

WSROC is the regional collective voice of local government for Western Sydney. We exist to support councils and improve liveability outcomes for those who live and work in Western Sydney.

The following principles underpin WSROC’s initiatives:

- Ensuring the voice of local government is heard by decision makers, both in terms of community need and capacity to deliver
- Support the economic and social wellbeing of Western Sydney residents
- Focus on supporting our most vulnerable
- Improve equity and equality for the people of Western Sydney

This document outlines WSROC’s strategic focus for 2022-2026. These priorities are set by WSROC member councils and were endorsed by the WSROC Board on Thursday, 25 August 2022. The WSROC work priorities are to be reviewed and reported on annually.

Priority 1 Support vulnerable communities

Focus: *Support vulnerable communities*

- Outcome:
- Communities are supported in times of need and feel confident to engage in society.
 - Councils are connected and share best practice between themselves.
 - WSROC achieves greater gender equity on its Board of Directors.

Priority 2 Financial resilience of councils

Focus: *Improved local government resourcing*

- Outcome:
- The NSW Government returns a greater share of the waste levy to local government to deliver waste diversion and resource recovery programs and initiatives.
 - Local government financial sustainability is supported via policy reform including IPART funding changes.
 - Local government is appropriately resourced to deliver its emergency management, response and recovery roles.

Focus: *Planning/Developer contribution reform*

- Outcome:
- Local government and communities benefit from the planning reform process, with local liveability maximised.
 - NSW development contributions systems support the timely, equitable delivery of essential and community infrastructure with consideration for future population growth.
 - Communities have access to facilities and services that support liveability in their local neighbourhoods.

Priority 3 Housing

Focus: *Affordable housing*

- Outcome:
- Governments provide leadership on affordable housing to support our most vulnerable.
 - Collaboration across governments on housing – a national housing strategy.
 - More affordable housing for the region.

Focus: *Social housing*

- Outcome:
- More and better-quality social housing.
 - Improved support for our most vulnerable; including people who are homeless and victims of domestic violence.

Priority 4 Climate change and resilience

Focus: *Emissions reduction and energy efficiency*

- Outcome:
- Reduction of an additional 200,000 tonnes of CO₂e each year.
 - Councils and their communities are supported in the transition to low-emission transport.
 - Increased uptake of renewable energy across Western Sydney.
 - No one is left behind in the transition to a low-emissions society.

Focus: *Urban and extreme heat mitigation and adaptation*

- Outcome:
- Turn Down the Heat Strategy and related advocacy enhances liveability and health outcomes across the region, including:
 - A Greater Sydney heat taskforce is established, increasing multi-sectoral collaboration and investment to address the impacts of urban and extreme heat.
 - Heat mitigation and adaptation is integrated across building codes and planning policies and instruments (national, state and local).
 - Heatwave is recognised as a natural hazard and appropriate preparedness and response policies and procedures are in place (national, state and local).

Focus: *Coordinated catchment management*

- Outcome:
- Improved biodiversity, emergency management, urban heat, and water quality outcomes due to an integrated approach to managing Western Sydney catchments and waterways.

Priority 5 Waste management and resource recovery

Focus: *Improved waste management and resource recovery*

- Outcome:
- Councils divert more waste from landfill due to:
 - Increased availability of adequate waste and resource recovery infrastructure.
 - Infrastructure that can recycle a broader range of recoverable materials from domestic wastes.
 - Receiving support to successfully introduce (mandatory) organics waste services.
 - Receiving a greater share of the waste levy to deliver waste diversion and resource recovery programs and initiatives.
 - Increased opportunities for councils to contribute to waste reuse, waste reduction and recycling.
 - A regional waste strategy contains actions to assist councils transition to a circular economy.
 - Reduced plastic wastes are generated.
 - Greater awareness of new waste and resource recovery technologies.
 - Illegal dumping and safety risks are reduced via improved management of asbestos waste.

Priority 6 Employment

Focus: *Jobs growth*

- Outcome:
- Improved local employment prospects for Western Sydney residents.
 - Ongoing support for net-zero economy.

Priority 7 Transport

Focus: *Integrated transport*

- Outcome:
- Western Sydney centres are connected by public transport links that support intra-regional connectivity.
 - Public transport becomes an easy option for Western Sydney residents.