

# Schofields Town Centre Planned Precinct

November 2017



## Community Consultation Update – introduction

Located within the North West Growth Area, Schofields Town Centre has been announced as a Planned Precinct as it offers the opportunity to provide more new homes close to public transport, adding to the pipeline of new homes needed for a growing Greater Sydney.

Schofields Town Centre is on the North Shore, Northern, Western and Cumberland train lines. It also has access to frequent bus services to nearby Blacktown and Rouse Hill. It takes around 25 minutes to reach the Parramatta CBD by train from Schofields, making it highly suitable for the location of new homes and services.

The Department is working to ensure that planning reflects community priorities and concerns, gathering feedback through community and stakeholder engagement. Members of the Schofields community were invited to participate in a PlaceScore survey to express what they value about the Schofields area and what they would like to see improved over time.

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## What community consultation has taken place around the Schofields Town centre Planned Precinct?

The community is playing a key role in developing the vision for the Schofields Town Centre Planned Precinct including:



### Public exhibition of Precinct Planning Package for Schofields in 2011:

A landowner information sessions was held on 9 March 2010 to explain the precinct planning process and provide information about the preliminary site context and constraints of planning within the area.



### Community drop-in session, July 22, 2017:

The Department held an drop-in session to discuss the planning process and canvass community feedback. 50 people attended the session.



### PlaceScore:

The Department also invited community members to express via an online survey what they value about Schofields and what they would like to see improve. The survey attracted more than 45 responses.

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## What values and concerns has the community shared about living in Schofields?

The community shared, via the PlaceScore survey, the attributes they most value about the Schofields area including public transport, pedestrian and bike paths that connect to community amenity, ongoing maintenance and public investment as well as neighbourhood safety and sense of belonging.

In addition, different sections of the community have articulated priorities for the future of Schofields such as pedestrian and bike paths that connect to community amenity, access and safety of walking, cycling and/or public transport, entertainment and improving the general condition of public open space. Other members of the community noted the importance of maintaining natural environmental features in the neighbourhood.

Local residents also shared concerns about the need for improved public transport, connectedness and the amount of parks and open space in the area.

### WHAT DO PEOPLE VALUE IN THE SCHOFIELDS TOWN CENTRE PLANNED PRECINCT?

RANK	OVERALL (N=45)	%	RANK	OVERALL (N=45)	%
#1	<b>Walking/jogging/bike paths that connect housing to communal amenity</b> (shops, parks etc.)	69%	#5	<b>Connectivity</b> (proximity to other neighbourhoods, employment centres, shops etc.)	51%
#2	<b>General condition of public open space</b> (street trees, footpaths, parks etc.)	64%	#5	<b>Sense of neighbourhood safety</b> (from crime, traffic, pollution etc.)	51%
#3	<b>Evidence of recent public investment</b> (roads, parks, schools etc.)	62%	#8	<b>Ease of driving and parking</b>	49%
#4	<b>Elements of natural environment</b> (natural features, views, vegetation, topography, water, wildlife etc.)	60%	#8	<b>Sense of belonging in the community</b>	49%
#5	<b>Access and safety of walking, cycling and/or public transport</b> (signage, paths, lighting etc.)	51%	#10	<b>Access to neighbourhood amenities</b> (cafes, shops, health and wellness services etc.)	47%

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## Other facts about the Schofields community that emerged from the PlaceScore survey include:

- **Females value neighbourhood amenities and locally-owned businesses**  
69% of females (all age groups) highly value evidence of recent public investment. 62% of women particularly value the general condition of public open space and 62% also value pedestrian and bike paths that connect to community amenity.
- **Men value views – connectivity to communal amenity**  
81% of men (all age groups) surveyed highly value pedestrian and bike paths that connect to community amenity. Additionally, 75% of males placed a priority on the area's landscaping and natural elements while 69% of men surveyed value the general condition of open space compared to 62% of women.
- **Young people are concerned with public open space**  
69% of people aged between 25-44 years highly value the general condition of public open spaces such as street trees and footpaths, while 45-64 year olds placed their highest value in pedestrian and bike paths that connect to community amenity.
- **The community wants improved community facilities**  
When asked for ideas for improving the neighbourhood, the most common suggestions were to increase the number of community facilities such as parks, sports fields, community centres and schools. The community would also like to see more street lighting in the neighbourhood.
- **Improve waste management is an emerging priority**  
The survey showed residents would like to see

better waste management near Bligh St. They would also like to maintain the local character of the area.

- **The community wants more car parking**

When asked for ideas for improving the neighbourhood, the most common answers were to address car parking issues at the train station and fix the roads. The community would also like to see improved parks and open space.

### What happens next?

Together with Blacktown Council, the Department is taking the next step in bringing the Schofields Town Centre Plan to life. Detailed studies are underway to consider opportunities for new homes and employment.

This Plan will offer improved public open space, transport and infrastructure services to support the growing community in Schofields.

The Department will incorporate feedback from community consultation and the PlaceScore survey into the development of the Schofields Precinct Plan.

We are intending to release the draft precinct plan, including a rezoning proposal for the government land, in 2019. The updated plans will be placed on exhibition and the community encouraged to have its say.

### Where can I find out more?

To find out more you can:

go online to [planning.nsw.gov.au/schofieldstowncentre](http://planning.nsw.gov.au/schofieldstowncentre)