

### June 2022 Places to Love Program FAQs

---

*What is the Places to Love program?*

*Why is the NSW Government sponsoring the Places to Love projects?*

*Where are the Places to Love program projects?*

*How did the NSW Government choose councils for the projects?*

*What is the NSW Government contributing financially to the Places to Love projects?*

*When will the Places to Love projects start and finish?*

---

## What is the Places to Love program?

Places to Love is a collaborative program between the NSW Government and pilot councils across NSW to create and test positive long-term change in public space through demonstration projects.

Places to Love trials concepts that improve walkable access and explore ways to unlock more (new), better (improved quality) and activated (the number of people regularly using the place) public space. Councils develop temporary demonstration projects that reflect local place identity, character and needs, and use short-term, scalable, lower-cost methods to test concepts for future permanent change.

Demonstration projects are a form of temporary intervention. They use short-term, tactical methods to test projects quickly, create neighbourhoods and enliven public spaces. Councils can try out ideas with pilots, pop-ups, short-term treatments and semi-permanent changes. These temporary projects respond to an immediate need, as well as create an evidence-base of benefits to help build the case for longer-term change.

## Why is the NSW Government sponsoring the Places to Love projects?

Places to Love focuses on collaborating with councils and state agencies on public space demonstration projects. These projects aim to engage the community and increase walkable access to quality public space across NSW. Places to Love projects are small in scale, but with big impact.

The NSW Government and councils will make lessons from the projects publicly available as case studies. The first case study, for the City of Sydney partnership is already available on our public Great Public Spaces Toolkit [case studies](#) webpage.

We will promote the case studies to councils, government agencies and industry to support public space improvement projects across NSW.

Places to Love provides temporary interventions that take a place-led approach to:

- help the community see potential opportunities for public space and encourage safe social connectedness
- contribute to NSW's economic recovery in our local centres by creating vibrant public spaces
- support the wellbeing of our communities and their ability to exercise and
- increase the amount of accessible public space.

Places to Love also uses the Evaluation Tool for Public Space and Public Life before, during and after the demonstration projects. The NSW Government has developed this free tool to help evaluate what is working well and what could be improved in any given public space.

## Where are the Places to Love program projects?

We're working closely with partner councils across Sydney and regional NSW on Places to Love demonstration project partnerships.

The round one partner councils were:

- Blacktown City Council
- Burwood Council
- City of Sydney
- Liverpool City Council
- Penrith City Council
- Wagga Wagga City Council

These projects have trialled temporary interventions to improve walkable access, and quality of open spaces, public facilities, and streets.

The round two partner councils are:

- City of Parramatta
- Cumberland City Council
- Tweed Shire Council

Places to Love is a rolling program to support the Greener Public Spaces Premier's Priority with opportunities for other councils to be involved in future years.

As a part of the project site selection process, councils drew on previous engagement with community and stakeholders and alignment to strategic priorities, such as those identified in Local Strategic Planning Statements. The project sites are located in a variety of public spaces that include laneways, plazas, main streets, open spaces and footpaths. Some sites adjoin libraries, community centres and parks, and will help make them more vibrant.

## How did the NSW Government choose councils for the projects?

The criteria for selecting the local government areas to partner with the NSW Government as focus councils includes an assessment of:

- the number of homes more than 10 minutes' walk from a public space
- the ratio of population to public space
- those where interventions would have the most positive effect for the most homes
- those with high five-year housing supply forecast or planned significant growth.

Additionally, known environmental, social and economic factors were considered, including heat vulnerability, level of urban canopy, level of physical activity, and socio-economic indexes.

Places to Love is a rolling program with opportunities for other councils to be involved in future years.

## What is the NSW Government contributing financially to the Places to Love projects?

Council partners develop temporary demonstration projects that use short-term, scalable, lower cost methods to test concepts for future permanent change, in line with a 'lighter, quicker, cheaper' approach.

In round one the NSW Government contributed \$130,000 each for five projects (Blacktown City Council, Burwood Council, City of Sydney, Penrith City Council and Wagga Wagga City Council) and \$105,000 to the sixth project (Liverpool City Council), with project deliverables defined in the funding deeds with each council.

In addition, based on the success of the short-term demonstration project and the importance of the recovery of the Sydney CBD, the City of Sydney was also supported for the permanent closure of south George Street to create a continuous pedestrian boulevard.

In round two the NSW Government will be contributing \$130,000 each for three new projects (City of Parramatta, Cumberland City Council and Tweed Shire Council).

## When will the Places to Love projects start and finish?

Project milestones are unique to each of the projects and the unique place-based approach for each council. In general, project planning for round one projects began in mid-2020, with projects completed by mid-2022. In round two project planning commenced in mid-2022 with projects to be completed mid-2023. This includes planning, design, construction, installation, engagement activities, activation/programming and case study development.

Each council follows its internal procedures to consult the community and stakeholders so that residents, businesses and other stakeholders are informed of the project planning, launch, activation and completion.

## Find out more

For more information about Places to Love email the team at [publicspace@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:publicspace@planning.nsw.gov.au). To find out more about the projects the team is working on, visit <https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/premiers-priorities/great-public-spaces/festival-of-place/places-to-love>