

Draft

Resilient Randwick Strategy Synthesis Report 2026



Randwick City Council
a sense of community

Acknowledgement of Country

Randwick Council pays respect to the Traditional Custodians of the land, the Bidjigal and Gadigal people, and we acknowledge the living and continuing cultures of the Traditional Custodians of this Country. We recognise that the Traditional Custodians have occupied and cared for this Country over countless generations, and we celebrate their ongoing contributions to the life of the area.



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Acknowledgement of Country

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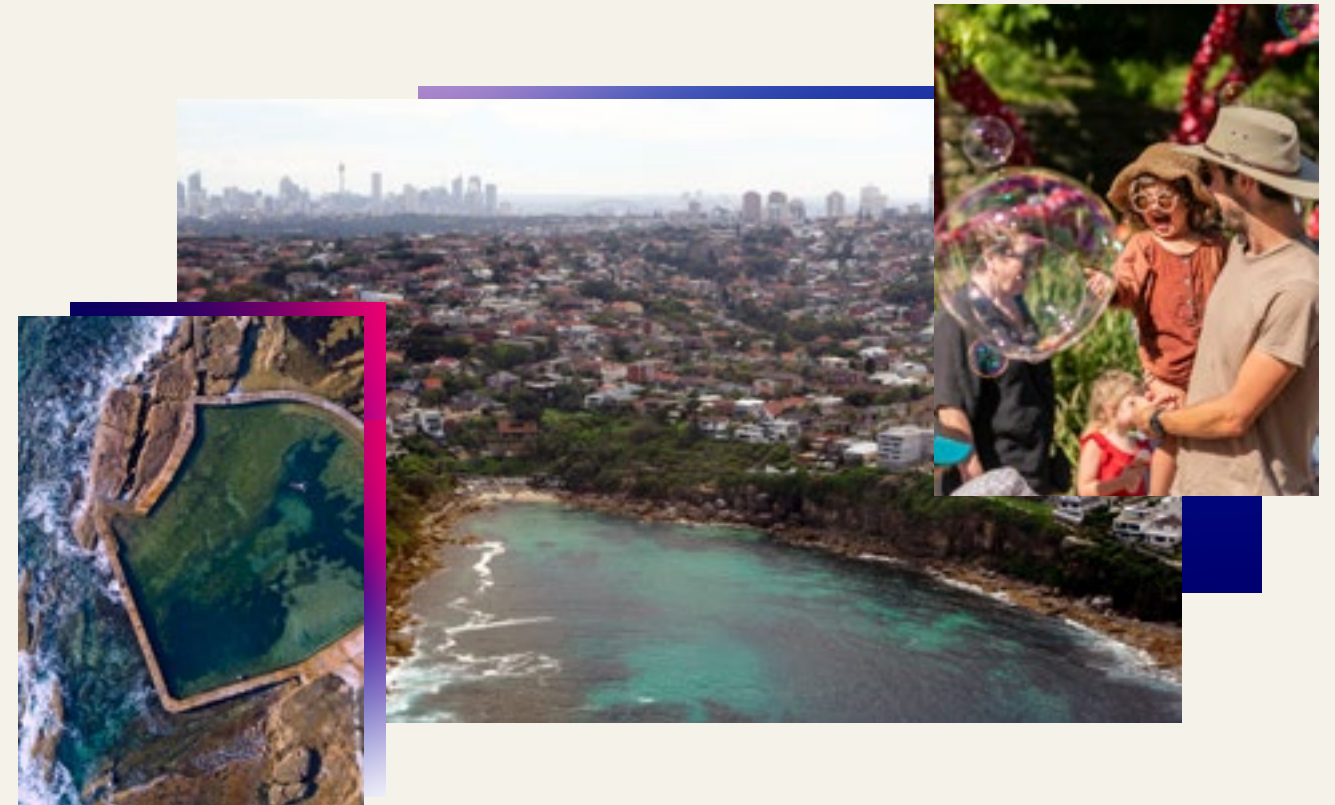
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1. Introduction

Resilience is the ability of a community to survive, adapt and thrive in the face of disruption.

INTRODUCTION



This synthesis report provides the research foundation for Randwick City Council's Resilient Randwick Strategy. It outlines the evidence base, key concepts, and methodology that inform the strategy, ensuring it is grounded in local realities and aligned with broad, city-wide resilience planning.

Resilience is the ability of a community to survive, adapt and thrive in the face of disruption. It encompasses both shocks, which are sudden events such as storms, floods or cyber-attacks that disrupt daily life, and stresses, which are ongoing challenges like housing affordability, cost-of-living pressures and social isolation, that erode a community's capacity to withstand and recover from shocks.

Randwick City Council's resilience planning builds on the foundation laid by the Resilient Sydney Strategy 2025–2030 and its accompanying synthesis report. That work mapped shocks and stresses across Greater Sydney's 33 local government areas, providing a shared evidence base for resilience planning. Randwick's approach mirrors this framework while tailoring it to the unique conditions, priorities and vulnerabilities of our local community.

To inform the development of the Resilient Randwick Strategy, Council undertook a two-part methodology:

- A local resilience risk assessment, following Resilient Sydney's guidelines, to identify key shocks, stresses and vulnerabilities specific to Randwick.
- Community engagement, including online consultation, pop-up sessions across the local government area, interviews with community representatives and workshops with the external working group. This ensured the strategy reflects the lived experiences and priorities of Randwick's diverse communities.

Local government plays a critical role in planning, preparing and reducing risk at the community level. Randwick is home to coastal communities, major health and education precincts, dense urban centres and areas of social housing. Effective planning requires a deep understanding of the strengths and vulnerabilities of this area.

With improved data and deeper engagement, Randwick City Council is better positioned to plan effectively, collaborate strategically and build a resilient future. This synthesis report ensures that the Resilient Randwick Strategy is grounded in evidence, shaped by community voices, and responsive to the challenges ahead.

2. Methodology

The development of the evidence base of the Randwick Resilience Strategy was informed by a multi-layered methodology combining international leading practice, local data analysis, and extensive community engagement.

- This process led to the identification of Randwick’s top shocks and stresses.
- This approach integrated four key elements:
- 1. Application of the City Resilience Framework to guide strategic direction.
 - 2. A risk assessment process to identify and analyse Randwick’s priority shocks and stresses.
 - 3. A comprehensive community engagement program to understand local perspectives, strengths and vulnerabilities.

Figure 1 illustrates the approach used to build the Strategy’s evidence base. Further discussion on the resilient risk assessment and engagement process is outlined within Section 4 Methodology.

City Resilience Framework



Figure 1 Approach to developing Randwick’s evidence base

2.1 Resilient Cities Framework

The City Resilience Framework, developed by the Rockefeller Foundation and Arup, provides a globally recognised approach to assessing and strengthening resilience. Over 100 cities have applied the framework, Resilient Sydney on behalf of Greater Sydney.

The framework identifies four dimensions that underpin a resilient city:



2.2 Risk Assessment

The risk assessment methodology was developed internally, in alignment with the Resilient Sydney Resilience Assessment Guideline³ and the Greater Sydney Resilience Risk Assessment Report.³³

To build the evidence base, research included:

- Literature review
- Review of spatial and demographic data
- Interviews with Council teams, and
- A systems mapping workshop with the External Resilience Working Group.

The Resilience External Working Group included members from:

- ACT Royal Randwick
- Department of Communities and Justice
- NSW Police
- Department of Defence
- Department of Education

The framework is designed to help cities embed resilience into their strategies, policies, and programs, ensuring actions are coordinated, inclusive, and future focused. For Randwick, the framework has informed our action planning process, ensuring that the actions our resilience strategy address resilience across community, economy, environment, and governance systems.

- State Emergency Services
- Surf Life Saving Sydney
- The Deli Women’s and Children’s Centre
- Transport for NSW
- University of NSW
- TAFE NSW

This research provided insights into shocks and stresses that pose a risk to Randwick, including past impacts, current conditions, and potential future exposure and vulnerability.

In line with Randwick’s EMPLAN, the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience Emergency Management Risk Assessment Guidelines framework was applied to assess the likelihood and consequence of future shocks on the community and Council. This identified Randwick’s key shocks.

Randwick City Council’s risk appetite statement was then mapped against the shocks and stresses, in relation to the risk appetite categories to identify the level of action Council is open to, when responding to different types of risk.

Priority populations were then mapped against these shocks to assess areas of greatest vulnerability, based on exposure and coping capacity.

Stresses were assessed by analysing the extent to which each key shock would exacerbate or have no impact on them, with the most sensitive stresses identified as priorities.

Finally, future risk trends for shocks and stresses were assessed using qualitative evidence from national and regional reports to determine how Randwick’s priority shocks and stresses may change over the next 30 years.

This risk assessment information was analysed and stored in an internally developed risk assessment tool, which will be updated as part of the monitoring and review process.

2.3 Community Engagement

The community engagement methodology was designed to inform the development of the Resilient Randwick Strategy 2026-2036 by identifying the key shocks and stresses affecting the Randwick local government area, and understanding the community’s strengths, challenges, and opportunities for building resilience.

Community Engagement practitioners Cred Consulting were engaged by Council to design and deliver community engagement to support the development of the Strategy, which was conducted between May and July 2025 and consisted of an online survey, pop-up stalls, workshops and interviews.

The cohorts targeted for engagement included:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (ongoing)
- Residents
- Businesses
- Local schools (as representatives of education sector)
- Young people
- Precincts and Chambers of Commerce
- Representatives of CALD communities
- Older people
- Women
- Families
- People who identify as LGBTIQ+
- People with a lived experience of vulnerability (such as domestic violence, homelessness)
- Resilient Sydney

The program reached approximately 651 community members and stakeholders through a mix of online, in-person, and targeted engagement activities.

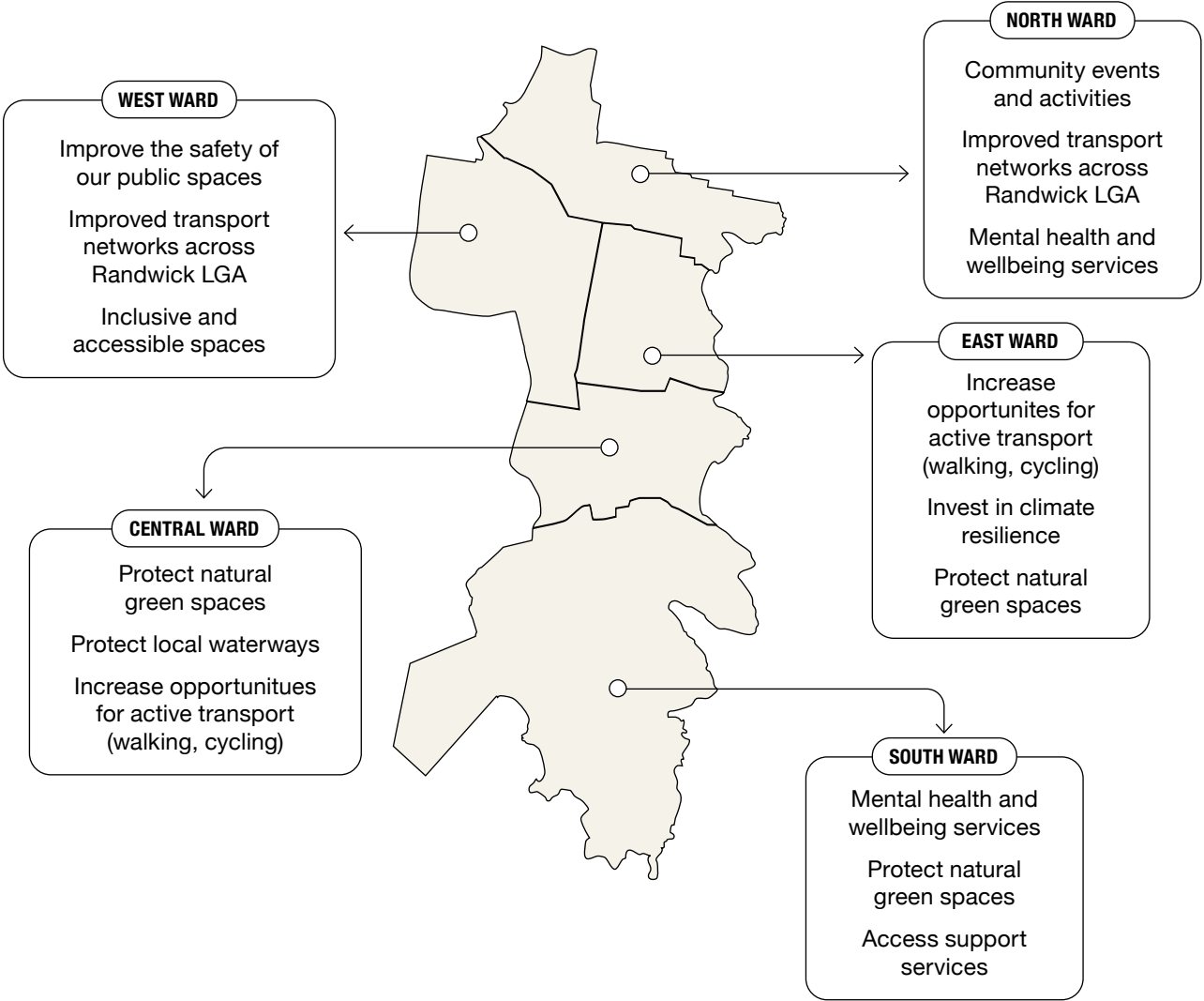
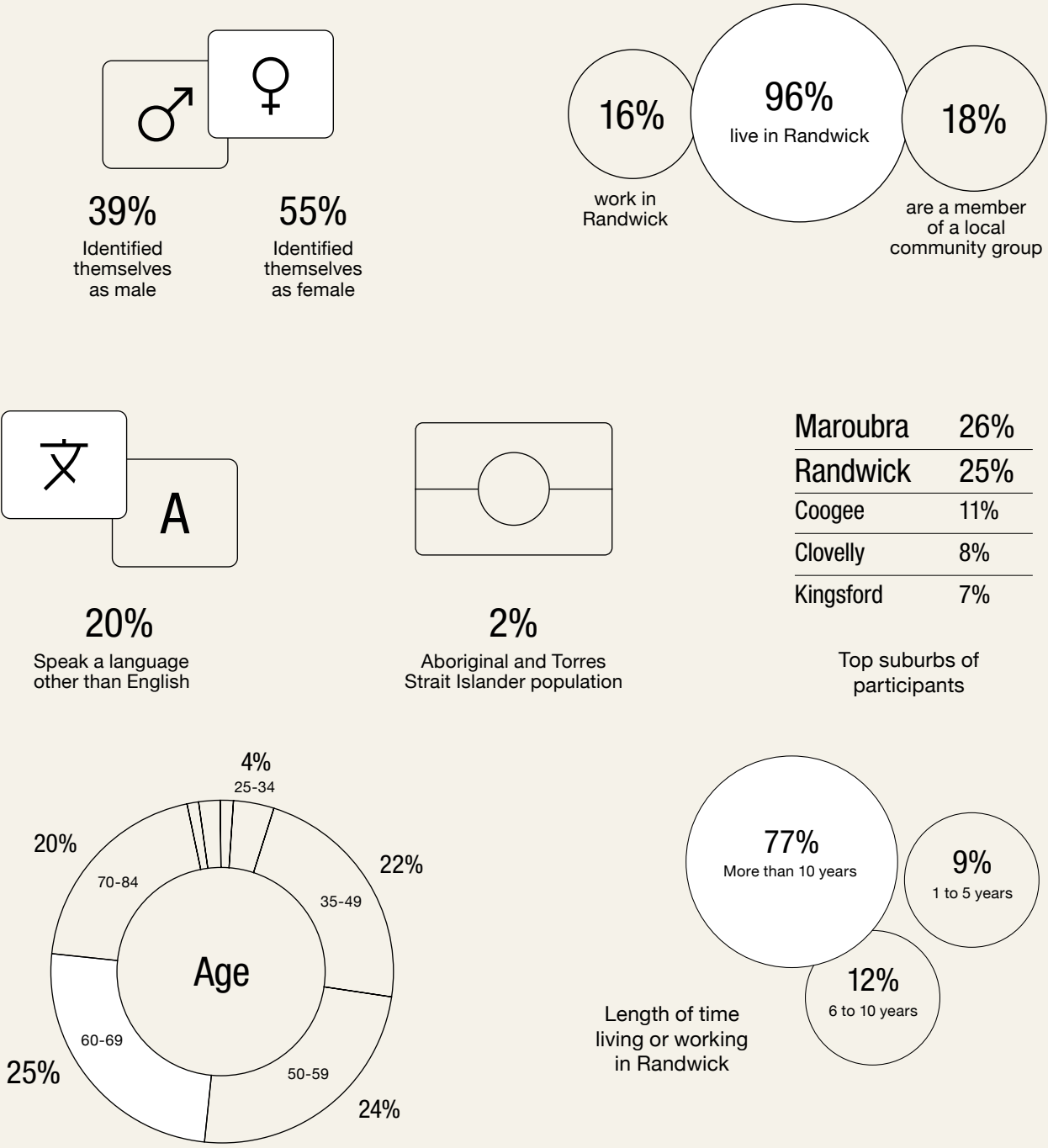
The engagement was guided by three core objectives:

- Identify key shocks and stresses impacting the Randwick community.
- Understand community strengths, challenges, and opportunities for resilience.
- Determine how the Strategy can deliver meaningful and measurable outcomes for the community.



Digital survey

An online survey was hosted on Council’s Have Your Say platform, with 383 responses received. The survey developed a baseline of resilience outcomes across the LGA and provided a broad understanding of community perceptions of risk, strength, and opportunity



Pop-up stalls

Six pop-up stalls were held across the LGA to reach a wide cross-section of people who live, work or study in Randwick, offering an accessible way to share feedback. Approximately 125 participants took part.

Participants responded to interactive boards exploring local shocks, community strengths and challenges, key actions Council could take, and the places that support connection and resilience.

LOCATION	AREA	PARTICIPANTS
Maroubra Beach Markets	Central	30
Randwick Sustainability Hub	East	30
Frenchmans Road, Clovelly	North	5
Meeks Street, Anzac Parade	West	25
Matraville Peninsula Village Shopping Centre	South	10
Coogee Promenade	East	25

Targeted workshops

Four workshops were held with approximately 65 participants representing priority or specific community groups. These explored the lived experience of resilience, service access, and barriers to participation. Workshops:

Social housing residents and vulnerable cohorts at the Lexington Estate, Maroubra.

Culturally and linguistically diverse community members (Chinese language students).

Faith leaders from across the LGA.

UNSW international student representatives (students, support staff, off-campus accommodation and health services).

Interviews

Targeted interviews were conducted with the Indonesian Consulate, Randwick Business Precinct and Coogee Chamber of Commerce to identify shared challenges and opportunities for collaboration.

Community Engagement Feedback Methodology

Community concern and preparedness data from the online and face-to-face surveys were analysed together to provide a consolidated scoring for this Synthesis Report. The following process was used to align data from different survey formats and convert results into consistent, comparable findings.

Level of Community Concern Index

The online survey asked participants to rate their level of concern for a range of shocks and stresses on a five-point scale (from No concern to Extreme concern).

A baseline concern rating was calculated using the share of respondents who selected the top two levels of concern, grouped into five thresholds:

- ≥40% - Very High
- 30–39% - High
- 20–29% - Moderate
- 10–19% - Low
- <10% - Very Low

The offline survey (pop-ups) asked residents to select the single shock they were most concerned about. Results were averaged across sessions and converted into the same five-band system. To ensure consistency between digital and face-to-face data, results were standardised to align response formats and enable integration into a single dataset for analysis. Final community concern ratings were adjusted as follows:

- Adjusted up if offline concern was one band higher than online.
- Unchanged if offline concern was equal or slightly lower.
- Online retained if offline concern was two or more bands lower or not asked.

Level of perceived preparedness

Preparedness was measured only through the online survey, where participants rated how prepared they felt for each shock (Fully, Well, Moderately, Minimally, Not at all, Unsure).

The Preparedness Index was calculated in four steps:

1. Weighting: Fully = 100; Well = 75; Moderately = 50; Minimally = 25; Not at all = 0. (“Unsure” excluded.)
2. Normalising: Responses re-scaled so the five categories totalled 100%.
3. Weighted average: Calculated as the sum of each category’s percentage × weight.
4. Band classification: 70–100 = Strongly Prepared, 50–69 = Prepared, 30–49 = Somewhat Prepared, 10–29 = Limited, 0–9 = Not Prepared.

2.4 Informing Randwick City Council Community Consultations

While this is Randwick City Council’s first dedicated Resilience Strategy, resilience has long been a defining characteristic of the community, a quality underpinning its capacity to adapt, recover, and thrive. Insights from parallel engagement processes conducted through other strategic initiatives have informed and strengthened the development of this Strategy.

Reconciliation Action Plan engagement insights

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, resilience is deeply rooted in over 200 years of continuous connection to Country, including in places such as La Perouse. In 2025, Randwick City Council developed its first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

The RAP provides a framework for strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the wider community through practical actions focused on relationships, respect, and opportunities.

Engagement for the RAP included a community survey, pop-ups, workshops and yarning circle with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and organisations. These activities sought perspectives on reconciliation priorities, barriers to engagement, and opportunities to deepen local relationships. The Randwick Resilience Strategy aligns closely with the RAP’s objectives and feedback from the RAP community and stakeholder consultation was drawn on to inform the development of Strategic Actions within the Strategy.

Social Cohesion Plan

Council is concurrently developing a Social Cohesion Plan 2026–2031⁷, aimed at strengthening inclusion, belonging, and multiculturalism across the city. Social cohesion is a key driver of community resilience, with research showing that cohesive communities experience better health and wellbeing, stronger economies, and greater capacity to withstand and recover from disruption.

Community and stakeholder engagement to inform the Social Cohesion Plan was conducted alongside engagement for the Resilient Randwick Strategy, with several shared activities and overlapping participant groups. This included a Youth Forum which engaged young people aged 12–24 years from diverse backgrounds across Randwick. The forum included a workshop on shocks and stresses experienced by participants in the local area.

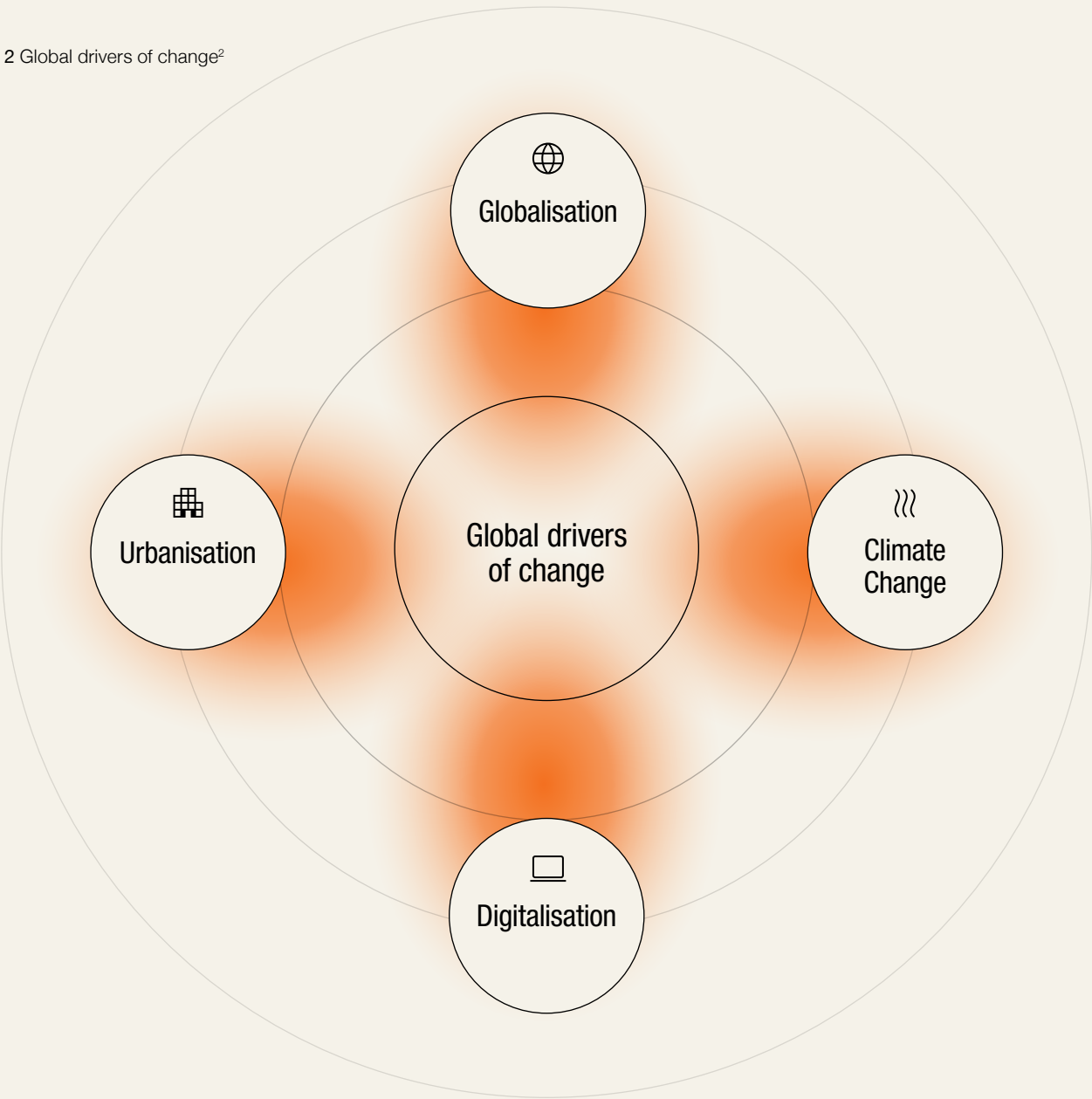
Findings from the social cohesion engagement have been incorporated into this Strategy’s risk assessment and community engagement findings, highlighting opportunities to enhance connection, belonging, and inclusion, critical factors in building a resilient Randwick.

3. Key Findings

Communities in Randwick are shaped not only by local conditions, but also by broader global and national forces.

KEY FINDINGS

Figure 2 Global drivers of change²



3.1 Global Drivers

Communities in Randwick are shaped not only by local conditions, but also by broader global and national forces. The Resilient Cities Network has highlighted three long-standing global drivers of change that continue to reshape societies and put pressure on cities worldwide. These are climate change, urbanisation and globalisation.⁴ Through its most recent engagement with councils and stakeholders across Greater Sydney, Resilient Sydney identified a fourth emerging driver, digitalisation, which is transforming how people live, work and connect. Figure 2 displays the four global drivers.²

These global drivers impact Australia creating broader national trends that influence how risks are experienced.

For example, climate change translates into increasing national exposure to extreme weather events; globalisation is tied to Australia's reliance on international supply chains; and digitalisation is changing the way essential services are delivered, while also introducing new vulnerabilities such as cyber threats and digital exclusion.

Understanding these drivers and their influence on national trends is critical for Randwick. Together, they shape the conditions that determine not only the likelihood of disruptive events, but also how severely they impact people, infrastructure and the natural environment.

3.2 Australia’s National Trends

Resilient Sydney has identified a set of national trends that show how these global drivers are expressed in Australia, these are summarised in Table 1. These trends influence the vulnerability of communities to shocks and stresses and provide important insights for resilience planning at both the metropolitan and local level. For more detail on these national trends, see the Resilient Sydney Synthesis Report.²

NATIONAL TREND	SUMMARY
Increasing climate risk	Rising global temperatures are driving more frequent and severe extreme weather events such as bushfires, storms, flooding, droughts and heatwaves.
Reliance on global supply chains	Australia’s dependence on international supply chains leaves communities vulnerable to shortages and disruptions, particularly in housing and construction.
Increasing digital and electrical dependence	Rapid digital transformation has reshaped essential services, work and communication, but also increased risks from outages, cyber threats and unequal access.
Transitioning the economy from carbon fuels	The shift to a low-carbon economy is reshaping industries and jobs, creating opportunities but also challenges around workforce skills and transition readiness.
Biodiversity and ecosystem collapse	Ongoing urbanisation and climate change are accelerating biodiversity loss, reducing natural protections and resilience against environmental shocks.
Increasing diversity and social complexity	Greater Sydney’s cultural diversity is growing, strengthening communities but also highlighting challenges around racism, discrimination, and social cohesion.
Rising inequality	Gaps in wealth, housing, healthcare, education and transport are widening, leaving some groups more vulnerable to shocks and with fewer resources to recover.
Truth-telling and recognition of First Peoples of Australia	There are growing calls to acknowledge sovereignty and embed First Nations knowledge in resilience planning, which is critical to addressing systemic inequities.
Changing needs of increasing urban populations	Rapid population growth is placing pressure on housing, infrastructure, and services, increasing exposure to heat and other urban stresses.
Misinformation, polarisation and desensitisation	Social and political polarisation, fuelled by misinformation, is undermining trust, increasing community division and weakening collective resilience.

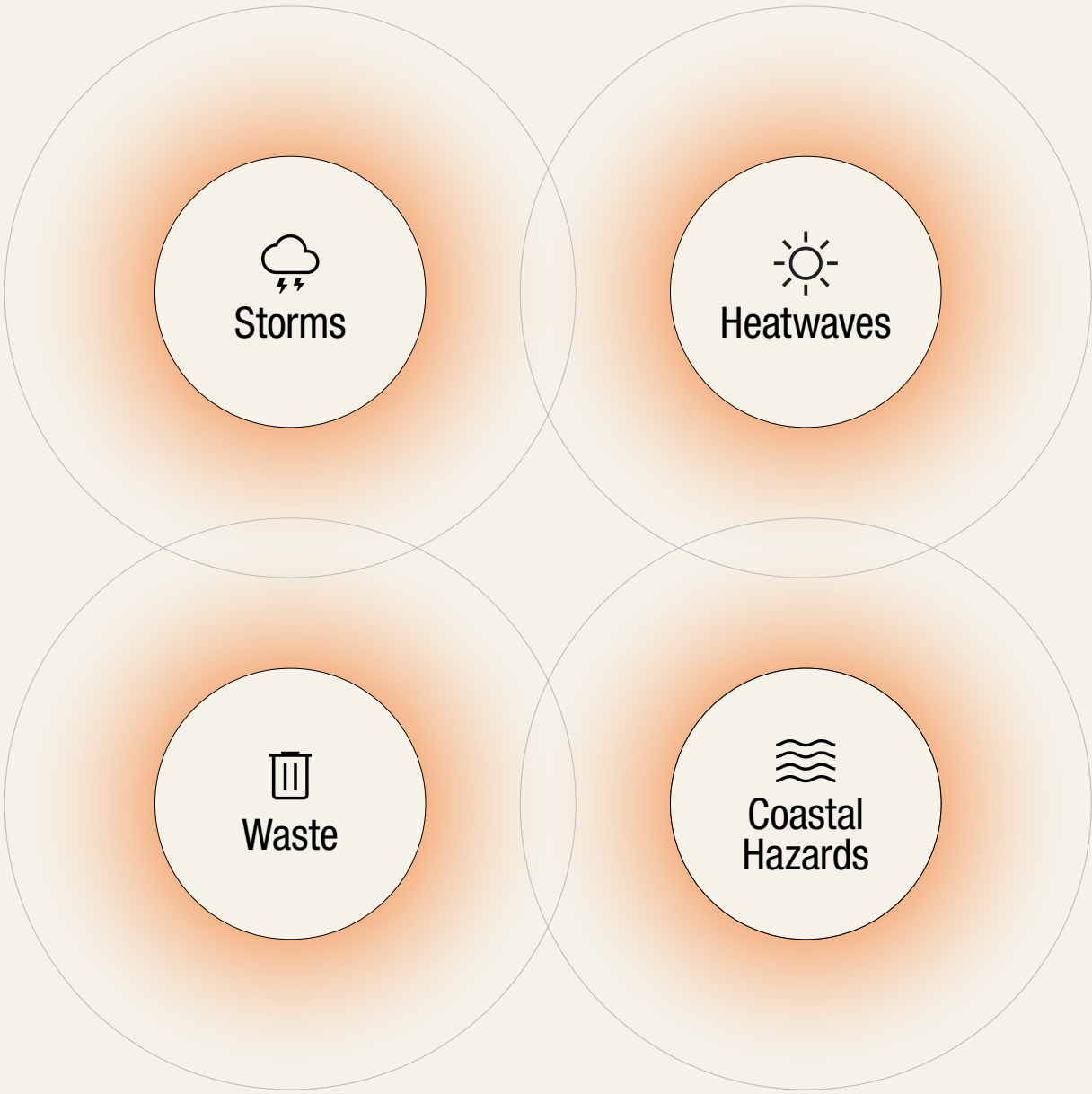
Table 1 Resilient Sydney’s national trends²

3.3 Shocks

Shocks are sudden events that test the capacity of Randwick’s people, infrastructure and services to withstand disruption and recover quickly.

They may stem from natural hazards, international events or economic forces and their impacts are often shaped by broader national and global trends. Understanding these shocks helps identify where vulnerabilities lie locally and how preparedness and coordination can reduce their effects.

Based on the risk assessment, and community engagement findings, Randwick’s priority shocks are coastal hazards, heatwaves, storms and waste issues.



3.3.1 International crisis

Global events can have immediate and lasting impacts at the local level.

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022 disrupted global energy and grain supplies, driving up costs for fuel, construction materials and essential goods across Greater Sydney. In Randwick, these pressures have delayed infrastructure projects and increased operating costs for local businesses and services.



Economic crisis

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	33% High
Perceived level of community preparedness	38% Somewhat prepared
Likelihood	Likely
Consequence	Moderate
Overall Risk	High
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Increasing due to global financial instability, inflation and rising insurance costs.

Ongoing inflationary pressures and higher interest rates have reduced disposable incomes across Greater Sydney, creating financial stress for households and increased the cost of goods and services. This pressure is most visible in the rental market, with many residents in Randwick struggling to meet housing costs. The local economy is also heavily reliant on international students and visitors and border closures during COVID-19 saw the international population drop by 6,000 people, impacting accommodation, food services and education industries until students began returning when borders opened again.

The combination of higher living costs, insurance premiums and reduced financial savings leaves local residents more exposed to future shocks. Economic crises place sustained financial strain on the Randwick community, increasing mental health challenges due to financial stress and deepening existing inequalities.⁶

Disease outbreak

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	34% High
Perceived level of community preparedness	48% Prepared
Likelihood	Likely
Consequence	Moderate
Overall Risk	High
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Increasing due to higher global travel, antibiotic resistance, and urban density, with a 2% annual pandemic probability.

Pandemics and disease outbreaks remain a significant risk for Greater Sydney, as seen during COVID-19 when restrictions disrupted everyday life and placed long-term pressure on health systems. Randwick was at the frontline of the response, with the Prince of Wales Hospital and surrounding health precincts central to treatment and care.⁶ COVID-19 also had major impacts on Randwick’s local economy, reducing activity in hospitality, education and tourism. Beyond pandemics, Randwick faces biosecurity threats due to its proximity to Port Botany, where invasive species and pests have the potential to spread quickly into the community.⁶

Disease outbreaks increase demand on health services, contribute to physical and mental health issues and heighten social isolation, while biosecurity threats place additional pressure on Randwick’s local biodiversity. In the community engagement findings, residents reflected on both the strain and the strengths revealed during COVID-19, noting stronger social connections, mutual support, and a greater sense of community resilience. Survey results also showed that preparedness for pandemics was rated the second highest of all shocks after heatwaves.⁷

Cyber attack

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	34% High
Perceived level of community preparedness	27% Limited Preparedness
Likelihood	Likely
Consequence	Moderate
Overall Risk	High
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Increasing due to reliance on critical systems and advances in AI enabling more sophisticated cybercrime.

Cyber-attacks are increasing across Australia, with high-profile breaches at Optus and Medibank showing how millions of people's personal data can be exposed and critical services disrupted.² Advances in artificial intelligence and faster computing capacity are increasing the scale and sophistication of cybercrime, making systems harder to defend. Greater Sydney is highly vulnerable given its reliance on digital networks to run transport, health, education and government services. In Randwick, the risks are particularly significant due to the presence of major hospitals, universities, Council systems and research institutions that hold highly sensitive data.⁶ Cyber-attacks disrupt economic activity, compromise privacy and undermine trust in institutions and local government.

Conflict and war

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	21% Moderate
Perceived level of community preparedness	20% Limited preparedness
Likelihood	Likely
Consequence	Minor
Overall Risk	Moderate
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Increasing due to geopolitical tensions, competition over resources and shifting power balances.

International conflicts can disrupt global markets and create civil unrest locally within Australia. The Global Risks Report 2025 identifies state-based armed conflict, including wars, proxy conflicts and terrorism, as the leading global risk for 2025, reflecting a period of heightened geopolitical tension and social fragmentation. International events in 2022 disrupted global energy and grain supplies, driving up costs for fuel, construction materials and essential goods across Greater Sydney.² In Randwick, these pressures have delayed infrastructure projects and increased operating costs for local businesses and services.

Beyond these economic impacts, international conflicts have created heightened anxiety, distress and tension within the community, amplified through media coverage and public debate.⁸ In the community engagement findings, 47% of survey participants identified discrimination or racism as a challenge, with reports of antisemitic graffiti pointing to the impact of international conflict on local experiences. The community also reported feeling least prepared for civil unrest or conflict (71%) and terrorist attack (72%), indicating limited local preparedness for such events. The Global Risks Report 2025 highlights that the current state of the world is shaped by geopolitical tension and social fragmentation with state-based armed conflict (wars, proxy conflicts, and terrorism) was identified as the leading global risk for 2025.

Terror attack

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	18% Low
Perceived level of community preparedness	20% Limited
Likelihood	Very rare
Consequence	Major
Overall Risk	Medium
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Staying the same as risks of large-scale attacks remain low, though online radicalisation persists.

Randwick has not experienced a terror attack in recent history however, the LGA contains several locations, events, and infrastructure that could be considered vulnerable targets. As a landowner and event organiser, Council has a responsibility to ensure preparedness through risk management, emergency planning, and coordination with state and federal agencies. While the operational response to a terror incident rests with NSW Police and national security agencies, Council plays an important role in prevention and recovery through maintaining safe public spaces, supporting affected communities, and restoring public confidence following an event. In the community engagement findings, residents reported feeling least prepared for a terrorist attack (72%) compared to other shocks, reflecting limited awareness of emergency processes and the low likelihood of such events locally.⁷



3.3.2 Natural hazards

Natural hazard shocks are events driven by weather and climate that directly affect communities, infrastructure, and ecosystems.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report finds that continued greenhouse gas emissions will lead to further global warming, with the world likely to reach 1.5°C in the near future. As the climate warms, extreme weather events such as heatwaves, storms, floods, and coastal erosion are becoming more frequent and severe. These hazards disrupt infrastructure and essential services, threaten health and safety, and place increasing pressure on vulnerable communities.



Coastal hazards

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	41% Very High
Perceived level of community preparedness	38% Limited
Likelihood	Almost Certain
Consequence	Major
Overall Risk	Extreme
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Increasing due to ongoing sea-level rise and worsening storm surge impacts.

Randwick’s coastline is highly exposed to storms, erosion and sea level rise, which are expected to intensify with climate change. In 2015, a major storm caused significant erosion along the beaches, prompting rock stabilisation works at Clovelly Headland. The following year, storms severely damaged the Coogee Surf Club and Coogee Pier. In recent years events have continued to highlight this vulnerability as king tides and large waves have forced the closure of beaches, damaged pathways and other local infrastructure, creating high cleanup costs for Council.⁶

Residents living near the coast described increasing beach closures, damage to paths and seawalls, and uncertainty about how ongoing coastal change will affect the places they value most. Concern about coastal hazards was among the highest recorded in community engagement, particularly in the Central, North and East wards closest to the shoreline. Despite this, most residents felt less prepared for coastal hazards, reflecting both the visibility of the risk and the challenge of adapting to its gradual but intensifying impacts.⁷

Storms

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	46% Very High
Perceived level of community preparedness	26% Limited
Likelihood	Almost Certain
Consequence	Major
Overall Risk	Extreme
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Increasing due to more frequent and severe storms, including intense east coast lows.

Severe storms are increasing in frequency and severity across Greater Sydney, bringing damaging winds, heavy rain and hail that cause widespread disruption. The 1999 Sydney hailstorm remains the city’s most expensive natural disaster, with hailstones up to nine centimetres damaging 24,000 homes and affecting suburbs in Randwick including Kensington, Kingsford, Botany and Randwick itself. More recently, in 2022 an east coast low delivered intense rainfall in Randwick and Little Bay, while gale-force winds brought down trees and eroded beaches and coastal infrastructure. Storms also damage fencing, signage and Council infrastructure, while repeated clean-ups and dune stabilisation add to costs. Severe storms in Randwick increase the risk of property damage and power outages, placing the safety of the community at risk and adding costly repair burdens for Council and residents.⁶

Across Randwick, residents described storms as one of the most significant and recurring local risks. More than half of survey participants (57%) reported experiencing storms directly, and 46% identified them as an extreme or very high concern. Despite this, only 26% felt “fully” or “well” prepared for future events, showing that preparedness remains low relative to risk.⁷ Community feedback reflected the different ways storms are experienced across the LGA: in the South and West wards, residents spoke of frequent flooding and home damage, particularly in areas with higher concentrations of public housing and economic disadvantage, while in the northern and eastern wards concerns were often linked with coastal hazards and erosion.

Heatwaves

Heatwaves are Australia’s deadliest weather-related hazard, killing more people than fire, floods and storms combined. Between 2012 and 2022, extreme heat was responsible for up to 84% of weather-related hospitalisations, and these figures are expected to increase with climate change.

The frequency and intensity of heatwaves are rising across Greater Sydney. While coastal breezes help moderate temperatures compared to Western Sydney, Randwick is experiencing more extreme heat days during summer. Rising temperatures are driving heat-related illness and deaths, particularly among outdoor workers, older people, those with chronic conditions and low-income households without access to cooling. Extreme heat also brings a surge of visitors to Randwick’s beaches and public spaces, placing additional strain on traffic, parking, cleansing services and community amenities.⁶

Survey results reflected this reality: preparedness for heatwaves was the highest of all shocks, and concern was rated as High, with 35% of participants reporting direct experience of heatwaves in the LGA. Offline engagement confirmed that heatwaves were the top community concern in the East Ward (Coogee and Randwick) and Central Ward (Maroubra). Residents also described the growing difficulty of keeping homes cool and managing rising energy costs during prolonged heat events, particularly for renters and those in older housing stock.⁷ Figure 3 shows heat vulnerability across the LGA, with key hotspots of vulnerability including Kingsford, and Maroubra along Anzac Parade. The index combines indicators of heat exposure, sensitivity to heat, and adaptive capacity to produce the composite vulnerability index.¹¹

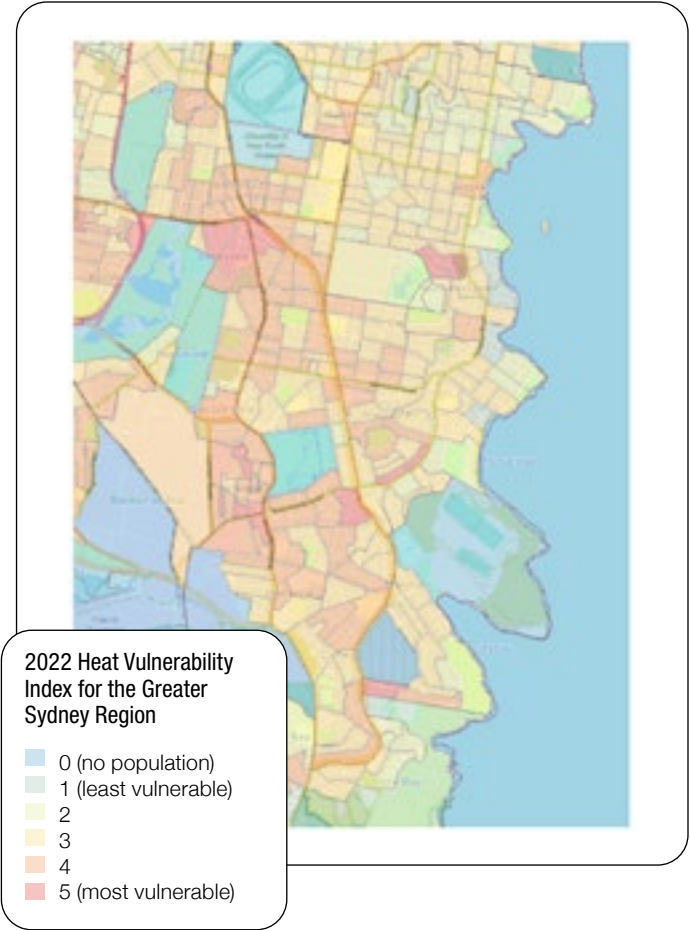


Figure 3 Heat vulnerability index 2022²

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	36% High
Perceived level of community preparedness	58% Prepared
Likelihood	Likely
Consequence	Minor
Overall Risk	Medium
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Increasing due to longer, hotter and more frequent extreme heat events.

Extreme rainfall and flooding

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	22% Moderate
Perceived level of community preparedness	44% Somewhat Prepared
Likelihood	Likely
Consequence	Moderate
Overall Risk	High
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Increasing due to more frequent intense rainfall events overwhelming drainage systems.

Heavy rainfall and flooding are increasing across Greater Sydney, with repeated events between 2021 and 2022 causing widespread disruption and economic loss. While Randwick is not exposed to major riverine flooding, the LGA is highly vulnerable to flash flooding due to dense urban catchments, steep streets and limited drainage. Recent storms have highlighted these risks: in 2024, flash flooding disrupted light rail services on the Randwick and Kingsford lines, while local roads in Clovelly and around Centennial Park went under water. Residents in the Central Ward described similar flooding on local streets, while the Coogee Chamber of Commerce reported drainage problems and delays to burst pipe repairs.

These local experiences underline the cumulative effects of heavy rainfall, which damages homes and businesses, disrupts bus routes and pedestrian access in low-lying areas, and forces the closure of sporting fields and cycle paths. Repeated flooding reduces safety and mobility, and causes ongoing road damage such as potholes, sinkholes and weakened surfaces, leading to costly maintenance and reduced resilience.⁶

While concern about flooding was rated ‘Moderate’ overall, many residents felt only ‘Somewhat prepared’. Feedback also highlighted strong community ties, with groups such as the Indonesian community providing mutual support and communication during floods, evidence of resilience and social cohesion even as physical infrastructure comes under strain.⁷

Bushfires

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	N/A
Perceived level of community preparedness	N/A
Likelihood	Rare
Consequence	Moderate
Overall Risk	Medium
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Increasing due to rising fire weather and more intense fire seasons.

Bushfires are a major hazard in New South Wales, with recent events such as the 2019–20 Black Summer showing how fires and smoke pollution can disrupt life across Greater Sydney. During this season, Randwick recorded an Air Quality Index of 497, more than double the hazardous threshold, forcing residents indoors and placing people with respiratory and heart conditions at serious risk. Although Randwick does not contain bushfire-prone land, nearby areas have been affected. In 2017, a fire in Kamay–Botany Bay National Park destroyed 350 hectares of bushland and sent a massive smoke plume across the region. Malabar Headland and Kamay–Botany Bay, near La Perouse, contain diverse ecosystems and important cultural heritage. If a bushfire occurred there it would cause severe smoke pollution for surrounding communities and put the natural and cultural heritage at risk. Even without direct fire, Randwick is impacted through smoke pollution that reduces air quality, threatens health and limits safe use of outdoor spaces.⁶

3.3.3 Infrastructure failure

Failures in critical infrastructure such as power, transport, water, digital networks and waste systems can quickly cascade through homes, schools, hospitals and local businesses, interrupting essential services and daily life.

Randwick’s coastal location, ageing assets and dense population increase this exposure, making disruptions harder to absorb and recover from. More frequent extreme weather and rising demand for energy, mobility and connectivity are further straining these systems. Council supports local resilience by maintaining community assets, coordinating emergency responses and working with state agencies to restore services and strengthen recovery.



Waste issues

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	42% High
Perceived level of community preparedness	39% Limited ¹
Likelihood	Almost Certain
Consequence	Major
Overall Risk	Extreme
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Increasing due to rising waste volumes and declining landfill capacity within Greater Sydney.

Waste management is an escalating challenge for Randwick, with mounting environmental and financial costs. In 2024, thousands of tar balls, weathered oil residues, washed onto Coogee, Clovelly and Maroubra beaches, forcing closures, threatening marine life and requiring intensive clean-ups. Severe weather adds to pressures, washed onto several of Randwick’s beaches including Maroubra, Clovelly and Coogee. This forced beach closures, threatened marine life and required intensive clean-up. Waste fires are also rising, often from lithium batteries placed in household rubbish collections. In 2025, four Randwick garbage trucks caught fire, each worth half a million dollars, while a blaze at the St Mary’s recycling centre forced a 12-week closure disrupting regional transfers.⁶ The combined cost of clean-ups, fires and disruptions is growing, while shrinking landfill capacity and rising waste volumes will further strain households, businesses and Council.

Transport failure

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	42% High
Perceived level of community preparedness	39% Limited ²
Likelihood	Likely
Consequence	Moderate
Overall Risk	High
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Increasing due to ageing assets, congestion, and hazard-related disruptions.

Randwick’s transport networks are highly exposed to disruption from storms, flooding and heat. In 2024, flash flooding shut down light rail services on the Randwick and Kingsford lines, while heatwaves caused service suspensions across Sydney’s rail network. Flooding and debris also block local roads and cycleways, accelerate road wear and increase maintenance costs. These failures cut mobility, delay recovery efforts, and increase Council’s maintenance costs. Community engagement reinforced transport as a cross-cutting concern, particularly in the south of the LGA, where residents are further from major transit centres and rely more heavily on public transport. In these areas, outages or closures leave fewer alternatives, compounding disadvantage and exposing vulnerable groups to greater isolation and risk when essential services are disrupted.⁶

^{1,2}The perceived level of community preparedness score is in relation to infrastructure failure.

Energy failure

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	31% High
Perceived level of community preparedness	28% Somewhat Prepared
Likelihood	Likely
Consequence	Moderate
Overall Risk	High
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Increasing due to higher demand from electrification, extreme weather, and global energy market instability.

Power outages are a recurring vulnerability in Randwick. In 2019, a mass outage cut electricity to 45,000 premises, including hospitals, schools, homes and traffic lights, exposing how quickly essential services can be disrupted. Between 2023 and 2024, Randwick recorded one of the highest outage impact scores among urban LGAs, with long interruptions affecting large numbers of residents. Outages disrupt emergency care, halt transport signals and lifts, and leave households without cooling during heat events. They also interrupt Council’s own digital systems, complicating service delivery and coordination during crises. As electrification increases demand and more intense storms and heat put pressure on the grid, the risk of outages is expected to rise, making reliable energy a key part of local resilience planning.⁶

Water supply issues

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	28% High
Perceived level of community preparedness	26% Limited
Likelihood	Likely
Consequence	Moderate
Overall Risk	High
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Increasing due to population growth, drought, and reliance on rainfall-dependent catchments.

Droughts in New South Wales are becoming more frequent and severe with climate change, exposing Sydney to long-term shortages and quality risks. The city relies on Warragamba Dam for 85% of its supply, creating significant vulnerability during extended dry periods. Randwick, like much of Sydney, is heavily dependent on this centralised system, with limited local capacity for water capture, recycling and reuse.

When stormwater storage tanks run dry, parks and sporting fields such as Heffron Park deteriorate, leading to closures, lost revenue and higher maintenance costs. Reduced amenity in public spaces, pressure on biodiversity, and water restrictions for homes and businesses all undermine liveability, highlighting the need for more resilient and diversified water systems.

Digital network outages

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	36% High
Perceived level of community preparedness	26% Limited
Likelihood	Likely
Consequence	Minor
Overall Risk	Medium
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Increasing due to reliance on digital systems and rising risks of cyberattacks or outages.

Digital connectivity underpins essential services from healthcare and banking to transport and emergency response. Failures during extreme weather or power outages can disable CCTV and beach-camera systems, delay emergency communication and restrict access to goods and services. Misinformation or breaches can also increase social isolation and weaken trust in institutions. In Randwick, cloud-based systems and remote working tools help manage these risks, but outages still leave the community vulnerable when services are most needed.

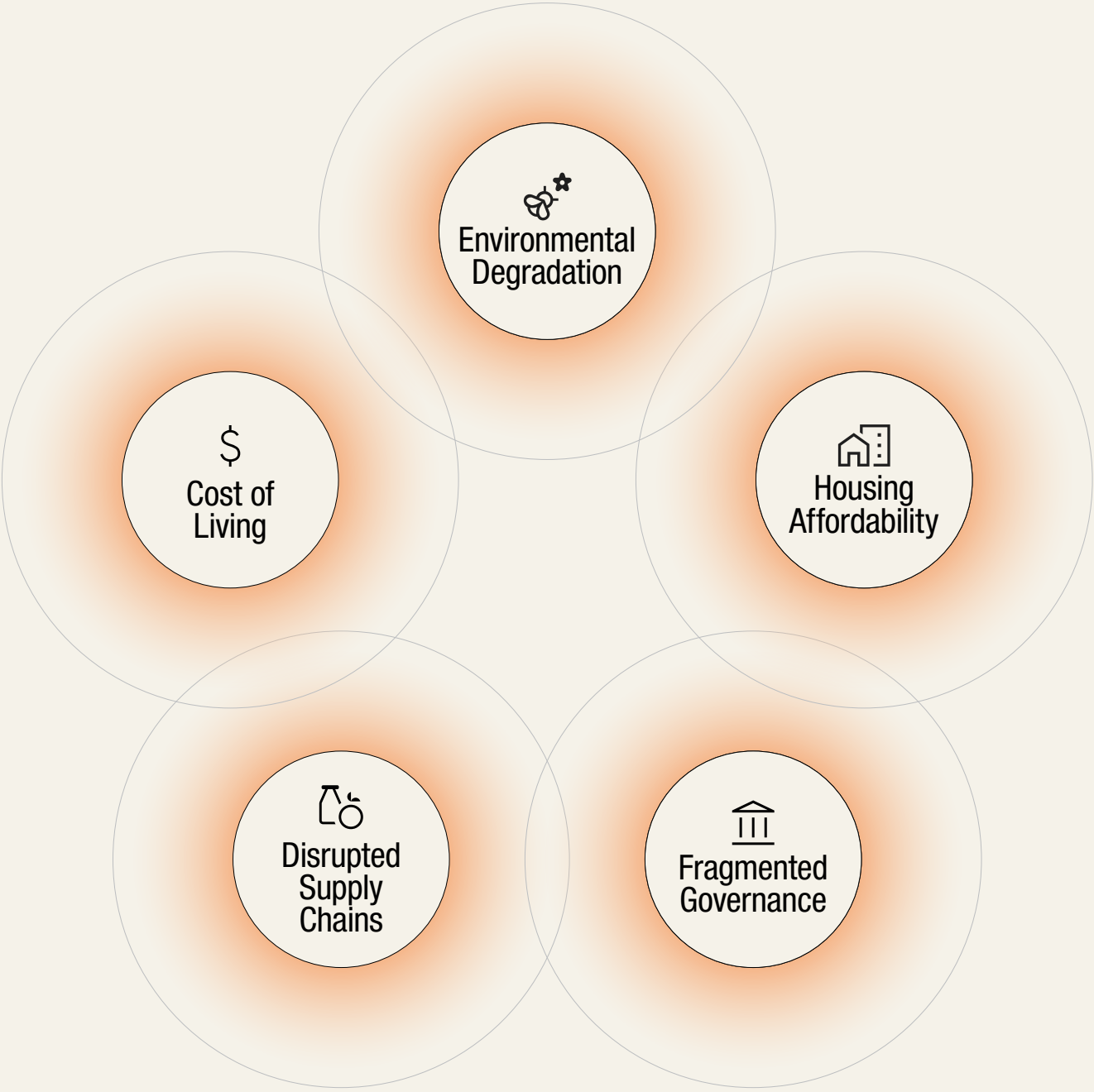
⁵ Community engagement highlighted digital failure as a leading concern, particularly in the South Ward. At the Lexington Estate workshop, it was ranked alongside sea level rise and beach erosion as the top risk. This reflects growing reliance on digital platforms for essential services such as Service NSW or Centrelink, and limited capacity in some communities to cope with even short service gaps.

3.4 Stresses

Stresses are long-term pressures that build gradually and influence how communities cope with and recover from disruption.

They include economic, social and environmental challenges such as housing affordability and cost of living that strain households and local systems. Addressing these stresses strengthens everyday resilience and reduces the cumulative impact of future shocks.

Based on the risk assessment, and community engagement findings, Randwick’s priority stresses are cost of living, disrupted supply chains, environmental degradation, fragmented governance and housing affordability.



3.4.1 Inequity

Pressures on housing, transport, health, education and everyday living costs are widening inequality across Randwick.

Pressures on housing, transport, health, education and everyday living costs are widening inequality across Randwick. While the LGA remains a desirable place to live, not all residents have equal access to services or affordable housing. These gaps are most visible in the south, where disadvantage and limited transport options compound social and economic stress. Council’s planning, service delivery and partnerships are key to addressing these inequities and improving community resilience.



Cost of living pressures

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	Very High 43% ²³
Overall Risk	Extreme
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Increasing due to inflation, energy prices, and supply chain disruptions.

²³Increasing due to inflation, energy prices, and supply chain disruptions.

Cost of living has emerged as a cross-cutting stressor in Randwick, encompassing issues such as food prices, housing affordability and job stability, and affecting households, services and the local economy. The rising cost of living is a growing issue across Greater Sydney, placing households under sustained financial stress. In Randwick, these pressures are intensified by a larger economic divide than the Greater Sydney average, with a slightly higher share of households earning less than \$300 per week, as well as more households earning above \$3,000 per week.¹⁵

A 2025 Community Safety Survey found a third of residents identified poverty, food security and cost of living as major problems. More recent polling linked cost-of-living stress to a set of core issues rated as very high concerns: housing unaffordability, lack of affordable food, economic downturn, growing inequality and lack of secure job opportunities.⁸ Local business owners also reported that reduced household spending is constraining the economy, especially in winter when visitor activity slows. Rising living costs are increasing financial pressure, reducing spending and heightening social vulnerability.

Housing affordability

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	Very High 61%
Overall Risk	High
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Increasing due to ageing populations, rising demand, staff shortages, and pandemic risks.

Randwick is one of Sydney’s most expensive LGAs for housing, with median rents nearly double the Greater Sydney average. Almost 40% of renting households experience rental stress, and 68% of recently surveyed residents identified housing affordability and availability as the most significant challenge facing diverse communities. Between 2006 and 2016, the supply of affordable rentals for very low-income households declined by 78%, and more than 1,000 households are now on the social housing waitlist, facing waits of up to 10 years. These shortages are compounded by demand from student accommodation and short-term rentals linked to tourism, reducing longer-term housing supply.

The housing shortage has a disproportionate impact on more vulnerable groups. Homelessness in Randwick increased by 20% between 2011 and 2016 reflecting the growing pressure on affordable housing. Young people and international students are reporting widespread difficulties accessing safe and affordable accommodation. Many are forced into informal or unsafe arrangements, such as paying rent upfront, subleasing at inflated prices, or moving into overcrowded or sub-standard housing.⁷ Essential workers and long-term residents are also being priced out of the area moving to neighbouring LGA’s, contributing to housing insecurity and associated mental health challenges. The 2021 Census data shows that 3,355 households (6.5% of households) in Randwick have an unmet need for social and affordable housing. Figure 4 displays the households in Randwick City LGA that were identified as in need of affordable housing.¹⁹

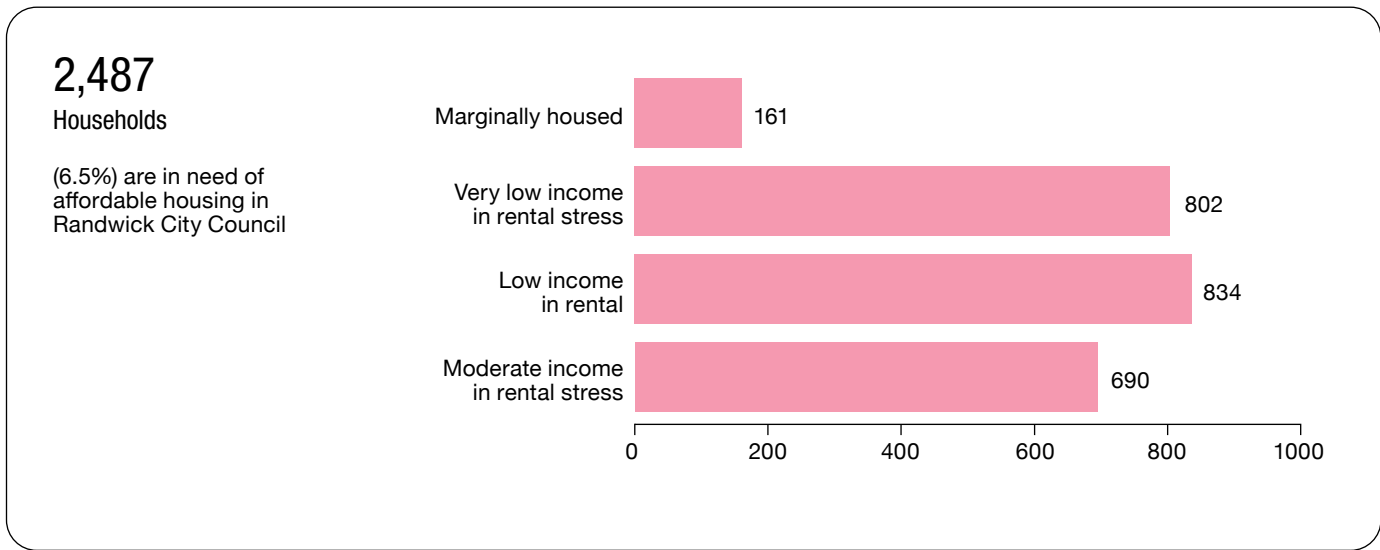


Figure 4 Randwick City Council Households identified as in need of affordable housing through the 2021 census²¹⁹

Health service pressures

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	Very High 55%
Overall Risk	High
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Increasing due to ageing populations, rising demand, staff shortages, and pandemic risks.

Health services across Greater Sydney are under increasing pressure, with rising demand leading to long emergency department waiting times and reduced availability of bulk-billing GPs.² In Randwick, access to healthcare is uneven, particularly in southern suburbs such as Matraville, Malabar, Chifley and Maroubra, where fewer local services and limited transport links make reaching care difficult. These areas also experience higher disadvantage, compounding barriers to timely treatment.⁶ In Randwick’s Social Cohesion Plan 49% of participants identified access to health and mental health services as a major concern, with young people in particular reporting difficulty accessing mental health support.⁷ Unequal access to health services leaves some residents more vulnerable to everyday stresses and emergencies, underscoring the importance of investment in local, affordable healthcare.

Transport accessibility & reliability

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	High 38%
Overall Risk	Medium
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Mixed - population growth increases pressure but planning and investment may improve access.

Reliable and affordable transport is essential for access to work, education and services, yet connectivity across Randwick is uneven. Northern areas are well-served by public and active transport, while southern suburbs such as Matraville and Little Bay lack frequent bus services and safe cycling links. The network remains heavily oriented toward the Sydney CBD, limiting access to other key destinations such as the Airport and Botany Bay. The southern part of the LGA is also less connected for walking and cycling, lacking the protected cycleways available in the north. Only 5.9% of residents commute by public transport, compared to nearly a third who drive, reflecting gaps in accessibility and reliability. Limited transport options deepen existing inequities, reducing access to jobs, education and healthcare while increasing reliance on private vehicles. For residents in the south, these constraints also heighten vulnerability during emergencies, making transport access a key resilience priority for Council.

Education access and equity

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	N/A
Overall Risk	Low
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Mixed – overall improvements, but inequities remain.

Education inequality is growing across Greater Sydney, shaped by differences in access, affordability and digital resources. The COVID-19 pandemic deepened these divides, as many students lacked reliable internet and devices for home learning. In Sydney, students from low-income families, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, refugees and asylum seekers, and those with language or learning needs are most at risk of exclusion. Rising education costs place further barriers on lower-income households, limiting tertiary study and contributing to lower attainment and underemployment.

Education inequality reduces future employment opportunities and income and undermines wellbeing by reinforcing cycles of disadvantage.⁶ Community engagement reinforced the importance of education access, when the community was asked about what makes Randwick strong and able to withstand shocks and stresses, residents ranked access to essential services such as healthcare, education and government support as the second most important factor, just behind parks and recreational spaces.⁸

3.4.2 Wellbeing

Wellbeing affects how safe, connected and supported people feel in their daily lives.

Mental and physical health, social connection and safety within the home are central to a community’s ability to cope with other shocks. Across Greater Sydney, wellbeing is being tested by rising financial and housing stress, unequal access to health and support services, and growing social division. As wellbeing declines, demand for local support increases. Council helps strengthen community wellbeing through inclusive spaces, accessible services and partnerships that foster connection and safety.



Mental health issues

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	High 38%
Overall Risk	High
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Increasing due to financial stress, housing pressures, disaster trauma, and climate anxiety.

Mental health has become a major challenge across Greater Sydney, with young people experiencing a 50% rise in disorders over the past two decades.² In Randwick, survey data shows growing concern, with 38% of residents in 2025 identifying mental health as a major issue and only 30% expressing satisfaction with their own mental health in 2021.⁶ Despite this, there is increasing need for mental health services in the LGA. leaving residents without adequate local support as demand increases. Stress from climate change and extreme weather is compounding pressures, particularly for younger people who report high levels of worry about the future.⁶

Social isolation and lack of community connection

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	Very High 51%
Overall Risk	Medium
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Increasing due to housing pressures, urban design, and digital divides.

Social isolation and weak community connections are increasing across Greater Sydney, with younger people particularly affected. The Scanlon Institute found that 62% of 18–24 year olds and 64% of 25–34 year olds felt isolated from others some of the time or often in the past year. Increasing use of digital spaces is also contributing to feelings of isolation, even as people appear more connected online. In Randwick, 28% of residents in 2025 identified isolation and loneliness as major problems, while a third highlighted lack of community connection as one of the area’s top social issues. Residents report low satisfaction with belonging and future security, with many feelings disconnected due to time pressures, long commutes, and limited community events. Social isolation undermines wellbeing and leaves residents with fewer social supports to draw on in times of need.⁶

Racism & vilification

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	Very High 47%
Overall Risk	Medium
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Increasing due to global tensions and growing social polarisation.

Racism and discrimination continue to undermine wellbeing across Greater Sydney, with one in six Australian adults reporting discrimination based on skin colour, ethnicity or religion in the past year.²⁴ The impacts are higher for people from non-English speaking backgrounds, where one in three report experiences of racism. Randwick has a diverse with 41% of residents born overseas and nearly a third speaking a language other than English at home. Nearly half of surveyed residents in 2025 (47%) identified discrimination or racism as a moderate or major challenge facing the community, reflecting how these issues are experienced locally.⁸

Diversity in our local community has created instances of racism and vilification which has resulted in harm. This directly impacts on community safety and wellbeing and reduce community cohesion by undermining trust and inclusion.⁶

Family violence

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	High 39%
Overall Risk	Medium
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Increasing due to financial stress, housing insecurity, and social isolation.

Family violence is a serious issue across Greater Sydney, with reported cases rising between 2018 and 2022 and disproportionately affecting women and children. Research shows a correlation between extreme heat and family violence, with incidents increasing on very hot days.² In Randwick, the 2021 Social Study identified family and domestic violence as the most critical local issue.

Referrals to the Domestic Violence Network increased by 100–150% in 2020 compared to 2019, potentially as a result of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions keeping people at home. While incident rates have since stabilised, high volumes continue to place pressure on local services. Distrust of institutions also contribute to underreporting. Family violence threatens safety and wellbeing in Randwick, highlighting the need for ongoing prevention and targeted support.⁶

Chronic health conditions

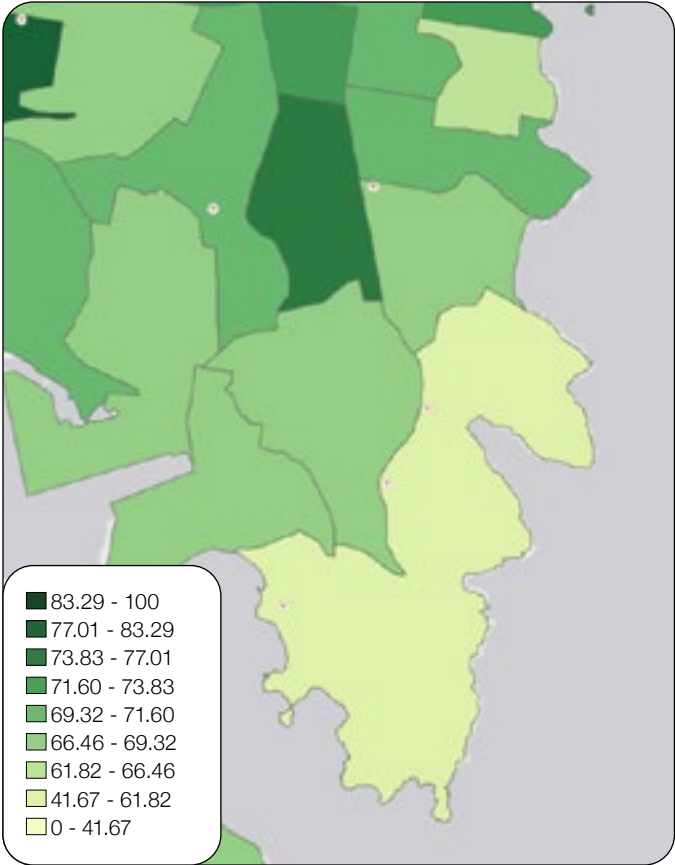


Figure 8 Percent of population reporting no long-term health condition¹⁹

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	Moderate 28%
Overall Risk	Medium
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Increasing due to ageing populations, lifestyle factors, and environmental stressors.

Chronic health conditions are widespread, with 81% of Australians experiencing at least one long-term illness. Common conditions include mental and behavioural disorders, back problems and arthritis, which drive ongoing demand for care.² In Randwick, 25.8% of residents reported one or more health conditions, a lower rate than in Greater Sydney (27.5%). As shown in Figure 8 higher rates of long term health conditions occur in the south of the LGA.

Around 4.1% of the population requires assistance with daily living, most commonly older residents aged over 85.⁶ The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted difficulties in accessing ongoing treatment, particularly for older people. While digital health services have expanded, barriers remain for residents without digital skills or reliable connectivity.² With Australia’s ageing population, chronic health conditions are expected to rise, placing further strain on health services.

3.4.3 Governance

Governance shapes how effectively Council can plan, lead and respond during disruption.

While many shocks and stresses are beyond local control, their impacts depend on how well government agencies, partners and communities work together. Coordination, trust and civic participation are central to this, ensuring decisions are transparent, responsibilities are shared and communities remain confident in Council's capacity to act.



Fragmented governance

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	Very High 55% ²⁶
Overall Risk	Extreme
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Staying the same / possibly increasing due to persistent siloed responsibilities and limited reform.

Greater Sydney has three levels of government and multiple peak bodies, and uncoordinated action between them often leads to complex decision-making and unclear responsibilities.² In Randwick, this plays out through overlapping or absent accountabilities, leaving Council to manage incidents such as tar balls on beaches or industrial risks near Port Botany without clear guidance on who should lead. Frontline teams, particularly in community development, often take responsibility beyond their core mandates and rely on partnerships to fill service gaps. Under-resourced frontline teams are stretched further by repeated shocks and stresses, while miscommunication with state agencies can delay responses. Fragmented governance reduces preparedness, creates duplication, and contributes to lower trust in government within the community.⁶

Limited resourcing and communication delays with state agencies further reduce preparedness and efficiency. In 2025, only 37% of surveyed residents agreed they had opportunities to participate in decisions made by any level of government, while nearly a third (29%) disagreed, reflecting frustration and disconnection from decision-making processes.⁸

Disrupted supply chains

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING
Community concern	High 34%
Overall Risk	Extreme
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Increasing due to global conflict, pandemics, cyber risks, and transport disruption.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed Australia's reliance on global supply chains for essential goods such as fuel, pharmaceuticals, industrial materials and food. These networks help keep costs low but also create vulnerabilities when shocks disrupt production or transport.² In Randwick, supply chain disruption has tangible local effects, including delays to Council construction projects, rising costs for housing and infrastructure, and shortages of affordable goods. Local businesses also report difficulties maintaining stock and managing higher prices for imported materials, particularly in food and retail sectors.⁶ These pressures are further amplified by urban growth, global conflict and economic instability.

Environmental degradation

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING	
Community concern	Very High 62%	
Overall Risk	High	
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Increasing due to invasive pests, overuse and land-use pressures.	Randwick’s State of the Environment Report 2021 identifies key environmental risks including land use planning, contaminated sites, threatened species loss, floodplain management and climate change. Many parks and reserves in Randwick contain remnants of past land uses where rubble and waste were deposited, creating potential health and safety risks. ³⁰ Globalisation and climate change are accelerating the spread of pests and invasive species, threatening biodiversity across the LGA, which is home to more than 500 indigenous plant species and 300 animal species, including the endangered Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub. Environmental degradation weakens natural systems that provide cooling, air and water purification, and it reduces access to nature, which is vital for recreation, cultural connection and wellbeing. ⁶ Community engagement confirmed that environmental issues are a major concern for residents, with protecting Randwick’s coasts and green canopy ranked among the highest priorities, reflecting the community’s strong connection to tangible local environmental assets. ⁸

Increasing population and tourism pressures

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING	
Community concern	N/A	
Overall Risk	High	
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Increasing due to rising demand for services and infrastructure.	By 2041, Randwick’s population is projected to grow by 20,000 people to 154,745. This growth is placing sustained pressure on housing, transport and local infrastructure. Tourism, including visitors from across Greater Sydney, is vital for the local economy but also brings challenges. Short-term tourist rentals reduce the supply of affordable housing, pushing long-term residents out of the LGA and making it harder for essential workers and families to remain locally. ⁶ Visitor demand places strain on natural assets such as beaches and parks, with overuse leading to erosion, litter and habitat loss. Community engagement reflected these concerns, with residents highlighting the need for greater investment in local infrastructure to help the community cope better with shocks and stresses, including improvements to roads and parking, public and active transport and waste services.

Low trust institutions and government

RANDWICK ANALYSIS	RISK RATING	
Community concern	N/A	
Overall Risk	Medium	
Risk trend (+ 30 years)	Staying the same / possibly increasing due to misinformation, polarisation, and poor crisis responses.	Trust in government and institutions has been declining across Australia, with national levels falling from 52% in 2022 to 45% in 2023. ² While Australians generally report higher confidence in community and public services, trust in government and media continues to erode, particularly since the COVID-19 pandemic. In Randwick, 83% of surveyed residents in 2025 reported high trust in emergency services, but only half (51%) trusted Randwick City Council to do the right thing, and just one in five (20%) felt confident the Council has good emergency plans in place. ⁷ This suggests strong confidence in frontline responders but weaker confidence in the systems and planning structures that support them. Limited communication and transparency continue to undermine institutional trust and make long-term engagement more difficult.



3.5 Vulnerable Assets and Services

RANK	ASSET OR SERVICE	WHY/HOW
1	Health infrastructure	Capacity and increased demand and susceptible to numerous shocks
2	Social and community housing	Poor quality, lack of availability and homes to vulnerable people
3	Residential buildings & structures	Predominantly old stock, not fit for the future climate and needed by all
4	Food and retail logistics	Last minute delivery, reduced local food production and needed by all
5	Digital infrastructure	Capacity and widespread reliance and increasingly targeted by deliberate attacks
6	Railways & rail infrastructure	Aging infrastructure, maintenance backlog and widespread reliance
7	Airports	Widespread reliance and lack of alternatives (until Western Sydney airport is operating)
8	Power transmission & distribution	Well maintained but widespread reliance and susceptible to numerous shocks.
9	Financial products	Need for more transparency and accountability, uncertainty related to global stability and economy
10	Waste management	Increasing due to longer, hotter and more frequent extreme heat events.

Figure 9 Priority assets and services ranked from most to least vulnerable across Greater Sydney²

The resilience of communities is closely tied to the performance of critical infrastructure and essential services. When assets such as health facilities, housing, digital networks, or transport systems fail during a crisis, the impacts cascade quickly. Services can be cut off, people can be isolated, and economic and social vulnerabilities can deepen. No infrastructure asset exists in isolation and the failure of one component can amplify consequences across people, economies, and the natural environment. This interdependence underscores the need for resilience to be considered at every stage of infrastructure planning and management.³²

For Randwick Council, at the local government level, the role in infrastructure resilience is both direct and supportive. Council owns and manages many local assets such as community facilities, stormwater systems, waste services, local roads, and open spaces. It also makes planning decisions that shape how infrastructure is designed and located, and works with emergency services, state agencies, and private providers to coordinate preparedness and response. Through these responsibilities, Council can influence how well local assets are maintained and protected, while also advocating for the resilience of larger regional networks such as hospitals, housing, and transport that sit outside its direct control.³²

The 2018 NSW State Infrastructure Strategy states, for infrastructure to be resilient it should be able to

withstand disruption, operate in crisis and deal with and adapt to shocks and stresses.³² Resilient Sydney’s risk assessment ranked the critical assets and services that support Greater Sydney from most to least vulnerable in relation to shocks and stresses, displays this ranking.² For Randwick, this highlights the need to protect and enhance the services it owns and manages and to work closely with partners to ensure other essential services remain place-based and reliable in the face of future challenges.

Randwick’s Local Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN) identifies critical infrastructure as emergency facilities, communication networks, and electricity, water, and sewer systems. This Strategy provides an opportunity to broaden this focus for resilience purposes, by identifying priority assets in alignment with Resilient Sydney’s ranked assets. This includes systems such as health infrastructure, transport, digital networks, social and community housing, and food logistics.

This expanded inventory will be assessed at the asset level to understand condition, criticality, ownership, and level of management, providing a clearer picture of interdependencies and where resilience investment is most needed. As many of these assets are not owned or operated by Randwick Council, resilience investment may take the form of partnerships and joint initiatives with infrastructure owners, utility providers, and government agencies to strengthen shared systems and improve local preparedness.

3.6 Priority Populations

To ensure the Randwick Strategy is placed-based and responds to vulnerabilities within the LGA, an analysis of priority populations was undertaken. Priority populations are identified by factors that influence a person’s access to resources, opportunities, and overall well-being. The Resilient Sydney Resilience Risk Assessment, undertaken in partnership with AECOM, identifies priority populations as follows:

- >2 Long-term health conditions
- Social and Community housing
- Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)
- Elderly (65-80+yrs)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- Living in an apartment
- Mental health condition
- People with disability
- Rented housing tenure
- Women
- Youth (0-24 years).

Utilising ABS 2021 Census data, proportions of each group were mapped across Randwick’s suburbs to highlight areas of higher concentration. The vulnerability of each priority population was also assessed against Randwick’s top shocks, using exposure and coping capacity to identify which groups are most at risk. This analysis provides place-based evidence to guide where and how resilience actions can best support communities most at risk within Randwick.

These findings were further supported by community engagement, which highlighted that while shocks affect all residents, their impacts are not felt equally across the LGA.

Priority populations

- Residents in social and community housing, facing financial stress and limited access to support services.
- Young people and international students, reporting high housing stress, unsafe or sub-standard accommodation, and barriers to mental health support.
- CALD communities, emphasising the need for multilingual information, cultural representation and social connection.
- Older residents and people with disability, expressing concerns about service access and isolation during emergencies.

Priority places

- The southern suburbs, particularly Maroubra, Matraville, Chifley and Malabar, where residents reported higher concern about cost of living, access to health services, and limited transport options.
- High-density areas with large student and renter populations, where affordability and transience increase vulnerability to shocks and reduce community cohesion.

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Glossary

TERM	DEFINITION
City Resilience ³⁴	The capacity of individuals, communities, businesses and systems in a place to survive, adapt and thrive no matter what shocks and stresses they experience.
Climate Mitigation ³⁵	Climate change mitigation includes actions we take globally, nationally and individually to limit changes caused in the global climate by human activities. Mitigation activities are designed to reduce greenhouse emissions and/or increase the amounts of greenhouse gases removed from the atmosphere by greenhouse sinks.
Natural Hazards ²	A natural or human-induced situation or condition that could harm people or damage property or the environment. Natural hazards include heatwaves, flooding and tidal inundation, storms such as east coast lows, landslides and bushfire.
Net Zero ³⁶	Refers to achieving an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions taken out of the atmosphere.
Resilient Infrastructure ²	New and existing physical facilities that support our society (e.g. roads, water pipes, power stations and communication systems) that are able to withstand climate variations over the decades of their use. To be climate resilient, new assets are located, designed, built and operated with the current and future climate in mind and existing infrastructure and maintenance regimes should incorporate resilience to the impacts of climate change over an asset’s lifetime.
Risk ²	A function of the likelihood/probability of a shock or stress combined with the consequence of the shock or stress.
Shock ¹	Acute natural or human-made events resulting in major loss of life or damage to assets and a city’s ability to function and provide basic services.
Stress ¹	Stresses are chronic or cyclical conditions that weaken the fabric of the city and reduce an individual, community, service or asset’s ability to withstand a shock.
Vulnerability ¹	The characteristics which increase the susceptibility of an individual, community, asset or system to the impact of hazards.



