civic Centre (601 High Street), or in Council libraries. If you would like this more detailed information posted to you, call 4732 8551 or email ourfuture@penrith.city

You can ask questions or give your feedback online at yoursaypenrith.com.au, by email to ourfuture@penrith.city or in writing addressed to:

General Manager

Penrith City Council
PO Box 60 Penrith
NSW, 2751

All comments should be submitted to Council by Friday 11 December.



For more information on this rate variation please phone the Organisational Performance and Development department on 4732 8551 or email ourfuture@penrith.city