

Western Sydney
Leadership Dialogue

Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue

Credentials



Western Sydney
Leadership Dialogue

@WSLDialogue
www.westernsydney.org.au



Western Sydney
Leadership Dialogue

BOONTOWN



The Dialogue

Western Sydney
Leadership Dialogue

The Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue is a not-for-profit, community initiative leading a national conversation about Greater Western Sydney.

The Dialogue facilitates interaction between key opinion leaders, across industry, government, academia and the community, to inform public policy debate and to advance a regional agenda through research, analysis, advocacy & events.



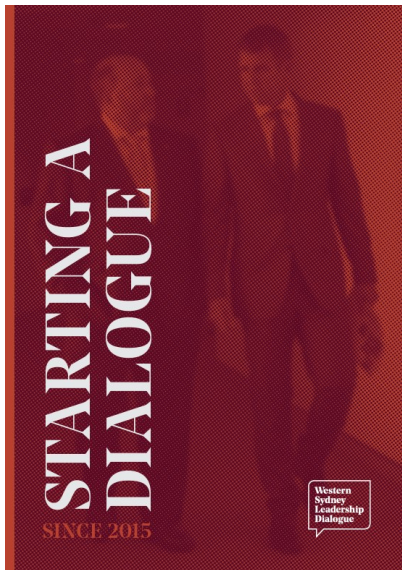
In 2015 NSW Premier Mike Baird launched the Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue at Stadium Australia (Accor Stadium) in front of over 120 regional leaders.

It was founded by Christopher Brown, a proud son of Parramatta, who recognised the need for a leadership network that could raise awareness about the issues impacting the region, influence policy outcomes and celebrate its successes.

Western Sydney is now on the radar more than it has ever been, but with that profile comes the need for an informed and co-ordinated approach to ensure the region's vision is understood and well-supported.

Fortunately, the Dialogue not only represents a diverse range of views but is also about demonstrating leadership and action on key issues, and through our ongoing program of events, initiatives and partnerships, we'll be positioned at the forefront of change in the region.

Click here to view the Dialogue's Partnership book outlining our history and celebrating the successes of the region: [Starting a Dialogue](#)



Dialogue Patrons

Western Sydney
Leadership Dialogue



Lucy Hughes Turnbull AO

Founding Chief
Commissioner, Greater
Sydney Commission

Chair, Collaborative
Leadership Program



Cameron Clyne

Board Member,
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Former Group CEO, NAB

Director, Whitlam Institute



Mike Mrdak AO

Former Secretary,
Commonwealth Department
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Chairman, NEC Australia



Dr Kerry Schott AO

Chair, Energy Security Board

CEDA Board of Governors

Former Chair, Sydney Metro



Prof. Peter Shergold AC

Former Chancellor,
Western Sydney University

Chair, NSW Education
Standards Authority

We thank our eminent Board of Patrons who provide this not-for-profit forum with their wise counsel and leadership, calling on their respective experience across industry, politics, academia and bureaucracy, and reflective of their individual and collective commitment to the region.

Partners & Event Sponsors

Western Sydney
Leadership Dialogue



Community Partners & Regional Collaborators

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Community Partners:



Regional Collaborators:



Boardroom Event Series

Western Sydney
Leadership Dialogue

Our discussion leaders have included:

Political	Business	Regulatory	Media & Education
Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP Premier of New South Wales	Dr Kerry Schott AO Chair, Moorebank Intermodal Company & Director, NBN Co.	Dr Steven Kennedy PSM Secretary, Commonwealth Department of Treasury	Christopher Dore Editor, The Australian
Hon. Paul Fletcher MP Federal Minister for Urban Infrastructure	Sir Rod Eddington AO Chair, Infrastructure Partnerships Australia	Jim Betts Secretary, NSW Planning & Industry	Greg Hywood CEO, Fairfax Media
Hon. Anthony Albanese MP Federal Labor Leader	Dr Ken Henry AC Chairman, National Australia Bank	Dr Sarah Hill CEO, Western Parkland City Authority	Paul Whittaker Editor-in Chief, Sky News
Hon. Andrew Constance MP NSW Minister for Transport & Roads	Ian Ferrier Chairman, Goodman Group	Simon Hickey CEO, Western Sydney Airport	Prof. Peter Shergold AC Chancellor, Western Sydney University
Hon. Stuart Ayres MP NSW Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism & Western Sydney	Dan Labbad CEO, The Crown Estates (UK)	Geoff Roberts AM Chief Commissioner, Greater Sydney Commission	Dr Michael Spence AC Vice Chancellor, Sydney University
Hon. Dominic Perrottet MP Treasurer of New South Wales	Alan Joyce Chief Executive Officer, Qantas Airways	Tim Reardon Secretary, Department of Premier & Cabinet	Lisa Davies Editor, Sydney Morning Herald
Hon. Rob Stokes MP NSW Minister for Planning & Public Spaces	Bob Johnston Managing Director, GPT Group	Michael Pratt AM Secretary, NSW Treasury	Mark Scott AO Vice-Chancellor and Principal The University of Sydney

** All titles correct at time of event



Projects & Policy Papers

Western Sydney
Leadership Dialogue

The Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue's policy and research team regularly produces relevant policy and thought-leadership papers, generally focussing on social issues impacting the communities of Greater Western Sydney.

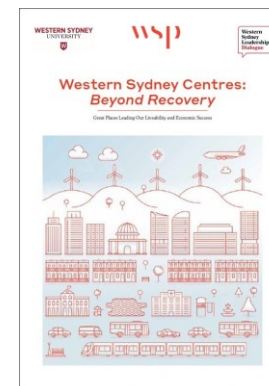
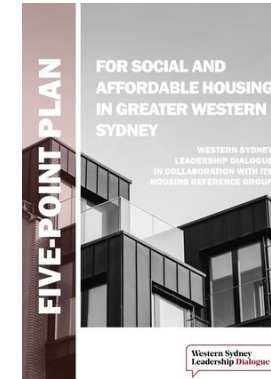
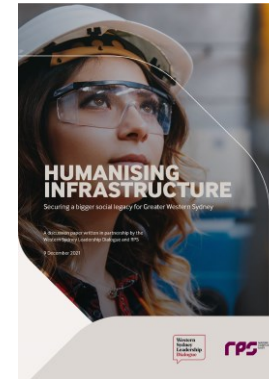
We tap into the expertise of our Partners and network of collaborators in each of these areas, applying our own deep understanding of the demography and politics to put forward bold ideas and solutions to the challenges faced by the region. We strive to use our platform to commence a dialogue with those who have the subject matter expertise, and those who have the power to effect change.

A selection can of these papers are listed here. You may read each report in full on our website: <https://westernsydney.org.au/policy-papers>

The Dialogue also facilitates a series of subject specific working groups designed to test ideas, develop policy priorities and establish PR and political advocacy campaigns.

Policy panels and working groups for Partner contribution include:

- Circular economy in GWS
- Humanising Infrastructure
- Designing Central City
- Digital Divide
- Major Projects and Urban Renewal
- Housing Reference Group



Western Sydney Unfiltered

Western Sydney
Leadership Dialogue

Western Sydney Unfiltered is a series of short, conversational interviews with some of the region's leaders, to explore the latest news, issues and emerging trends.

In tackling important policies and major projects, these one-on-one sessions with some of our city's big thinkers, bright minds and most influential voices will help keep you in the know with everything that is going on in GWS.



Below is a sample of Western Sydney *Unfiltered* interviewees:

- **Hon. Stuart Ayres MP** | Minister for Western Sydney
- **Dr Jim Chalmers MP** | Federal Shadow Treasurer
- **Philip Chronican** | Chairman, National Australia Bank
- **Steffen Faurby** | Managing Director, TAFE NSW
- **Prof. Barney Glover AO** | Vice-Chancellor & President, WSU
- **Lisa Havilah** | Chief Executive, Powerhouse Museum
- **Dr Sarah Hill** | CEO, Western Parkland City Authority
- **Dr Jon Lamonte** | Chief Executive, Sydney Metro
- **Liz Ann Macgregor OBE** | Director, Museum of Contemporary Art
- **Jo Masters** | Oceania Chief Economist, EY
- **Elizabeth Mildwater** | Dep. Sec., Greater Sydney, TNSW
- **Paul O'Sullivan** | Chair, Western Sydney Airport
- **Tony Shepherd AO** | Chair, GWS Giants
- **Rodd Staples** | Secretary, Transport for NSW
- **Hon. Rob Stokes MP** | Minister for Planning & Public Spaces
- **Lucy Turnbull AO** | Former Chief Commissioner, GSC
- **Hon. Malcolm Turnbull AO** | 29th Prime Minister of Australia
- **Greg Whitby AM** | ED, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta

* titles correct at time of recording

BOOMTOWN! Summit

Western Sydney
Leadership Dialogue

Now entering its eighth year, the premier property and infrastructure summit for Greater Western Sydney brings together the leaders and city shapers in government, development, construction, design, planning, transport, housing, services, energy and sustainability.

Boomtown! has always been where the big players in property and infrastructure come together to discuss, debate and collaborate on the development of the dynamic growth region.

Importantly, we always tackle the big issues facing our region. In 2022 we challenged the shortfall of affordable housing in Greater Western Sydney and explored how governments can leverage public land and transport investments to fast-track the future development of key local sites. We also examined how fast rail, metro rail and light rail will drive and direct future development across the West.

We can never forget that we are not just an economy, but a society, and this provision of social infrastructure, and liveable and loveable cities are also important.

Other key elements of the 2022 Boomtown! program included a review of individual and commercial land that can be opened by enabling roads and utilities to provide jobs and what we can do in the sustainability space to make Greater Western Sydney a more circular economy

All of the content from BOOMTOWN 2022, can be found here: <https://westernsydney.org.au/bts22>

A special thanks to **Transport for NSW**, as our on-going major event partner, along with our event sponsors **Department of Planning & Environment**, **NAB** and **Western Sydney Airport**.



Presented by the Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue

Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue

Ignite GWS 2022

Sparking Enterprise, Employment & Education in Greater Western Sydney.

In partnership with



Host city



Proudly sponsored by the following Dialogue Partners



Ignite GWS Summit brings together the region's bright minds and emerging enterprise to discuss the new precincts, technologies, innovations and industries that will grow jobs and ignite an economy.

[All event materials can be found on the website](#)

Event speakers included:

- Hon. Matt Kean MP** | NSW Treasurer
- Hon. Stuart Ayres MP** | Minister for Investment
- Lucy Hughes Turnbull AO** | Chief Patron, Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue
- Hon. Malcolm Turnbull AO** | 29th PM
- Amy Brown** | Secretary, Dept. Enterprise & Investment
- Mike Mrdak** | Executive Chair - ANZ, NEC
- Lisa Ang** | Executive Manager, CBA
- Geoff Roberts AM** | Chief Commissioner, Greater Sydney Commission
- Robyn Denholm** | Board Chair, Tesla
- Prof. Barney Glover AO** | Vice-Chancellor and President, Western Sydney University
- Prof. Andrew Parfitt** | Vice-Chancellor & President, UTS
- Anthony Manning** | Chief Executive, School Infrastructure NSW



Greater Western Sydney Future Health Forum

19 October 2022

Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue in partnership with the region's Local Health Districts brought focus to the role the region's Local Health Districts played during the pandemic of 2020-2022.

Event speakers included:

- Richard Alcock AO** | Chair, Western Sydney Local Health District
- Dr Kerry Chant AO** | Chief Health Officer NSW Health
- Hon. Peter Collins AM** | Chair, Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District
- Harold Dakin** | Chief Executive Officer, ICC Development Group
- Caitlin Francis** | Partner, EY
- Matt Hanrahan** | Deputy National CEO, Calvary Health Care
- Kay Hyman** | Chief Executive, Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District
- Amna Karra-Hassan** | Special Counsel, Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue & Alumni, Collaborative Leadership Program Class of 2022
- Dr Rhonda Itaoui** | Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Centre for Western Sydney
- Amanda Larkin** | Chief Executive, South Western Sydney Local Health District
- Graeme Loy** | Chief Executive, Western Sydney Local Health District
- Clr Ned Mannoun** | Mayor, Liverpool City Council
- Dr Faraz Pathan** | Cardiologist, Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District
- Susan Pearce** | Secretary, NSW Health
- Julie Scott** | A/Director Economy & Commercial Development, Liverpool City
- Dr Caroline Tomiczek** | Director, Urbis
- Rebecca Wark** | Chief Executive, Health Infrastructure NSW
- Greg Whitby AM** | Exec. Director, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta



In collaboration with



Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District
South Western Sydney Local Health District
Western Sydney Local Health District

In partnership with



Pemulwuy Prize & Leadership Awards Lachlan Macquarie Lecture

Western Sydney
Leadership Dialogue

Pemulwuy Prize and Western Sydney Community Leadership Awards

Named after the famous Aboriginal warrior and leader, the Dialogue presents The Pemulwuy Prize annually to honour a leading citizen, or group, who has made an outstanding contribution to the region.

If one person can be identified as the earliest warrior for Western Sydney it was Pemulwuy – who became a heroic figure to Aborigines who revered him for his incredible capacity to evade capture and death for many years during his campaign in their defence.

To honour his memory, the Pemulwuy Prize is awarded annually in conjunction with the Lachlan Macquarie Lecture, and selected from one of the Dialogue's Community Leadership Award winners.

Lachlan Macquarie Lecture

In honour of Governor Lachlan Macquarie, and in the spirit of his strength and vision for the city, a prominent citizen delivers an annual speech about their personal vision for this dynamic region.

Lachlan Macquarie, a British military officer and colonial administrator, served as Governor of New South Wales (1810 to 1821.) Macquarie believed that the future of the colony was in Western Sydney and was the region's first great advocate, sponsoring the development of the river cities of Penrith, Liverpool & Parramatta.

Previously delivered by the following eminent orators:

Prime Minister **Malcolm Turnbull** (2016)

NSW Premier **Gladys Berejiklian** (2017)

Professor **Peter Shergold AC**, Chancellor, Western Sydney University (2018),

Eddie Woo *WooTube* sensation and Western Sydney mathematics (2019)

Prime Minister **Anthony Albanese** (2022)



Collaborative Leadership Program

Western Sydney
Leadership Dialogue

CLP invests in the professional development of an invited cohort of existing and emerging leaders from organisations with an interest in Greater Western Sydney.

In June 2022 we staged the inaugural bespoke professional development program for a selected cohort of our region's existing and emerging leaders, with candidates drawn from the private, public and community sectors. They enjoyed a deep immersion in local communities and institutions and were provided with a unique and intimate exposure to eminent leaders.

The annual program delivers technical training in collaborative culture, thought leadership, regional advocacy and community engagement, and will generate a stellar professional network for graduates.

With a rolling program of workshops, interactive learning, cultural immersion site visits and networking events with exemplar practitioners, we provide unmatched exposure for the cohort to key people and experiences to expand their capacity to govern, build, advise, assist and advocate for GWS. The graduates, the organisations they represent and this region will all benefit.

The CLP will run once again in June '23 with a new cohort of 35 future leaders.

WHAT INVITED CANDIDATES & SPONSORS RECEIVE FROM THE CLP:

- **Understanding GWS** economic, political, social & environmental drivers
- **Collaborative leadership skills** development, including training through our technical and educational partners. Delegates receive academic recognition from WSU at the completion of the Program.
- **Thought leadership**, regional advocacy, community engagement training
- **GWS site visits**, hands-on experience and interactive workshops
- **Direct exposure to eminent leaders**, mentors and inspirational speakers
- **A wide & influential professional network** and alumni program



Spotlight Sessions

Western Sydney
Leadership Dialogue

DIALOGUE SPOTLIGHT SESSION

Western
Sydney
Leadership
Dialogue

What is a Dialogue Spotlight Session?

This brand-new initiative provides Dialogue Partners with the opportunity to showcase their projects, strategies or policies to our network

The event can be used to promote a new concept or opportunity, or to facilitate discussion in response to a key issue in the region. It can be also be leveraged as part of your stakeholder engagement strategy (eg. gauge stakeholder feedback), or to secure regional support or simply just raise awareness.

These 90-minute sessions will feature a presentation by our discussion leaders, followed by a moderated conversation with 20-25 handpicked attendees from our network.

With an emphasis on focused, content-led discussion, the *Spotlight Session* is an ideal opportunity for partners to introduce new ideas and projects and generate feedback, and discussion, that can help inform their future strategies.

Future Spotlight Sessions, include:

- Managing Western Sydney's Health Crisis (WSLHD, SWSLHD, NBMLHD)
- Examining the future of education (School Infrastructure NSW, WSU, TAFE NSW)
- Parramatta Powerhouse (Museum of Applied Arts & Sciences)

Most recent event featuring the CEOs of the Greater Western Sydney LHDs:

Featured Speakers:

Kay Hyman | Chief Executive, Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District

Amanda Larkin | Chief Executive, South Western Sydney Local Health District

Graeme Loy | Chief Executive, Western Sydney Local Health District

Themes:

- What are some of the key factors that have influenced this latest outbreak and why is it so different to last year's lockdown?
- How did Greater Western Sydney emerge as one of the central hot-spots and has there been an improvement in how important health messages are both communicated, and received?
- Are vaccination rates improving and what has been the response from our communities, particularly Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) groups?
- How are our hospitals dealing with the increased case-load and are we better equipped to deal with more patients than during last year's outbreak?
- What are the medium and long term public health lessons we can take from this latest outbreak?

Future Forum Series

Western Sydney
Leadership Dialogue

Our *GWS Future Forum* series is designed as a more intimate workshop-style forum, to examine how the Government can work with industry and the community to develop real policy solutions to some of the region's major economic, demographic & environmental challenges – as we head toward a population of 4+ million by 2050.

The moderated workshops provide an opportunity for public sector organisations to understand and respond to the major policy challenges in Western Sydney, and work with industry, the community and its peers in the public sector to ensure the region remains liveable and sustainable.

The workshops target key subject areas and bring together relevant government & community stakeholders to build momentum towards real outcomes for the region. Recent events have focussed on subjects such as: innovation precincts; domestic violence & obesity; community infrastructure; governance; and water sustainability.

The Dialogue has identified a cohort of influential leaders in Western Sydney from business, NGOs, sport, arts, local government, education and other decision makers and use them as an ongoing leadership cohort to engage in a debate about city shaping and binding.

We thank Deloitte and Western Sydney University for their on-going support of the Dialogue's *Future Forum* initiative.

Click here to learn more about the Dialogue's [Future Forum series](#).



With thanks to our event partners:

Deloitte.

**WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY**



Housing Reference Group

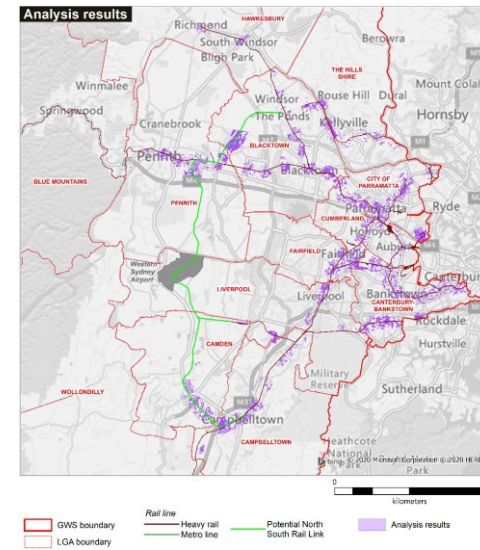
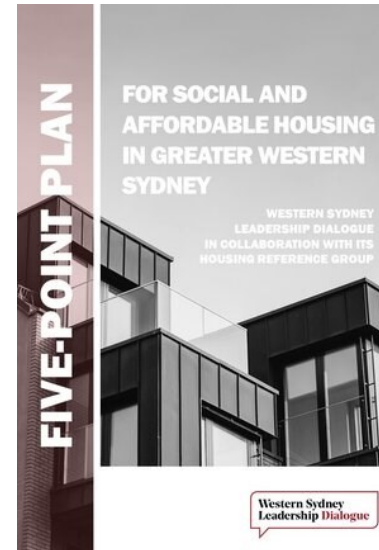
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In December 2019, the Dialogue convened the *Housing Reference Group* (HRG), a social and affordable housing policy forum made up of Community Housing Providers (CHPs) and financiers, academia, local councils, public landholders and various government agencies. The HRG's ongoing discourse aims to identify shortcomings in existing social and affordable housing policy, propose and refine alternative solutions, and generally advocate for the sector in GWS.

This involves moderated discussions with key leaders in the housing sector. The group has previously shared various industry perspectives including CHPs - St George Community Housing CEO Scott Langford, developers - Lendlease Group Executive Toni Milis, community understanding from Western Sydney Community Forum CEO Billie Sankovic and government insight from National Finance and Housing Investment Corporation CEO Nathan Dal Bon.

A major project for the HRG was a land-mapping exercise in collaboration with Landcom. Highlighting the available land in GWS for future social and affordable housing developments, that are within adequate distance to transport and town centres.

The HRG has also been thoroughly consulted on the Dialogue's NSW Housing Strategy 2020 Submission.



[Click here to read the Dialogue's *Housing Strategy Submission*](#)

HRG Participants:

Arup
Campbelltown City Council
City of Canterbury Bankstown
City of Parramatta Council
Deerubbin Local Aboriginal
Land Council
Deloitte
Department of Premier &
Cabinet
Evolve Housing
EY
Fraser Property

Greater Sydney Commission
Hume Community Housing
Land & Housing Corporation
Landcom
Lendlease
Mirvac
NAB
SGCH
Wentworth Community Housing
Western City Parklands Authority
Western Syd. Community Forum
Western Sydney LHD
Western Sydney University



Leadership & Advocacy

Western Sydney
Leadership Dialogue



CHRISTOPHER BROWN AM | Chairman & Founder

Christopher recently retired as Pro-Chancellor of Western Sydney University after eight years as a Director but continues to serve on the board of the WSU Academy. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Letters at WSU in recognition of his significant contribution to the university and the region in late 2019. Prior to his appointment to the WSU Board, he was an Adjunct Professor at the Business School at University of Technology, Sydney.

For twenty years he led two of the nation's most powerful industry peak bodies, Infrastructure Partnerships Australia and Tourism & Transport Forum – comprising CEOs from across the upper echelons of Australia's public and private sector leadership cohort.

He formerly sat on the corporate boards of ANZ Stadium, the Commonwealth's Moorebank Intermodal Co, Moss Capital and LUCRF Superannuation before stepping back to focus on his Dialogue role. He has served on numerous government boards and taskforces over the past 30 years including Tourism Victoria, National Disability Council, See Australia, Greater Sydney Partnership and the Infrastructure Security Taskforce and previously chaired the Madrid-based Business Council of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation.

Christopher was a member of the Federal/State Commission that chose the Badgerys Creek Airport site and then devised an advocacy campaign to secure Federal Cabinet support. He also served on the NSW Transport & Planning Blueprint Panel that first recognised Parramatta as Sydney's second CBD.

He is a co-founder and Governor of the Bradfield Partnership & Oration with NewsCorp, Convenor of the Sydney Roundtable think tank and in 2019 led a delegation of Mayors, agency CEOs, Vice Chancellors and business & community leaders to examine urban renewal in the UK's East London area.

Christopher chaired the Western Sydney Rail Alliance, which secured \$5+ billion to build a north/south Metro line to Badgerys Creek and the WestLine Partnership, which secured light rail in the Olympic Corridor.

He founded/led the Parramatta Partnership Forum, Committee for Liverpool, Canterbury-Bankstown Forum and Advance Blacktown regional leadership initiatives. He currently chairs the South Western Sydney Local Health Advisory Board and the Campbelltown Health & Education Partnership collaboration.

Raised and educated in Parramatta, he was awarded Australian Honours for his service to industry and community in 2014.

Leadership & Advocacy

Western Sydney
Leadership Dialogue



ADAM LETO | Executive Director

Adam has nearly 20 years' experience working in the areas of media, corporate communications and public relations.

A former journalist, he has also acted as an adviser at a local and state government level, and managed numerous campaign and advocacy strategies on a range of issues in Western Sydney, including major transport and infrastructure projects such as the Parramatta Light Rail, Metro Airport Rail (linking Badgerys Creek to St Marys) and Parramatta Powerhouse. Highly experienced, in both stakeholder, and community engagement, Adam understands the value of effective communication, and through his role with the Dialogue, has regularly applied this knowledge to help shine the light on the important social, environmental and economic issues in Greater Western Sydney. He has managed initiatives such as the Canterbury-Bankstown Leaders Forum, Campbelltown Health and Education Precinct Collaboration, the South Western Sydney Local Health District Advisory Board and the Western Sydney Rail Alliance, partnerships that have not only brought together government and key partners in the areas of health, education and business, but also delivered positive outcomes.

A former Steering Committee member on Deloitte's Shaping Future Cities initiative, set up to generate 200,000 new smart jobs for Western Sydney, he also sits on the board of Bankstown Poetry Slam's incorporated body, Click Inc. Adam is a former Western Sydney University graduate, and product of the iconic, Westfields Sports High, in Fairfield West.

FAITH HALLIDAY | Special Advisor

Faith brings global perspective and strategic thinking to our management team and is an experienced business manager and collaborator. She holds a Bachelor of Architecture from UNSW and has lived and worked in Australia, North America and Asia.

She is an experienced collaborator and a strong advocate for creating sustainable, liveable and connected cities. More recently, Faith was one of the co-hosts who led the Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue's East London Study Tour in 2019 and currently manages the Collaborative Leadership Program.

Prior to advising the Dialogue, Faith was Manager Global Business Planning & Development at international architectural firm, Woods Bagot.



Policy & Engagement

Western Sydney
Leadership Dialogue



LUKE TURNER | Director, Policy & Analysis

Luke is a public policy and communications professional with a range of government and private sector experience and a passion for social justice and equality of opportunity. He has a background in the infrastructure sector and brings a range of experience to the Dialogue team.

Luke leads the Dialogue's Policy team and provides valuable insights on the key trends and issues which impact and shape our region. He has steered the Dialogue's policy agenda on issues ranging from obesity and diabetes to domestic violence and climate change. More recently, Luke convened and lead our Housing Reference Group to shape a regional response to the NSW Housing Strategy and delivered the Dialogue's Five Point Plan for Housing, highlighting the role for government and the community housing sector in addressing the shortfall and projected demand for social & affordable housing across the region.

Luke previously worked for NRMA Motoring & Services, the Tourism & Transport Forum, The NSW Department of Family & Community Services and the City of Sydney. He has a Masters of Public Policy from the University of Sydney and a Bachelor of Communication from the University of Newcastle.

LAUREN NICHOLLS | Senior Manager for Policy & Research

Lauren Nicholls originally joined the Dialogue as its Policy Officer in 2017, whilst also a social work student at Western Sydney University. During this time, she was a student member of the Western Sydney University Academy Board, a representative on the NCOSS Young Women's Round Table, an executive member of several student organisations and a founding member of the Dialogue's GenWest initiative.

In late 2019 Lauren left the Dialogue to work as a Senior Analyst in the crime and justice sector of the public service. She has recently returned to the Dialogue as its Senior Manager for Policy & Research. Upon returning to the Dialogue team, Lauren is now responsible for the development of the Dialogue's research, public policy, and advocacy agenda. A Western Sydney resident, Lauren has a specific interest in addressing geospatial inequality and gendered issues.



Marketing & Partnerships

Western Sydney
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BRETT TOWERS | Director, Marketing & Partnerships

Brett brings to the Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue his 20 years of sales, marketing and stakeholder management experience. He leads the Dialogue's events team, each year responsible for delivering three major conferences, dozens of policy forums and boardroom meetings and approximately 50 digital events, for our network and the region as a whole.

In his most recent role with Business Events Sydney, Brett was dedicated to working with local and international companies to position Sydney as Australia's premier meetings destination, and a global city home to a rich base of innovators and entrepreneurs.

Brett is able to draw on his extensive knowledge of the tourism and events sector, plus his broad industry and government networks, to provide advice and support to our stakeholders. Aside from his time at BESydney, Brett has also served in sales and strategy roles with Tourism Australia and Luna Park Sydney, and as a policy manager for the Tourism & Transport Forum.

Brett was one of the co-hosts who led the Dialogue's East London Study Tour in 2019 and manages the GenWest initiative. Brett's primary interests in the policy sphere include tackling social inequities faced by Western Sydney communities, addressing environmental challenges and ensuring positive physical, intellectual and social legacies are achieved.

CEYDA NALBANTOGLU | Marketing & Partnerships Officer

Ceyda Nalbantoglu joins the Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue team in a Marketing and Partnership Officer role. She first teamed up with the Dialogue in early 2021 as a GenWest member, and since then has been a huge advocate for the region.

After completing her initial studies, Ceyda then undertook a 12-month traineeship at Western Sydney Airport with the Corporate Affairs team. At WSA she was fortunate enough to have worked on one of Australia's biggest infrastructure projects. She now continues to study a Bachelor of Public Relations and Advertisement at UNSW while also being a part of the impactful initiatives that the Dialogue creates in Western Sydney.

Born and raised in Western Sydney, Ceyda's vision for Western Sydney is to watch it grow and hopes that her experience can inspire other students to start and build their career in Western Sydney too.



Media & Communications

Western Sydney
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BELINDA WALLIS | Communications & Media Manager

Belinda is a communications and media professional with experience in media liaison, communications strategies and stakeholder engagement.

An award-winning journalist with local and global experience in print, radio and TV, Belinda has recently joined The Dialogue after nearly a decade as a corporate communications and media advisor at the City of Sydney, where she worked across complex policy issues, including planning, transport and infrastructure.

Belinda also worked in large-scale event promotion, including media and PR for Sydney New Year's Eve and Lunar New Year celebrations. She brings a strong background in engaging with business and community groups to foster positive relationships and media exposure.

NICHOLAS RUPOLO | Communications Officer

Nicholas Rupolo joined the Dialogue as a communications officer in 2022 with five years of experience as a journalist in Sydney and regional NSW. As a sports journalist from the age of 16, Nicholas has covered all things Australian soccer for FourFourTwo Australia, The Women's Game and the Daily Telegraph.

He switched the round ball game for general news, court and politics in regional NSW, spending a year at the Narrandera Argus in the NSW Riverina. The following year he joined NewsCorp Australia's Newslocal team in Northern NSW where he was on the ground covering the devastation of the 2022 Lismore floods. Equipped with an upbringing in the Canterbury-Bankstown area, Nick is determined to make a positive change in Western Sydney by addressing economic inequality, education and social justice.



Event Management

Western Sydney
Leadership Dialogue



MARUSHKA NORONHA | Senior Events Manager

Marushka comes to the Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue with 10 years' experience in the events management industry. After 6 years in the conference space, and working alongside business and marketing gurus, she moved to the digital events sector where she built her technical knowledge and client facing skills. Now she is responsible for the delivering Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue's program of events including BOOMTOWN! and *Out There*.

During the Covid-19 crisis, Marushka played a pivotal role ensuring all of the Dialogue's material and programming could be experienced in the digital environment by kick-starting the **DigitalDialogue** initiative. Marushka holds a Masters' degree in Business Administration and Marketing from the Australian Catholic University and has a keen interest in women's health, nutrition and fitness.

EMMA REID | Events Co-ordinator

Hailing from regional NSW, Emma made her way to Sydney for schooling and continued to complete a Bachelor of Management degree, majoring in Events and Tourism. Emma joins the Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue with 3 years' experience in the corporate events management industry. She built her digital and design skills during Covid-19 pandemic allowing her to adapt to a changing event space.

Emma also has experience in the not-for-profit industry and has spent time volunteering around the world including Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Papua New Guinea. Emma is looking to make a positive contribution to climate change, the digital divide to help those struggling with working & learning from home and infrastructure, which will help disadvantaged communities in GWS.



STEPHANIE YEO | Events Co-Ordinator

Born in Western Sydney, but raised in Port Stephens, Stephanie moved back to the South-West for schooling and completed a Bachelor of Business Management, majoring in Event Management.

Stephanie joins the Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue, with extensive event management experience spanning the not-for-profit sector where she worked on medical conferences and exhibitions. Stephanie also has experience working on political events and fundraisers.

Stephanie is passionate about making a positive contribution to help grow Western Sydney for its youth and for generations to come. As well as events Stephanie is enthusiastic about politics, the beach and nature and learning new skills."



Administration & Engagement

Western Sydney
Leadership Dialogue



KIM MARTIN | Executive Assistant to the Chairman

Kim comes to the Dialogue with significant experience in administration, executive office management, marketing, tourism, hospitality and events management.

She has worked for some of Australia's leading organisations in public and private sector - financial, transport, tourism, infrastructure, hospitality, events and sport.

She is skilled in the management and operational aspects of the Dialogue and continually contributes to the quality relationships with our Partners and stakeholders. She participates in business development and customer engagement activities and manages the administrative and logistical operations of the WSLD Executive office.

Previous roles have seen her work in the Government & International Affairs Division of the Qantas Group; manage the Executive Office of an iconic Australian sporting brand; manage the Executive Office, Membership and Events at the Tourism & Transport Forum and sister company Infrastructure Partnerships Australia; manage the Administration and Corporate Governance at Advocacy Services Australia; manage the Marketing and Events function at ING Australia. She has also been general manager of her own family businesses in a Sydney-based IT company and a Sunshine Coast-based hospitality company. Prior to re-joining the Dialogue, Kim provided executive office support to the Chief Executive Officer at the Western Parkland City Authority.

LAURA CAMERON | Administration & Engagement Officer

Laura joined the Dialogue in 2022 to support our team as Administration & Engagement Officer following six years of experience in retail managerial and sales positions.

She completed a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Anthropology and Government & International Relations from the University of Sydney in 2020.

Laura supports gender equality and champions women's empowerment in politics and business. She is also passionate about health policy and social and economic justice.



“The Dialogue represents a united voice for Western Sydney, and by opening up the region’s conversation to NSW’s major stakeholders, will ensure the area is well-placed to meet future aspirations and provide a strong platform for future leaders.”

— Hon. Dominic Perrottet MP, Premier of NSW



“Western Sydney really is the centre of aspiration for this country. I congratulate the Dialogue for gathering us all here to discuss these issues of national importance.”

— Hon. Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister of Australia



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