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What is a Community Improvement District (CID)?

Community Improvement Districts (CIDs) are place-based partnerships between local government and the community, led by local businesses, to support and grow local economies, town centres and main streets. Within a CID, stakeholders work together for a common goal of improving our local spaces.

Business landowners and businesses vote to establish a CID levy to fund services, activities, and projects within the district. The levy is based on an approved CID proposal and can be calculated using a proportional value method or a tiered method.

CIDs support local economies and deliver services to local businesses and improve local spaces. The improvement district model is common around the world, encouraging businesses and the wider community to come together and use the power of pooled knowledge, resources, and support to make decisions for their district.

What is the difference between Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and CIDs?

Internationally, the term 'Business Improvement District' is often used to describe a place-based partnership between local government and the community, led by local business, to support and grow local economies, town centres and main streets. This term was also used in the White Paper and the Policy Paper published by Transport in September 2022 and February 2023, respectively.

The term 'Community Improvement District' has been adopted in NSW to recognise what is being built – a community – through the policy. CIDs are about businesses succeeding in a local place to deliver benefits for the community too.

What are the benefits of a CID?

The key benefits of CIDs include:

- Creating places that attract, retain, and enhance human and social capital and stimulate local economies.
- Creating liveable, enriching, and desirable places that are commercially successful.
- Maximising the vitality and quality of public spaces.
- Improving high streets or town centres through place upgrades and activations.
- Increasing marketing and brand awareness, unique positioning of town centres and place to attract people and create a sense of community.
- Giving businesses an opportunity to be involved in place governance conversations in NSW.

- Providing coordinated business support services targeted to the needs of local traders.
- Networking between businesses and with the broader trading community to increase local opportunities.
- Building collective capacity and capability, with shared resources, templates and mentoring.

What types of services, activities or projects can a CID provide?

A CID proposal may propose non-physical and/or physical services, activities or projects.

Some examples of non-physical interventions may include:

- marketing and promotions
- data analysis and market research
- business planning and communications strategy
- data and smart technology
- activation frameworks
- partnerships and collaboration
- district branding strategies
- development of a place vision
- community wealth building

Some examples of physical projects may include:

- temporary events and programming to activate and revitalise place
- safety and security services (e.g. lighting)
- cleaning services and environmental and amenity improvements
- access and mobility coordination
- art curation (e.g. street art)
- outdoor furniture
- wayfinding and signage

Why are CIDs being proposed in NSW?

CIDs can help enhance the local trading environment, encourage economic growth, and deliver civic pride. The partnerships created can enable collective action from businesses to address issues impacting the local economy and form a powerful tool for involving local businesses in local activities.

There are a small number of CID-like entities already in place in NSW, however, the process for establishing new CIDs is difficult and time-consuming.

Therefore, the NSW Government is currently implementing new policy to make it easier for CIDs to be set up. The outcomes of this CID Pilot Program will help to build an evidence base to inform the enabling environment of CIDs in NSW.

What is the CID Pilot Program?

The CID Pilot program is a multi-round grant program led by the NSW Government. The program launched in February 2023 and provided funded partners with up to \$400,000 in funding to deliver trial CID models across NSW. The trials test the viability of diverse governance models used to strengthen the local place economy and inform a consistent state-wide approach to CID policy.

The CID Pilot program aims to drive collaborative placemaking, involving property owners, small businesses and local governments in curating and growing local economies and improving local places, whilst accelerating public-private partnerships in centres across NSW.

As of June 2025, there have been two funding rounds of the CID Pilot program:

- Round One awarded up to \$400,000 in funding to ten CID pilots in June 2024.
- Round Two awarded up to \$400,000 in funding to five CID pilots in May 2025.

Why are we doing a CID Pilot Program?

In September 2022 and February 2023 Transport for NSW released two papers, the White Paper [Enabling Local Business Improvement Districts](#) and a Policy Paper [Next steps for Business Improvement Districts: What we've heard and principles for future policy](#), respectively.

These documents explored why NSW does not currently have Improvement Districts, and what can be done to make it easier for Improvement Districts to contribute to neighbourhood place making.

The NSW Government identified that there was a need for a pilot program to test Improvement District principles to both harness the strong stakeholder support and enthusiasm for Improvement Districts in NSW and help generate insights on appropriate CID policy in NSW.

For more information download:

- White Paper – [‘Enabling Local Business Improvement Districts’](#)
- Policy Paper – [‘Next Steps for Business Improvement Districts: What we've heard and principles for future policy’](#)

How does the CID pilot program compare to similar programs around the world?

Cultural activity, town centres, transport hubs, innovation precincts, artistic enclaves, and waterfront zones have all benefited from the BID model in other global cities, such as New York, London, Auckland, Singapore and Toronto.

International and Local CID/BID model examples:

- [Newcastle Business Improvement Associations](#) - Newcastle, NSW Australia
- [New West End Company](#) - London, United Kingdom
- [Times Square Alliance](#) - New York City, United States of America
- [Cape Town City Centre Improvement District](#) - Cape Town, South Africa

The NSW Government is taking learnings from these trials and the CID Pilot Program to help refine the policy settings for CIDs in NSW.

What types of entities received funding under the CID Pilot Program?

Transport for NSW is partnering with the following entity types under the CID Pilot Program:

- Local council within NSW provided evidence of place-based collaboration and partnership with local business/property owners.
- Incorporated associations within NSW with core functions in place management, economic development, town improvement, tourism, or similar (e.g. chamber of commerce, high street/main street association or business association).
- Companies limited by guarantee within NSW with core functions in place management, economic development, town improvement, tourism, or similar (e.g. chamber of commerce, high street/main street association or business association).

Who received funding under the CID Pilot Program?

Round One grant recipients

Grant Recipient	Location	Funding Amount
Clarence Valley Council	Yamba, 2464	\$400,000
Haymarket Alliance	Haymarket, 2000	\$400,000
Inner West Brewery Association	Marrickville, 2204	\$316,666
Murwillumbah District Business Chamber	Murwillumbah, 2484	\$316,666
Muswellbrook Shire Council	Muswellbrook, 2333	\$316,666
Penrith City Council	St Marys, 2760	\$400,000
Randwick Health and Innovation Precinct	Randwick, 2031	\$400,000
Walsh Bay Precinct Association	Walsh Bay, 2000	\$400,000
YCK Laneways Association	Sydney, 2000	\$400,000
Withdrawn		
<i>Little India Harris Park Business Association</i>	<i>Harris Park, 2150</i>	<i>\$400,000</i>

Round Two grant recipients

Grant Recipient	Location	Funding Amount
Bayside Council	Carlton, 2218	\$399,500
Blue Mountains City Council	Springwood, 2777	\$400,000
Cumberland Council	Guildford, 2161	\$350,000
Gilgandra Shire Council	Gilgandra, 2827	\$400,000
Parkes Shire Council	Parkes, 2870	\$360,000

How do we apply for funding under the CID Pilot Program?

The CID Pilot program is currently not open to receiving applications. Any future opportunities will be listed on the [NSW Grant and Funding Finder Website](#), and further information will be available on the [Community Improvement District Pilot Program | Transport for NSW](#).

What is being delivered under the CID Pilot Program?

Through the implementation of the CID Pilot program, the funded entities have determined the non-physical and physical interventions to test and trial in their area that will benefit local businesses and community. Some examples of interventions undertaken include:

Non-physical interventions:

- Establishment of governance models (e.g. location, size and structure, operational models)
- Development of strategic planning documents (e.g. business plan, engagement survey/polling, financial strategy)
- Establishing and maintaining partnerships and collaboration (e.g. District Charter, Memorandum of Understanding)
- Development of district brand and vision (e.g. place identity and vision, district branding strategy, activation framework)
- Use of smart technology (e.g. data analysis, floorspace audit, trade area analysis, economic profiling)

Physical interventions:

- Creative placemaking interventions (e.g. public art, shade, landscaping, seating, lighting, and outdoor dining)
- Events (e.g. one-off street events, night time events, community/cultural events, festivals and programs of events)
- Small scale, pop-up and shopfront activations
- Increased lighting for safety, visibility and aesthetics
- Improvement to wayfinding and place signage

- Management and improvement of public spaces (e.g. improvement of green spaces, cleaning services, and/or making environmental and amenity improvements)
- Activities and projects to improve economic vitality within an area (e.g. campaigns to encourage people to shop locally and programs to turn vacant shopfronts into creative/ pop-up retail spaces)

Is the CID Pilot Program being delivered across all areas of NSW?

Yes, the CID Pilot Program was open to all regional and metropolitan areas in NSW.

Across two rounds of funding, ten pilots were awarded funding in Greater Sydney and five pilots were awarded funding in regional NSW.

Who is administering the CID Pilot Program?

The CID Pilot Program is being delivered by the Active Transport and Vibrancy branch within Transport for NSW.

When is the CID Pilot Program expected to end?

The CID Pilot Program is expected to be acquitted by July 2027.

- Delivery of pilots funded under Round One is expected to be completed by June 2025.
- Delivery of pilots funded under Round Two is expected to be completed by July 2026.

What happens at the end of the CID Pilot Program?

The CID Pilot Program will create an evidence base (through insights, evaluation and testing of a range of models) to inform the development of policy for CIDs in NSW. This will support capacity building and the development of policy options that, when in place, will make it easier for entities to operate, be sustainable, and successful. For more information about CIDs in NSW visit: [Community Improvement Districts in New South Wales](#)

We also hope groups of collaborating businesses, councils, and town centre partners will continue a place-based approach to managing and supporting economic development in their area.

Who do we contact if we have any questions?

Contact the team via email: communityimprovementdistricts@transport.nsw.gov.au