State of Wellbeing 2022

Northern Beaches Community Wellbeing Framework - Indicator Report

Reviewed June 2023

northern beaches council

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians and their Country on which we gather today. By these words we show our respect to all Aboriginal people. We acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging and the spirits and ancestors of the Clans that lived in this area.

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Definitions

Liveability	A widely (and sometimes interchangeably used word with wellbeing) used term to describe quality of life and community wellbeing. It is commonly held that liveability is underpinned by healthy communities, environmental sustainability, social capital, and social cohesion
Personal wellbeing	A complex combination of a person's physical, mental, emotional and social health factors.
Community wellbeing	The combination of social, economic, environmental, cultural and political conditions identified by individuals and their communities as essential for them to flourish and fulfil their potential.
Mental health	A state of wellbeing in which every individual realises their own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to contribute to their community.
Outcomes Framework	An impact evaluation approach that unpacks an initiative's theory of change, provides a framework to collect data on immediate, basic changes that lead to longer more transformative change.

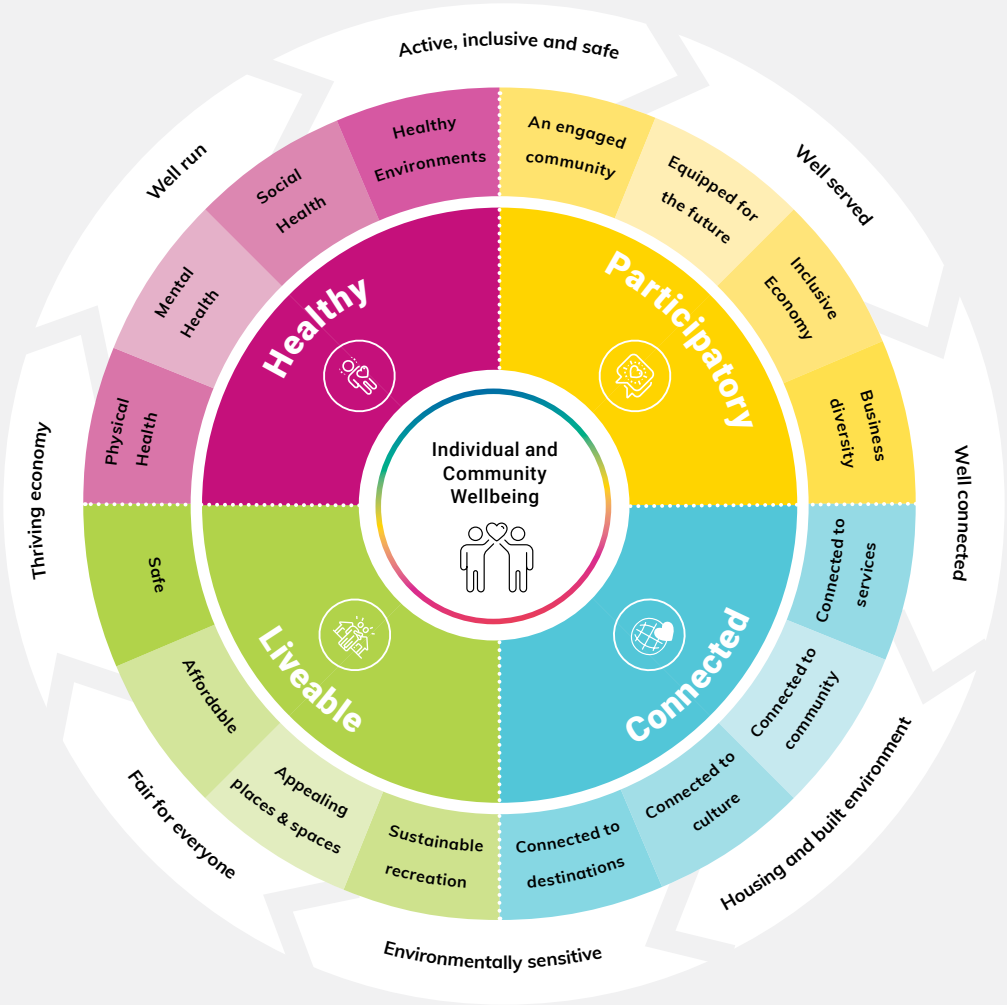
Introduction

Community Wellbeing Framework
Council developed a Community Wellbeing Framework in 2022 to measure and monitor the holistic wellbeing of the community. The Framework contains four domains, 16 outcomes and 32 indicators capturing the objective and subjective elements of individual and collective wellbeing.

This Community Wellbeing Report 2022 presents the baseline data gathered across each of the indicators. Analysing the results allows us to identify areas to maintain and improve between now and the next round of data gathering in 2024.

For some of the indicators, it was possible to get multiple years of data and so trends can be shown. All other indicators will be monitored for trends every two years when the data is captured.

Community wellbeing framework



Our community

264,481
People

5%
of Greater Sydney

41
Median age

37
Greater Sydney median age

1,706
people in Northern Beaches LGA are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

Economic environment

96.8%
Work full time or part time

94.9%
Greater Sydney

24.2%
Earn a high income

15.9%
Greater Sydney

13.7%
Households are low-income

17.9%
Greater Sydney

4.7%
Attend University

5.5%
Greater Sydney

Social environment

30.2%
Born overseas

30.8%
Greater Sydney

15.6%
Speak language other than English

37.4%
Greater Sydney

23.8%
Population over 60 years

20.5%
Greater Sydney

16.9%
Volunteer

11.6%
Greater Sydney

Built environment

43.9%
Dwellings are medium or high density

46%
Greater Sydney

55.4%
Dwellings are detached houses

53.4%
Greater Sydney

Natural environment

713 ha
Urban parks, including sportsgrounds

221 ha
Beaches and foreshore parks

Health

27.6%
Reported one or more health conditions

25.5%
Greater Sydney

6.2%
Have a mental health condition

6.6%
Greater Sydney

Care

23,792
Carers providing unpaid assistance to a person with disability, long term illness or old age

3.9%
Need help in their day-to-day lives due to disability

5.2%
Greater Sydney

Households

2.7
Average no. of people per household

2.7
Greater Sydney

36.8%
Households with children

34.4%
Greater Sydney

8.6%
Single parent family households

10.5%
Greater Sydney

21.6%
Lone person households

22.2%
Greater Sydney

68%
Fully owned or are paying off their home

48.6%
Greater Sydney average

26.3%
Rent

34.7%
Greater Sydney average

.ID community profile, 2021

Snapshot of community wellbeing indicators across the domains

Health

- Higher than average access to natural area per person (5,985ha per 100,000)
- There has been an overall decrease in canopy cover between 2013 - 2019. Changes (losses and gains) in canopy are not evenly distributed
- 29% decrease of community greenhouse gas emissions since 2019
- Health ratings of 5 lagoons improved or stable across previous 6 years
- Overall improvement in climate change attitudes of the community (reduction of 7% across the lost and doubting segments)
- Residents rate their social wellbeing higher than the Australian benchmark (7.6/10 vs 6.6/10)

Liveability

- The Northern Beaches has one of the highest liveability ratings in Australia (67.8), 5.3% higher than the Australian benchmark
- We also have a relatively high experience of wellbeing, with an overall wellbeing index of 7.6/10. 1.2 points higher than the Australian benchmark
- Housing affordability continues to impact on the liveability of the area, with the lowest rating of the 14 attributes sitting at 3.6
- The Northern Beaches RAI is 45 points lower than Greater Sydney, and while there has been a net improvement across the previous 5 years, overall levels remain at unaffordable levels
- Residents feel safe in the local area (8/10) and major crime rates per 100,000 are lower than equivalent benchmarking
- Access to the natural environment remains of importance to the community achieving the highest rating of all liveability attributes (8.7/10)
- There are 713 ha of public outdoor recreation space per person
- Beach water quality remains high with a rating of 100% in 4/5 years

Participatory

- Resident ratings of personal financial circumstances are slightly higher (6.7/10) than Australian benchmark (6.3)
- Residents rate job prospects (5.5/10) which is similar to the Australian benchmark of (5.7/10)
- People rate their satisfaction with business diversity as 7/10. Higher than the Australian benchmark of 6.4
- High quality education was rated 6.7/10 by residents

Connection

- Indicators around road congestion and making way to and from services are some of the indicators most poorly experienced by residents
- While public transport was rated 6.3/10- higher than the Australian benchmark, residents report a high importance of this indicator to their wellbeing so has a significant impact on the overall liveability score
- The community has a strong sense of community (7.1/10) compared with the Australian benchmark and experience of social cohesion (6.5/10) is reported to be at the same level to the benchmark
- Our community volunteers at a much higher rate (5.3%) than other areas of greater Sydney*

Liveability index
Wellbeing dashboard

Northern Beaches

National

Difference to benchmark

*This is likely to have been adversely affected by the COVID19 pandemic and the impact will need to be watched in future data gathering.

Key results - 2022

In March 2022, 1,277 Northern Beaches residents completed a “Living in Place” survey to identify what our community believes makes somewhere a good place to live and how our community experiences their local area against 16 attributes. This survey captures the data for the subjective indicators in the Community Wellbeing Framework.

The Northern Beaches is very liveable, however there are still opportunities to advance quality of life.
The Overall Liveability Index (OLI) for the Northern Beaches returned a score of 67.8 out of a possible 100. By this measure, liveability on the Northern Beaches is considered higher than the Australian (62.5), New South Wales (62.9) and Sydney (64.2) benchmarks.

Residents place a very high value on and report positive local area experiences regarding 'access to the natural environment' and 'feeling safe'.
Access to the natural environment' was the attribute identified that contributes most towards making somewhere a good place (77%) and the aspect that was most positively experienced (8.7/10). Not far behind was 'feeling safe', which was selected as the second most important liveability attribute (63%) and the second most positively experienced (8.0).

While these couplings of very high importance and positive local area experiences are critical drivers of the Northern Beaches high levels of overall liveability and represent positive points of difference relative to the available external benchmarks, their importance to the community also tells us that residents will be aware of and very sensitive to any policy decisions or advocacy that could possibly detract from their ability to engage with nature or how safe they feel in their local area.

Residents of the Northern Beaches are in good health.
The community reported an overall Health and Wellbeing Index value of 7.3 out of 10, higher than the Australian average of 6.4. Despite already being in good physical health (7.7), mental health (7.6) and reporting high levels of social wellbeing (7.6), residents were also optimistic about their future health prospects, with the community considerably more likely to forecast that their physical health, mental health and social wellbeing will get better than get worse in the coming 12 months.

While the Northern Beaches is very liveable, younger residents report a poorer quality of life and have unique future needs

Younger residents - those aged between 18 and 34 years - represent approximately 25% of the adult population who call the Northern Beaches home. This community reported an Overall Liveability Index of 63.2/100, considerably lower than what was reported by those aged 35 to 59 years (68.4) and lower again when compared to those aged 60+ (70.5).

Lower levels of overall liveability for the 18 to 34 year old age group is largely driven by the greater importance this cohort places on the provision of 'affordable decent housing' (51% vs the Northern Beaches average of 29%) and their poorer local area experiences of housing in that regard (3.0/10) vs the Northern Beaches average of 3.6).

Beyond overall liveability, younger residents also reported poorer levels of self-reported mental health (6.7/10 compared to the Northern Beaches average of 7.6) and financial wellbeing (5.8/10 vs the Northern Beaches average of 6.7).

While liveability across the Northern Beaches was consistently high, improving residents' ability to get around the Beaches will enhance overall liveability in the future. The provision of 'reliable and efficient public transport', 'a lack of road congestion' and 'making your way to and from services such as employment, education and healthcare with relative ease' were nominated by residents as attributes where local area experiences need to be improved to advance quality of life.

Focusing policy and advocacy efforts on these three attributes will, over the long term, see residents reporting better local area experiences which will, by extension, lift up the Overall Liveability Index - the macro measure through which we understand and monitor collective quality of life.

Perceptions regarding the provision of 'affordable decent housing' are unique and divided across the community

The Northern Beaches community nominated the provision of 'affordable decent housing' (29%) as the ninth most important attribute that contributes towards making somewhere a good place to live, much lower than the Australian average (48%, third). While on the surface this might lead us to think all Northern Beaches residents place low stock in 'affordable decent housing', taking that lens on this topic is short sighted, and fails to recognise that there are pockets of residents within the community for whom the provision of 'affordable decent housing' is acutely important, including 18 to 34 year-olds and Renters who both selected this attribute as the 3rd most important liveability attribute.

Areas to maintain and improve

Analysis of the Living on the Northern Beaches survey results identified five areas to maintain and five areas to improve local area experiences to advance liveability.

Areas to maintain

- Access to the natural environment
- Feeling safe
- A strong sense of community
- A diverse range of shopping, leisure and dining
- High quality health services

Areas to improve

- Reliable and efficient public transport
- A lack of road congestion
- Making your way to and from services with ease ('Connectivity')
- Affordable decent housing
- Rental affordability index

Areas to maintain and improve were identified in the Living on the Northern Beaches 2022 Views Report, .ID

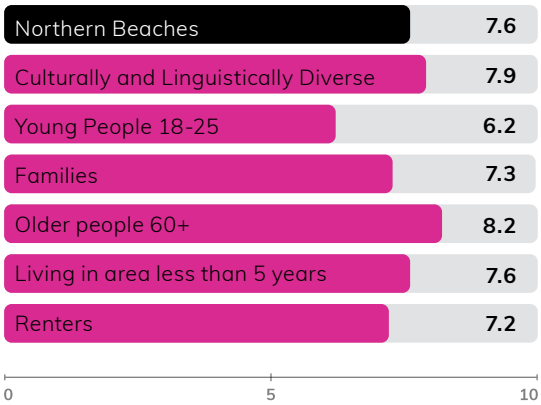
Identifying the needs of underrepresented groups

It is important to identify differences in wellbeing outcomes between various groups living in the community. Analysis at a population level is helpful, however one of the key purposes of a Wellbeing Framework is to ensure that the diversity of people's lived experiences is recognised, particularly where there are inequalities across different groups.

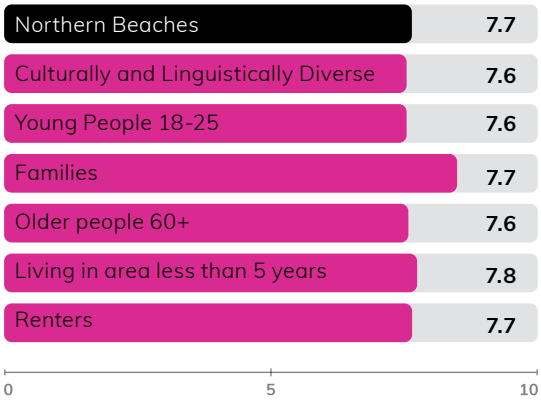
The dimensions that should be considered include (but not limited to):

- Age
- Gender identity
- Ethnicity and cultural heritage
- Religion
- Sexual orientation
- Socio-economic status
- Family make-up
- Employment status
- Housing status
- Level of education
- People living with a disability.

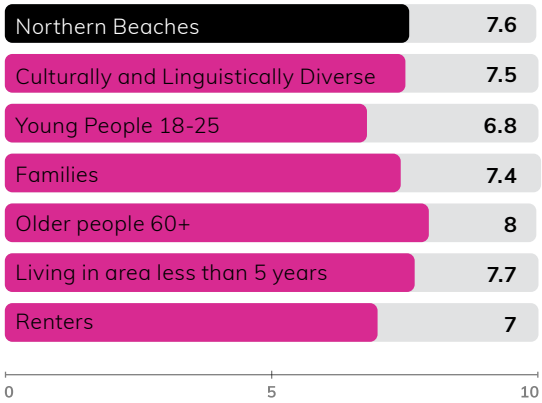
How would you rate your mental health



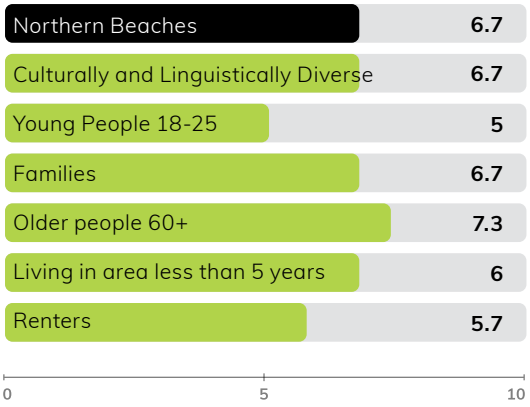
How would you rate your physical health



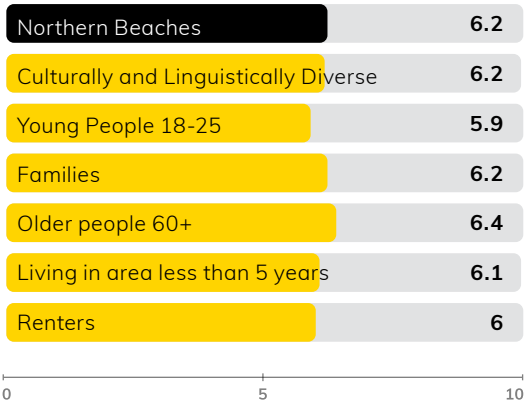
How would you rate your social wellbeing



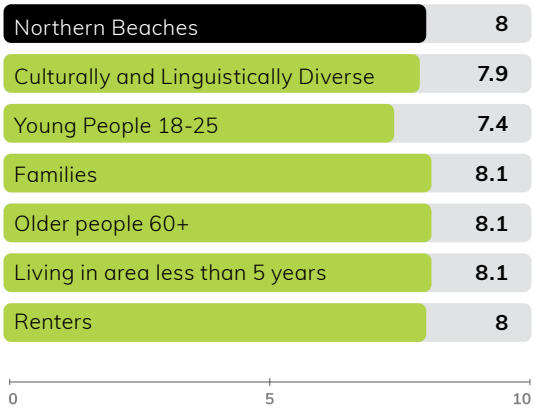
How would you rate your personal financial circumstances



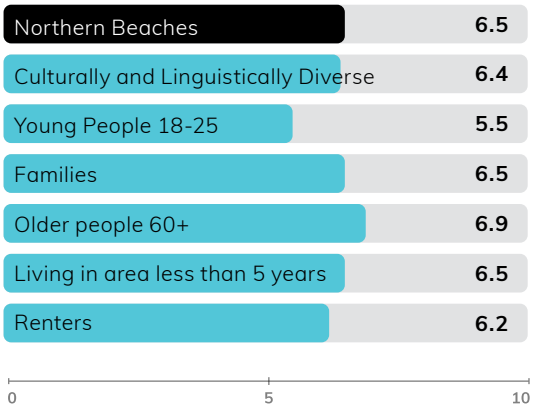
How would you rate opportunity for all



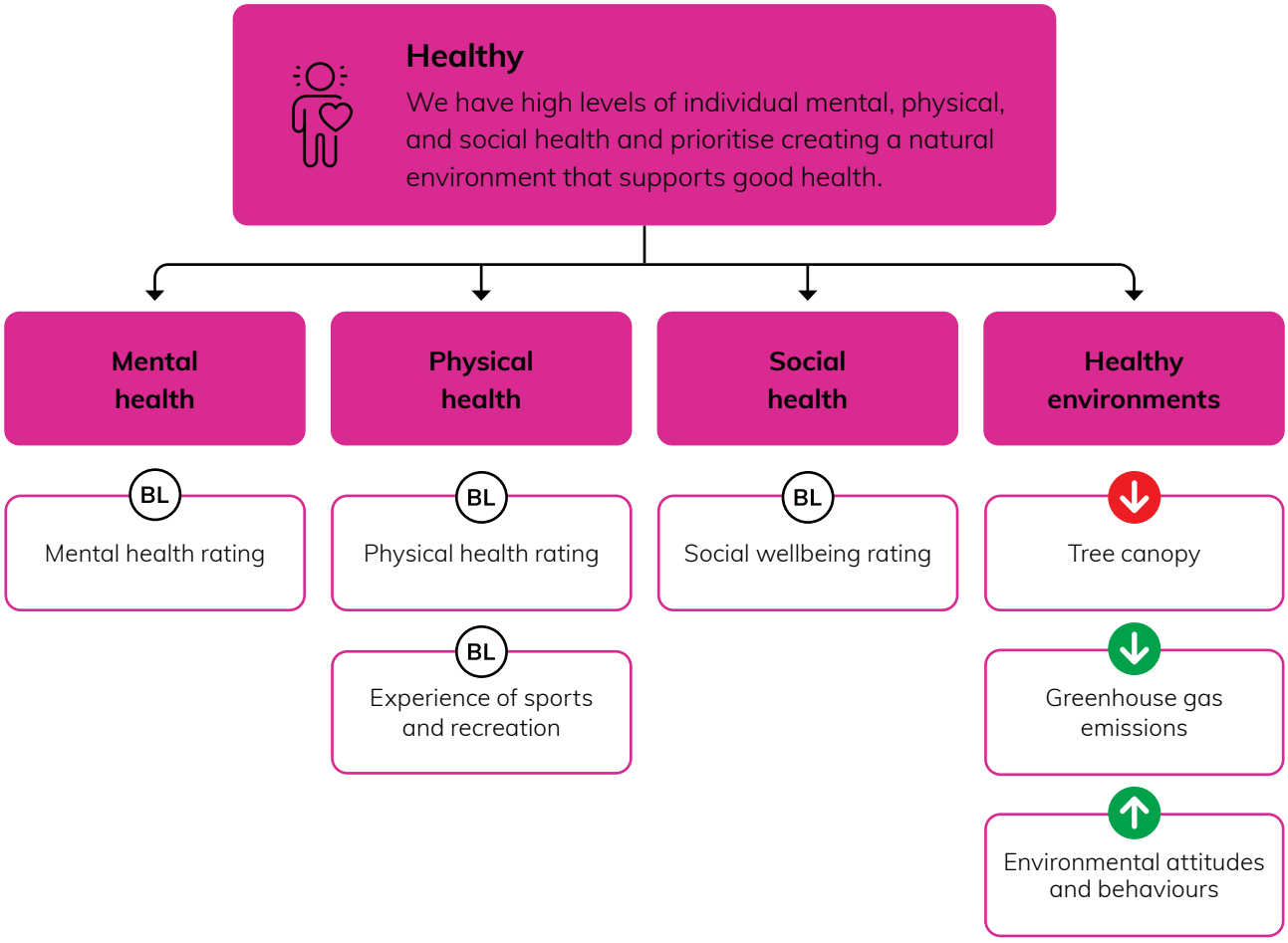
How would you rate feeling safe



How would you rate social cohesion



Summary of indicators by domain of wellbeing



There are four outcomes and seven indicators for the Healthy domain of the Community Wellbeing Framework.

Three indicators had historical data to demonstrate a trend (two reporting periods) and showed that,

- Two had improved (Greenhouse gas emissions, environmental attitudes and behaviours)
- One had deteriorated (Tree Canopy) although changes (losses and gains) in canopy are not evenly distributed.

For the four indicators that were reported for the first time:

- One met the national benchmark (difference of +/-0.9) (Ability to view and participate in sports and rec)
- Three exceeded the national benchmark (differences of +/- 1) (Social wellbeing rating, Physical health rating, Mental health rating).

Table of indicator results:

Indicator	Baseline	2022 Result	Trend	Performance against benchmark	What it tells us
Outcome: Mental health (wellness)					
Mental health rating		7.6/10		Exceeding benchmark	Northern Beaches residents rate their current mental health higher than the national benchmark of 6.5 out of 10. When asked about the future, 31% forecast their mental health will get better in 12 months and 6% believe it will get worse. This compares with the Australian average of 24% forecasting their mental health will 'get better'. Older people 60+ reported the highest level of mental health (8.2) with young people 18-34 reporting the lowest (6.7).
Outcome: Physical health					
Physical health rating		7.7/10		Exceeding benchmark	Northern Beaches residents rate their physical health higher than the national benchmark of 6.2 out of 10. When asked about the future, 35% forecast their physical health will get better in 12 months and 8% believe it will get worse. This compares with the Australian average of 28% forecasting their physical health will 'get better'. Ratings for physical health were consistent across location, gender and age.
Experience of viewing and participating in sports and recreation		7.5/10		Meeting benchmark	Northern Beaches residents experience of this indicator is consistent with the national benchmark of 6.8/10. This shows residents are experiencing the benefits of participating in sport and recreation activities, including the increased chance of incidental social contact where the community can connect across culture and generations.
Outcome: Social health					
Social wellbeing rating		7.6/10		Exceeding benchmark	Residents rated their current social wellbeing better than the national average of 6.4/10. When asked about the future, 26% forecast their social wellbeing will get better in 12 months and 5% believe it will get worse. This compares with the Australian average of 23% forecasting their social wellbeing will 'get better'. Those aged 60+ reported the highest level of social wellbeing (8.0) followed by 35 – 59 (7.6) and 18 – 34 (7.0).

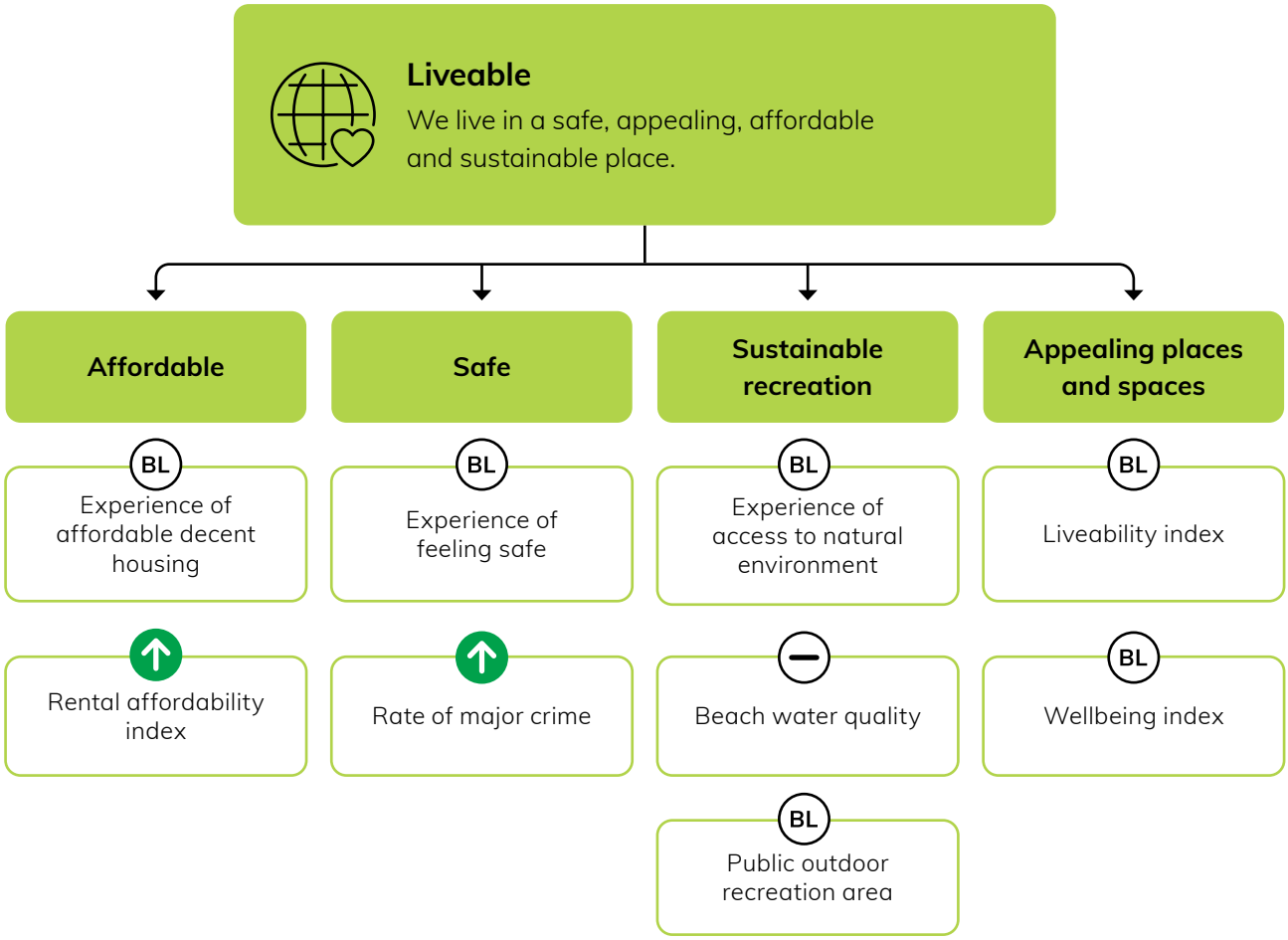
Key

Rates Deteriorating Rates Improving Maintaining BL Baseline result

Indicator	Baseline	2022 Result	Trend	Performance against benchmark	What it tells us
Outcome: Healthy environments					
Tree canopy	57.07% (2011/13)	56.73% (2019)	* ↓	Exceeding benchmark N/A	There has been an overall decrease in canopy cover between 2013 - 2019. Changes (losses and gains) in canopy are not evenly distributed. Direct causes of losses and gains in canopy cover are as a result of: • bushfire fuel management through hazard reduction burning • Mona Vale and Warringah Road upgrades • clearing for development, including both approved and illegal removals • removal of individual trees, including dead trees, exempt tree species (both exotic species and trees under 5m tall) and dangerous trees • the application of the 10/50 rule allowing removal of trees within 10m and vegetation for 50m from a house allowable under the Rural Fires Act.
Greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes per person)	7.6 tCo2e (2017/18)	7.2 tCo2e (2020/21)	↓	Exceeding benchmark	A decrease of ~5% since 2018 per capita across our community indicates significant improvement on how emissions are being managed for the area, and the positive impact on climate change.
Environmental attitudes and behaviours	33% (2017)	38% (2021)	↑	N/A	This indicator reports on participant's attitude towards climate change, and behaviours they participate in. The key segment in the Northern Beaches is the Disciples segment, where 38% have strong attitudes towards climate change being extremely likely to happen while also often performing sustainable behaviours - this segment has increased from 33% in 2017. We have seen a decrease in the size of the Lost segment (23% in 2021 from 26% in 2017) and the Doubting segment (15% in 2021 from 19% in 2017) which indicates an overall improvement in climate change attitudes.

**Healthy environments - Tree Canopy Trend:*

- a small decrease of 0.34% in the overall canopy cover
- an increase of 3.99% in the canopy within the National Parks
- a reduction of 6.12% in the canopy on private land
- a reduction of 1.57% in the canopy cover associated with streets and roads
- a slight increase of 2.74% in the canopy cover on Council managed lands.



There are four outcomes and nine indicators for the Liveable domain. Four indicators had sufficient data to determine a trend over time (two reporting periods) and showed that:

- Two improved (Rental affordability index and rates of major crime)
- Two maintained (Public outdoor recreation space and beach water quality).

For the five indicators that were reported for the first time:

- Four exceeded the comparative national benchmark (>+/- 1) (Feeling safe, access to natural environment, liveability index and wellbeing index)
- One was below the comparative national benchmark at (>+/-1) (Affordable decent housing).

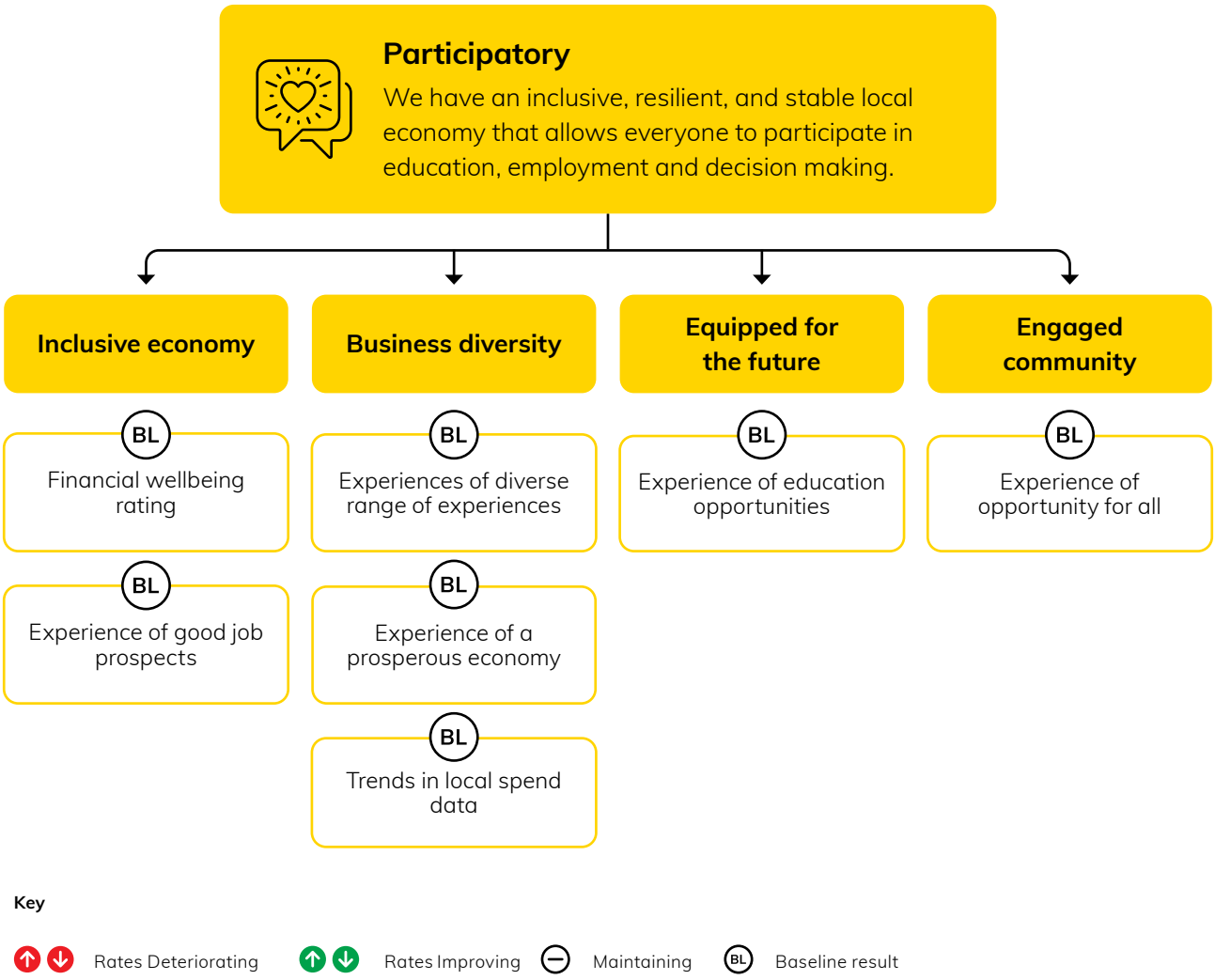
Indicator	Baseline	2022 Result	Trend	Performance against benchmark	What it tells us
Outcome: Affordable					
Experience of affordable decent housing		3.6		Below benchmark	Northern Beaches residents experience of this indicator is below the national benchmark of 5/10. While residents overall nominated affordable decent housing as the ninth most important liveability attribute, it fails to recognise there are pockets of residents within the community for whom the provision of 'affordable decent housing' is acutely important, including 18–34-year-old and renters who both selected this attribute as the third most important liveability attribute.
Rental affordability index	Severely unaffordable	Unaffordable	↑	Below benchmark	Rental affordability is well below the greater Sydney benchmark of acceptable. Rental affordability is an important indicator for the Northern Beaches as it highlights experiences of disadvantaged households. Over the past 5 years there has been an overall trend of improved housing affordability, however the rating remains unaffordable for the entire LGA.
Outcome: Safe					
Experience of feeling Safe		8/10		Exceeds benchmark	Northern Beaches residents experience of this indicator exceeds the national benchmark of 6.8/10. 63% of residents selected 'feeling safe' as an important attribute when considering what makes somewhere a good place to live, making it the second most important liveability aspect for Northern Beaches residents overall. Residents rated their experience of 'Feeling safe' in their local area 8.0 out of 10, on average, making it the second most positively experienced liveability attribute. Residents reported more positive local area experiences regarding 'feeling safe' when compared to all external benchmarks.

Key

↑↓ Rates Deteriorating ↑↓ Rates Improving ⊖ Maintaining (BL) First year result

Indicator	Baseline	2022 Result	Trend	Performance against benchmark	What it tells us
Major crime rate per 100,000	2168 (2017)	1,624		Exceeds benchmark	The Northern Beaches has a lower major crime rate than the NSW benchmark of 2,972 per 100,000 people. Overall, there has been a decrease in major crime rate per 100,000 people in the last 5 years. 60-month trends indicated 5 categories remained stable while 6 experienced a decrease of between 5% and 15.5%. Of note is the increase of reporting for sexual assault across a 60-month trend of 14.1%.
Outcome: Sustainable recreation					
Experience of access to the natural environment		8.7/10		Exceeds benchmark	Northern Beaches residents experience of this indicator exceeds the national benchmark of 7.3/10. 77% of residents selected this indicator as an important attribute when considering what makes somewhere a good place to live, making it the first most important liveability aspect for Northern Beaches residents overall. Residents rated their experience in their local area 8.7/10 on average making it the most positively experienced liveability attribute. Residents placed higher value and reported higher positive experiences regarding this indicator when compared to all external benchmarks.
Public outdoor recreation space per 1,000		2.6 ha		N/A	There are 2.6ha of public outdoor recreation space per 1000 people. Due to the unique typology of the Northern Beaches benchmarking against other Councils does not provide an indicator of how we are going in relation to this indicator. An internal benchmark will be used to monitor ongoing changes to this indicator.

Indicator	Baseline	2022 Result	Trend	Performance against benchmark	What it tells us
Beach water quality	Good (2017)	Good	⊖	Exceeds benchmark	The Northern Beaches has a higher star rating than the NSW benchmark of Fair. Overall, beach water quality remains very high over the previous 5 years, with an overall trend of maintaining a good rating. In 2021, there was some isolated deterioration of beach water quality for some catchments. This is likely a result of significant storm events which impact on pollution sources that affect beach water quality. As climate change increases our chances of more extreme weather events, it is possible that beach water quality will be more frequently affected over time, and this trend will continue to be monitored for its impact on wellbeing.
Outcome: Appealing places and spaces					
Liveability Index		67.8/100		Exceeds benchmark	The Northern Beaches Overall Liveability Index returned a score of 67.8 out of 100. By this measure liveability in Northern Beaches Council is considered higher than Australia (62.5), New South Wales (62.9) and Sydney (64.2).
Wellbeing Index		76/100		Exceeds benchmark	The Northern Beaches returned a Health and Wellbeing Index value of 7.6/10. This is higher than Australia (6.4), NSW (6.5) and Sydney (6.6)



There are four outcomes and seven indicators for the participatory domain, which are all being reported for the first time:

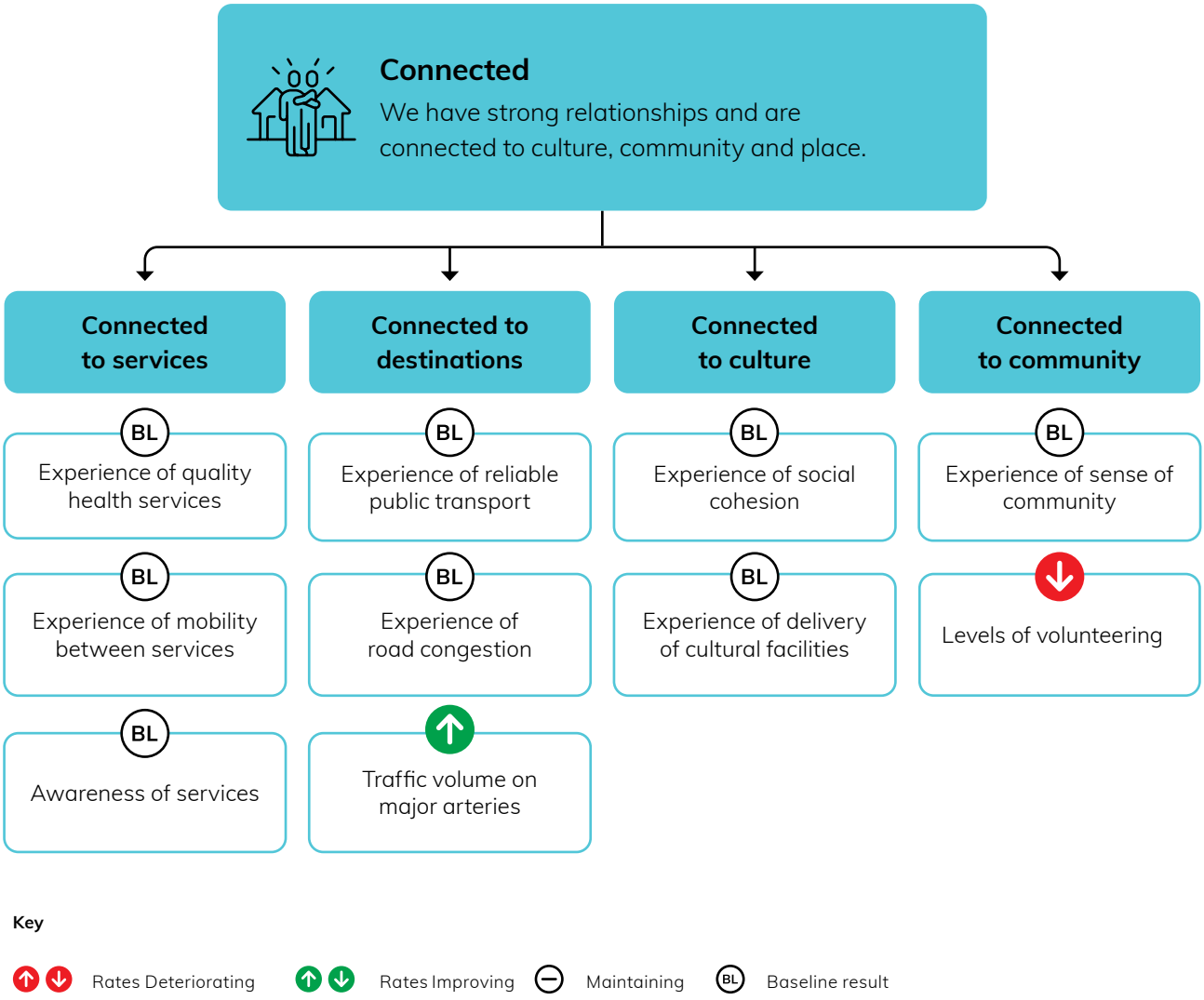
- Five met the national benchmark (<+/-0.9) (Financial Wellbeing Index, Good job prospects, high quality education opportunities, opportunity for all and diverse range of shopping).
- One exceeded the benchmark (>+/-1) (Prosperous economy).
- One does not have relevant comparative benchmark to report against (Trends in local spend data).

Indicator	Baseline	2022 Result	Trend	Performance against benchmark	What it tells us
Outcome: Inclusive economy					
Financial wellbeing rating		6.7/10		Meeting benchmark	The rating of residents financial wellbeing is consistent with the national benchmark of 6.3. When asked about the future, 27% forecast their financial wellbeing will get better in 12 months and 18% believe it will get worse. This compares with the Australian average of 23% forecasting their financial wellbeing will 'get better'. Those aged 18-34 report lower financial circumstances to the benchmark (5.8 vs 6.3) and to the Northern Beaches average (5.8 vs 6.7).
Experience of good job prospects		5.5		Meeting benchmark	Residents experience of good job prospects in the area was consistent with the national benchmark of 5.7.
Outcome: Business diversity					
Experience of diverse range of shopping, leisure and dining experiences		7.0		Meeting benchmark	Residents experience of this indictor is consistent with the national benchmark of 6.4. Northern Beaches residents place a higher value on the importance (42%) of this indicator compared to national benchmark (29%). This means that nearly half of respondents selected this indicator as an important attribute when considering what makes somewhere a good place to live, making it the fifth most important liveability aspect for Northern Beaches residents overall.
Experience of a prosperous economy		7.2		Exceeds benchmark	Northern Beaches residents experience of this indicator exceeds the national benchmark of 6.2/10. There is a consistent experience reported across the Northern Beaches which indicates that overall economic prosperity is being shared across the LGA.

Key

Rates Deteriorating Rates Improving Maintaining Baseline result

Indicator	Baseline	2022 Result	Trend	Performance against benchmark	What it tells us
Trends in local spend data		$7.48 billion		N/A	This result reflects the overall total expenditure across 14 categories and sets the baseline for measuring year on year change in future reports.
Outcome: Equipped for the future					
Experience of high quality education opportunities		6.7		Meeting benchmark	Residents experience of this indicator is consistent with the national benchmark of 6.4. This attribute was most important to those aged 35-59 (23%) compared to the Northern Beaches average (19%). This reflects that those aged 35-59 represent the homebuilder demographic of the area and therefore are the ones primarily accessing education services.
Outcome: Engaged community					
Experience of opportunity for all		6.2		Meeting benchmark	While residents' ratings of experience (6.2) are consistent with external benchmarking, the level of importance of this indicator is significantly different from the national benchmark indicating that the Northern Beaches do not place the same importance on this indicator as other areas (10% vs. 23% national average).



There are four outcomes and ten indicators for the connected domain. Two indicators had sufficient data to determine a trend over time (two reporting periods) and showed that:

- One deteriorated in the reporting period (rate of volunteering)
- One improved (road congestion on major arteries).

For the eight indicators that were reported for the first time:

- Six met the national benchmark (<+/-0.9) (High quality health services, reliable and efficient public transport, social cohesion, cultural facilities, sense of community and making your way to and from services with relative ease)
- One was below national benchmark (>+/-1) (lack of road congestion)
- One does not have a comparative benchmark (awareness of services).

Indicator	Baseline	2022 Result	Trend	Performance against benchmark	What it tells us
Outcome: Connected to services					
Experience of high quality health services		7.2		Meeting benchmark	Residents experience of this indicator is consistent with the national benchmark of 6.4/10. High quality health services are an important attribute to residents, ranking sixth most important liveability aspect overall. This most likely reflects the needs of our ageing population with 50% of those aged 60+ placing the greatest value on this attribute.
Mobility to and from services		5.7		Meeting benchmark	Northern Beaches residents experience of this indicator is consistent with the national benchmark of 6.4. Residents placed similar value on and reported similar local area experiences for this indicator when compared to external benchmarks.
Awareness of services		67%		N/A	67% of residents strongly agree or agree that they know where to get help if and where they need it.
Outcome: Connected to destinations					
Experience of reliable and efficient public transport		6.3		Meeting benchmark	Northern Beaches residents experience of this indicator is consistent with the national benchmark of 5.7. 47% of residents indicated this as an important attribute when considering what makes somewhere a good place to live, making it the third most important liveability attribute.
Experience of road congestion		4		Below benchmark	The experience of this indicator is significantly below the national benchmark of 5.7/10. This places it at 15th out of 16 liveability attributes for how it is experienced and one of the key areas identified as impacting on the overall liveability rating of the Northern Beaches.

Key

Rates Deteriorating Rates Improving Maintaining Baseline result

Indicator	Baseline	2022 Result	Trend	Performance against benchmark	What it tells us
Outcome: Connected to destinations					
Traffic volume on arterial roads	242 124 (2018)	211 372 (2021)	↑	N/A	This indicator represents the total road volume for all five major arterial roads on the Northern Beaches: Mona Vale Road, Pittwater Road, Warringah Road, Forest Way and the Spit Bridge. Over the past 4 years traffic volume across the 5 arterial roads has decreased by 12%. This indicator is likely to have been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and results over the next period will provide a post-covid baseline.
Outcome: Connected to culture					
Experience of social cohesion		6.5		Meeting benchmark	The result for this indicator is consistent with the national benchmark of 6.5/10.
Experience of delivery of cultural facilities		4.8		Meeting benchmark	The result for this indicator is consistent with the national benchmark of 5.7. Only 12% of people identified this as important in what makes somewhere a good place to live, which is also consistent with the national benchmark of 13%.
Outcome: Connected to community					
Experience of sense of community		7.1		Meeting benchmark	The result for this indicator is consistent with the National Benchmark 6.4/10. This result shows how the high level of connection people have to the area. Sense of community also ranked overall as the fourth most important liveability attribute.
Levels of volunteering	21.9% (2016)	16.9%	↓	Exceeds benchmark	The result for this indicator exceeds the Greater Sydney benchmark 11.6%. The decline in the number of people volunteering is likely due to the impact from the COVID pandemic response. Prior census benchmarking showed this indicator increasing over time.

Appendix 1

Core indicator explanations

Domain	Outcome	Indicator		Indicator Description	Desired trend over time	Why it has been selected as an indicator	Data set
Healthy	Mental Health	Mental health rating	S	How people rate their mental health (scale 0-10)	↑	Satisfaction with mental health is an important predictor of a person's wellbeing. Self-reported mental health correlates with the overall subjective Wellbeing Index.	Living on the Northern Beaches
Healthy	Physical Health	The ability to view and participate in sports and recreation	S	How people rate the local area for ability to view and participate in sports and recreation (scale 0-10)	↑	Benefits of participating in sports and recreation delivers benefits beyond the physical. Engaging in sports and recreation increases the chance of incidental social contact, brings cognitive benefits, and often serves as places where the community can connect across social, cultural, and generational lines.	Living on the Northern Beaches
Healthy	Physical Health	Physical health rating	S	How people rate their physical health (scale 0-10)	↑	Self-reported health assessments are simple and global. They have been found to be a very powerful predictor of future morbidity, health care use and mortality, independent of other medical, behavioural, or psychosocial risk factors. Self-reported physical health correlates with the overall subjective Wellbeing Index.	Living on the Northern Beaches
Healthy	Healthy environments	Urban Tree Canopy	O	The % of the LGA that has tree canopy	↑	A healthy tree canopy will play a critical role in maintaining the health and liveability residents expect. The urban forest is the 'engine room' for urban ecosystems contributing to our ability to provide clean air, oxygen shade and habitat.	Council data
Healthy	Healthy environments	Greenhouse gas emissions	O	Community greenhouse gas emissions measured in tonnes per person	↓	An indicator of the negative contribution the city is making to climate change. A decline in emissions per person may indicate that emissions are being better managed	Kinesis Dashboard

Key

↑↓ Rates Deteriorating ↑↓ Rates Improving ⊖ Maintaining S Subjective O Objective

Domain	Outcome	Indicator		Indicator Description	Desired trend over time	Why it has been selected as an indicator	Data set
Healthy	Healthy environments	Environmental attitudes and behaviour	S	% falling in the lost and doubting segments that measure climate change attitudes and sustainability behaviour.	↓	This indicator demonstrates segmentation of respondents by attitude towards climate change and the behaviours they participate in. Decreases in the lost (believe climate change is less likely and do not perform sustainable behaviours often) and doubting (believe climate change is less likely but perform sustainable behaviours often) segments indicate overall improvement in climate change attitudes	Environmental Perceptions Survey
Healthy	Social health	Social wellbeing rating	S	How people rate their social wellbeing (scale 0-10)	↑	Social wellbeing is an important indicator of a person's ability to connect and form personal relationships with others. Close relationships have benefits for individuals and society overall.	Living on the Northern Beaches
Liveable	Affordable	Affordable decent housing	S	How people rate the local area for affordable decent housing (scale 0-10)	↑	Understanding the provision of affordable decent housing goes well beyond the dwelling. This indicator seeks to contextualise the community's view on 'housing' with two additional features - perception of value (represented as affordable) and quality (represented as decent).	Living on the Northern Beaches
Liveable	Affordable	Rental affordability index (RAI)	O	Rental affordability calculated using the following equation RAI= (income/ qualifying income)*100	↓	The RAI demonstrates rental affordability relative to household incomes. It quantifies the rental affordability and highlights experiences of disadvantaged households. This is particularly important in a place like the Northern Beaches where this story is not always demonstrated through typical statistical data sets such as ABS.	SGS Economics
Liveable	Safe	Feeling safe	S	How people rate the local area for feeling safe (scale 0-10)	⊖	Feeling safe and secure has been described as the bedrock upon which our more social and aspirational needs can be met. It's been proven that if we do not feel safe and secure, we simply cannot participate to our fullest extent.	Living on the Northern Beaches

Domain	Outcome	Indicator		Indicator Description	Desired trend over time	Why it has been selected as an indicator	Data set
Liveable	Safe	Rate of major crime per 100,000 people	O	Collective rate across major crime categories per 100 000	⊖	The rate of crime is an indicator of feelings of personal safety. It is considered a benchmark for overall levels of safety in the city and the degree of protection to citizens. The rate of offences per 100,000 allows comparisons to be made across geographical areas and across times, because the population size is considered.	BOCSAR
Liveable	Sustainable	Access to the natural environment	S	How people rate the local area for access to the natural environment (e.g. Rivers, beaches, forests, parks, green spaces) (scale 0-10)	↑	Epidemiologists tell us that spending time in the natural environment on a regular basis makes a serious positive contribution to our wellbeing and resilience. This is an indicator that we want to experience and protect at the same time. It is often cited as amongst one of the most important liveability indicators.	Living on the Northern Beaches
Liveable	Sustainable	Public outdoor recreation space	O	Hectares of public outdoor recreation space per person	⊖	The quantity and quality of outdoor recreation space can influence the health of residents.	Council data
Liveable	Sustainable	Beach water quality	O	Water quality of beaches for swimming (32 beaches monitored)	⊖	Recreational water quality provides insight into resident's ability to access recreational waters which include ocean beaches, lake and lagoon swimming and ocean baths. Beach water quality indicates the impact of pollution sources on the body of water which can pose significant health risks, especially to certain groups of more vulnerable users such as children, the elderly, people with compromised immune systems, tourists, and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.	Annual State of the Beaches report
Liveable	Appealing	Liveability Index	S	Derived from scores across the 16 critical liveability attributes	↑	The overall Liveability Index identifies which specific attributes Northern Beaches residents believe need to be maintained and improved to advance quality of life.	Living on the Northern Beaches

Domain	Outcome	Indicator		Indicator Description	Desired trend over time	Why it has been selected as an indicator	Data set
Liveable	Appealing	Wellbeing Index	S	Derived from scores across three domains of wellbeing	↑	Drawn from the WHO definition of 'health' "a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity." The Wellbeing index measures a person's collective experience of the three facets of wellbeing: physical, mental and social. Wellbeing is the state of feeling comfortable, healthy and contented. Subjective wellbeing is a self-rated measure of the fit between a person's hopes and expectations and their present experience.	Living on the Northern Beaches
Participatory	Inclusive economy	Financial Wellbeing Index	S	Derived from response to "how would you rate your personal financial	↑	Self-rated measurement of economic security and likely future opportunities. It measures a person's collective experience of their financial circumstances.	Living on the Northern Beaches
Participatory	Inclusive economy	Good job prospects	S	How people rate the local area for good job prospects (scale 0-10)	↑	Understanding resident perspectives on the provision of 'good job prospects in their local area shines a light on how the community views the labour market opportunities now, and into the future. Considered highly important to younger people when they're thinking about what makes somewhere a good place to live this indicator is clearly an attractor quality for local areas to grow and retain working age people	Living on the Northern Beaches
Participatory	Business diversity	Diverse range of shopping, leisure, and dining experiences	S	How people rate the local area for a diverse range of shopping, leisure, and dining experiences (scale 0-10)	↑	Understanding the relative value, the community places on this indicator and how they experience it in their local area is important to understand the role, function, and future of our places.	Living on the Northern Beaches

Domain	Outcome	Indicator		Indicator Description	Desired trend over time	Why it has been selected as an indicator	Data set
Participatory	Business diversity	A prosperous economy	S	How people rate the local area for a prosperous economy (scale 0-10)	↑	An indicator for how the community views the financial wellbeing of the local area. Understanding 'a prosperous economy' across small areas provides a platform for us to explore the relative distance between places perceived to be the most and least prosperous, whether we are becoming economically prosperous overall or in pockets and whether the gap between the most and least prosperous local areas are expanding or contracting.	Living on the Northern Beaches
Participatory	Inclusive	Trends in local spend data	O	% of categories that have increased spend over the previous period 14 expenditure categories	↑	Trends in local spend data provide us with an objective understanding of the types of businesses people are spending their money at and the distribution across different business types for example household goods, hospitality, accommodation, construction	Spend map data
Participatory	Equipped	High quality education opportunities	S	How people rate the local area for high quality education opportunities (scale 0-10)	↑	This indicator is often selected by younger Australians when asked to consider what makes somewhere a good place to live. As how we learn, and work continues to change - the ability to access and participate in high quality education across all ages and employment sectors will only become more important to our personal social progress, collective economic security and overall wellbeing.	Living on the Northern Beaches
Participatory	Engaged	Opportunity for all	S	How people rate the local area for opportunity of all (scale 0-10)	↑	It has been well documented that if people are treated fairly and without prejudice, they will have a far greater chance of making social and economic progress. Monitoring the value, the community places on opportunity for all and how well they believe their local area delivers in that regard is an important metric to informing our understanding of how well we are progressing as a society.	Living on the Northern Beaches

Domain	Outcome	Indicator		Indicator Description	Desired trend over time	Why it has been selected as an indicator	Data set
Connected	Services	High quality health services	S	How people rate the local area for high quality health services (scale 0-10)	↑	Delivering high quality health services is crucial to our public and economic health. With an ageing population, an ever-increasing share of our GDP is spent on service delivery. Understanding and monitoring views on health is critical to local prosperity. This indicator is often more important to older Australians.	Living on the Northern Beaches
Connected	Services	Mobility to and from services	S	How people rate making their way to and from services such as employment, education, and healthcare with relative ease (scale 0-10)	↑	This indicator allows us to better understand how the community views their ability to access essential services such as employment, education, and healthcare with relative ease.	Living on the Northern Beaches
Connected	Services	Awareness of services	S	% of residents who say they know where to get help when they need it	↑	The ability to access services when they are needed correlates to residents' feelings of connection.	Living on the Northern Beaches
Connected	Destinations	Reliable and efficient public transport	S	How people rate the local area for reliable and efficient public transport (scale 0-10)	↑	The ability to access reliable and efficient public transport provides a way for us to connect with work, education, social opportunities, and other critical services that make for a good life.	Living on the Northern Beaches
Connected	Destinations	Experience of road congestion	S	How people rate the local area for a lack of road congestion (scale 0-10)	↓	Studies have shown the relationship between road congestion and lower levels of wellbeing, productivity and other barriers that stop us from having a more full and prosperous life.	Living on the Northern Beaches
Connected	Destinations	Traffic volume on arterial roads	O	% Change in congestion on five major arterial roads	↓	Objective measure of road congestion on five major arterial roads: Mona Vale Road, Pittwater Road, Warringah Road, Forest Way, Spit Bridge.	NSW Roads traffic volume counts

Domain	Outcome	Indicator		Indicator Description	Desired trend over time	Why it has been selected as an indicator	Data set
Connected	Culture	Social cohesion	S	How people rate the local area for social cohesion (e.g. inclusion of multi-culturalism, religious groups living in harmony, etc.) (scale 0-10)	↑	Studies show that societies with high levels of social cohesion tend to be more prosperous, economically competitive and resilient. To this end, residents are a tremendous resource for informing our understanding as to how cohesive our local communities are and whether there are some communities that are becoming more or less cohesive over time.	Living on the Northern Beaches
Connected	Culture	Cultural facilities and events such as libraries, museums, galleries and festivals	S	How people rate the local area for cultural facilities and events such as libraries, museums, galleries and festivals (scale 0-10)	↑	The delivery of cultural infrastructure forms an essential part of our economic prosperity, liveability, and wellbeing. While it can be overlooked by residents for its importance and contribution to what makes a good place to live, understanding the community's views on cultural facilities and events makes an important contribution to our overall understanding of place and community.	Living on the Northern Beaches
Connected	Community	Strong sense of community	S	How people rate the local area for a strong sense of community (scale 0-10)	↑	Countless studies report the positive correlation between residents' connection to place/community with higher levels of self-reported wellbeing and optimism.	Living on the Northern Beaches
Connected	Community	Levels of volunteering	O	% of people that participated in voluntary work through an organisation or group in the last 12 months	↑	The voluntary work sector is an important part of Australia's economy. The level of volunteering can indicate the cohesiveness of the community and how readily individuals are able to contribute to their community.	Census data presented by .id

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