

Women's Safety Charter for the Public Domain

Places and Transport

March 2025



Acknowledgement of Country

The NSW Government acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live, work, and gather. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and we honour the resilience, wisdom, and leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, who have played and continue to play an integral role in their communities and in shaping the future.

We recognise that many of the transport routes and pathways we use today follow the ancient Songlines, trade routes, and ceremonial paths that First Nations peoples, including women, have travelled for tens of thousands of years. These routes carry the stories, cultural practices, and deep knowledge that Aboriginal women have passed down through generations, ensuring the survival and strength of their communities.

As we advocate for women's safety and empowerment, we are committed to upholding the cultural and spiritual connections that Aboriginal peoples, and especially women, have with the lands, waters, and seas. We honour their critical role as custodians, knowledge holders, and leaders, and we celebrate their immense contributions to society, standing in solidarity for a future of safety, equity, and respect for all women.

The Women's Safety Charter for the Public Domain – Places and Transport is a collaboration across NSW Government. Transport for NSW recognises our partner agencies:

Office of the Women's Safety Commissioner
NSW Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure

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A note on language

The Women's Safety Charter for the Public Domain – Places and Transport references 'women', while acknowledging that women are not a homogenous group, and gender-based violence impacts people of diverse sexualities and gender identities, often in complex and intersecting ways. The term 'women' is intended to include women, girls and gender diverse people.

We recognise that terminology is constantly evolving and that no single set of terms suits all situations and people.

Women's Safety Commissioner



All women in NSW have the right to feel safe and be respected. Yet through our engagement with women, girls and gender diverse people across NSW, we have heard that they do not always feel safe going about their everyday lives in the public domain.

Gender-based violence and harassment is a whole-of-community issue. For the NSW community to thrive, every person needs to feel safe, regardless of their gender. By promoting the safety and inclusion of women in public places and on the transport network, we are supporting their economic opportunity and advancement, health and wellbeing, and participation and empowerment.

In March 2024, I released Working together to address domestic, family and sexual violence: NSW Women's Safety Commissioner Strategic Plan 2024–2027, which sets out my approach to promoting women's safety in NSW. More broadly, the NSW Government is driving reforms to improve women's safety and empowerment through the NSW Sexual Violence Plan 2022–2027, the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Plan 2022–2027, and the NSW Women's Strategy 2023–2026.

However, government is not solely responsible for women's safety. Issues such as gender-based violence, harassment, exclusion and discrimination require a holistic response. We all have a responsibility to consider how we can promote and embed women's safety within our spheres of influence – across the public, private and non-government sectors.

As the NSW Women's Safety Commissioner, I am committed to harnessing the collective expertise that exists across these sectors to achieve positive and meaningful change. I am pleased to partner with the Secretaries of Transport for NSW and the NSW Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure to deliver the Women's Safety Charter for the Public Domain - Places and Transport (the Charter), which will bring together diverse organisations united in a common goal to create safer cities and towns for women across NSW.

Through the Charter, government agencies, the non-government sector, advocates and industry will work together to make the public domain in NSW more welcoming and inclusive for women.

If you haven't already, I encourage you to sign up to the Charter and join us in promoting women's safety across NSW.

Collectively we can create environments where women are safe, respected and able to thrive.

Dr Hannah Tonkin
NSW Women's Safety Commissioner



Secretary

Transport for NSW

Safety is our number one priority at Transport for NSW, and this includes our commitment to helping women be and feel safer when travelling on our network.

Transport was one of the partner organisations that developed the first iteration of the Women's Safety Charter in March 2020. Since its launch, the Charter has led to several Transport for NSW initiatives, including the [Safety After Dark Innovation Challenge](#).

I am proud to be continuing its legacy, working in partnership with the NSW Women's Safety Commissioner and the Secretary of the NSW Department Planning, Housing & Infrastructure to deliver the second iteration of the Charter.

We have heard through NSW community consultation that most women do not feel safe after dark, and that if people felt safer in public places, they are likely to walk more, go out more and catch public transport at any time of day. We also understand that people's sense of safety differs, depending on age, ability, faith, cultural background, geographical location and identity, and no single solution will meet the varying needs of the diverse NSW community. Instead, a series of well-designed and coordinated approaches are needed to make people feel safe, based on data, evidence and lived experience.

Transport takes action to address women's safety through key initiatives under the [Safer Cities Program](#), an innovative program that aims to improve perceptions of safety in our cities and towns, particularly for women, girls and gender diverse people. As part of this work, we have co-designed solutions on the ground, with women and girls across NSW.

We are also delivering safer infrastructure through the [Safe Accessible Transport Program](#) which aims to make public transport safe, inclusive and easy to use for all passengers. In working to improve the experiences of women, girls and gender diverse people, we hope to help all people to feel safe as they travel in NSW.

Through the Women's Safety Charter for the Public Domain – Places and Transport, we will identify further opportunities to partner with other government agencies, the non-government sector, advocates and industry on women's safety initiatives.

Everyone has a right to be safe when travelling in NSW.

Josh Murray
Secretary, Transport for NSW

Secretary

NSW Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure



Equitable and safe access to public spaces is fundamental for healthy community engagement. Enhancing safety for women in public spaces not only encourages their participation, but it also enriches the entire NSW community, ensuring no one is excluded from experiencing the full offer of our suburbs, towns and cities.

The Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure's vision is to shape thriving communities, public spaces, places and economies. We achieve this by enhancing quality of life and wellbeing through vibrant spaces and precincts.

Safety perceptions vary widely, with women, girls and gender diverse individuals often feeling most vulnerable. The effective planning of open and green spaces, walkways, footpaths and lighting — complemented by considered design and the provision of built and social infrastructure and services — improves community wellbeing, safety and access, particularly for women.

Amongst other responsibilities, our department manages public spaces, provides design guidance and assesses major projects to create safer environments. One example includes The Rocks/ Tallawoladah Women's Safety Strategy – a framework for safer, gender-inclusive spaces through improved lighting, signage and community-led design.

Creating safe public spaces is a collective effort. We look forward to sharing our insights and collaborating with public, private and non-governmental organisations to build safer, more inclusive environments for everyone.

Kiersten Fishburn

Secretary, NSW Department of Planning,
Housing & Infrastructure

Introduction



Context

The Women's Safety Charter for the Public Domain – Places and Transport (the Charter) supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Through the Charter, adopters commit to work towards the elimination of violence against all women and girls in public spheres within their remit.¹

Gender-based violence is both a cause and consequence of gender inequality, and has been recognised as a form of discrimination, on the basis of sex and gender, under Article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.²

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.³

Purpose of the Charter

The Charter brings together government agencies, the non-government sector, advocates and industry to take collective action to improve the safety of women in public places and on the transport network (the public domain) across the Greater Sydney metropolitan area and regional NSW.

The Charter establishes a platform for action, with adopters committed to fostering a public domain free from gender-based harassment, exclusion, discrimination and violence. By working together to support safety for women, we can build safer communities for everyone across NSW.

¹ [United Nations, Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls](#)

² [United Nations, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#)

³ [United Nations, Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls](#)



This is the second iteration of the Charter, building on the work of the first Charter launched in March 2020. The Charter is led by Transport for NSW in partnership with the NSW Women's Safety Commissioner and the NSW Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure.

Why does safety matter?

Feeling and being safe, welcome and comfortable in the public domain is essential for social and economic participation and contributes to overall wellbeing and quality of life.

How does the Charter align to other frameworks that promote women's safety?

The NSW Women's Strategy 2023-2026 provides a comprehensive policy framework, engaging both government and the wider community, to enhance the economic, social, and physical wellbeing of women and girls across NSW.

This Charter is one of several key initiatives designed to bring the Strategy to life, reinforcing the vision of a safe and fair society where all women and girls in NSW are treated with respect and dignity.

The Charter focuses on safety in the public domain rather than safety in the home or workplace.

Scope



What do we mean by the public domain?

The public domain generally refers to the public places and the public transport network that allow everyday access to education, work, business opportunities, health and social services, or leisure and social activities.

Put simply, safety in the public domain is essential for participation in public life.

Public places

Public places are where community life happens, and social connections are made. People are at the heart of this. The aligned [NSW Public Spaces Charter](#)⁴ defines public spaces as publicly owned or of public use, accessible and enjoyable by all for free without a profit motive.⁵

Transport network

Under the Charter, the transport network refers to the different modes of transport including rail, bus, ferry, light rail, point-to-point, cycling and walking. This also includes transport hub precincts, which encompass the areas located close to these modes.

⁴ The NSW Public Spaces Charter is an aligned charter that can be used by any organisation or practitioner involved in the planning, design, delivery, management or evaluation of public space, to create great public places.

⁵ Public spaces include public open spaces (parks, gardens, playgrounds, public beaches, riverbanks and waterfronts, outdoor playing fields and courts and bushland that is open for public access), streets (including streets, avenues and boulevards, squares and plazas, pavements, passages and lanes, and bicycle paths) and public facilities (including public libraries, museums, galleries, civic/community centres, showgrounds and indoor public sports facilities). Public places include public spaces as well as semi-public spaces, privately owned spaces such as open spaces within retail centres, or meeting places in university campuses or residential developments.

Lighting installations at Moore Park for the FIFA Women's World Cup, Safer Cities Program (2023)



Why ‘collective action’?

Women’s safety is a community-wide issue that demands a multi-sector response.

The Charter is designed to unite both small and large organisations, each playing a role in enhancing safety in the public domain across NSW. By bringing together diverse entities, including public, private and non-government sectors, the Charter leverages the unique strengths and contributions of each organisation to enhance the overall impact on women’s safety.

Collaborative efforts enable the sharing of best practice, resources and insights, leading to a more substantial and coordinated approach to addressing safety concerns. Collectively, these efforts can achieve significant improvements in creating safer public spaces for everyone.

Why ‘all women’?

Research shows that women are more likely to experience unsafe situations and feel unwelcome in public spaces, as these spaces have often been designed without any specific consideration of their needs or their safety. This has an impact on their freedom of movement and access to opportunities.

Individuals come from diverse backgrounds and personal circumstances, each possessing multiple, varied identities. Factors such as age, cultural background, ability, identity, socio-economic status as well as geographical location all influence perceptions and experiences of safety. Recognising these unique differences, the Charter advocates for the safety of all women and underrepresented groups through an inclusive and intersectional approach.

Principles

The Charter is based on 3 foundation principles



A culture of gender equity

Equitable access for all, regardless of gender, underpins the planning and design of our cities, towns, places and services.

Desired outcomes:

- **Centring lived expertise:** Planning, design and decision-making involves women and takes a participatory and intersectional approach to ensure the needs of our diverse communities are met.
- **Leadership:** Executives and senior leaders support and champion the participation of women to create an environment free from gender-based exclusion.
- **Champion and participate:** Organisations proactively identify their capabilities and networks to lead, co-ordinate, advocate and participate in women's safety initiatives.



Listen, share and reflect

Communication, knowledge and evidence are key to influencing effective and enduring change.

Desired outcomes:

- **Shared learning:** Policies, principles and best practice solutions for women's safety are shared to build collective knowledge and drive change.
- **Data and stories:** Improved quantitative and qualitative data collection and insight sharing enables a better understanding of the lived experiences of women and informs evidence-based solutions.
- **Reporting:** Women are supported to report safety concerns and can access a clear, straightforward process to get help if needed.



Partnership approach

Active participation through collaboration, united action and reflective practice.

Desired outcomes:

- **Collaboration:** Charter adopters actively work together, leveraging their knowledge and expertise to create safer cities, towns, places and services.
- **Process:** Organisational policies and procedures are designed and updated in response to insights and data, to deliver evidence-based solutions.
- **Evaluation:** The effectiveness of initiatives is tracked and regularly evaluated to inform continuous improvement. Impacts are collated and shared broadly to inspire and encourage further opportunities, inform best practice and build capabilities.





Coonamble Shire Council, Vision Splendid Country Music Extravaganza, Open Streets Program (2024)
Credit: Coonamble Shire Council



Aim of the Charter

The Charter brings together government agencies, the non-government sector, advocates and industry to take collective action to improve the safety of women in public places and on the transport network across metropolitan and regional NSW.



Charter adopters can make an impact in the following ways

Safe Places	Safe Journeys	Safe Experiences
Create inclusive and safer public places that support participation and engagement for all.	Deliver public and active transport journeys where women feel safe to access social, educational and economic opportunities.	Deliver inclusive and accessible experiences and events that encourage communities to use public places at all times of day and night.
How this can be achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> community engagement and co-design integrate safety considerations into urban planning processes improved awareness of best practice in the design of safer places, including streets gender-sensitive Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) well-designed and spacious footpaths design welcoming and accessible spaces that can reflect and celebrate cultural diversity and foster social inclusion implement elements to improve experiences and feelings of safety such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> accessible signage and wayfinding improved passive surveillance representation of women and girls in public spaces (e.g place naming or public art) gender-sensitive lighting public spaces that are well-maintained gender-inclusive, accessible amenities. representation of women in planning, design, development, community safety and place management teams public spaces that are well-integrated with transportation networks and connectivity options. 	How this can be achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> collaboration with adjacent authorities to address the whole of journey experience community engagement and co-design better use of space within and around transport precincts at all times of the day and night infrastructure that is perceived to be 'safe' and accessible for all better design of the interface between transport infrastructure and surrounding public space including 'transition spaces' multiple access or exit points within transport precincts build education and awareness for all staff about women's safety and how to respond improved design and smart technology to support a sense of safety at transport stops and hubs improved public transport reliability increased access to walking, cycling and other active transport options better end-of-trip facilities integration with taxi, rideshare and all other point-to-point transport services, with safer drop off and pick up locations accurate and up-to-date timetable and scheduling information representation of women in the transport industry at all levels. 	How this can be achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> support free and inclusive community events encourage diverse programming that is representative of the communities of NSW better use and management of public places including streets support events that activate public places for all the community during the day and night encourage patrons to use public and active transport by providing options and information on how to get there and home safely build awareness and provide ongoing training on women's safety and effective response strategies for all staff encourage a culture of bystander action place more importance on the overall experience of the customers, with a focus on their personal safety clear messaging and communications that women's safety is taken seriously representation of women in event and security staff.

Safe Places	Safe Journeys	Safe Experiences
Create inclusive and safer public places that support participation and engagement for all.	Deliver public and active transport journeys where women feel safe to access social, educational and economic opportunities.	Deliver inclusive and accessible experiences and events that encourage communities to use public places at all times of day and night.
Types of organisations that can help: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organisations that design, develop or own public places • organisations that design, develop or own buildings that adjoin public spaces • organisations that operate, manage and use public places • universities and educational institutions • advocacy groups • local businesses • government agencies. 	Types of organisations that can help: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organisations that plan, design, develop or own public places • organisations that operate, manage and use transport infrastructure • transport providers • advocacy groups • government agencies. 	Types of organisations that can help: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • arts and culture organisations • communication/media sector • organisations that operate, manage, activate and use public places • universities and educational institutions • transport providers • government agencies.



Partnerships	Communication and education	Data and best practice
Build networks to foster collaboration, co-design and advocacy on women's safety.	Raise awareness on women's safety and communicate the different ways everyone can contribute to make safer places for all.	Collect data and share best practice on women's experiences and perceptions of safety to create safer places.
How this can be achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • better collaboration and coordination on women's safety across all sectors (public, private, non-government) • community engagement and co-design • interagency partnerships • promote collective accountability and commitment regarding women's safety • ensure integration into broader policy frameworks • data sharing and transparency • implement mechanisms for evaluating the effectiveness of partnerships and provide feedback to stakeholders. 	How this can be achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coordinated women's safety campaigns • clear, accessible and uniform messaging across all platforms that women's safety is taken seriously • information on how to access help when in unsafe situations • improved resources for culturally and linguistically diverse communities • education on women's safety and autonomy for all organisations • bystander and ally training for frontline staff on how to respond to women's safety concerns. 	How this can be achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • better ways to report and monitor women's safety concerns • data broken down by gender and other intersectional characteristics, or by specific safety concerns • varied data sources including lived experience perspectives • standardised and consistent measurement and data points • data sharing, particularly between larger organisations • protocols for sharing data that deal with privacy concerns • monitor and evaluate progress.
Types of organisations that can help: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all organisations. 	Types of organisations that can help: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communication/media sector • organisations that operate, manage and use public places • arts and culture organisations • not-for-profit/social purpose organisations • tertiary sector • transport providers • government agencies. 	Types of organisations that can help: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • technology and data sector • industry • universities and educational institutions • government agencies.





Long Summer Nights Program Sydney (2021).
Credit: Tim Pascoe

How you can get involved

Join us and become an adopter of the Charter

We encourage you to explore how your organisation could make a difference to women's safety in the public domain across NSW.

Visit our [website](#) for more information and to sign up to the Charter.

If you have any questions, please email: womens.safety.charter@transport.nsw.gov.au

Responsibilities and expectations

Role of the Charter facilitator

As the Charter facilitator, Transport for NSW will lead the Charter, promote the work of Charter adopters, establish partnerships and provide advice on women's safety matters. To deliver on this commitment, Transport will consult with key partners including the Office of the Women's Safety Commissioner and the Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure.

Role and expectations of Charter adopters

Adopters to the Charter commit to 3 guiding principles:

1. Promoting a culture of gender equity within their sphere of influence.
2. Sharing knowledge and insight to support collective learning.
3. Working in partnership to improve women's safety outcomes in the public domain across NSW.

By signing up to the Charter, adopters make a public statement of their commitment to work to improve women's safety in the public domain in NSW. Adopters are expected to act in accordance with the above principles, and to demonstrate their commitment by developing safety initiatives and taking action.

Charter adopters gain access to a Community of Practice that is dedicated to improving women's safety. Through this community, adopters will lead and share best practice and collaborate on and advocate for initiatives that enhance women's safety.

The Charter's Community of Practice is designed to unite both small and large organisations, each playing a role in enhancing safety in the public domain across NSW.



ArtWalk 2024, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, Open Streets Program (2024)
Credit: Alicia Fox Photography



The Charter in action

The Charter aims to improve experiences and feelings of safety for women and girls in public spaces. Signatories can demonstrate their commitment to the Charter in a variety of ways, including through education, information sessions, practical workshops and participation in major infrastructure projects, events, activations and programs.



Safer Cities Program

Transport for NSW

13

Partnerships within
NSW Government

10

Local Councils as part of the
Safer Cities: Her Way Program

\$30_{million}

initial investment between
2022–2024

The Safer Cities Program invested \$30 million between 2022–2024 to help improve perceptions of safety, particularly for women, girls and gender diverse people, in cities and towns across NSW. The program is engaging with these groups to understand their perspectives and co-design place-based approaches to improve perceptions of safety when accessing public spaces. This is the first program of its kind in NSW to specifically address safety, gender and mobility.

Transport is working collaboratively with delivery partners across the NSW Government and with 10 local Councils across the state to trial interventions that will deliver the objectives of the program.

The Program required that all interventions be co-designed and evaluated with community to measure their impact. Through the Program, project partners have delivered more than 100 walking workshops or ‘walkshops’ and co-design sessions which informed a mix of over 300 temporary, semi-permanent and permanent interventions across the state.



Data on perceptions of safety for women, girls and gender diverse people in NSW was not readily available before the Safer Cities Program. A statewide survey was conducted to gather data on perceptions of safety and engaged over 5,000 people. The findings were summarised in the [NSW Safer Cities Survey Report](#).

Adding to this data is the YourGround NSW project. This project is an interactive mapping platform that gathered more in-depth data on how women and gender-diverse people feel in public spaces. The project was delivered in partnership with the NSW Women's Safety Commissioner and the results were summarised in the [YourGround NSW Baseline Insights Report](#).

The Safer Cities Program is taking a holistic approach to perceptions of safety. Aside from built environment and changes to infrastructure, the program has also delivered a public education campaign '[Street harassment has no grey area](#)'.

The Program is also developing a rich evidence base on perceptions of safety, and a best-practice framework to share the learnings and outcomes broadly. Through the Program, Transport has developed 5 new resources for the Great Places Toolkit, which aims to support the planning, design, management and activation of places that feel safer for all.

For more information, visit the [Safer Cities Program](#).



High school students participate in a co-design workshop for Parramatta Park, Safer Cities Program (2022)

reVITALise Creative Lighting

Transport for NSW

3

tunnels improved
during a trial

4

LGBTIQA+
local artists

24%

increase of female pedestrians
across 3 tunnels during the trial

35K+

pedestrians visited the
tunnels during the trial

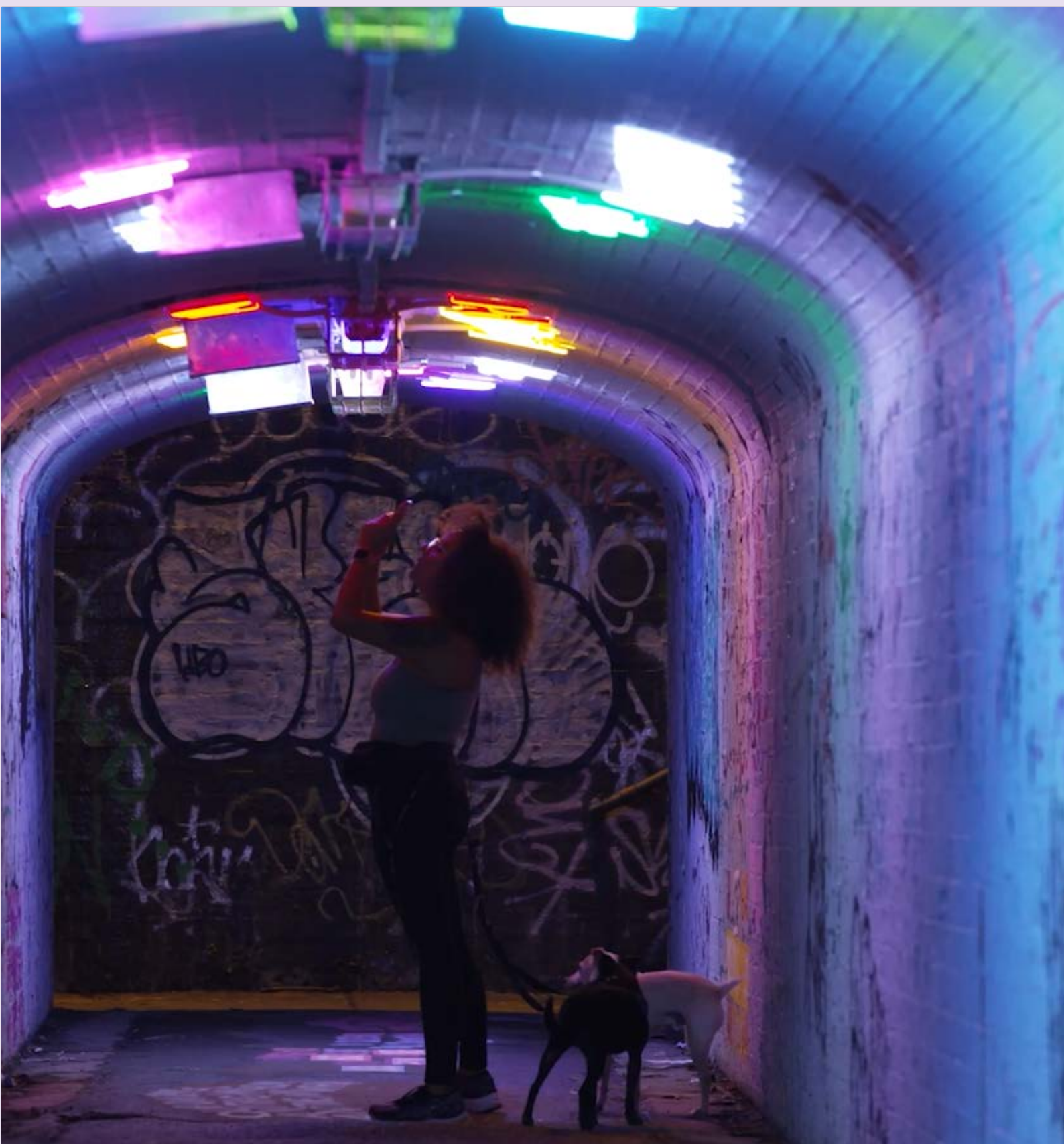
As part of the Sydney WorldPride Festival in 2023, three pedestrian tunnels along a train line in Sydney's Inner West were reimagined with rainbow lighting artworks by local LGBTIQA+ artists as part of the reVITALise program. Each of the three Rainbow Tunnels was designed by a different local LGBTIQA+ artist to celebrate the Inner West community and boost place experience, sense of pride and attachment to place. At the conclusion of the trials, more than 90% of survey respondents agreed that the art installations improved their experience in the tunnels.

Building on the success of the project, a series of community co-design workshops were held to help inform future permanent creative lighting opportunities. The workshops sought to understand the local character, safety concerns and local sentiment with the aim of delivering unique, place-based lighting solutions that reflect community.

For more information, visit [reVITALise Creative Lighting](#).

“The colourful lighting completely changes my mood when driving past it or walking through it at night. Thank you.”

Non-binary participant, reVITALise 2023 Survey



'1000 Kisses' by Kieran Butler in Bedford St. Tunnel, Newtown, reVITALise Creative Lighting Project (2023)

The Rocks | Tallawoladah Women's Safety Strategy

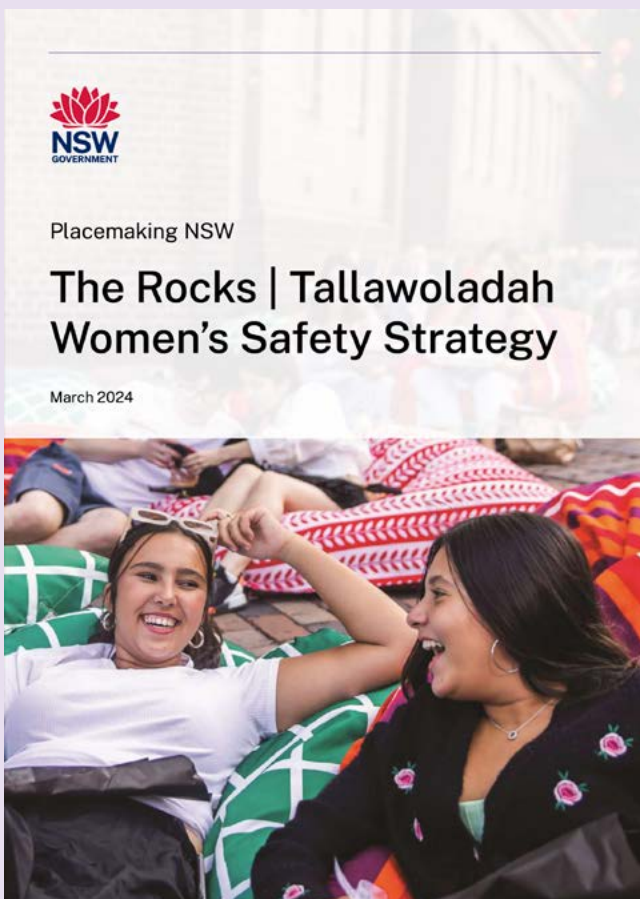
Placemaking NSW

The Rocks | Tallawoladah Women's Safety Strategy is an actionable framework developed to improve the safety, empowerment and engagement of women, girls and gender diverse people in public spaces within The Rocks precinct in Sydney. The Strategy is part of a collaborative partnership under the Safer Cities Program delivered by Placemaking NSW.

The Rocks is a historically significant and diverse precinct in the heart of Sydney, which for many years attracted a predominantly male crowd, particularly to its pubs and bars. However, recent changes in the precinct, including the introduction of outdoor dining and a stronger emphasis on arts and culture, have shifted the demographic, inviting more women and younger patrons to the area. This shift has highlighted the need to ensure a safer, more inclusive environment for all.

The Strategy, serves as a guiding document for all future development, upgrades and activities in The Rocks. The vision of the Strategy is to make The Rocks a place where women and girls feel safe, confident and comfortable to explore at any time of the day or night. Through a series of targeted improvements such as better lighting, enhanced wayfinding and streetscape upgrades, the Strategy aims to address both real and perceived safety issues. By centring the experiences of women and girls, the Strategy simultaneously enhances safety for all.

The Strategy was shaped through a collaborative co-design process involving diverse stakeholders including women, girls and gender diverse people, precinct partners, businesses and Placemaking NSW technical knowledge holders. Ensuring representation of stakeholders with diverse backgrounds, identities and communities throughout the co-design process was vital to learning from a wide range of perspectives and experiences that reflects the diversity of visitors to The Rocks.



Insights were gathered from stakeholders through workshops — interactive workshops that engaged participants in public space exploration — and data-driven technical analysis of 10 key sites within the precinct. This comprehensive approach ensured that the Strategy was both informed by lived experiences and grounded in practical, achievable outcomes.

The Strategy's role as a guiding document is essential to shaping the future of the precinct. It enables stakeholders to make informed decisions, prioritise initiatives and ensure that safety considerations are embedded in all precinct activities and developments. The ongoing and future projects under the Strategy aim to enhance public space safety and accessibility for women, reinforcing the government's commitment to proactive equality in decision-making.

Key public domain improvement projects under this Strategy include:

- **Unwin's Courtyard:** upgraded lighting, improved access and enhanced landscaping.
- **Nurse's Walk:** upgraded lighting across Nurse's Walk, Globe Street, Suez Canal, Greenway Lane and Well Courtyard.
- **Foundation Park:** lighting and wayfinding improvements.
- **Cumberland Place and Steps:** lighting upgrades, improved access and landscaping.

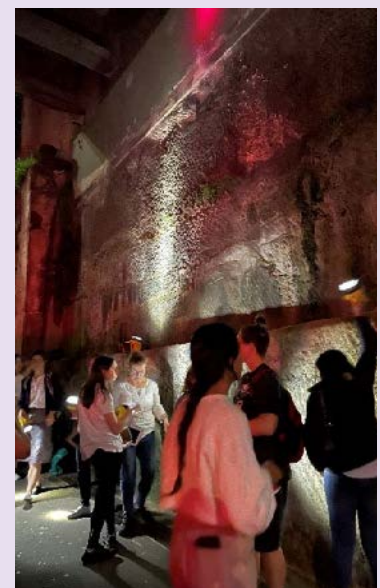
- **Bethel Steps:** lighting and access upgrade.
- **Heritage facades:** lighting upgrades to the facades of heritage buildings along key walking routes.
- **The Rocks Lighting Strategy:** overall lighting improvements to enhance safety.
- **The Rocks Wayfinding Strategy:** improved signage and navigation for visitors.

Through these measures, Placemaking NSW is positioning The Rocks as a safe, vibrant and inclusive space where women, girls and all people can feel empowered to explore the precinct, day or night.

For more information, visit [The Rocks | Tallawoladah Women's Safety Strategy](#).



Co-design workshop with women and girls, Safer Cities Program (2022)



Parramatta Park

Greater Sydney Parklands

83

light poles and more than 100 light fittings now light up 1.5 kilometres of Parramatta Park, from George Street Gatehouse to Coleman Oval

5

‘walkshops’ were held with women, girls from local high school and First Nations women to inform the lighting design, location and type

Over
1.8m

people visit Parramatta Park each year, and thousands use the public space daily for leisure and commuting

As part of a collaborative partnership under the Safer Cities Program, Greater Sydney Parklands installed new lighting along a popular walking path in Parramatta Park. The park connects the Parramatta CBD to Westmead railway station and nearby residential areas. The new lighting was installed to improve safety for all users, particularly women, girls and gender diverse people. Local women and girls from a nearby high school, as well as First Nations women, directly influenced the lighting design, location and type through a series of ‘walkshops’. A demographer was engaged to ensure a representative sample of the community attended and sessions were held after working hours during the week and on the weekend to capture a broader representative body. Eighty one percent of participants said lighting along the path would make them feel safer.

“I live in Westmead. I use the Park every day because I walk to the gym in Parramatta and use this pathway all the time because it is a great alternative to public transport and walking along the busy road. It’s scary at night though, so I have to plan around the timing so I’m not here at night”

Walkshop participant

First Nations participants felt underrepresented in Parramatta Park which impacted their perception of safety and inclusivity. To help address this, 8 projector spotlights were installed along George Street Gatehouse to display First Nations art and storytelling. The first commission ‘Burra Nura’ (Sky Country) by Aboriginal artist Chris Tobin features a light projection of the Dharug sun which represents the stars of the Dharug Spirit World. It is where the Dharug people come from and return to once passing and these stars symbolise ancestors sitting around their campfires, watching over.

Lights will be on from sunset to sunrise each night and can be adjusted to help facilitate safe park entry and exit during major events. Full lighting will be on all year round from dusk until 10pm. Dimmed lighting will occur between 10pm and dawn. Ongoing consultation with the community will allow Greater Sydney Parklands to adjust the lighting to ensure the community’s needs are met.

For more information, visit [Parramatta Park](#).



Parramatta Park projector spotlights (top). Aerial view, Parramatta Park projector spotlights (bottom)
Safer Cities Program (2024)

Transport for NSW

231 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000

transport.nsw.gov.au/womens-safety-charter

womens.safety.charter@transport.nsw.gov.au

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