Understanding liveability inequities across the suburbs of Inner West

Liveability Scorecard For the LGA of Inner West: 2021

Australian Urban Observatory

Acknowledgements

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Indicator data and maps can be accessed through the Australian Urban Observatory:

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NSW GOVERNMENT Sydney Local Health District

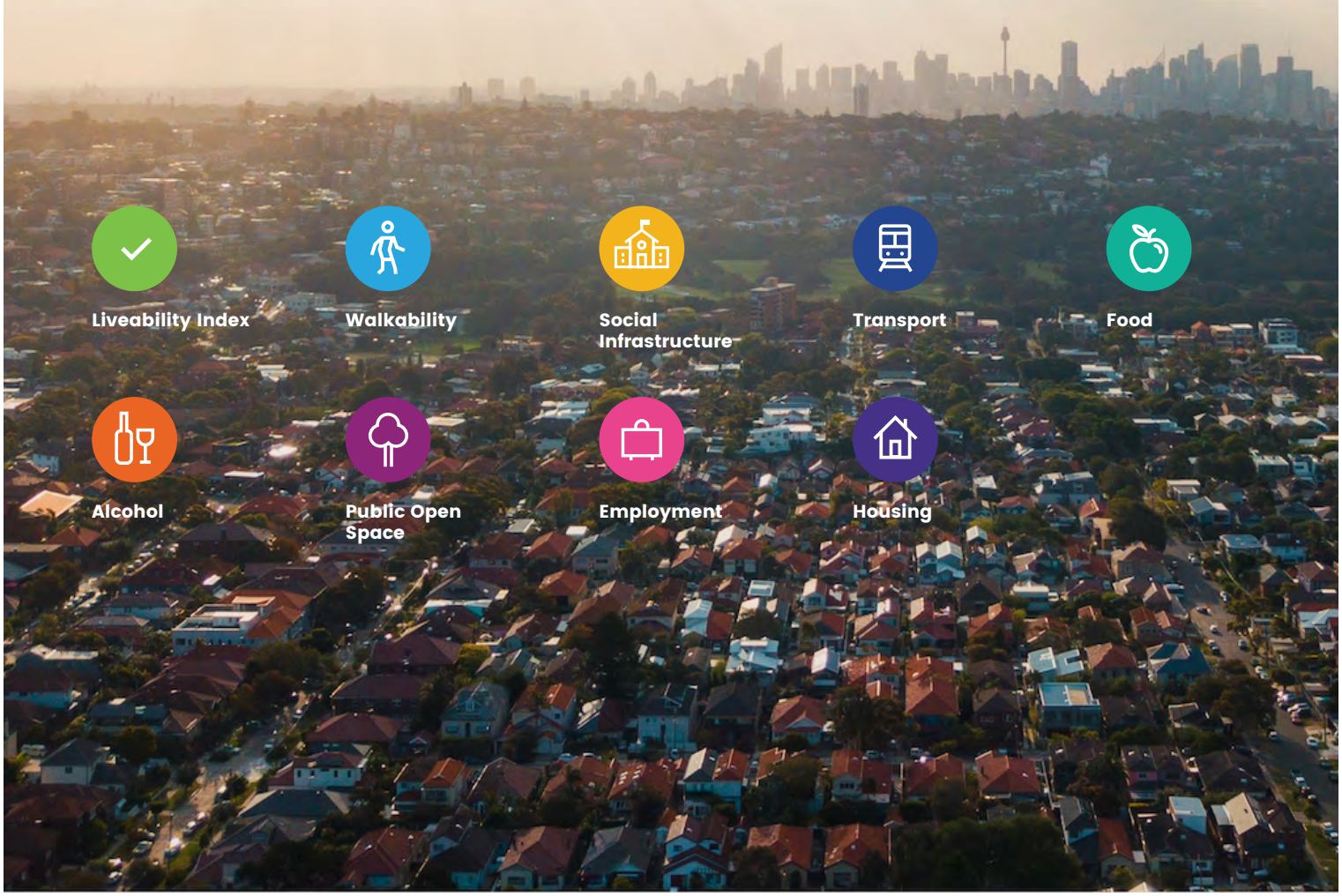
About this report

This Local Government Area (LGA) Liveability Scorecard has been prepared by the Australian Urban Observatory (AUO) in partnership with the Health Promotion Unit, Sydney Local Health District. It has been designed to understand the liveability of individual suburbs within an LGA and prioritise future actions and investments of interest to councils, community, urban planners, developers, and other decision makers to achieve healthier and more liveable places across an entire LGA.

The LGA Liveability Scorecard includes AUO indicators measuring overall liveability, walkability, social infrastructure, public transport, healthy food, alcohol, public open space, local employment and housing affordability[1]. For each indicator, suburb level results are compared to the LGA average to understand place-based liveability strengths and areas needing future prioritisation and action. All AUO indicators align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals[2].

The LGA Liveability Scorecards are aligned with a range of AUO scorecards including City Scorecards and Growth Area Scorecards developed by the AUO @ RMIT University based on 2021 indicator results.

More detailed neighbourhood, suburb, and Local Government Area results across Australian cities are available online at auo.org.au.



Summary for Inner West

Indicator	Brief Description	Value	Difference between LGA and Greater Sydney	
Liveability Index	Liveability Index	103.1	●	Similar*
Walkability Index	Walkability Index	4.6	▲	Better
Social Infrastructure Index	Social Infrastructure Index	10.2	▲	Better
Public Transport	Percentage living within 400m to regular public transport	87.8%	▲	Better
Food Environment	Average distance to closest healthy food outlet (supermarket or greengrocer)	644.1m	▲	Better
Alcohol Environment	Average distance to closest off-license alcohol outlet	368.8m	▼	Worse
Public Open Space	Percentage living within 400m of public open space of 1.5 hectares	26.7%	▼	Worse
Local Employment	Percentage of employed people living and working in the same SA3	22.3%	▼	Worse
Housing Affordability	Percentage of households spending more than 30% of income on housing costs	40.0%	●	Similar*

* Similar = less than 10% difference between LGA and city average.

Please visit the Australian Urban Observatory at **auo.org.au** for more reports covering the liveability of Australia's 21 largest cities.

Liveability Index

Rationale

The economic, social, environmental and health co-benefits of urban liveability are recognised by all levels of government in Australia and globally [3]. Liveable communities are safe, socially cohesive, inclusive and environmentally sustainable [4]. They have affordable housing linked via public transport, walking and cycling infrastructure to employment, education, shops, services, public open space and social, cultural and recreational opportunities [3].

What we measured

The Liveability Index is underpinned by over a decade of research. It combines six domains of liveability found to be associated with health and wellbeing outcomes: walkability; access to social infrastructure; public transport; larger public open space; affordable housing; and local employment.

Results

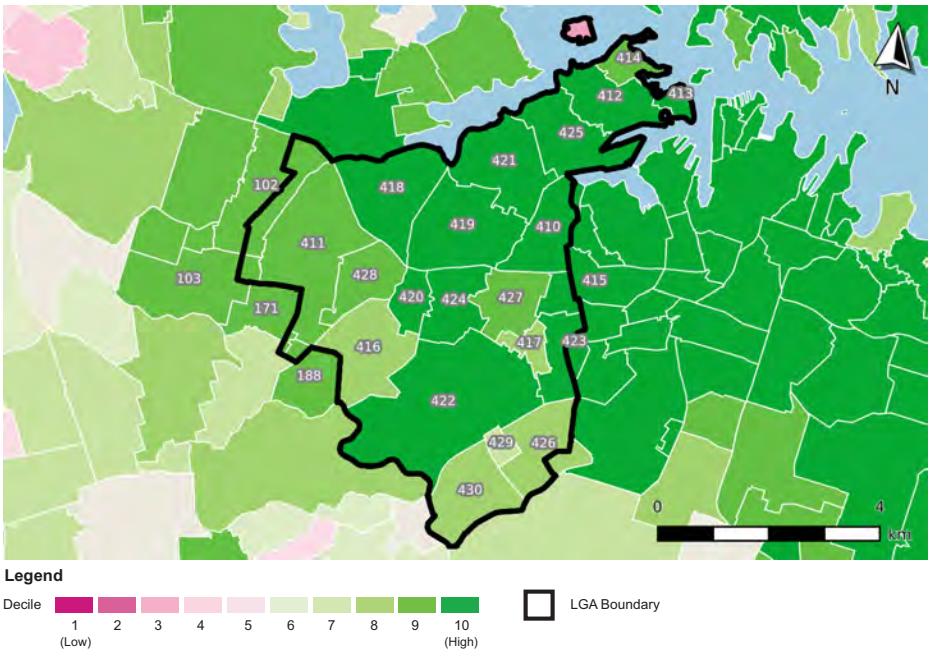
ID	Suburb	Value
415	Camperdown	106.7
423	Newtown	106.1
421	Lilyfield	105.0
412	Balmain	104.3
425	Rozelle	104.3
424	Petersham	104.3
418	Haberfield	104.3
410	Annandale	104.2
419	Leichhardt	104.1
422	Marrickville	103.4
413	Balmain East	103.2
420	Lewisham	103.0
414	Birchgrove	102.9
171	Ashbury	102.5
428	Summer Hill	102.4
188	Hurlstone Park	102.0
103	Croydon Park	101.9
411	Ashfield	101.8
427	Stanmore	101.6
102	Croydon	101.5
426	St Peters	101.2
417	Enmore	101.1
416	Dulwich Hill	101.0
430	Tempe	100.5
429	Sydenham	100.0

The Liveability Index score for residences across the LGA of Inner West is

103.1

This Liveability Index score is similar to the Greater Sydney average of 99.7.

Figure 1. Liveability Index scores for suburbs across the LGA of Inner West



Walkability

Rationale

Walkability measures the ease and safety of walking in an area. Neighbourhoods that have shops and services to walk to, small blocks, good street connectivity, and higher population density are more walkable [5]. Walkable neighbourhoods discourage driving and encourage active travel resulting in higher levels of walking and cycling. The benefits of a physically active life are well established in reducing chronic disease and maintaining health and wellbeing [6].

What we measured

Walkability for Transport is calculated as a composite index, with 0 being the national average, that includes access to daily living destinations (something to walk to), dwelling density (population needed to supply services and destinations), and street connectivity (a way to get there) within a reasonable walking distance of home. The higher the score above zero, the more walkable the area.

The LGA of Inner West ranks

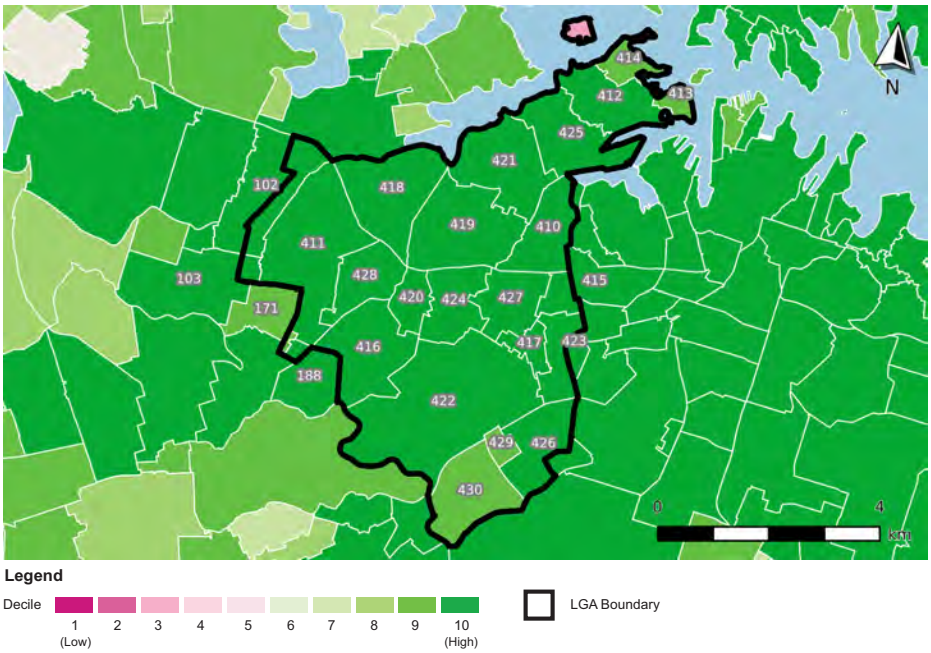
2nd

within all LGAs in Greater Sydney for Walkability.

Results

ID	Suburb	Value
415	Camperdown	9.1
423	Newtown	8.4
427	Stanmore	8.2
417	Enmore	8.0
424	Petersham	6.6
410	Annandale	6.4
420	Lewisham	5.8
428	Summer Hill	4.9
416	Dulwich Hill	4.7
419	Leichhardt	4.3
422	Marrickville	4.1
411	Ashfield	4.0
425	Rozelle	4.0
412	Balmain	3.6
421	Lilyfield	3.1
426	St Peters	2.7
102	Croydon	2.6
418	Haberfield	2.6
188	Hurlstone Park	2.4
103	Croydon Park	2.2
171	Ashbury	1.3
414	Birchgrove	1.3
429	Sydenham	1.3
430	Tempe	1.2
413	Balmain East	0.8

Figure 2. Walkability for transport across suburbs across the Inner WestLGA



Data: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2021 under CC by 4.0; OpenStreetMap, 2021 under ODbL; Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority, 2021; Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, 2021; Healthdirect Australia National Health Services Directory, 2021, via AURIN Portal, 2021. Map tiles: CartoDB, under CC BY 3.0, featuring data by OpenStreetMap, under ODbL.

Social Infrastructure

Rationale

Social infrastructure refers to essential community services and resources [7]. Ready access to a wide range of different types of social infrastructure is important for the creation and ongoing development of healthy communities. The availability of well-planned social infrastructure supports liveable communities by promoting increased physical activity [8], wellbeing [7], increased satisfaction with the local community [9], improving social interactions and mental health outcomes [10]. Social infrastructure is a key component of liveability.

What we measured

The Social Infrastructure Index includes access to 16 types of social infrastructure at various recommended distances from dwellings. It includes access to childcare facilities, community centres, libraries, aged care facilities, pharmacies, family and community healthcare, dentists and general practitioners, sporting facilities, swimming pools, outside school hours childcare, primary and secondary schools, museums or galleries, and cinemas and theatres.

The Social Infrastructure Index score for residences across the LGA of Inner West is

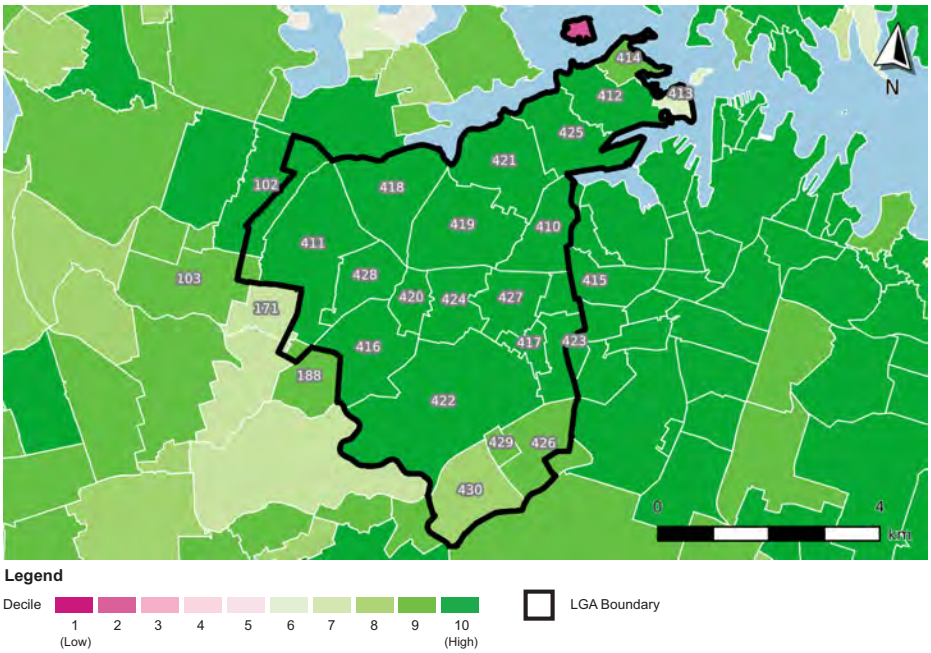
10.0 out of a total of 16.

In comparison, the score for Greater Sydney, on average, is 6.288.

Results

ID	Suburb	Value
424	Petersham	12.4
419	Leichhardt	12.3
427	Stanmore	11.5
417	Enmore	11.3
411	Ashfield	10.7
423	Newtown	10.6
420	Lewisham	10.5
410	Annandale	10.4
422	Marrickville	10.3
428	Summer Hill	10.2
416	Dulwich Hill	10.0
102	Croydon	9.8
415	Camperdown	9.8
412	Balmain	9.3
425	Rozelle	9.1
421	Lilyfield	8.7
418	Haberfield	8.5
414	Birchgrove	7.7
103	Croydon Park	7.5
188	Hurlstone Park	7.4
426	St Peters	6.9
429	Sydenham	6.9
430	Tempe	6.8
171	Ashbury	5.8
413	Balmain East	4.6

Figure 3. Social Infrastructure Index results across suburbs of the LGA of Inner West.



Public Transport

Rationale

People living close to public transport are more likely to use it, less dependent on cars and more likely to achieve physical activity requirements [6]. Living within 400m of a public transport stop with a service every 30 minutes encourages more walking [11]. It supports sustainability and people with restricted mobility, including young people, older adults, people with disabilities and people who don't own cars to access services, education and jobs.

What we measured

We measured access to bus, train, and tram stops with an average service interval of no more than 30 minutes between the weekday hours of 7 am and 7 pm. Access was measured as the percentage of dwellings with a regular service within 400m of any of these stops based on a walkable road network distance.

The percentage of households across the LGA of Inner West with access to frequent public transport is

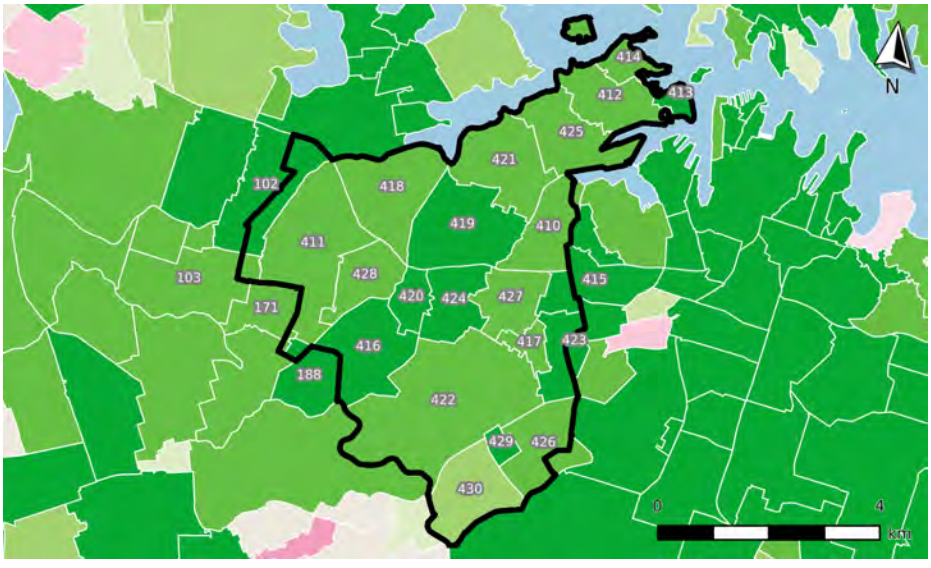
87.8%

This is better than the Greater Sydney average of 73.3%.

Results

ID	Suburb	Value
429	Sydenham	100.0%
413	Balmain East	99.6%
415	Camperdown	99.3%
423	Newtown	93.8%
424	Petersham	92.7%
102	Croydon	92.4%
416	Dulwich Hill	92.1%
419	Leichhardt	91.5%
420	Lewisham	91.5%
188	Hurlstone Park	91.2%
103	Croydon Park	90.1%
421	Lilyfield	87.3%
422	Marrickville	87.0%
418	Haberfield	86.9%
428	Summer Hill	86.6%
411	Ashfield	85.6%
427	Stanmore	85.5%
171	Ashbury	85.5%
412	Balmain	85.3%
410	Annandale	85.0%
417	Enmore	84.6%
425	Rozelle	82.6%
426	St Peters	81.9%
414	Birchgrove	81.4%
430	Tempe	77.9%

Figure 4. Access to Frequent Public Transport within 400m across the suburbs of the LGA of Inner West



Food

Rationale

Supermarkets support healthy eating and provide access to affordable fresh fruit and vegetables. People living within a short walk of a supermarket are more likely to walk or cycle instead of driving [6,12]. Increases in physical activity through active transport modes like walking and cycling, also reduce chronic disease risk and traffic congestion. In disadvantaged areas, living within 800m of a supermarket reduces the risk of overweight and obesity [13].

What we measured

We measured the average distance to a healthy food outlet (supermarket or greengrocer). Distances were calculated according to a pedestrian accessible road network.

Results

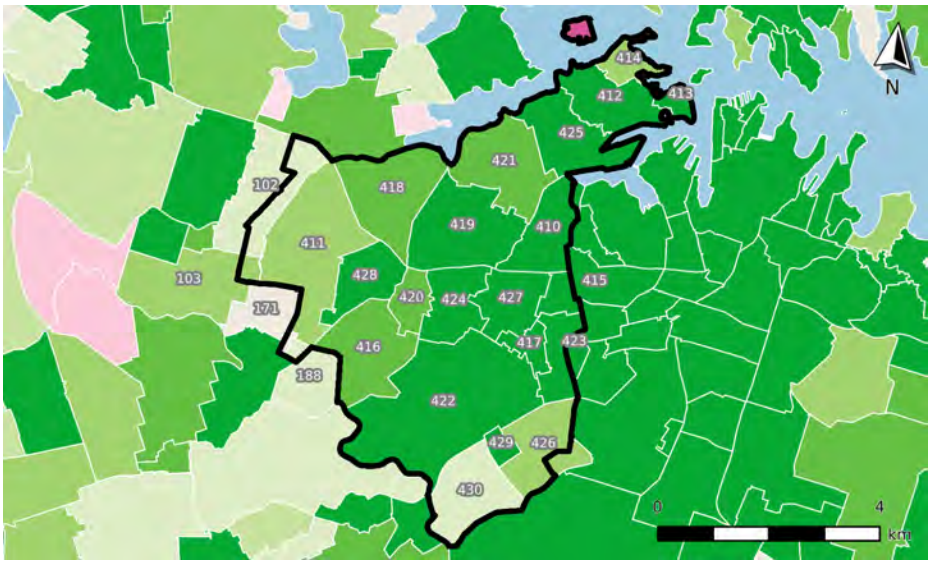
The average distance to a supermarket or greengrocer for residences in the Inner West LGA is

644.1 metres.

This is better than the Greater Sydney average of 1117.9 metres.

ID	Suburb	Value
413	Balmain East	259.5m
417	Enmore	326.2m
423	Newtown	389.1m
424	Petersham	423.2m
415	Camperdown	454.4m
429	Sydenham	461.0m
425	Rozelle	468.8m
419	Leichhardt	501.9m
412	Balmain	535.5m
427	Stanmore	565.6m
410	Annandale	570.6m
428	Summer Hill	582.7m
422	Marrickville	621.9m
421	Lilyfield	697.9m
418	Haberfield	700.8m
416	Dulwich Hill	722.3m
420	Lewisham	797.1m
426	St Peters	809.8m
411	Ashfield	826.6m
103	Croydon Park	828.5m
414	Birchgrove	900.2m
430	Tempe	1078.0m
102	Croydon	1115.0m
188	Hurlstone Park	1138.4m
171	Ashbury	1219.7m

Figure 5. Distance to a supermarket or greengrocer for suburbs across the LGA of Inner West



Alcohol

Rationale

Increased access to alcohol has been linked to harmful alcohol consumption and alcohol-related violence [14,15]. Furthermore, alcohol outlets are more likely to be located in more disadvantaged areas [16]. For those living in disadvantaged areas where there are fewer alcohol outlets, there appears to be a protective affect with enhanced self-reported health [16].

What we measured

The average distance to off-license alcohol outlets which includes bottle shops and supermarkets where alcohol can be purchased and taken to another premise for consumption. Distances were calculated from individual dwellings using a pedestrian accessible road network.

The average distance to an off-license alcohol outlet across the suburbs of the LGA of Inner West is

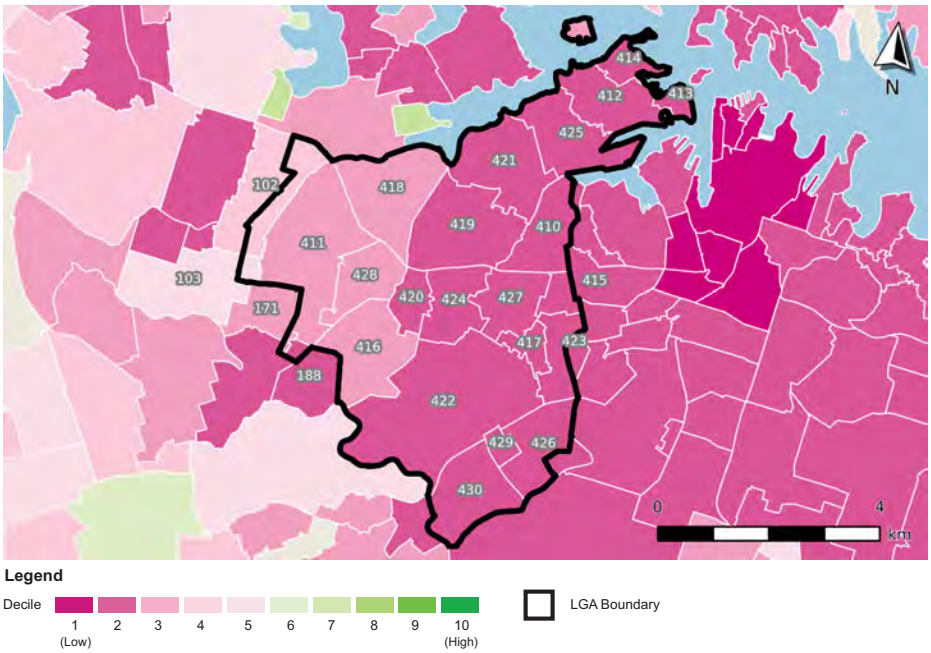
368.8 metres.

This is worse than the Greater Sydney average of 799.3 metres.

Results

ID	Suburb	Value
103	Croydon Park	765.5m
102	Croydon	677.2m
411	Ashfield	545.9m
171	Ashbury	507.0m
428	Summer Hill	489.1m
418	Haberfield	486.6m
416	Dulwich Hill	471.3m
420	Lewisham	440.3m
422	Marrickville	376.8m
421	Lilyfield	366.7m
430	Tempe	352.5m
188	Hurlstone Park	346.9m
410	Annandale	335.6m
415	Camperdown	318.8m
427	Stanmore	291.6m
419	Leichhardt	285.9m
424	Petersham	281.5m
426	St Peters	262.5m
414	Birchgrove	260.5m
413	Balmain East	225.4m
417	Enmore	220.6m
423	Newtown	213.2m
425	Rozelle	212.1m
412	Balmain	205.9m
429	Sydenham	182.9m

Figure 6. Distance to an off-license alcohol outlet across the suburbs of the LGA of Inner West



Public Open Space

Rationale

Public open space includes parks, open areas and places where people can congregate for active and passive recreation and enjoyment. Parks are one form of public open space that usually include grassed areas, gardens, and some green recreational space. Public open spaces support both the physical and mental health of people living nearby. Green public open spaces also support ecosystems, ecology and biodiversity of an area [17] and provide cooling effects mitigating urban heat island effects.

What we measured

Large Public Open Space was defined as urban parks greater than or equal to 1.5 hectares, since larger parks have been shown to support physical activity. Access was measured as the percentage of dwellings within 400m based on a walkable road network distance.

The percentage of residences with access to Large Public Open Space within 400m across the LGA of Inner West is

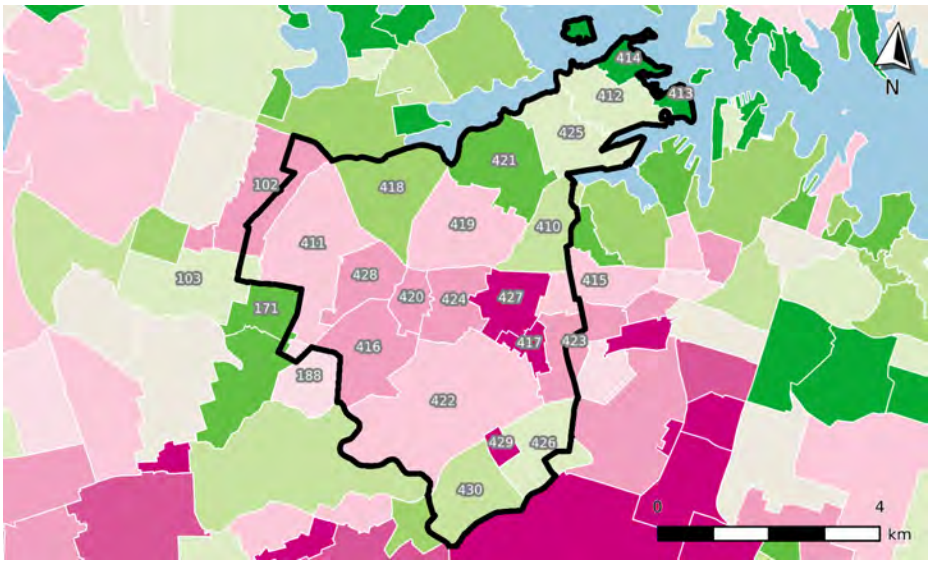
26.7%

This is worse than the Greater Sydney average of 40.6%.

Results

ID	Suburb	Value
413	Balmain East	100.0%
414	Birchgrove	98.3%
421	Lilyfield	74.5%
171	Ashbury	72.9%
418	Haberfield	59.9%
410	Annandale	52.2%
430	Tempe	48.9%
412	Balmain	46.1%
426	St Peters	45.2%
103	Croydon Park	43.0%
425	Rozelle	42.9%
188	Hurlstone Park	29.6%
422	Marrickville	22.0%
411	Ashfield	19.5%
419	Leichhardt	15.9%
415	Camperdown	15.0%
424	Petersham	14.0%
420	Lewisham	13.0%
428	Summer Hill	12.7%
102	Croydon	8.5%
423	Newtown	4.2%
416	Dulwich Hill	2.1%
417	Enmore	0.0%
427	Stanmore	0.0%
429	Sydenham	0.0%

Figure 7. Access to large public open space within 400m across the suburbs of the LGA of Inner West



Employment

Rationale

Accessible employment is a social determinant of health, providing people with financial resources to support themselves and their families. Access to local employment reduces vehicle kilometres travelled, travel time and traffic congestion on city roads. It also increases the likelihood of people using active transport such as walking, cycling and public transport, and has been associated with improved self-reported health [18]. Access to local employment with shorter travel times has the potential to support work-life balance and is associated with a reduced risk of obesity [19].

What we measured

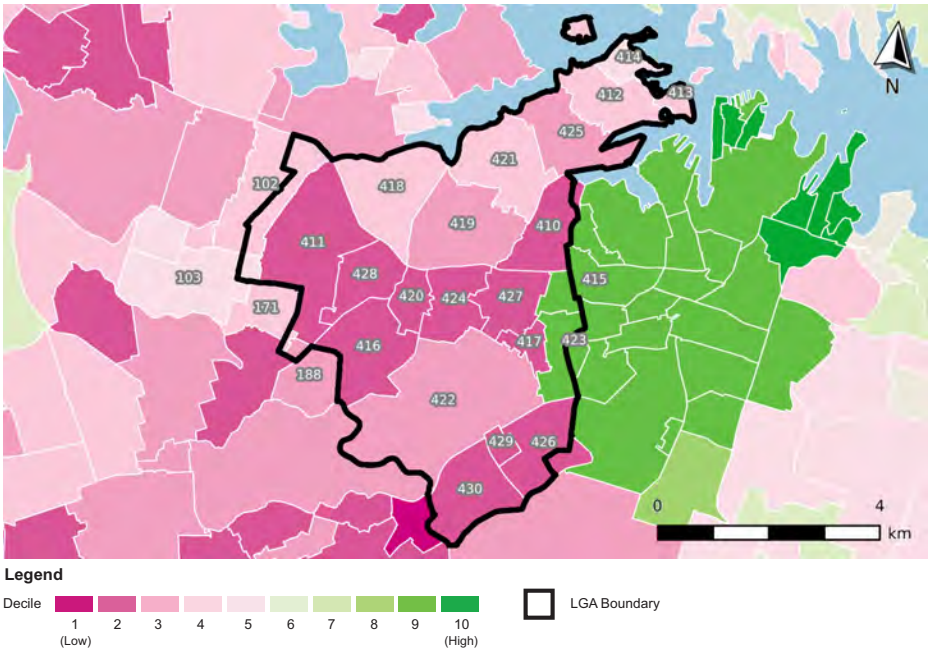
We measured access to local employment as the percentage of residents living in an Australian Bureau of Statistics' Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1), and working within the same Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3). On average, SA1 areas represent approximately 400 people while SA3 areas represent between 30,000 and 130,000 people.

The proportion of the population living and working locally in the LGA of Inner West is

22.3%

This is worse than the Greater Sydney average of 32.5% .

Figure 8. Proportion of the population living and working locally across the suburbs of the LGA of Inner West



Results

ID	Suburb	Value
423	Newtown	62.0%
415	Camperdown	61.0%
103	Croydon Park	26.4%
414	Birchgrove	26.2%
171	Ashbury	25.5%
102	Croydon	24.8%
412	Balmain	24.6%
413	Balmain East	24.3%
418	Haberfield	23.7%
421	Lilyfield	23.3%
425	Rozelle	22.1%
188	Hurlstone Park	21.3%
422	Marrickville	20.1%
419	Leichhardt	20.1%
410	Annandale	19.3%
430	Tempe	19.2%
428	Summer Hill	19.1%
417	Enmore	19.0%
411	Ashfield	18.6%
429	Sydenham	17.1%
416	Dulwich Hill	16.6%
424	Petersham	16.5%
420	Lewisham	16.4%
426	St Peters	15.9%
427	Stanmore	15.7%

Housing

Rationale

Housing is a key social determinant of health. Decent and affordable housing supports families by providing safe, stable, and healthy shelter. Affordable housing frees up family finances for use on healthcare and food, and supports physical and mental health and wellbeing. Housing affordability stress is associated with poorer self-reported health, higher community dissatisfaction, and residents feeling unsafe. Affordable housing frees up family finances for use on health care, food, education and recreation, and supports physical and mental health and wellbeing [20].

What we measured

Housing affordability was measured according to housing stress and represents any household spending more than 30% of their household income on housing costs.

The percentage of households across the LGA of Inner West spending more than 30% of income on housing is

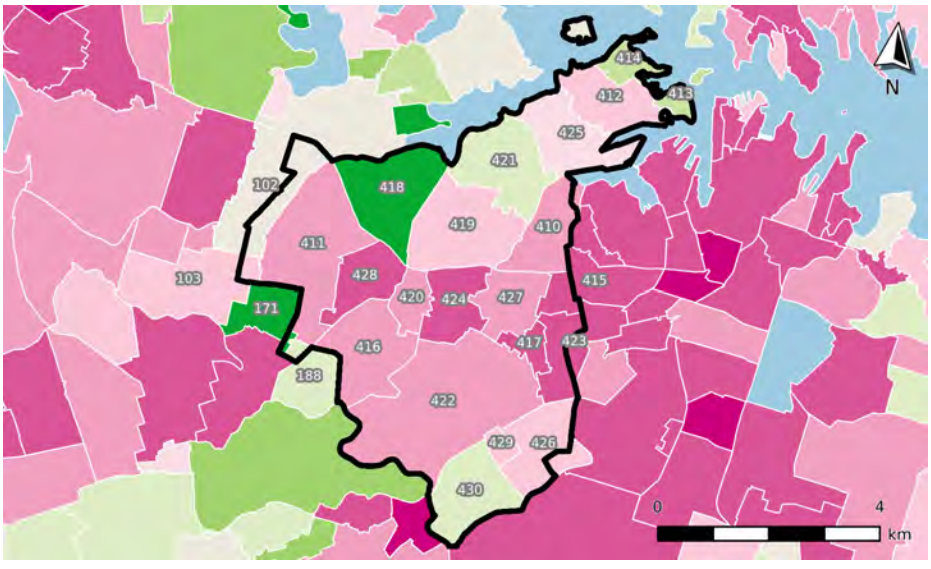
40.0%

This is similar to the Greater Sydney average of 37.7% .

Results

ID	Suburb	Value
171	Ashbury	11.9%
418	Haberfield	15.8%
414	Birchgrove	25.4%
413	Balmain East	25.8%
430	Tempe	27.2%
421	Lilyfield	28.9%
188	Hurlstone Park	29.3%
102	Croydon	30.8%
425	Rozelle	32.5%
426	St Peters	35.9%
412	Balmain	36.3%
103	Croydon Park	36.9%
429	Sydenham	37.0%
419	Leichhardt	37.0%
422	Marrickville	39.6%
410	Annandale	40.3%
416	Dulwich Hill	42.8%
427	Stanmore	43.4%
420	Lewisham	44.1%
411	Ashfield	45.5%
417	Enmore	46.4%
424	Petersham	48.6%
428	Summer Hill	49.9%
423	Newtown	50.4%
415	Camperdown	56.5%

Figure 9. Percentage of households under housing stress across the suburbs of the LGA of Inner West



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Appendix (list of AUO measures available)

Walkability
Walkability - Australian Urban Observatory (auo.org.au)
Average distance to closest activity centre
Average dwelling density per hectare
Average street connectivity per square kilometre
Average number of daily living destinations present (0–3) within 1600 m
Walkability for Transport Index

Social Infrastructure
Social Infrastructure - Australian Urban Observatory (auo.org.au)
Health Infrastructure subdomain
Education Infrastructure subdomain
Community and Sport Infrastructure subdomain
Cultural Infrastructure subdomain
Average distance to closest GP clinic
Average distance to closest GP clinic with bulk-billing
Average distance to closest playground

Transport
Transport - Australian Urban Observatory (auo.org.au)
Average distance to closest public transport stop
Percentage of dwellings within 400 m of a bus stop
Average distance to closes train station
Average distance to closest bus stop with a regular 15-minute weekday service
Average distance to closest bus stop with a regular 30-minute weekday service
Average distance to closest bus stop with a regular 45-minute weekday service
Percentage of people aged 15 years and over using active transport to travel to work
Percentage of people aged 15 years and over using public transport to travel to work
Percentage of people aged 15 years and over using private vehicle/s to travel to work

Food
Food - Australian Urban Observatory (auo.org.au)
Percentage of dwellings without any food outlet within 3.2km
Percentage of dwellings within 1km of a supermarket
Average distance to closest fast food outlet

Alcohol
Alcohol - Australian Urban Observatory (auo.org.au)
Average number of on-licence alcohol outlets within 400m
Average number of off-licence alcohol outlet within 800m
Average distance to closest on-licence alcohol outlet
Average distance to closest off-licence alcohol outlet

Public Open Space
Public Open Space - Australian Urban Observatory (auo.org.au)
Average distance to closest public open space
Percentage of dwellings within 400 m or less of public open space
Average distance to closest public open space larger than 1.5 hectares
Percentage of dwellings within 400 m of public open space larger than 1.5 hectares
Percentage of dwellings within 400 m or less distance of any local park (> 0.4 to. <= 1 ha)
Percentage of dwellings within 800 m of less distance of any neighbourhood park (>1 ha to <= 5 ha)
Percentage of dwellings within 400 m of less distance of a neighbourhood recreation park (> 0.5 ha)
Average distance to closest public open space with a nearby public toilet (within 100 m)

Employment
Employment - Australian Urban Observatory (auo.org.au)
Percentage of employed persons living and working in the same SA3

Housing*
Housing - Australian Urban Observatory (auo.org.au)
Percentage of dwellings that are government owned or community housing
Percentage of households in the bottom 40% of incomes spending more than 30% of income on housing costs
Percentage of rental households in the bottom 40% of incomes spending more than 30% of income on housing costs
Percentage of mortgaged households in the bottom 40% of incomes spending more than 30% of income on housing costs
Percentage of rental or mortgaged households in the bottom 40% of incomes spending more than 30% of income on housing costs
Percentage of households spending more than 30% of household income on housing costs

*Additional specialist housing indicators available

ABS Demographics
People - Australian Urban Observatory (auo.org.au)

Notes

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