

# **Randwick City Affordable Rental Housing Needs Analysis 2016**

**Prepared by Randwick City Council**

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## 1. Introduction

The purpose of the Randwick City Council Affordable Rental Housing Needs Analysis is to demonstrate the need to increase the supply of affordable rental housing in Randwick Local Government Area (LGA). This document provides validation for Randwick City Council's request to seek inclusion in SEPP 70 to facilitate affordable rental housing on key development sites and urban renewal areas in the City.

The limited ability of the private rental market to respond to the housing needs of very low, low, and moderate-income families at affordable levels is a concern for Randwick City. Issues such as gentrification, the lack of affordable housing for key workers, and the consequential displacement of lower income households have significant socio and economic implications for the growth, future investment opportunities and the effective functioning of the City. Take the Randwick Education and Health Strategic Centre as a point in case.

The Randwick Education and Health Strategic Centre is Randwick's largest employment centre that substantially contributes to Sydney's status as a Global City. Comprising of several large and internationally recognised educational and hospital institutions, this service sector provides more than 15,000 jobs whose effective functioning relies on the availability of the workforce. Employment within this Education and Health Strategic Centre is projected to increase by 26% to 2031. Workers will create demand for services that are generally staffed by lower income earners, such as childcare workers, kitchen staff, hospital cleaners and shop assistants. Without market/ planning intervention, the residential housing market will continue to produce housing at price points well above the income ranges of key workers. In order for the Strategic Centre to maintain its international standing as research and teaching excellence centres, it must have the ability to retain a stable workforce to help run it. The availability of affordable housing as well as convenient access to the work place is an important consideration for job applicants and existing employees.

This needs analysis is divided into several sections. The first section introduces the concept of affordable housing, when is housing affordable and why the provision of affordable housing is important. The second section outlines the population and housing characteristics of Randwick City including a local housing market analysis which also looks at changes in the supply of affordable and social housing. The third section looks at population, household and employment projections to 2031. The need to increase the supply of affordable housing stock in the LGA is demonstrated. Based on this need, this section also sets an affordable rental housing target to ensure housing is available for essential key workers to support the economic function of the City and in particular the Randwick Education and Health Strategic Centre. A brief description of Council's 2016 affordable rental housing program including implementation is also provided.

## 1.1 What is affordable housing?

The Centre for Affordable Housing<sup>1</sup> defines affordable housing as ‘housing that is appropriate for the needs of a range of very low, low and moderate income households and priced so that these households are also able to meet other basic living costs such as food, clothing, transport, medical care and education.

It is generally accepted that if housing costs exceed 30% of a low income household’s (lowest 40% of households) gross income, the household is experiencing housing stress (30/40 rule). That is, housing is significantly unaffordable and housing costs consume disproportionately high amount of household income<sup>i</sup>.

Households paying 30% or more of their income on housing costs (mainly rent) are defined as being in housing stress. Under those circumstances the cost of housing is affecting a household’s ability to pay for other primary needs including (but not limited to):

- Food
- Power and water
- Health services and medication
- Travel and transport
- Education
- Household goods (such as cars, washing machines, fridges, stoves, computers)
- Debt repayments

A particular segment of community that is commonly referenced in affordable housing discussions is key worker. The term key worker includes people who are employed in essential sectors such as health, police, education, emergency and public transport services. It can also include low-paid private sector workers in the tourism and hospitality industries such as wait staff, cleaners, shop assistants, nannies and cooks<sup>ii</sup>. The incomes of key workers typically fall within the low to moderate income range and are therefore vulnerable to Sydney’s high housing costs.

## 1.2 When is housing affordable?

The following table outlines indicative rental and purchase benchmarks to be classified as affordable for the very low to moderate income households in 2015/16.

	<b>Very low-income household</b>	<b>Low-income household</b>	<b>Moderate-income household</b>
Income Benchmark	<50% of Gross Median H/H Income for Greater Sydney	50-80% of Gross Median H/H Income for Greater Sydney	80%-120% of Gross Median H/H Income for Greater Sydney

<sup>1</sup> a division of the NSW Department of Family and Community Services

Income Range	<\$783 per week	\$784-\$1,253 per week	\$1,254-\$1,879 per week
Affordable Rental Benchmarks	<\$235 per week	\$236-\$376 per week	\$377-\$564 per week
Affordable Purchase Benchmarks	<\$228,000	\$228,001- \$364,000	\$364,001- \$545,000

Source: Judith Stubbs & Associates 2016<sup>iii</sup>

In comparison, social housing<sup>2</sup> is targeted to those with the greatest need, with tenants paying 25% to 30% of their income towards weekly rent.

### 1.3 Randwick City Council's commitment to affordable housing

Randwick City Council has a long-standing commitment to affordable housing in the local area; and has actively been involved in implementing a range of initiatives designed to retain and encourage affordable housing in the locality. Randwick City Council is one of only a few metropolitan councils in Sydney with an established Affordable Rental Housing Program.

Randwick City Council's Affordable Housing Strategy (adopted 2008), and action plan identifies the need to facilitate affordable housing especially for lower income households who live and/or work in Randwick. The overall objectives of this strategy are to maintain a socially inclusive City; and to support a healthy local economy. Encouraging affordable housing is also a key direction of the Council's 20 year Community Strategic Plan 'the Randwick City Plan'; and to help realise the Council's overarching vision for a 'liveable city'.

To date, the Council has acquired 20 dwellings in its affordable rental housing program achieved via a voluntary negotiated planning agreement approach on large redevelopment sites. The Council has also successfully entered into and constructed an eight unit affordable rental housing project with Community Housing Limited, on land dedicated by the Council. The Council's affordable rental housing portfolio is managed by a registered community housing provider and the program is generally consistent with the NSW Affordable Housing Ministerial Guidelines.

While these measures demonstrate the Council's commitment and actions towards facilitating affordable housing for the community, the delivery of affordable rental housing has been adhoc and limited due to the voluntary nature of this negotiated planning agreement approach mandated by the NSW planning legislation. Academic research and

<sup>2</sup> The social housing sector includes Public Housing, owned and managed by the NSW Department of Housing; Community housing, owned or leased by non-government organisations; Indigenous or Aboriginal housing, owned or

best practice outline that the only reliable way for local councils to secure affordable housing supply is through mandatory provisions embedded within a legislative framework.

#### **1.4 Why is affordable housing important?**

##### **Socio-economic impacts**

The rental and purchase price surge witnessed in Sydney's residential property market over the past decade has now made Sydney the 3<sup>rd</sup> most expensive city in the world in which to buy or rent<sup>iv</sup>.

Gabriel et al (2005)<sup>v</sup> noted that households who rent in the private rental sector bore the brunt of Sydney's declining housing affordability. This finding was reinforced in a more recent study by Atkinson et al (2011)<sup>vi</sup> which found that renters in the private market are most vulnerable to being priced out of their neighbourhoods due to high housing costs.

According to Yates (2005)<sup>vii</sup>, "The implications of a lack of appropriate affordable housing are that many workers either pay a high proportion of their incomes in meeting their housing costs and/or travel long distances in order to work in their chosen location. Neither of these options is likely to be particularly sustainable ... high commuting costs, particularly if they are not compensated for are likely to lead to a search for new employment closer to place of residence." This is pushing the poorest residents to the urban fringe which undermines the effective functioning of our metropolitan city.

Local businesses and service providers have reported that they are finding it increasingly difficult to attract and retain staff particularly those earning lower wages in the service industries<sup>viii</sup>. Employers in another study reported that they feared the day when older staff members in lower paid occupations and living close to work, have to retire<sup>ix</sup>. The City of Sydney Council in its Housing Issues Paper<sup>x</sup> expressed concerns that the failure to address affordable housing issues for keyworkers "is undermining Sydney's global city status" and the undersupply of keyworker housing can jeopardise Australia's economic prosperity<sup>xi</sup>.

In relation to Randwick City, an analysis by the Sydney Morning Herald (SMH) (in 2015) titled '*Where Sydney's essential workers can afford to live*' shows a nurse would need a pay rise in the order of 86% to have a chance to buy a median house in Randwick; and that most of the suburbs that a nurse could afford is some 50km west of the CBD. In another analysis (also by the SMH in 2015) a person on a minimum wage would need to work a minimum 91 hours a week to afford to rent a one bedroom unit in Randwick<sup>xii</sup>. These findings demonstrate the level of (un)affordability for key workers in Randwick City.

As the supply of affordable housing stock continues to shrink in Sydney, many more people will not be able to buy or rent in suburbs they grew up in<sup>xiii</sup>. The children of ageing parents are finding it increasingly difficult to afford weekly rents or purchase their own homes nearby so that they can spend more time maintaining contact with and helping their elderly parents with the general upkeep of the family home.

In addition, the loss of population diversity, vibrancy of the street life and social authenticity of places are discussed in many social displacement and gentrification literature. Such

concerns are of interest to local governments that are committed to creating diverse and vibrant communities.

These issues represent a significant risk to Randwick's economic productivity and success as a major contributor to Greater Sydney as a global city.

## **2. Characteristics of Randwick City's Population**

The Census population of Randwick City in 2011 was 128,989, living in 55,557 dwellings with an average household size of 2.41. While this household size is still smaller than the greater Sydney average household size of 2.69 at 2011, it has increased from 2.35 in 2006.

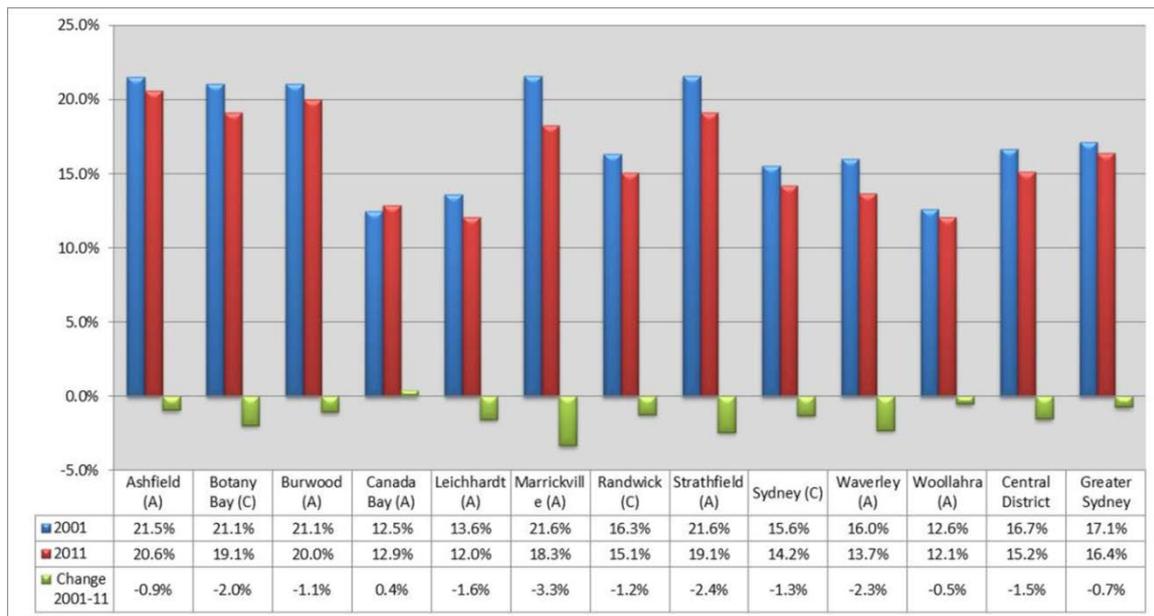
By comparison with Greater Sydney, Randwick City is characterised by higher proportion of couples with children households at 26%, a trend which has increased from 24.5% in 2006. Similarly, the number of households with young children has increased from 13.3% in 2006 to just over 15% in 2011. This demonstrates the attractiveness of the area to young families.

Randwick City's lone person household groups has remained steady at around 25% of the population. Group households in Randwick City are considerably greater at 9.1% of the population when compared to the Greater Sydney proportion at 4.1% and 41.4% of Randwick City's population had a tertiary qualification in 2011. This is significantly higher than the greater Sydney proportion of population who had a tertiary qualification at 33.1%. In addition, more than 30% of residents in Randwick speak another language.

Individual and household incomes in Randwick are high. In 2011, 26.5% of Randwick City's total households were classed as high income compared to 22.6% in Greater Sydney. The areas with the highest percentages were Clovelly (43.1%); Coogee (35%), Randwick (29.8%), and Little Bay (27.1%). In 2011, 48.0% of Randwick City's employed population worked as managers or professionals compared to 38.7% in Greater Sydney. The presence of managers and professionals in the workforce generally indicates a more affluent, "white collar" area with a higher socio-economic status.

Comparable with other inner metro areas of Sydney, Randwick City has lost low income households in the area. This is shown in the graph below. The combination of a high proportion of the highest income quartile groups and the loss of lower income households indicates a 'gentrified' population and area.

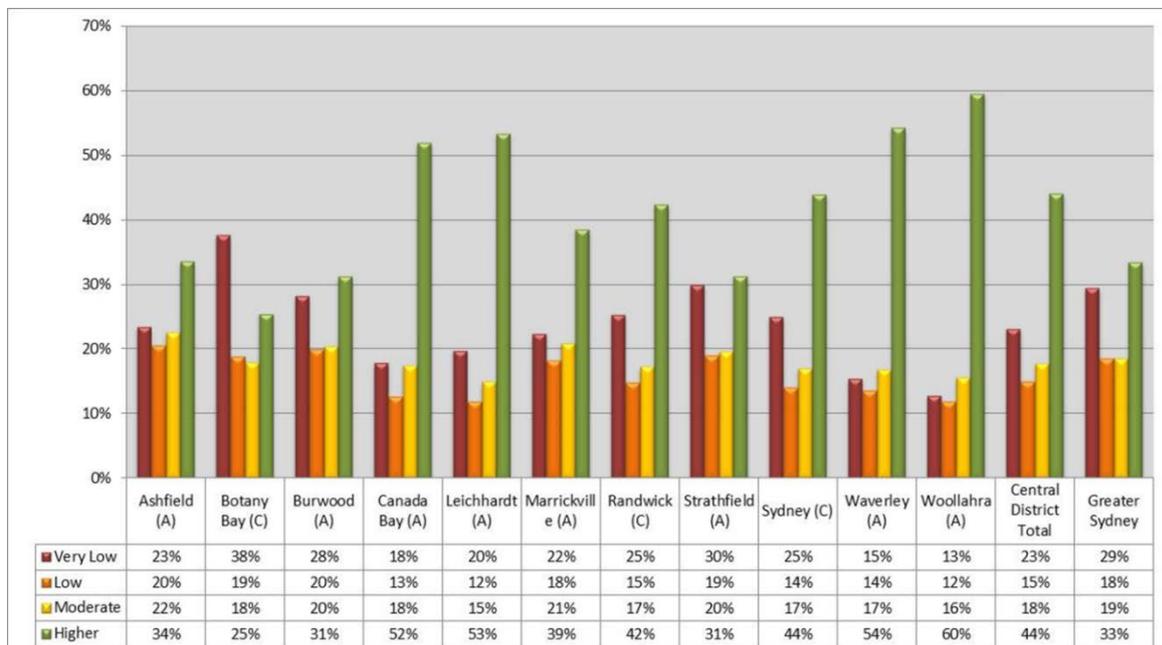
## 2.1 Change in proportion of low income households



**Figure 1: Change in % of low income households 2001-2011**

Source: Judith Stubbs & Associates 2016<sup>xiv</sup>

While Randwick City has a high proportion of highest income quartile groups, there are still pockets of disadvantage in the LGA. These areas are mainly found in the southern areas of the LGA in the suburbs of La Perouse, Malabar, Matraville and South Coogee, reflecting the presence of major social housing estates in the area.



**Figure 2: Proportion of Income Groups across the Central District region**

Source: Judith Stubbs & Associates 2016<sup>xv</sup>

## 2.2 Housing profile

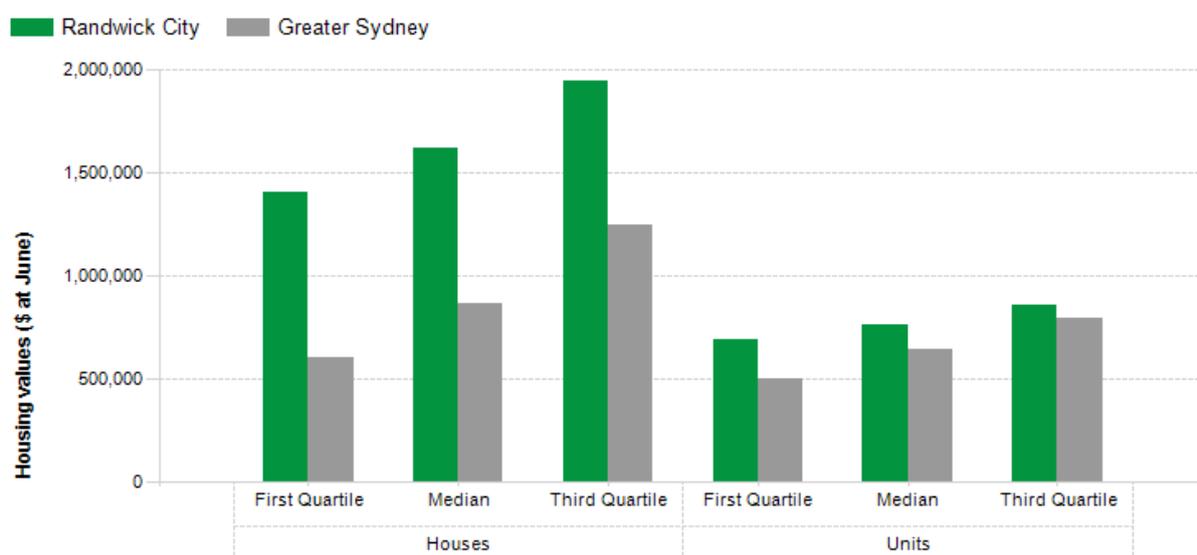
In Randwick City, 49% of households were purchasing or fully owned their home, 35.2% were renting privately, and 6.7% were in social housing in 2011. Compared to Greater Sydney (at 30.4%), Randwick has a significantly higher share of its population in rental households (at 35.2%). In 2011, the dominant tenure type in Randwick City was 'Renting - Private'. This was different to the dominant tenure for Greater Sydney, which was 'Being purchased'.

In 2011, 6.7% of Randwick City's households were renting their dwelling from a government authority (also known as Housing Commission or social housing) compared to 5.0% in Greater Sydney. Randwick City has a significant stock of social housing dwellings when compared to other LGAs, with most dwellings consisting of flats and apartments. The five areas with the highest percentages were: South Coogee (32.7%), Malabar (23.5%), La Perouse - Phillip Bay (17.4%), Chifley (15.5%) and Little Bay (14.0%).

## 2.3 High housing costs

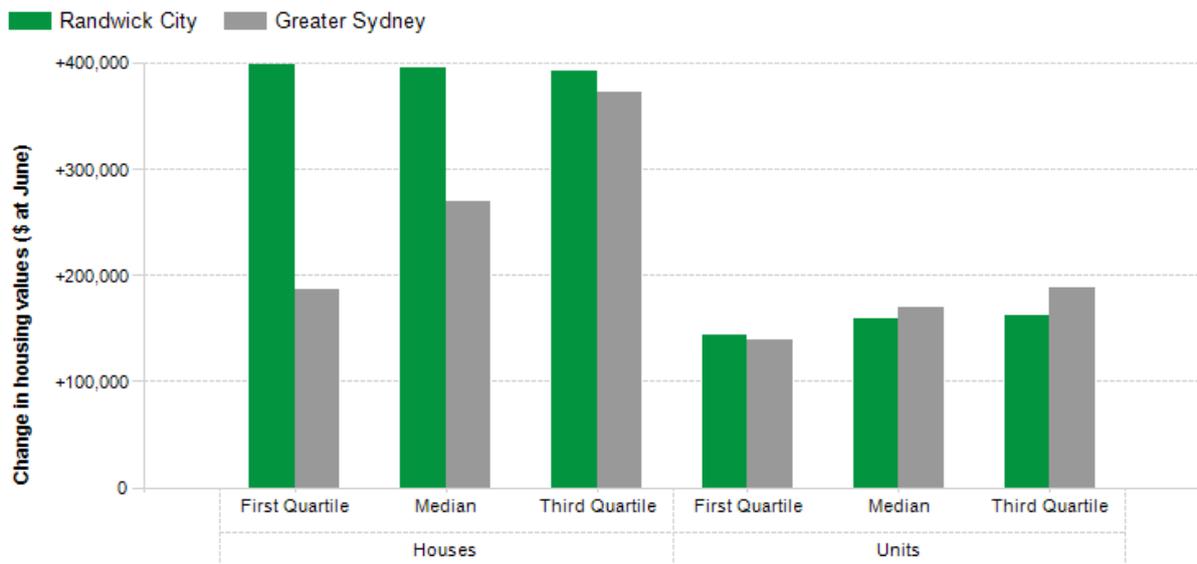
As at June 2015, Randwick City had a median house valuation of \$1,621,718, which is \$756,578 **higher** than the median house valuation for Greater Sydney. Access to a significant share of Sydney's employment and high amenity values (proximity to the beach, services and shops) underpins these high land and house values in Randwick. In the past four years (2011-2015) the biggest house price change occurred in the first quartile of house values. Similarly, this was also true for rental listings.

### Housing values, 2015



Source: Hometrack 2011-2015, Housing Valuation System

## Change in housing values, 2011 to 2015

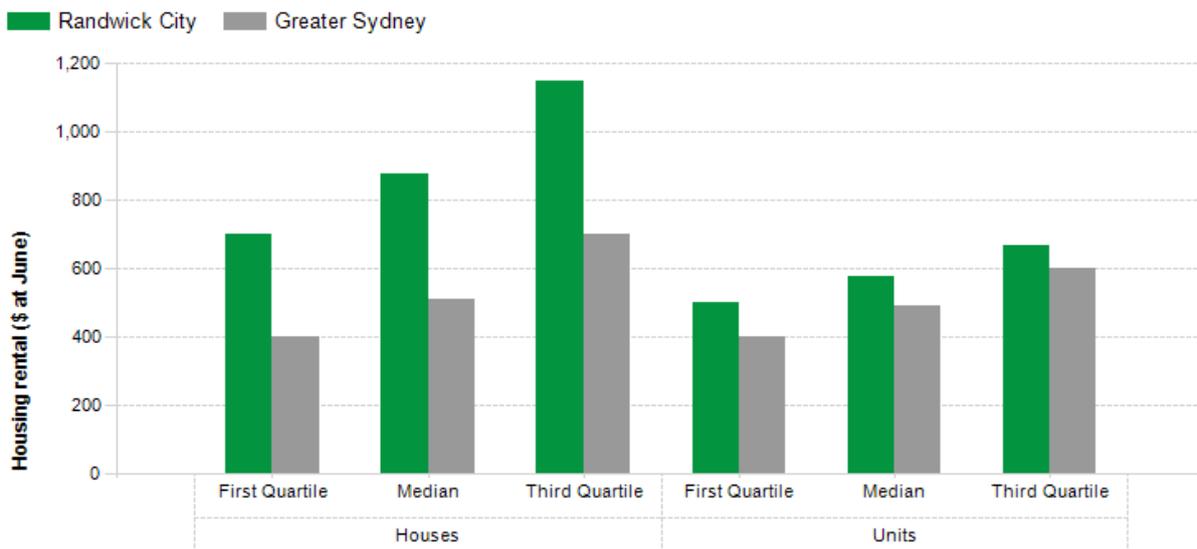


Source: Hometrack 2011-2015, Housing Valuation System



As at June 2015, Randwick City had a median house rental of \$875, **\$365 higher** than the median house rental for Greater Sydney. High and increasing rents are an indication of a strong economy and a desirable area, with access to jobs and services.

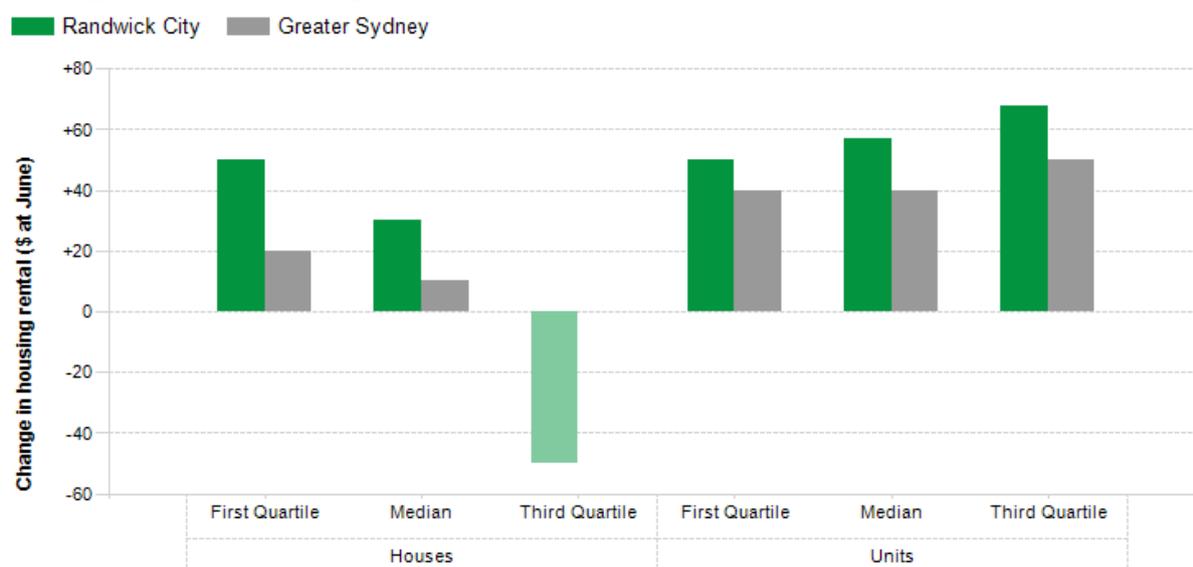
## Rental listings, 2015



Source: Hometrack 2011-2015, Automated Valuation System



## Change in rental listings, 2011 to 2015



Source: Hometrack 2011-2015, Automated Valuation System



The inner Sydney (including Randwick) residential rental vacancy rate has remained steady at 1.3 per cent. This is significantly less than the 3 per cent considered to be equilibrium and as such indicates a very tight rental market.

### 2.4 Housing supply

The State Government's focus for future housing supply, as outlined in *A Plan for Growing Sydney*, is to be targeted in strategic centres, transport corridors, (surplus) government land and areas identified for urban renewal.

In 2011, 49.6% of Randwick City's total dwellings were classed as two bedrooms or less compared to 31.2% in Greater Sydney. This is significantly larger than Greater Sydney and it reflects the older housing stock to the north of the LGA. The five areas with the highest percentages were to the north of the LGA i.e. Coogee (61.9%), Randwick (61.0%), Kensington (56.0%), Kingsford (47.7%) and Clovelly (47.0%).

Building approvals have continued to increase over the past five years. The overwhelming majority of building approvals and newly completed dwellings are in multi-unit form. While Randwick City has a range of housing forms i.e. low density residential to the south, master planned sites and higher density housing to the north, it is expected that medium to high density housing forms will be the primary form of new housing supply in the future. Furthermore, in light of the future local council amalgamations of Randwick City, Waverley and Woollahra councils, the LGA of Randwick City has the largest potential for future housing growth and in particular for affordable rental housing.

### 2.5 Characteristics of Existing Affordable Rental Housing Stock

The following information describes the nature of the Council's Affordable Rental Housing Program. Program Procedures & Guidelines are contained in Council's Affordable Housing

Strategy (adopted in 2007), implemented within the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework established by the Office of Local Government. Note that the Council’s affordable rental housing portfolio is managed by two registered community housing providers, namely SGCH and Community Housing Limited (CHL) using the State Government’s Affordable Housing household income benchmarks.

Community housing providers SGCH, Bridge and CHL confirmed that they do not own any affordable housing stock in Randwick LGA.

Randwick City Council owns a total of 20 units in perpetuity, located within private strata apartment blocks. The following outlines key characteristics of the property portfolio.

Portfolio as at July 2016	10 x 1br 9 x 2 br 1 x 3 br Total: 20 units
Constructed in	2010-2015 (0-5 years old): 10 units 2006-2009: (6-10 years old): 10 units
Located in the following suburbs	Randwick = 1 unit Little Bay = 9 units Matraville = 1 unit Maroubra = 9 units
Tenant profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Working people on low to moderate incomes as per Housing NSW Guidelines.</li> <li>– Applicants demonstrated a connection to Randwick</li> <li>– live or work in Randwick or have family in Randwick. Randwick Council employees not eligible to apply;</li> <li>– Essential services/key workers;</li> <li>– Ineligible for public/social housing.</li> </ul>
Rent Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 25% or more off weekly median rent for Randwick LGA (not market rent), as long as the weekly rent doesn’t exceed 75% of median rent for LGA.</li> <li>– Current rent for new tenant, given examples below are</li> </ul>

	<p>based on Randwick LGA's median rent figures (Housing NSW Rent and Sales Report No.116, Rent June quarter 2016; p. 5);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 bed: \$500 pw median rent - \$375 pw maximum weekly rent paid by tenant or not exceeding 30% of a tenant's gross household weekly income. (If the tenant earns \$60,000 per year or \$1,153 per week then the rent paid would be \$346 per week instead of \$375 for a 1 bedroom unit within Randwick LGA)</li> <li>- 2 bed: \$620 pw median rent - \$465 pw maximum weekly rent paid by tenant or not exceeding 30% of gross household weekly income. Tenancy manager advertises for applicants when vacancy is available and assesses housing applications. Council staff are not involved in tenant selection but are kept informed before each new letting is confirmed.</li> <li>- Surplus income from Program are returned to an affordable housing account and reserved for affordable housing purposes</li> </ul>
<p>Governance arrangements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Category 1 Community Housing Provider selected by competitive EOI process</li> <li>- A Deed of Management Agreement is established with community housing provider. All day to day operations are contracted to them in return for an agreed fee structure. As part of the contract, the community housing manager implements the Program in accordance with stipulated program and procedures adopted by Randwick City Council.</li> <li>- Contract period is for a max 10 year period after which an EOI process will commence to recruit a community housing provider for another 10 year cycle.</li> <li>- Property management arrangements: 16 x St George Community Housing 4 x Community Housing Limited (4 units secured through a partnership construction project)</li> </ul>

No further affordable housing units have been negotiated through VPA provisions, to date, due to limited opportunities.

Note only one unit is located in the northern half of Randwick City.

## 2.5 Changes in the supply of affordable and social housing

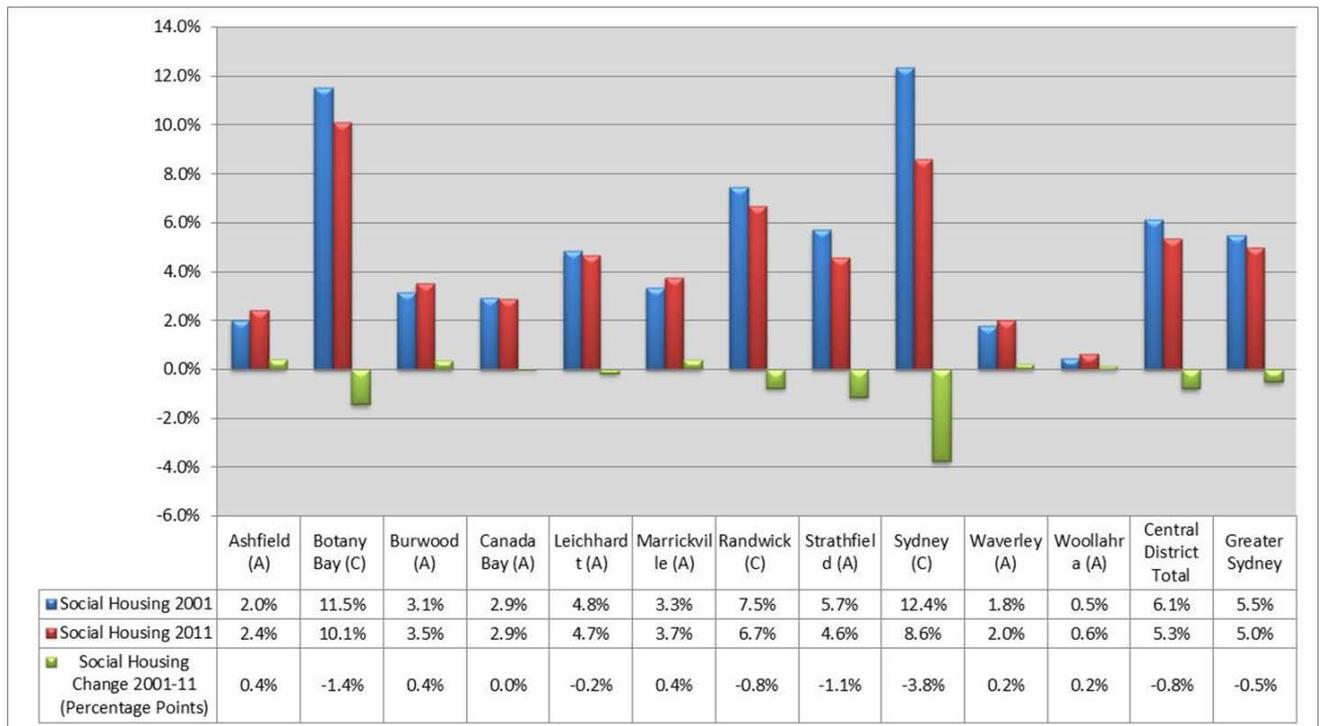
Despite an increase in building approvals across the City, Randwick City has continued to lose affordable housing stock. This is mainly due to increasing land/property values, increasing rents and the resultant loss of rental stock at the lower end of the market. As the table below illustrates, the proportion of affordable rental stock in Randwick has declined significantly for very low to low income households from December 2011 to December 2014, by more than 77% and 58% respectively.

**Table 1: Change in affordable rental housing stock in Randwick City from 2011-2014**

Area	% of affordable Rental stock for Very Low Income s Dec 11	% of affordable Rental stock for Low Income s Dec 11	% of affordable Rental stock for Moderate Income s Dec 11	% of affordable Rental stock for Very Low Income s Dec 14	% of affordable Rental stock for Low Income s Dec 14	% of affordable Rental stock for Moderate Income s Dec 14	% change Dec 11-14 for very low incomes	% change Dec 11-14 for low incomes	% change Dec 11-14 for moderate incomes
Randwick	4	6.8	30.5	0.9	2.8	27.1	-77.5	-58.8	-11.1

*Source: Rental Bond Board (RBB) Data; Local Government Housing Kit, Centre for Affordable Housing*

Similarly, social housing stock has also decreased from 7.5% in 2001 to 6.7% in 2011, despite population growth. This trend can be seen across most of the inner city local government areas, as shown in the graph below.



**Figure 3. Change in social housing across the Central District region**

Source: Judith Stubbs & Associates 2016<sup>xvi</sup>

In 2009, the State Government introduced a State Environmental Planning Policy for Affordable Rental Housing (AHSEPP). The policy's intent is to increase the supply and diversity of affordable rental and social housing in the state. The AHSEPP covers housing types including infill affordable rental housing (villas, townhouses and apartments) that contain an affordable rental housing component, along with secondary dwellings (granny flats), new generation boarding houses, group homes, social housing and supportive accommodation.

The most common development types being built in Randwick City under this policy are new generation boarding houses and secondary dwellings. In relation to new generation boarding houses, since the policy was introduced there has been more than 500 boarding house rooms approved (under the SEPP) mostly to the north of Randwick City, around the UNSW. However, there is no requirement for these development types to provide subsidised rent to ensure they are delivering an affordable housing product to those households in need.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the new generation boarding houses are meeting a demand for student accommodation being located close to the University. Newly constructed boarding houses with their own kitchenettes and bathrooms range from \$390-\$450 per week. Even these rents are not considered affordable for those households in the very low and low income bands (\$234-\$378 /week respectively). While these development types are providing a form of diverse housing type, they are in reality not 'affordable housing'.

Developments for infill affordable rental housing under the SEPP has had negligible take up due to high land values. As such, the ability of the Affordable Rental Housing SEPP to increase the supply of genuine affordable rental housing stock has limited applications in Randwick and similarly, for Woollahra and Waverley Councils.

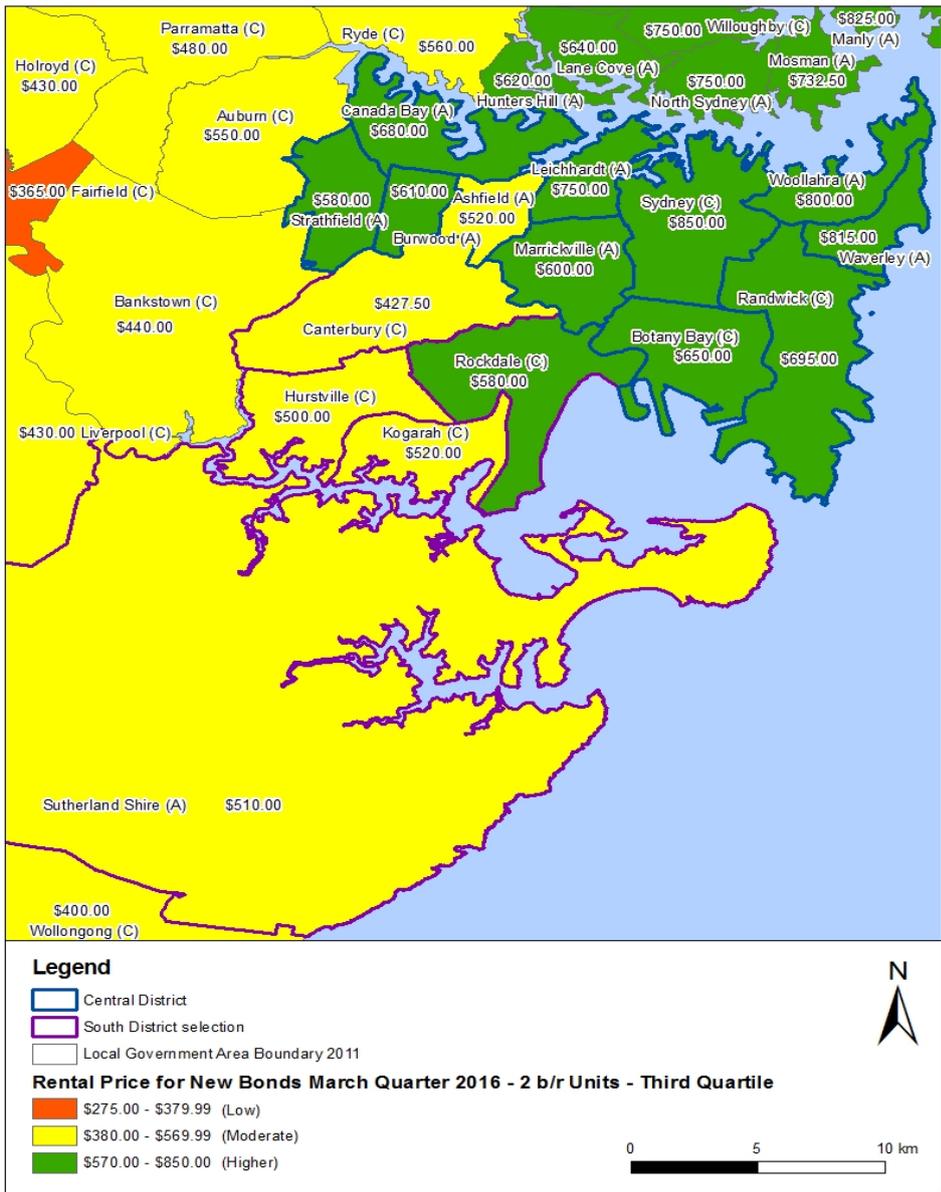
## **2.6 Housing stress**

In 2011, Kingsford had the highest proportion of people experiencing rental stress in Randwick City. Housing affordability has become a significant social and economic problem in recent years, and between 2006 and 2011 rents across Australia increased by close to 50%. In 2011, 20.5% of Randwick City's renting households were experiencing rental stress. The five areas with the highest percentages of households experiencing rental stress were: Kingsford (36.9%); Kensington (26.0%); Chifley (24.7%); Matraville (23.9%); and Malabar (22.9%).

## **2.7 Affordability trends**

The impact of pressures on house prices (rent and purchase) over the past decade are widely illustrated with Sydney now classified as being one of the least affordable housing markets internationally. Indications are that the private housing and rental markets have yet to make the necessary adjustments so that households on low to moderate incomes can afford to pay for their housing costs without having to commute long distances to their workplace.

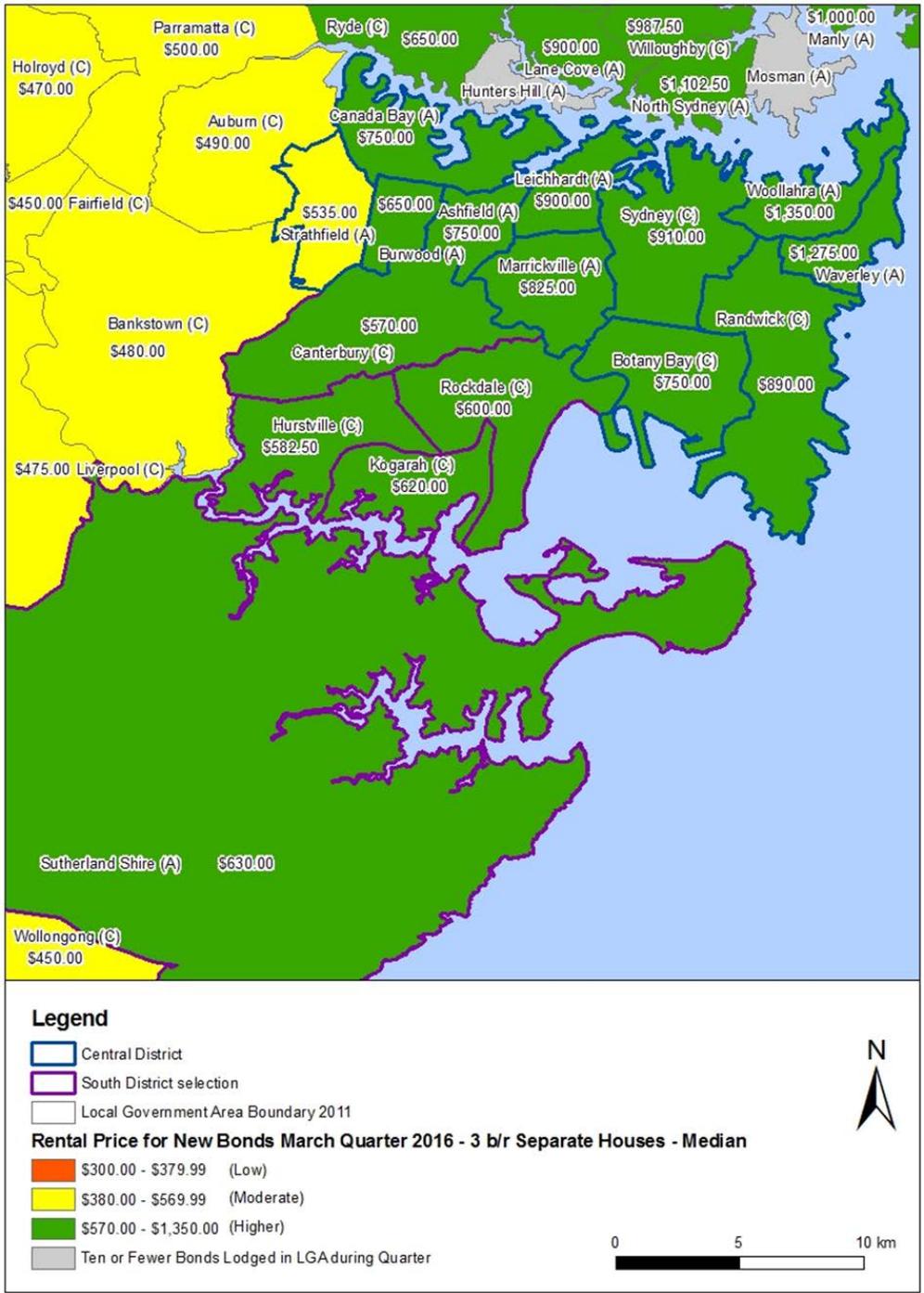
Affordability of 2 bedroom units (rent) was reviewed across the Sydney region. It was identified that these rents were only affordable to higher income households in most of all suburbs within 20km of the CBD, as shown in the map below.



**Figure 4: Affordability of 2 b/d units across the Sydney region**

Source: Judith Stubbs & Associates 2016

Similarly, affordability of 3 bedroom houses (rent) was also reviewed across the Sydney region and it was identified that an even larger area across Sydney extending to the Sutherland Shire and Ryde were only affordable to these same higher income households.



**Figure 5: Affordability of 3 b/r separate houses across the Sydney region**

Source: Judith Stubbs & Associates 2016

This demonstrates the extent of the (un)affordability trend which goes beyond Randwick City. Declining housing affordability decreases the number of affordable rental properties available and as mentioned above, this affects households on very low and low incomes the hardest.

### 3. Forecasting demand for affordable housing

#### 3.1 Population, household and dwelling projections

The State Government projects that Randwick City's population will grow to 174,300 or an additional 36,500 people by 2031. Housing this population growth will require an estimated 15,150 additional new dwellings for an additional 14,000 new households across the LGA. Population growth will drive demand for additional housing, and particularly affordable housing close to employment areas<sup>xvii</sup>. Without provision of more affordable forms of housing, the market can be expected to continue to produce more expensive housing in the area, so that housing will only be affordable to households on relatively high incomes. Lower income households would need to move out of the area or may be prevented from finding housing in the area close to new employment opportunities<sup>xviii</sup>.

**Table 2: Local Government Area Population, Household and Dwelling Projections**

<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2031</b>	<b>Change +</b>	<b>% Change 2011-2031</b>
Total Population	137,800	147,100	156,800	165,400	174,300	36,500	<b>+26%</b>
Total Households	55,000	58,600	62,200	65,650	69,050	14,050	<b>+ 26%</b>
Average Household Size	2.39	2.40	2.41	2.41	2.41		
Implied Dwellings	59,450	63,300	67,200	70,900	74,600	15,150	<b>+ 25%</b>

*Source: New South Wales State and Local Government Area Population, Household and Dwelling Projections: 2014 Final*

#### 3.2 Employment projections

Randwick City's Gross Regional Product was \$8.01 billion in the year ending June 2015, the largest contribution being made from the education and training industry, producing an estimated \$1,324 million in 2014/15 and generating 11,784 local jobs. While the health care and social assistance industry produced an estimated \$1,116.2 million in 2014/15, it is Randwick City's largest employer, generating 12,719 local jobs in 2014/15<sup>xix</sup>.

Of the 39,098 people who work in Randwick City, 15,682 or 40.1% also live in the area; and more than 23,000 persons travel into Randwick City for employment. The Randwick Education and Health Precinct is Randwick's largest employment destination. The precinct has a high concentration of retail, health and education employment and this is reflected by high levels of self-containment within these industries which is discussed in more detail below.

### 3.3 The Randwick Education and Health Strategic Centre

The Randwick Education and Health precinct is also identified as a strategic centre in the NSW Government’s ‘A Plan for Growing Sydney’. It is characterised by a concentration of education and health-related institutions, businesses and research presence including the University of NSW and Prince of Wales Hospital, Royal Hospital for Women and the Children’s Hospital, Neuroscience Research Australia and the Lowy Cancer Centre. The University of New South Wales has more than 50,000 enrolled students and some 6,000 staff alone<sup>xx</sup>.

Employment growth is expected to continue, especially in the health fields as demands rise with an ageing population and with advances in health research and treatment.

Employment forecasts for the Randwick Education and Health precinct are projected to increase by 26% or an additional 3,920 jobs by 2031. Both the Children’s hospital and the Royal Hospital for Women have noted the difficulty in filling job vacancies for specialist nurses (such as paediatric and neonatology nurses) who are highly desirable in terms of international competition for their skills and being priced out of living in the area. A projection in employment for this centre will not only generate demand for these specialist nurses, it will generate demand for services typically staffed by lower income earners, such as childcare workers and shop assistants.

**Table 3: Employment forecasts for the Randwick Education and Health centre**

	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	% Change 2016-31
<b>Randwick Education and Health</b>	14,371	15,033	16,387	17,674	18,953	<b>+ 3,920 + 26%</b>

Source: September 2014 Release BTS Employment Forecasts

Research in 2013<sup>xxi</sup> noted that the Randwick Education and Health precinct is an example of a current cluster of health and education related businesses and institutions within the Eastern Suburbs and this provides a platform for further growth of businesses and hence jobs within this industry sector. Advantages of clustering and colocation mean that Randwick continues to become more attractive as a location for health-related businesses<sup>xxii</sup>.

Strategic planning is important for identifying the key elements needed to support an industry cluster. In recognition of the importance for future planning of the centre, Randwick City Council prepared (in 2011) a precinct plan with input and feedback from key stakeholders in the Centre, state government agencies, and the community. The precinct plan provides strategic directions and detailed actions for the future growth of the Centre. One of the key directions in the precinct plan, is the need to facilitate affordable housing for key workers through the planning framework to support the economic function of this unique strategic centre.

### 3.4 Setting an affordable housing target for Randwick City

Taking into consideration the State Government’s projections for Randwick City, an affordable housing target is needed to ensure the delivery of affordable rental housing as part of any future supply of housing growth.

Current social and affordable housing rates in Randwick City have been estimated at approximately 7% of the total households or equivalent occupied dwellings. This takes into account the 2011 census estimate of 6.7% of the total households renting from the government in addition to the 20 affordable rental units in Council’s affordable rental housing program dwellings (which equates to roughly 0.4% of total household stock). Note this rate does not take into account lower cost housing in the private market such as older residential flat buildings, boarding houses or secondary dwellings.

Therefore looking to 2031, the following table provides an indication of the number of new affordable rental and social housing dwellings that would be needed to achieve a target of 15% of the total proportion of households in Randwick to be dedicated to very low to moderate income households.

Some notes on a 15% target are as follows: a 15% target is consistent to that of the City of Sydney and would also align with the 2011 census estimate for Randwick City, in that 15.2% of total households were classified as low income compared to 16.0% in Greater Sydney. While Randwick City has a relatively higher proportion of social housing dwellings (6.7% when compared to greater Sydney at 5%), there is a distinct lack of affordable rental housing for the low to moderate income in the area. As such, a higher target of 8% is applied to this group to help facilitate a housing product to meet this identified need.

**Table 4: Setting an affordable and social housing target for Randwick**

	Current rate	No. of households	Total no. of households (Census 2011)	Projected households to 2031	Additional no. of new social housing dwellings to achieve a minimum target of 7% by 2031	Additional no. of new affordable rental housing dwellings to achieve a minimum target of 8% affordable housing
<b>Social housing</b>	6.70%	3,433	51,292	69,050	1,400.5	
<b>Dedicated affordable rental housing (RCC AH program)</b>	0.04%	20				5,504
<b>Total</b>	6.74%	3,453			<b>1,400</b>	<b>5,504</b>

## Assumptions

1. One household equates to one occupied dwelling
2. Current social and affordable housing rate at approx. 7% rounded up
3. Social housing rate should remain at least 7%
4. Affordable housing rate should be at 8%
5. Therefore new affordable and social housing target to 2031 should be 15%

While the overall target of 15% of total households/occupied dwellings by 2031 is modest (especially compared to international affordable housing targets which is in the range of up to 50%) it would at the very minimum, a useful baseline to against further loss of low income households in Randwick; and importantly help provide the evidence base to mandate and advocate a proportion of all new dwellings to be provided as affordable housing; particularly in the absence of any state government targets which may or may not be set as part of the district planning process. Applying affordable housing targets are also pertinent in urban areas undergoing change which may be subject to resulting in a loss of existing affordable housing.

### 3.5 Urban areas undergoing change

Parts of Randwick City are undergoing change, as a result of infrastructure investment such as the CBD to South East Light Rail, gentrification and/or have been identified by the State Government for urban renewal opportunities<sup>3</sup>. These areas include the Randwick Education and Health Strategic Centre and the Anzac Parade corridor. Such measures can increase land value which gives the landowner a 'value uplift'.

Requiring contributions for affordable housing, where there has been a value uplift arising from infrastructure investment or government action, will help contribute to the provision of affordable rental housing<sup>xxiii</sup>, particularly in high value areas like Randwick.

The strategic location of these areas to key employment centres (ie Central Business District), makes the need to provide for affordable housing an essential consideration in the future planning of these areas; and without planning intervention the stock of affordable rental housing will continue to decline.

## 4. The Draft Randwick City Council 2016 Affordable Rental Housing Program

The intent of the Randwick City Council Affordable Rental Housing Program 2016 is to build and expand on Council's existing affordable rental housing program; and importantly to ensure the provision of affordable rental housing is provided in key strategic sites and urban renewal areas undergoing change, where the need for affordable housing is critically needed to ensure an economically viable Randwick City.

It is clear from this analysis that the demand for affordable rental housing in Randwick City outstrips any supply of new affordable rental housing. And while the Council has (since

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<sup>3</sup> in the State Government's (2014) *A Plan for Growing Sydney*

2006) successfully acquired 20 affordable rental housing units for the community, it demonstrates that the current voluntary planning agreement approach is not delivering the scale of affordable rental housing that is needed for the community.

It is on this basis, that the Council requests the state government to enable a mandatory approach, via inclusionary zoning, to be applied in Randwick City to help deliver affordable housing for our residents to support the growth projections of our business communities.

#### **4.1 About the draft program**

As key sites and/or urban areas are identified for renewal or seeks a rezoning it is the intention of this program to map and list these sites in the LEP under Part 6 Additional Local Provisions in the LEP as 'Special Provisions - Contribution for the purpose of affordable housing'. Strategic justification and financial feasibility assessment is needed to provide the evidence base for the listing of these sites and the contribution requirement to provide for affordable rental housing. This would be provided as part of any future planning proposal which seeks to include additional sites and/or areas within the program.

It is proposed that a contribution towards affordable rental housing would be imposed as a condition of consent, subject to planning legislation allowing this imposition. The preferred mechanism for an affordable rental housing contribution is to be provided on-site, as actual affordable rental dwellings to be dedicated to the Council and managed by a registered community housing provider in accordance with Council's Affordable Rental Housing Programs and Procedures (2006) manual.

##### **4.1.1 Characteristics of Future Affordable Rental Housing Stock**

###### Newmarket Green

- The Council is seeking an affordable housing contributions scheme on site, which seeks a 5% contribution of the total residential floor space towards affordable housing.
- The estimated total number of dwellings proposed to be delivered on site is 750.
- A 5% contribution of affordable housing being 20 x 1 bedrooms and 20 x 2 bedrooms (the bedroom count is estimated based on GFA as outlined in the Hill Pda Financial Feasibility Assessment for the site).
- Tenancy, rental and governance arrangements to be in accordance with Council's adopted Affordable Housing Program Procedures & Guidelines and to be outlined in the affordable housing plan for the site, to be finalised.

###### The Kensington and Kingsford town centres

- Estimated dwelling capacity for the town centres is 5,000. A two staged affordable housing levy is proposed for the centres commencing at 3% increasing to 5% to apply on all development applications for residential accommodation.
- It is estimated that the levy or contributions scheme has the potential to deliver more than 200 affordable dwellings for essential key workers in the area.

- The affordable dwellings would consist of mainly one and two bedroom units. However, the proposed scheme is contingent on Ministerial approval.

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