Local Government Areas:
Blue Mountains
Hawkesbury
Penrith
Snapshot of the West District

Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2036 forecast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West District</td>
<td>354,800</td>
<td>446,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Sydney</td>
<td>4,682 million</td>
<td>6.422 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Public open space makes up 71% of the West District and 56% of Greater Sydney.

133,100 jobs which is 5% of Greater Sydney’s jobs.

Growth by Key Age Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2036</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>25,550</td>
<td>28,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-19</td>
<td>70,550</td>
<td>87,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-84</td>
<td>43,550</td>
<td>75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85+</td>
<td>5,200</td>
<td>15,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There will be almost three times more people over 85 years in 20 years than in 2016.
The West District Plan

The West is a growing, thriving District blessed with natural beauty: from the dramatic cliffs and canyons of the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains, to the green sanctuaries of its seven national parks, to the gently winding waterways of the Hawkesbury-Nepean River system.

The draft West District Plan maps our 20-year vision for the West District of Greater Sydney.

The draft West District Plan is one of six draft District Plans developed by the Greater Sydney Commission for each of Sydney’s Districts. We were established by the NSW Government in 2016 to do the big picture planning for Greater Sydney. The District Commissioner for the West District is Sean O’Toole.

This overview summarises the draft West District Plan and asks you for your thoughts and ideas. You can read the entire draft Plan at www.greater.sydney and send feedback:

- via the website
- by email: engagement@gsc.nsw.gov.au
- by post: Greater Sydney Commission Draft West District Plan PO Box 257, Parramatta NSW 2124.

We want to work with you to understand what is important and to give everyone an opportunity to play an active role in shaping the future of the West District.

Planning in Greater Sydney traditionally happened at two levels: The NSW Government developed overarching plans that considered the city’s growing population, including what kind of jobs and transport people will need. Local government developed local environmental plans to identify how land can be used, including housing, business and parks. We’re now bridging this gap with district-level planning that connects local planning with the longer-term metropolitan planning for Greater Sydney.
West District

Local Government Areas:
Blue Mountains
Hawkesbury
Penrith
Our vision for the West District

The West District’s unique and rich tapestry of urban, rural and natural environments, combined with access to jobs, quality health care, education, recreation, cultural and natural experiences creates a great quality of life for its communities.

In 2036, the West District will continue to be a place where its people are its strength. All backgrounds and cultures will be respected and valued, with people sharing a determination to realise the District’s potential while cherishing its unique environment and heritage.

The dynamic city of Penrith — an economic and service hub for the District and the gateway to the Blue Mountains and the Central West region of NSW — will build on its renowned health and education super precinct. The vibrant centres of Katoomba, Richmond-Windsor and St Marys will complement Penrith, providing a mix of services and workplaces.

The District’s web of towns and villages will provide livelihoods and destinations in their own right, acting as stopping points along the Great Western Highway, the Western Rail Line and Bells Line of Road.

With the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, the Hawkesbury’s rural and agricultural landscapes and the iconic Hawkesbury-Nepean River as a green backdrop, the District will enjoy even better recreation and tourism opportunities. Development will balance the need for more diverse housing that respects the District’s distinctive town character and environment with an appreciation of the risks of bushfires, flooding and heatwaves in a changing climate.

The District will leverage investment in the proposed Western Sydney Airport, connecting the region to the rest of the world and planned in a way that protects our world-class landscapes.

Aboriginal heritage within the West District

The West District is rich in Aboriginal history, with sacred sites and places of cultural significance spread across the traditional lands of the Gundungurra and Darug peoples.

Their heritage, including cultural landmarks that may reflect some 40,000 years of proud occupation by the traditional owners and demonstrate their deep affinity with the land.
The Western City around the Airport will deliver local jobs and business activity to the area.

The District’s resilient economy will also draw on new opportunities and innovations, providing jobs and services for more than one million people who will live in the catchment between the North West and South West Priority Growth Areas.

This growing economic base — drawing from new jobs in tourism, the creative industries, agribusiness, advanced manufacturing and engineering, lifestyle health, research and technology, education, defence and aviation — will be supported by a comprehensive and high quality transport network supported by both north-to-south and east-to-west rail and road connections and strong digital connections.

• **The natural landscape** – the unique bushland setting is an asset that shapes and directs all economic, social and environmental decisions.

• **Major infrastructure investments** – creating one of Australia’s most connected places.

• **Greater Penrith** – continuing as the District’s economic engine room and a dynamic employment and services hub that is well-placed to become a strategic centre for new-generation jobs.

• **Tourism potential** – building on the much-loved tourism attractions such as the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and spreading tourism interest and overnight stays to Hawkesbury and Penrith.

• **Western Sydney Airport** – Australia’s first 21st Century international airport at Badgerys Creek and the Western Sydney City Deal will drive population growth, improve transport links and create new economic opportunity. This will create new opportunities for Penrith and other surrounding Strategic Centres as highlighted on the map to the left. We refer to these centres as a ‘string of pearls’ around the airport.
To achieve this vision for the West District, the draft Plan sets out our priorities and actions that will shape the District’s future and guide policy decisions.

**Protect the distinct natural landscape**

We need to protect and enhance the District’s natural landscape including the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, whilst improving accessibility and increasing opportunities for nature-based recreation and tourism. This outstanding asset will also require us to build the District’s resilience to bushfire, urban heat and flooding.

**A connected place**

Leverage opportunities from proposed transport infrastructure projects, including the Outer Sydney Orbital, Western Sydney Freight Line and Western Sydney Airport, to develop new markets in soft commodities, freight and logistics and create an export and innovation hub.

**Plan for a 21st Century aerotropolis**

Capitalise on the investment, employment and economic opportunities that will emerge from the development of Western Sydney Airport and the Western Sydney City Deal for local residents as well as Greater Sydney. We will work with the Australian and NSW Governments and local councils in delivering the Western Sydney City Deal.

**Create a hub for international tourism**

Develop new marketing strategies centred on the District’s natural attractions and cultural heritage to create a hub for international tourism.

*Tourism in the West District is projected to grow from 5.5 million visitors in 2016 to 8.4 million a year by 2025.*

**Provide access to jobs, goods and services**

Improve accessibility to jobs, goods and services provided in cities such as Parramatta and the new Western Sydney Airport by implementing strategic infrastructure planning for the east-west and north-south transport corridors.
Culture and heritage within the West District

The District’s rich culture and heritage underpins its sense of place and identity. State and local heritage is found at Western Sydney University, Penrith Lakes, throughout the Blue Mountains, at railway stations, along the Nepean River and in the historic towns of Windsor, Richmond, Pitt Town, Wilberforce and Kurrajong. Some cultural facilities within the District include the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, Penrith Regional Gallery and Blue Mountains Cultural Centre. Examples of cultural activities within the District include Penrith River Festival and the Blue Mountains Winter Magic and Music Festivals.

Create a diversity of jobs for the next generation

Grow and diversify local employment opportunities, with a focus on creating knowledge-intensive jobs, creating smart work hubs and building on the strength on Penrith’s burgeoning health and education super precinct. The Western Sydney Airport will support this priority in the medium to long term. In the short term, the District can build on its assets and proposals such as the Penrith health and education super precinct or the proposed Sydney Science Park, both of which could help to establish a stronger base of knowledge-intensive jobs.

Enhance Greater Penrith as Sydney’s Western gateway

Create strategic government partnerships and governance arrangements to position Penrith as the connector to other areas of Greater Sydney and a gateway to the Blue Mountains and regional NSW. The Penrith Lakes Parklands has the potential to be a regionally significant recreational asset.

Encourage a diversity in housing

We want people in the West District to have greater housing choice including more high quality, design-led planning for medium and high-density housing as well as aged care accommodation, while respecting the character of existing neighbourhoods. Opportunities for new housing will consider flooding constraints from the Hawkesbury-Nepean River.
The current 20-year planning strategy for Greater Sydney is *A Plan for Growing Sydney*, released by the NSW Government in December 2014. In preparing the draft District Plans, we have considered *A Plan for Growing Sydney* as well as a range of other matters that have generated a major shift in strategic planning for Greater Sydney, and have created a longer term, transformational focus on the regional significance of central and western Sydney. As such, *Towards our Greater Sydney 2056*, with its strategy for a metropolis of three cities is set to provide a framework that can better underpin strategic planning for a more productive, liveable and sustainable city. To read more about this vision or to lodge a formal submission, visit [www.greater.sydney](http://www.greater.sydney).

*Towards our Greater Sydney 2056* captures an ambitious future for a growing Greater Sydney and acts as a bridge between the current and future metropolitan plans that provide the overarching vision for Greater Sydney as a whole. It describes Greater Sydney as:

**A Productive Greater Sydney** is a city with more jobs in many centres, with more people being able to access their jobs within 30 minutes of where they live. A Productive Greater Sydney sees new knowledge-intensive jobs in centres right across Greater Sydney’s six Districts, and supports investment in digital and knowledge-intensive industries.

**A Liveable Greater Sydney** is a city with many different places that offer the kind of day to day services and experiences that contribute to our health and happiness. A Liveable Greater Sydney places quality of life considerations at the heart of our planning, focusing on better public transport links, and safe and accessible walking and cycling routes. It offers a greater choice in places to live, and matches the demand for services with new facilities such as schools, hospitals, child care, aged care and community centres.

**A Sustainable Greater Sydney** is a city that continues to exist within a precious landscape, and uses this landscape’s environmental integrity as an asset. It focuses on improving the health of Greater Sydney’s waterways and enhancing its biodiversity, while also building resilience to natural disasters such as flood and fire that are an inevitable consequence of our landscape and climate. A Sustainable Greater Sydney harnesses technology to unearth innovative ways to minimise our environmental impact.
Towards our Greater Sydney 2056 tells a story of productivity, liveability and sustainability across three cities that collectively make up Global Sydney. Part of the West District shares in the Western City.

**Western City**
Encompassing the economic area that will evolve with the development of Western Sydney Airport, an emerging centre of connectivity with a focus on freight, transport and logistics. It will also offer the strategic advantage of creating a greater diversity of jobs and greater social opportunities for the many citizens in the centres of Penrith, Blacktown, Liverpool and Campbelltown-Macarthur.

**Central City**
Concentrated on the developing job hubs of the Greater Parramatta area, with a foundation in health and education, advanced manufacturing, innovation driven enterprises as well as urban services and Greater Parramatta being the administrative and business centre for Greater Sydney. Strong transport capacity and connections to the Eastern City and Western City will be crucial for the success of the Central City.

**Eastern City**
Clustered around Sydney City, extending from Macquarie Park to Kogarah, with established strength in service industries, finance and innovation, and connected to Sydney Airport, Port Botany and Randwick Health and Education, the established Eastern City will continue to grow.

Plan of Greater Sydney’s Three Cities
More about the West District

85% of homes in the West District are **detached** compared to 57% across Greater Sydney.

**Jobs in 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>West District</th>
<th>Greater Sydney</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge and professional services</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population serving sectors</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and education</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The West District accommodates approximately 13% of Greater Sydney’s industrial land.

11% of residents have a **bachelor degree** compared to the Greater Sydney average of 20%.

70% of trips under 5km are made by **car** followed by 26% as **walking** trips.

There will be **14,000 more people living alone** over the next 20 years, which will be the fastest growing household type between 2016 and 2036.

2016: Single person households - 27,650
2036: Single person households - 41,650
#GreaterSydney: Insights from the community

Our conversations with the community through the #GreaterSydney engagement program have provided valuable insights into what the community values about the West District and what people want to see changed. We have sought to encapsulate these inputs in the draft West District Plan. You can read the full draft West District Plan at [www.greater.sydney](http://www.greater.sydney).

The feedback highlighted transport as the key to unlocking the District’s potential. There was strong support for more public transport options and better roads to connect to jobs, services and leisure activities both within the District and across Greater Sydney.

People want to retain the District’s character, which is defined by its open space and natural heritage, particularly the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

At the same time, they are looking for infrastructure and development that will support more local jobs, housing choices, and entertainment and cultural activities.

We are inviting your feedback, in response to the draft West District Plan, and encourage you to help us plan together for the future of the West District.

To find out how to get involved or lodge a formal submission, visit [www.greater.sydney](http://www.greater.sydney).

- Join the conversation
  - Facebook: /greatersydneycommission
  - Twitter: #greatersydney
  - LinkedIn: /greater-sydney-commission
  - Instagram: /greatersydneycommission
- Call us on 1800 617 681

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Blue Mountains #GreaterSydney Photo Competition
Photo credit: Jacob Hatch and Rachel Drake