



# The science and art of HIAs: a case study from Green Square

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278 hectares located halfway between Sydney's CBD and airport

\$13 billion estimated total development value

61,000 residents

21,000 jobs

# Green Square

# A high density urban village



# Social infrastructure to support quality of life and wellbeing: Gunyama Park Aquatic and Recreation Centre



# Governance and aims for Green Square HIA

- Green Square was a decision support HIA
- It was coordinated by HERDU with input from SLHD (planning and integrated care), City of Sydney and CPHCE and community organisations.
- The Green Square Steering Committee was established in August 2016 to oversee the HIA process and provide feedback on assessment findings, inform the development and implementation of the HIA recommendations.
- The focus of the HIA was not on the entire Green Square development it was on the Draft Infrastructure Strategy and Plan
- The HIA aimed to
  - Identify the potential (direct and in-direct) health effects of the Green Square development as outlined in the Draft Infrastructure Strategy and Plan
  - Recommend strategies and actions to be taken to provide better health outcomes for residents of Green Square
  - Strengthen the ways in which the Green Square development can promote health and reduce health inequities.

# Method for Green Square HIA

- Pre-screening and scoping identified four dimensions of health impacts to consider including:
  - » child health and development
  - » transport
  - » community infrastructure and
  - » affordable housing.
- Assessment reports were based on a review of
  - » relevant policies
  - » the literature (black and grey)
  - » community forums and consultations and
  - » interviews with experts and key stakeholders.

# Selection of the findings

- Most people living in Green Square are renters and the proportion living in group housing is increasing. Potential negative impacts include: housing stress, housing insecurity and risk of overcrowding
- Potential negative impact of housing density is insufficient infrastructure to deal with emergencies that arise within buildings, within the centre or across the Green Square Renewal Area
- Transport challenges that are common to brown field developments – multiple government agencies having responsibility for transport

# Examples of the recommendations

- Emergency preparedness
- An appropriate number of primary school should be established in Green Square
- Transport infrastructure and permeability
- Secure housing tenure
- Preserving pockets of land
- Living on a building site

# Science and art of an HIA

- HIAs are a step-wise process that enables us to integrate evidence to identify the likely health impacts of a plan in a timely way
- However multiple government agencies have responsibility for implementing the recommendations such as placement of major arterial roads and the location of primary schools.
- This is where the art of implementation, partnership and advocacy come into play.

# **Discussion about roles and responsibilities for health across the stages of development by the relevant agencies**