Waverley Sustainable Visitation Strategy 2024







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Acknowledgement to Country

We acknowledge the Bidjigal and Gadigal people, who traditionally occupied the Sydney coast.

We also acknowledge Aboriginal Elders both past and present.

Photo: Destination NSW

This approach looks to the principles of sustainable destination management as a compass to best practice

Executive Summary

Welcome to the *Sustainable Visitation Strategy 2024 (SVS)*.

This Strategy represents a framework to commence the management of tourism in Waverley over the next five years. Tourism in Waverley presents many challenges and opportunities for the Community. Increasing visitation levels have placed pressure on local amenity and the Community's quality of life. Conversely, it has benefited the local economy due to Waverley's proximity to Sydney's CBD; making it a key destination point for approximately 2.3 million visitors annually (Destination Marketing Store, 2018). Therein lies the challenge to achieve a sustainable level of visitation so that Waverley can maintain and protect its environment, landscape and heritage, whilst welcoming and sharing it with visitors. What's more, tourism needs to nurture the Community's core values and strengthen its cultural identity.

Up to this point, Council's local tourism management has been reactive, addressing tourism issues as they arise in the short and medium terms. Council holds a strong position on sustainability and wishes to extend this to tourism management to achieve a better balance between the needs of residents, businesses and visitors.

Sustainable Tourism management is an approach that involves a range of integrated ideas and solutions to achieve sustainability goals. Most notably, the costs and benefits assessed to individuals, Council and State Government, of the rising visitor numbers in an era of climate change.

This approach looks to the principles of sustainable destination management as a compass to best practice, one that is committed to making a low impact on the environment and local culture, whilst driving future employment for local people.

This SVS relies on collaboration and consensus from industry, community and government, and should be read in conjunction with the *Sustainable Visitation Strategy – Supporting Documentation* that includes research, analysis and key findings undertaken by Waverley Council, Destination Marketing Store and the Stafford Consultancy Group.

Strategy Framework

What we want...

- Foster tourism through tourist information and eco-tourism initiatives.
- Undertake steps to demonstrate sustainability goals.
- Introduce more opportunities to engage with Council and to access information.
- Educate visitors on litter and recycling.
- A diverse night-time economy and improved service and food offerings.
- Promote Bondi Junction as a business and tourism hub.
- Educate visitors on community expectations regarding behavior and etiquette.

Community priorities

- Avoid overdevelopment and protect heritage buildings.
- Support start-up businesses and foster a mixed local economy.
- Improve public transport to facilitate locals and tourists.
- Develop innovation hubs.
- Support the viability of village shopping strips and local shopping centres.
- Encourage opportunities to celebrate and participate in art and culture.

*Commmunity Strategic Plan 2018-2029

Vision

Our vision...

 Waverley is a leading sustainable destination focused on protecting its environment and natural beauty, whilst sharing its rich history, vibrant culture and thriving economy.

Scope...

• The purpose of this plan is to commence the management of tourism in Waverley through a best practice approach, taking into account social, environmental and economic goals of sustainable tourism.

Through this plan we hope to...

- Develop a sustainable approach to visitation management that protects and maintains Waverley's environment, culture and heritage.
- Integrate tourism effectively within the community and mitigate negative impacts on local amenity.

Community outcomes needed...

- **Improved governance:** Council takes an active sustainable position on tourism; we achieve a better balance between visitors and the community; we reduce the negative impacts of tourism; we recoup funding for amenity improvements.
- Improved marketing: our community values are communicated; our environment and traditions are respected; our visitors feel supported throughout their journey.

Objectives

- Grow Waverley's share of higher yielding visitor markets.
- Support tourism product which generates a sustainable commercial return.

Priorities

- Improved infrastructure: our streetscapes are improved visually for the benefit of everyone. Our visitors feel confident and supported to navigate on foot or bike.
- Improved product: we are connected to visitors through arts and culture; our community's talents are celebrated and our heritage is shared; our local economy thrives.

Action plan

- How we get there...
- 22 proposed initiatives to be supported by a new tourism working group, comprising of community, Council Officers and industry.
- We are focused on evaluating initiatives under their beneficial contribution to our environment, culture, heritage, community and local economy; whilst reducing negative outcomes.



Tourism in Waverley

Waverley is approximately 9km from Sydney's CBD and covers 9km², bordered by Randwick and Woollahra LGAs.¹ Waverley is a densely populated area, with a rich Aboriginal history and ethnically diverse community. Bondi has been positioned as a destination for visitors for over 135 years, when Bondi Beach was officially opened to the public in 1882.²

The Traditional Custodians of the Waverley LGA are the Gadigal people and the Bidgigal people. Approximately 1,500 Aboriginal people were estimated to have lived between Broken Bay and Botany Bay before European settlement.³ "Bondi" or "Boondi" is an aboriginal word meaning "water breaking over rocks" or "noise of water breaking over rocks."⁴

The Gadigal, who witnessed the arrival of the First Fleet, recorded their impressions of the Europeans by engraving a fully-rigged ship at Bellevue Hill just outside Waverley.⁵ Although unknown to many visitors, Waverley's Aboriginal cultural heritage can be identified through a range of archaeological remains and natural features of Waverley landscape.

There are currently 11 registered Aboriginal Archaeological Sites in the Waverley LGA. Rock carvings found along coastal areas of Bondi Beach are believed to be approximately 2,000 years old.⁶

Fast forward to the mid-1800s, Bondi Beach was a very different place, a local seaside family destination with a tram servicing beachgoers from Circular Quay. As sea bathing became more popular in the late 1800s and early 1900s, Bondi formed the world's first formally documented surf lifesaving club, the Bondi Surf Bathers' Life Saving Club, in 1907. Surf patrol members wearing their red and yellow quartered caps first appeared at Bondi that summer.⁷

¹ Economy .id, Population Experts, 2019

² Office of Environment & Heritage, 2019

³ Waverley Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study, 2009

⁴ Robertson, 1990

⁵ Waverley's Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2015-2016

⁶ dictionaryofsydney.org, 2008

⁷ http://www.environment.gov.au, 2019



Growingly diverse

Presently, Waverley's community has a much more diverse ancestry, with 38.5% of people in Waverley born overseas. There is a large proportion of English and Irish settlement in the area, with emerging groups of Portuguese, Spanish, French and Mandarin speaking members of the community. Latest statistics show; 20.9% of Waverley LGA's population speaks a non-English language at home. Waverley has a strong history of post-war migration, with many Europeans settling in the area. Waverley is also home for many Jewish migrants from Poland, Russia, Czechoslovakia and Germany, and to this day has the largest number of Jewish people in NSW.⁸

Over the past 10 years, Waverley's population has expanded greatly, growing from 65,300 in 2007 to 72,100 in 2016. This growth is important as it means an associated increase in demand for public facilities such as parking and open spaces for recreation. The increase in demand is felt in key heavily populated areas within the LGA. The majority of Waverley residents live in the locality of Bondi Beach (18%), followed by Bondi (15%), Bondi Junction (14%), North Bondi (14%) and Bronte (10%). Waverley's residents

Growth in Waverley population



Source: Economy.id Population Experts

are increasingly living in medium and higher density dwellings. Tourism facility and related infrastructure development will need to meet both the needs of Waverley and the substantial visitor market.

Tourism management

Bondi Beach is a focal point for tourism development, 90% of all visitors to the LGA visit the beach⁹. Council has had a long history of visitor management strategies and policies to manage tourism, and also invests heavily into events and water safety campaigns.

Protecting and celebrating Waverley's heritage and environment is highlighted below within the history timeline graphic.

The history timeline demonstrates a handful of activities initiated by Council to address tourism

issues as they arise. Largely, this approach is piecemeal, one that is more reactive than preemptive, which is leaving many residents weary of high visitation and in fear of overtourism during peak season.

Over the past year, the concept and impact of overtourism across the world has been highlighted extensively in the media. Overtourism describes destinations where hosts or guests, locals or visitors, feel that there are too many visitors and that the quality of life in the area or the quality of the experience has deteriorated unacceptably.¹⁰



⁹ Tourism Research Australia, 2018

¹⁰ responsibletourismpartnership.org, n.d.

Getting the balance right

This strategy represents Waverley's second step, after the production of a Draft Destination Management Plan in 2017-2018, towards proactive tourism management of the LGA. Central to this plan is the need to integrate tourism better within the community and enable tourism activities to translate into tangible community benefits.

The essence of sustainable tourism is to educate visitors about how to respect the host community's nature and culture.

Tourism activities will focus on sharing historical information, whilst protecting and preserving archaeological sites and artefacts for future generations.

The Waverley Community Strategic Plan (WCSP) emphasises the priority to, *"Improve access, participation and inclusion for everyone"*. Inclusive tourism refers to tourism services and products where people of all abilities feel welcome and wanted as customers and guests. The SVS recognises these groups as visitors to our iconic destination, yet primarily as members of our community. The action plan within this strategy aims to leverage tourism projects to benefit these groups as community members. For example;

- Waverley has an opportunity to share Aboriginal heritage and history more effectively; keeping historic stories alive and providing visitors with diverse experiences. In this way, Aboriginal tourism enterprises can be a driver of Aboriginal economic development.
- Educate and support local businesses on how they can improve the accessibility of their services, space and communications.
- Improve accessibility to Council facilities, venues, parks, events and beaches.
- Provide translated wayfinding signage and surf safety information, multi-cultural events and local volunteer group participation, which will foster community participation in tourism activities.



Waverley's strengths & weaknesses

The below diagram displays a range of strengths and weaknesses associated with Waverley as a neighborhood, a business centre and as a destination.



Source: Stafford Consultancy



Tourism and the local economy





SPENT BY TOURISTS IN WAVERLEY (2017) <u>\$1,016m</u>

TOURISM ALLOWS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE **IMPROVEMENTS AND FACILITY UPGRADES, BENEFITTING BOTH TOURISTS AND LOCALS.**

Bondi Beach picnic shelters Tamarama

toilet blocks



Design Review

611 LOCAL

HERITAGE LISTINGS

including: Cottages Beaches Parks **Conservation areas**

HERITAGE LISTINGS

including: Waverley Cemetery Indigenous rock carvings Ben Buckler Bronte House **Bondi Pavilion**



Bondi Beach



LOCAL BUSINESSES

Tourism supports local businesses to thrive.

Source: Economy.id Population Experts, Destination NSW and Council WIFI data.

APPROXIMATIONS OF ANNUAL AVERAGE VISITOR EXPENDITURE FOR THE 4 YEARS ENDING SEPTEMBER 2017. (Several limitations apply).*

DOMESTIC DAY VISITORS: • per visit; total \$36.4m avg. p.a.



DOMESTIC OVERNIGHT VISITORS: per visit; total \$48.4m avg. p.a.

INTERNATIONAL DAY VISITORS TO BONDI: Assuming total spend was 50% of domestic day, total spend would be \$75.9m avg. p.a.

*These approximations use modelled expenditure estimates (by Tourism Research Australia) of another LGA in the Sydney Region for the four years ending March 2017. The per visit spend for this LGA has been applied to the annual visitor volume over the four years ending September 2017. This is a conservative estimate and provides a credible baseline for Waverley LGA.

Strategic alignment

Tourism is a comprehensive activity influenced by many local, state, federal and global strategies. The Global Sustainable Tourism Council's (GSTC) Destination Criteria, has underpinned tourism strategies internationally. This SVS is guided by these strategic principles, and is discussed in more detail throughout the Sustainable Tourism chapter. A detailed list of strategy links is available in the supporting documentation. Specific strategies that have influenced the development of the SVS are as follows:

Federal	State	Local
Tourism 2020	Visitor Economy Industry Action Plan 2030	Waverley Community Strategic Plan 2018 – 2029
National Long Term Tourism Strategy	Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan 2017 – 2020	Economic Development Strategy 2015 – 2020
2020 Tourism Industry Potential (2020 potential)	Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2016 – 2018	Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017 – 2021
China 2020 Strategic Plan	Destination 2036	Waverley Council Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2015 – 2016
Distribution 2020 Situational Analysis	Greater Sydney Commission, Eastern City District Plan	Bondi Park, Beach and Pavilion Plan of Management 2014 – 2024
National Online Strategy for Tourism		Waverley's People, Movement and Places Strategy
Multicultural Access and Equity Policy Guide		Complete Streets Action Plan
National Disability Strategy 2010 – 2020		Environmental Action Plan 3 2012 – 2020
Indigenous Advancement Strategy		Arts Plus Plan
Multicultural Access and Equity Policy Guide		Creative Lighting Strategy
		Bondi Junction – Evening, Culture and Entertainment Strategy
		Local Village Centres – Public Domain Improvement Plan

Waverley's Community Strategic Plan

The Waverley Community Strategic Plan (CSP), adopted on 1 July 2018, summarises Waverley's main priorities for the future. More than 1,200 community members took the opportunity to share their aspirations for Waverley and establish the main themes and priorities for this plan.

The community vision that underpins this plan is defined as; *Waverley: connecting the city and the*

sea. A welcoming and cohesive community that celebrates and enhances our spectacular coastline, vibrant places, and rich cultural heritage.

Eleven themes were identified throughout the community strategic planning process; 10 of the 11 identified themes link to tourism management and tourism initiatives.

Theme	Community Priority
Arts & Culture	By 2029, Waverley will be a community enriched by opportunities to celebrate and participate in art and culture.
Recreation & Open Spaces	By 2029, Waverley will be a leader and innovator in open spaces and recreational facilitates that support a healthy, happy and connected community.
Local Economy	By 2029, Waverley will be a diverse and prosperous local economy.
Planning Development & Heritage	By 2029, Waverley will have diverse and liveable and sustainable places.
Transport, Pedestrians & Parking	By 2029, Waverley will be a place where people can move around easily and safely, and our streetscapes are welcoming and inclusive.
Sustainable Waste	By 2029, Waverley will progress to be a zero waste community.
Sustainable Environment	By 2029, Waverley will be a resilient and environmentally sustainable community.
Corporate Leadership & Engagement	By 2029, Waverley will be an engaged community, confident of the integrity of Council decision making.
Community Services and Well Being	By 2029, Waverley will be a vibrant, caring, resilient and inclusive community.
Innovation & Knowledge	By 2029, Waverley will be a knowledge-driven, innovative and digitally connected community.

Community Strategic Plan themes





Visitor Trends

Waverley has a diverse offering within the Sydney and the Australian tourism market. Waverley attracts domestic and international visitors who live beyond Sydney and stay overnight, in addition to day trippers who can include local Sydney residents and domestic/international visitors staying outside of Waverley.



Total visitors – Waverley Local Government Area

Source: Destination Marketing Store

Over the last decade there has been significant growth in visitor numbers to the Waverley LGA, reaching 2.3 million in 2018.

This is in line with the growth of the tourism sector globally and locally.



Visitation overview by visit type - Waverley Local Government Area

Source: Destination Marketing Store

The international overnight market by comparison, is extremely small for Waverley. This is due to a lack of available regulated accommodation within the Waverley LGA and the fact that many visitors are either staying with friends and relatives or in commercial accommodation in other parts of the city.

General facts and figures

International and domestic day visitors

- In the year ending September 2018, around 70% of visitors to Waverley were Bondi international day visitors. Traditional markets such as New Zealand and the United Kingdom have been trending downwards, while newer markets such as China, Korea and USA are trending up.
- In the year ending September 2018, 16.5% of visitors to Waverley were domestic day visitors.
 - 73% of domestic day visitors are from Sydney.
 - 42% of the market is the 15-34 year old age bracket, while 45% is 45-55+ market.

Domestic overnight visitor travel-party type (average over 5 years ending September 2018)



Source: Destination Marketing Store

International and domestic overnight visitors – Waverley LGA

In the year ending September 2018, international overnight visitors accounted for only 5% of Waverley LGA visitors. The number of overnight visitors from the UK has declined, while the US has increased. There has also been an overall decrease in length of stay. However, there has been an increase in people staying 1-7 nights. Winter and Autumn visitor numbers are decreasing, whilst Spring visitor numbers are trending upwards.

Domestic overnight visitor's numbers have been relatively erratic over the last decade. There was a significant decrease in overnight visitors in 2017. Waverley declined by comparison to both surrounding LGA's (Randwick and Woollahra) and Northern Beaches for domestic overnight stays.

- 48% of domestic overnight visitors are Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFR) compared to 29% who are on holidays.
- 17% of overnight visitors are from Sydney.
- 42% of the market is in the 15-34 year old age bracket.
- 45% of the market is 45–55 plus.

Age group

20% Percentage of Visitors 21% 21% 16% 14% 15-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55+

Source: Destination Marketing Store

NIGHTS PER STAY	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Trend
1-7 nights	56.3%	54.2%	54.6%	60.0%	59.4%	60.6%	61.7%	62.1%	64.3%	
8 - 14 nights	19.4%	20.2%	21.1%	17.7%	15.8%	15.3%	18.0%	19.7%	17.2%	~
15 - 30 nights	15.6%	15.8%	14.8%	12.0%	14.7%	12.7%	11.0%	12.8%	9.2%	1
31 or more nights	19.2%	20.0%	18.3%	22.2%	17.6%	19.5%	19.0%	15.9%	20.1%	\sim
Holiday	52.3%	54.3%	46.8%	48.0%	51.4%	53,4%	60,4%	62.3%	2010	
REASON	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018*	Tren
Visiting friends and relatives	32.6%	31.6%	36.3%	38.6%	38.6%	32.9%	26.3%	28.4%		
Business	4.3%	5.5%	4.2%	4.5%	2.8%	3.4%	2.9%	3.6%		\sim
Employment	5.2%	4.6%	4.9%	5.6%	3.9%	3.0%	3.9%	1.8%		-
	6.6%	6.0%	8.8%	6.0%	4.3%	7.4%	7.1%	6.3%		

International overnight visitor profile

QUARTER IN YEAR

QUARTER	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018*	Trend
March quarter	31.7%	36.7%	29.3%	28.9%	33.3%	40.7%	33.5%	30.7%	31.1%	$\sim \sim$
June quarter	16.8%	13.9%	20.9%	21.8%	18.4%	18.5%	19.4%	17.8%	16.8%	\sim
September quarter	21.9%	15.8%	19.7%	19.4%	17.5%	18.6%	19.6%	20.5%	21.0%	\sim
December quarter	29.6%	33.5%	30.2%	29.8%	30.8%	22.3%	27.5%	31.0%	31.1%	\sim

AGE GROUP

QUARTER	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018*	Trend
15-19	5.5%	3.9%	5.1%	2.7%	4.9%	4.4%	4.4%	4.5%	4.2%	~~
20-24	30.8%	25.0%	23.6%	26.4%	22.7%	25.4%	23.4%	22.9%	19.7%	~
25-29	21.5%	27.4%	24.7%	24.9%	21.6%	24.6%	25.1%	26.5%	28.7%	\sim
30-34	11.5%	14.4%	10.1%	8.6%	13.4%	12.2%	11.5%	12.4%	11.3%	\sim
35-39	7.3%	5.2%	10.2%	8.7%	9.0%	5.8%	6.7%	7.4%	6.9%	$\sim\sim$
40-44	1.7%	4.0%	2.2%	9.2%	8.1%	4.3%	4.2%	1.9%	5.9%	~~
45-49	4.2%	4.2%	4.5%	3.9%	3.5%	5.7%	2.2%	4.7%	4.0%	\sim
50-54	6.8%	5.5%	5.4%	2.2%	5.2%	2.8%	4.3%	4.6%	5.2%	\sim
55+	10.8%	10.5%	14.3%	13.4%	11.6%	14.8%	18.4%	15.0%	14.1%	\rightarrow

CAUTION: the smaller the estimate the higher the sample error.

SHADING LEGEND: The darker the red shading the greater the percentage

TREND LEGEND: Green dot = high point; red dot = low point

Source: Tourism Research Australia (TRA); National and International Visitor Surveys; Data extracted and compiled by Peter Valerio (peter@tourism-solutions.com.au) Copywrite remains with TRA.

Key insights:

- 70% of visitors to Waverley are international visitors. However, only 5% are overnight visitors, which is reducing the yield of the current visitor base. More attention to product development, marketing and infrastructure will leverage the 45 years plus visitor groups.
- There is an opportunity to leverage the organic growth in the travel and tourism market without placing further pressure on visitor hot spots (such as Bondi Beach) i.e. development of commercial boutique accommodation in the LGA, (not necessarily at Bondi Beach) and spreading the benefit of tourism across the LGA.

Global trends that will affect Waverley



Source: Destination Marketing Store

Sustainable Tourism

The United Nations' launched the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development in 2017. The UN World Tourism Organisation defines sustainable tourism as, *tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities*. This was reflected especially well through a world tourism marketing campaign called, 'Travel.Enjoy.Respect'. The essence of this campaign was to highlight the cultural values, diversity and heritage of destinations, so as to instill this respect within tourists as they travel.

Sustainability is a priority for the Community, protecting and enhancing what is unique and historic to Waverley. Council also aspires to lead by example and ensure sustainability is systemic and embedded across Council's day-today business, services and operations. Council's Environmental Action Plan (EAP) will help deliver sustainable visitation whilst improving sustainable waste management and recycling, improving water quality and protecting and enhancing biodiversity. Through Council's successful Second Nature sustainability program, Council will continue to promote the importance of environmental awareness and contribution by local community, visitors and business to keep sustainability part of everyone's daily lives.

Sustainable destination accreditation

Council's approach to communicating sustainable visitation will be balanced between educating visitors, safeguarding the community and supporting local business. Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) is an international not-forprofit organisation that supports destinations and businesses to become sustainable in their tourism practices. The organisation supports industry and government to make the best sustainable decisions through the GSTC Destination Criteria, providing a possible framework for reviewing visitation initiatives for Waverley in the future.

Roadmap to becoming a sustainable destination

Destination is recognised for achievements and Destination commits to receives certification following Destination **Criteria Principles** Current practices are assessed and sustainability gaps are identified Government and key stakeholders are educated Council oversees program to meet sustainability standards on Sustainable and motivate stakeholders **Tourism Principles**



The GSTC makes multiple recommendations for destinations. One of the initial steps in commencing local tourism management involves establishing a working group responsible for coordinating a consistent approach to sustainable tourism.

The suggested working group will be of a suitable size to represent Waverley and be comprised of community, council, industry and other tourism bodies.

The working group will have defined responsibilities outlined in their Terms of Reference. The key role of this group is to support Council's roll-out of the SVS, providing guidance and advice on projects. The group should;

- represent residents and businesses;
- provide a forum to share opinions, develop ideas and build synergies;
- represent Council and coordinate efforts to maximise opportunities whilst aiming to reduce issues and concerns associated with overtourism;
- promote the local economy;
- lobby government for project and funding support where necessary; and
- raise awareness of the value and benefits of tourism.

Global Sustainable Tourism Council – Destination

Destination Criteria – 4 sections

A: Demonstrate sustainable destination management

B: Maximise economic benefits to the host community and minimise negative impacts

C: Maximise benefits to communities, visitors, and culture; minimise negative impacts

D: Maximise benefits to the environment and minimise negative impacts

www.gstcouncil.org

Strategy Priorities

Throughout the extensive research and consultation conducted on this strategy, a range of tourism challenges and opportunities were verified and collated. Key projects are listed in more detail within the action plan under four main priority areas; governance, marketing, infrastructure and product development.

Priority 1: Governance

- Lack of Council leadership on tourism
- Lack of tourism management body
- Lack of Council resources for tourism
- Pressure on local amenity; high visitation causing additional noise, congestion and anti-social behavior
- Governance of short-term holiday rentals; limited benefit for local community
- Few outlets for indigenous education and information
- No financial leverage from high visitation levels

Local Challenges

- No local inclusive tourism plan
- Excessive rubbish and dumping
- Illegal backpacker accommodation
- Negative feeling towards tourism

Opportunities & Outcomes

Council will take a tourism leadership role and form a holistic tourism working group to support tourism projects going forward. Customer data is vital for understanding Waverley's visitor markets; Council will actively monitor and report on visitation levels and be proactive in protecting and enhancing local environment, landscape and community values under a sustainable destination framework. Council will ensure community goals are central to planning, such as inclusion and Reconciliation Action Plan goals. The benefits of tourism will be made tangible to community members.

Opportunities to be explored...

- Commit to Sustainable Visitation Strategy
- Commence work with Global Sustainable Tourism Council Framework and build tourism alliances
- Monitor and report on tourism
- Create a tourism working group
- Investigate tourism-related revenue streams
- Encourage and promote Aboriginal tourism opportunities and business development
- Encourage and promote inclusive tourism

- Waverley is certified as a sustainable destination
- Better balance between visitors and the community is achieved
- Negative impacts of tourism are reduced
- Funding is recouped for amenity improvements
- Community feel informed and included
- Community values and local heritage is alive
- Waverley is a more inclusive and accessible LGA

Priority 2: Marketing

- Lack of information and tourist facilities
- Lack of historical education for visitors to truly understand and appreciate the area
- Lack of translated signage and resources at key locations to provide historical, geological and other information
- Lack of a coordinated approach to business promotion

Local Challenges

- Lack of communication with visitors on local etiquette; waste management and local principles of sustainability
- Lack of digital information outlets
- Lack of sustainable tourism marketing

Opportunities & Outcomes

Council will improve communication with all stakeholders via a creative destination marketing strategy that aims to educate and guide visitors on Waverley's lifestyle, the environment, local arts, culture and diverse local economy. The community will be invited to engage in visitor education programs. Marketing activities will support and promote local businesses, especially during low seasons. Visitors will be supported on their journey in the LGA, with clear signage, accessibility and local information.

Opportunities to be explored...

- Create a destination marketing strategy
- Engage the community in tourism activities and to share their knowledge
- Package local product better with neighboring LGAs to fully leverage from visitation
- Improve signage and communication, with translations
- Parking app to support residents and visitors

- Visitors understand and respect Waverley's local environment and culture
- Tourism integrates better into the community
- New and prospective visitors are educated about local products and services
- Visitors are guided through Waverley and supported throughout their journey

Priority 3: Infrastructure

- Traffic congestion at peak travel times and weekends / summer
- Lack of facilities for MICE market
- Tired look of Campbell parade
- Lack of parking facilities in the LGA for residents and tour operators.

Local Challenges

- High dwelling density
- High retail/commercial rents
- Lack of open spaces for recreation and activities
- Overcrowding on public transport

Opportunities & Outcomes

Council will improve transport options for visitors to the area. Cycling and walking routes will be developed, enhanced and promoted to visitors. Access to and from the Beach is supported and new routes are established to ease congestion. Streetscapes will be cohesive, accessible and safe.

Opportunities to be explored...

- Create more open space for community and visitors, i.e. pedestrianised areas
- Enhance streetscapes to be more visually attractive, with accessibility and safety considerations
- Develop and promote Rose Bay Ferry access to Bondi Beach to relieve congested routes
- Improve cycling links People, Movement and Places Strategy – put pedestrians first
- Diversify visitor profile to the area; knowledge and innovation hub

- Streetscapes are improved visually for the benefit of everyone
- Visitors feel confident to navigate the LGA
- Waverley's visitor profile is more beneficial to the local economy

Priority 4: Product development

- Lack of all-weather experiences, such as a local museum or performance centre
- Lack of coordinated experiences, i.e. food and dining trails, boutique festivals
- Lack of evening family-friendly experiences
- Lack of performing arts outlets

Local Challenges

- Lack of boutique full service hotels
- Lack of Visitor Information Centre, providing information on local life, culture and history
- Businesses unable to sustain themselves over low seasons

Opportunities & Outcomes

Council will develop tourism products that reflect Waverley's cultural identity, such as performance, art and drama, ones that showcase local talents and achievements. Waverley's heritage will be shared through walks and tours across the LGA. Waverley's local economy will become more resilient with promotion of local dining experiences and multi-cultural boutique events. Council will coordinate these offerings to visitors through a Visitor Information Centre. Creating bespoke and unique experiences that are meaningful and exclusive will attract higher yielding segments and will also create dispersal of expenditure throughout the LGA.

Opportunities to be explored...

- Establish visitor information centre, with virtual information spaces
- All weather history and heritage spaces to be developed, i.e. Surf museum
- Develop pop-up experiences arts and events
- Additional performance, rehearsal and innovation spaces
- Heritage attractions, walks and tours to be developed and promoted to visitors
- Food and dining trails to celebrate and promote local restaurants
- Additional regulated boutique accommodation offered to visitors rather than STHL

- New tourism products reflect Waverley's core values
- Heritage attractions are developed, which support visitor education
- Visitors appreciate Waverley's history and landscape
- Local businesses are supported and promoted
- Seasonality issues are reduced
- Demand for STHL is reduced



Action Plan & Implementation

The following chapter outlines the key opportunities to be explored by Waverley Council over the next five years. Feasibility studies, budgeting and planning approvals will need to be sought for these opportunities. They are recommended based on the research conducted and outlined in previous chapters. Each opportunity within the Action Plan is aligned with specific themes outlined in Waverley's Community Strategic Plan 2018-2029.

Delivery and resourcing

Further scoping and business case development will need to be prepared for action plan items. This will need to take into account; priority level, Council resources and budget available. Each business case will have its own success indicators, which will include an evaluation methodology to assess the project on completion.

Governance

Action	Priority/ Timeframe/ Budget	CSP Theme	Project Partners & Complementary Strategies	KPIs
Council to lead tourism management in Waverley	Priority: High Timeframe: 2019 – ongoing	Corporate Leadership & Engagement	Strategies: Economic Development Strategy	 Launch a multi-year Sustainable Visitation Strategy Political commitment to implement the strategy Commence research into Sustainable Destination Accreditation process
Monitor & reporting	Priority: High Timeframe: 2019 – ongoing	Corporate Leadership & Engagement	Strategies: Economic Development Strategy	 Consider data subscriptions necessary to track visitation locally Commence bi-annual stakeholder report to share tourism statistics and its contribution to the community and the local economy Update Council website with visitor statistics and insights to ensure all stakeholders are informed of current tourism activity and upcoming trends
Tourism Working Group to be established	Priority: High Timeframe: 2019 – ongoing	Corporate Leadership & Engagement Sustainable Environment	Strategies: Economic Development Strategy	 Develop Terms of Reference for new Tourism Working Group. Invitations to participate will include representatives from community precinct groups, local tourism businesses, Chamber of Commerce, relevant Council officers, state and national tourism advisors A Tourism Working Group to be appointed by May 2020, with initial group meeting facilitated by June 2020
Monitoring and protection of local amenity	Priority: High Timeframe: 2019 – ongoing	Corporate Leadership & Engagement Sustainable Environment Sustainable Waste	Strategies: Waverley Council Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2015 – 2016 Environmental Action Plan 3 Waverley DCP & LEP	 Identify a classification for tourism related complaints within Council's CRM system, i.e. noise and disturbance merits, rubbish and dumping merits Work with Open Space, Community Services and Heritage teams on key areas and artifacts that need additional protection from high footfall Promote detailed Management Plan specifications under the DCP for all new tourist and visitor accommodation Work with Sustainability and Communications teams to improve visitor waste and noise management campaigns Work with State Government to regulate Short Term Holiday Letting (STHL)
Inclusive Tourism Plan	Priority: High Timeframe: 2020 – ongoing	Corporate Leadership & Engagement	Strategies: Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021 Waverley Council Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2015 – 2016 Arts Plus Plan	 Develop an Inclusive Tourism Strategy, supporting access to areas and facilities of natural and cultural importance for individuals with disabilities and others who have specific access requirements Ensure wayfinding/safety messages are translated and visible Support Access Bondi, to make Bondi Beach more accessible Continue to purchase equipment and upgrade amenities and facilities to support inclusive tourism initiatives Ensure events, beach and coastal areas are accessible Develop an <i>Inclusive Business Awareness</i> plan to support businesses and tourism operators to take steps to improve their services to the Inclusive Tourism markets
Indigenous Tourism Plan	Priority: Medium Timeframe: 2021 – ongoing	Corporate Leadership & Engagement	Strategies: Tourism 2020 Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan 2017 – 2020 Waverley Council Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2015 – 2016 Arts Plus Plan	 Develop Indigenous Tourism Strategy to recognize and respect local Aboriginal sites of significance in consultation with the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council and other stakeholders Create official Welcome Place and Welcome Package about Waverley's Indigenous heritage; work with Community Services on "Meeting Place" or "Keeping Place" at the Bondi Pavilion and Totem Pole for the Bidgigal People Integrate support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander local tourism business development Establish Aboriginal cultural heritage tours i.e. bush tucker courses and share dreaming stories

Governance continued

Action	Priority/ Timeframe/ Budget	CSP Theme	Project Partners & Complementary Strategies	KPIs
Tourism related revenue streams	Priority: Medium Timeframe: 2021 – 2023	Corporate Leadership & Engagement Sustainable Environment Sustainable Waste	Strategies: Economic Development Strategy	 Conduct a study to identify possible methods to secure additional revenue streams from visitors Study to outline how identified revenue streams can be reinvested back into the community and support Tourism Working Group

Marketing

Action	Priority/ Timeframe/ Budget	CSP Theme	Project Partners & Complementary Strategies	KPIs
Create Marketing Strategy	Priority: High Timeframe: 2020 – 2021	Corporate Leadership & Engagement Sustainable Environment Sustainable Waste Local Economy	Partners: Chamber of Commerce, Community groups, proposed Tourism Working Group and DNSW Strategies: Economic Development Strategy Waverley Council Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan	 Commence work on a destination marketing strategy that takes a holistic approach to the promotion of Waverley's businesses and experiences via Hello Bondi Ensure plan is focused on education and protection of the local area and is developed in consultation with local communities, industry and visitors Look at product packaging across the LGA and with neighboring Councils. Ensure all Waverley tourism product is registered in the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse Look at building alliances between businesses and entrepreneurs to support local products and services Work with DNSW to support local businesses to take advantage of their social media famils program and Business First program to promote their offering
Local tourism volunteer group	Priority: High Timeframe: 2019 – 2022	Sustainable Environment Local Economy	Partners: Proposed Tourism Working Group Strategies: Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021, Arts Plus	 Conduct research with community teams on the feasibility of creating a Volunteer Tourism Program (with support and training for DNSW) If approved, develop of volunteer framework Recruitment process to follow in conjunction with Council teams
Improved signage and visitor information	Priority: High Timeframe: 2019 – 2023	Local Economy Transport, Pedestrians & Parking Corporate Leadership & Engagement	Strategies: Complete Streets Action Plan Environmental Action Plan 3	 Conduct research into visitor Information requirements and specific signage enhancements. To be considered in conjunction with Pavillion VIC Investigate local printed guide for visitors. Work with industry to develop quality online information for visitors, which is optimised for mobile use and interactive
Parking App	Priority: Medium Timeframe: 2020 – 2022	Transport, Pedestrians & Parking	Partners: State Transit Authority, Chamber of Commerce, Community groups and proposed Tourism Working Group. Strategies: People, Movement & Places Strategy	 Work with Strategic Transport team to assess viability of a parking app as part of People, Movement and Places Signature Project

Infrastructure

Action	Priority/ Timeframe/ Budget	CSP Theme	Project Partners & Complementary Strategies	KPIs
Pedestrianised local hub areas	Priority: Medium – high Timeframe: 2021 – 2023	Recreation & Open Spaces Arts & Culture	Partners: Local businesses, State Transit Authority, Chamber of Commerce, Community groups and proposed Tourism Working Group Strategies: People, Movement & Places Strategy Environmental Action Plan 3	 Research costs and benefits from creating occasional pedestrianised areas within high footfall areas at Bondi Junction and Bondi Beach i.e. Gould Street Council to facilitate discussions and research with key stakeholder groups If positive, trial the process for 1 day per month across the shoulder seasons
Upgrading streetscapes	Priority: Medium - high Timeframe: 2022 – 2024+	Recreation & Open Spaces Urban Design and Heritage	Partners: TfNSW, RMS, proposed Tourism Working Group and Chamber of Commerce Strategies: Complete Streets Urban Design Review	 Identify key visitor areas for initial study, i.e. Bondi Road, Campbell Parade, Gould St. Conduct review of streetscape with supporting teams Identify mechanisms to fund the tourism related improvements, i.e. digital signage, information points
Innovation & Knowledge Hub	Priority: Medium Timeframe: 2021 – 2023	Innovation & Knowledge	Partners: Proposed Tourism Working Group, Innovation and Knowledge Hub Steering Group Strategies: Arts Plus Plan	 Work with Working Group to determine new visitor personas that will be engaged at the proposed space Create supporting marketing and visitor resources to promote the Hub and leverage from new visitor type Once established, consult with key stakeholders to discuss aspects of the project with regards to attracting MICE opportunities with conferencing space
Improve cycling links and development/ promotion of Rose Bay Ferry connection	Priority: Medium Timeframe: 2020 – 2022	Transport, Pedestrians & Parking	Partners: Local businesses, TfNSW, Chamber of Commerce, proposed Tourism Working Group Strategies: People, Movement & Places Strategy Complete Streets Action Plan, Environmental Action Plan 3	 Work with Strategic Transport team on current PMP strategy and transport hierarchy, i.e. increase safe cycling routes and develop the isthmus between Bondi Beach and Rose Bay Working with Strategic Transport, conduct research into methods to reduce heavy congestion at certain key visitor areas and events i.e. Sculptures by the Sea

Product development

Action	Priority/ Timeframe/ Budget	CSP Theme	Project Partners & Complementary Strategies	KPIs
Visitor Information Centre (VIC)	Priority: High Timeframe: 2019 – 2021	Local Economy Corporate Leadership & Engagement	Partners: Pavilion Steering Group Strategies: Bondi Park, Beach and Pavilion Plan of Management Economic Development Strategy	 Work with Pavilion Steering Group and Project Waverley on the DA proposal for the VIC within the Pavilion Create internal VIC Steering Group and commence research into effective VIC models Conduct visitor research on proposed model structure Create Business Case for development and management of VIC
Regulated Boutique accommodation	Priority: High Timeframe: 2020 – 2023	Local Economy Planning, Development & Heritage	Strategies: Economic Development Strategy LEP	 Develop an accommodation demand study to support introduction of new or extended commercial accommodation Consider planning barriers to entry in the LGA and work with Strategic Planning to encourage boutique accommodation options
All-weather heritage attractions	Priority: High Timeframe: 2019 – 2022	Recreation & Open Spaces Planning, Development & Heritage	Strategies: Bondi Junction – Evening, Culture and Entertainment Strategy Disability Inclusion Action Plan	• Undertake a feasibility study to test the viability of the concept in tandem or after the development of the VIC at the Pavilion. Key interest has been noted in the development of museums or interactive experiences on topics such as Aboriginal Heritage, Surf Lifesaving
Heritage walks & tours	Priority: High Timeframe: 2019 – 2021	Local Economy Recreation & Open Spaces	Partners: Bondi to Manly Steering Group Strategies: Bondi Junction – Evening, Culture and Entertainment Strategy Disability Inclusion Action Plan	 Work with Bondi to Manly Steering Group to develop and promote the 3-day Urban Coastal Walk with key State and Federal bodies Work with internal teams on the development of small heritage walks, which share the 'Story of Waverley', i.e. Story of Wonderland City and Bondi Aquarium Investigate methods and technology needed to facilitate walks and tours Promote walks to visitors in conjunction with Tourism Volunteer Group as an alternative to public transport
Food & dining experiences	Priority: High Timeframe: 2019 – 2022	Local Economy	Strategies: Economic Development Strategy Complete Streets Action Plan Bondi Junction – Evening, Culture and Entertainment Strategy Disability Inclusion Action Plan	 Evaluate Council's previous dining initiative rolled out four years ago Conduct research into the policy restrictions surrounding mobile vending, pop-up food and dining experiences If positive, work on local campaign to promote local food and dining trails; encouraging owner to provide unique experiences
Boutique festivals & events	Priority: Medium Timeframe: 2020 – 2022	Arts & Culture Recreation & Open Spaces	Strategies: Arts Plus Plan Complete Streets Action Plan Bondi Junction – Evening, Culture and Entertainment Strategy Disability Inclusion Action Plan	 Consult with stakeholder groups on potential for new boutique events that focus and reflect Waverley's multi-cultural community, that honor local heritage and culture and are accessible and inclusive Look at opportunities to leverage from current successful events with DNSW during the low-season, i.e. Vivid Sydney festival Encourage the development of night time family friendly activities for residents and visitors
Performance and cultural spaces	Priority: Medium Timeframe: 2022 – 2024	Recreation & Open Spaces Arts & Culture Local Economy	Strategies: Complete Streets Action Plan Arts Plus Plan Bondi Junction – Evening, Culture and Entertainment Strategy	 Undertake a demand study into the development of performance and cultural spaces in Waverley. Key consideration into additional public art gallery, training spaces and residence studios. In addition to, performance spaces and rehearsal rooms to support the performing arts sector To avoid overdevelopment, assess the possibility of converting Council owned assets, i.e. Eastgate basement space

Glossary

Accessible Tourism

The ongoing endeavour to ensure tourist destinations, products and services are accessible to all people, regardless of their physical limitations, disabilities or age. (Source: Tourism Australia)

Coastal Walk

A renowned urban coastal walking track from Bondi Beach to Coogee Beach, stretching over 7km in length.

Community Strategic Plan (CSP)

Represents the highest level of strategic planning undertaken by a local council. All other plans developed by the council as part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework must reflect and support the implementation of the Community Strategic Plan. *(Source: NSW Office of Local Government)*

Environmental Action Plan (EAP)

An EAP is the strategy used by local governments to set out environmental targets.

Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC)

The GSTC is an independent and neutral organisation, which establishes and manages global sustainable standards, known as the GSTC Criteria. There are two sets: Destination Criteria for public policy-makers and destination managers, and Industry Criteria for hotels and tour operators. These are the guiding principles and minimum requirements that any tourism business or destination should aspire to reach in order to protect and sustain the world's natural and cultural resources, while ensuring tourism meets its potential as a tool for conservation and poverty alleviation. *(Source: Global Sustainable Tourism Council)*

Greater Sydney Commission (GSC)

A Commission, established by an Act of Parliament, with specific roles and responsibilities for planning for Greater Sydney, with a direct reporting line to the NSW Government. (Source: Greater Sydney Commission)

Overtourism

Overtourism describes destinations where too many visitors negatively affect the quality of life in the area or the quality of the experience unacceptably. (Source: United Nations World Tourism Organisation)

Project Steering Group

This is a committee, the key body within the governance structure which is responsible for the business issues associated with the project that are essential to the ensuring the delivery of the project outputs and the attainment of project outcomes. (Source: Department of Premier and Cabinet, Tasmania)

Sustainability

Sustainable patterns of living that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Actions to improve sustainability are individual and collective endeavours shared across local and global communities. (Source: Australian Curriculum)

Sustainable Tourism

Tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities. (Source: United Nations World Tourism Organisation)



Tourism Hub

A central point of activity (whether this be a specific activity or activity more generally) within an LGA.

True Visitor

A visitor from over 25km in distance from a destination. (Source: Stafford Group)

United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.

Visitor Economy

The visitor economy takes into account broader economic activity than that which has historically been defined as 'tourism and events'. It includes the direct and indirect impacts resulting from a visitor travelling outside their usual environment for a holiday, leisure, events, business, conventions and exhibitions, retail, education, to visit friends and relatives or for short-term employment in NSW. (Source: NSW Department of Trade and Investment)

Visitor / Tourist

A visitor is any person visiting a country other than in which he has his usual place of residence and in which he spends less than a year, for any reason other than following an occupation remunerated from within the country visited. A tourist is a visitor who spends at least a night in the country visited. (Source: United Nations World Tourism Organisation)

Abbreviations

- ALOS Average Length of Stay
- **ABS** Australian Bureau of Statistics
- B&Bs Bed and Breakfast
- **CAPEX** Capital Expenditure
- **CBD** Central Business District
- **CDP** Central District Plan (from the Greater Sydney Commission)
- **CSP** Community Strategic Plan
- DA Development Application
- **DCP** Development Control Plan
- **GSTC** Global Sustainable Tourism Council
- **GSC** Greater Sydney Commission

- LEP Local Environmental Plan
- LGA Local Government Area
- LTO Local Tourism Organisation
- MAAS Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences
- MICE Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Events
- **PoM** Plan of Management
- STHL Short Term Holiday Letting
- SVS Sustainable Visitation Strategy
- **TWG** Tourism Working Group
- VIC Visitor Information Centre

