

This report presents the first sketch of a Sydney Doughnut - a compass for regeneration in Greater Sydney. We detail the findings from a series of community workshops and stakeholder roundtables held in late 2022, which form the foundation for this Sydney Doughnut sketch. Finally, this publication outlines opportunity areas for transformative action and presents Regen Sydney's strategy and upcoming streams of engagement.

We thank the UNSW Allens Hub and WWF Australia for providing us with funding that helped us to undertake this body of work.

For all our relations.

WHO IS REGEN SYDNEY?

Regen Sydney is a rising coalition of over 600 individuals and organisations who are actively collaborating across sectors to envision a healthy, equitable, thriving Greater Sydney, now, and into the future. We are beginning by experimenting with Doughnut Economics.

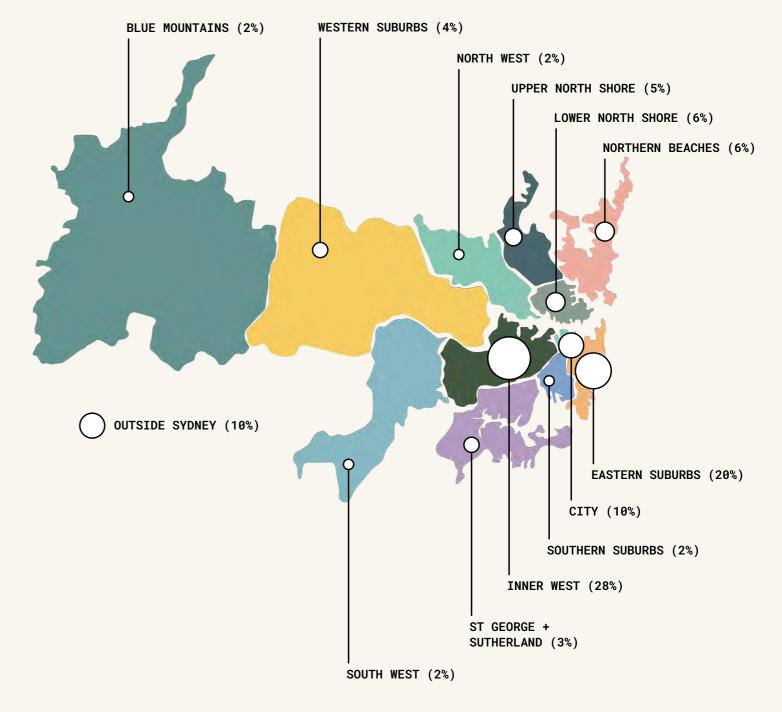
We are part of a fast-growing network of cities, regions and places across the globe who are experimenting with localising and implementing more holistic measures of progress.

Our community has more than doubled, from 250 to 600 people, since we released the 'Growing the Movement' report a little over twelve months ago. This reflects a groundswell of interest in regenerative design and practice, localised economies and participatory citizenship, as well as community connectedness, resilience and disaster preparedness and response in light of repeated bushfires, flooding, drought and the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHO IS ENGAGING?

Regen Sydney's community members come from a huge array of professional fields. These include: Social Work, Innovation, Sustainability, Health, Architecture & Design, Engineering, Conservation, Climate Policy, Social Enterprise, Law, Education, NGO, Manufacturing, Fashion, Arts and Academia.

The breadth of professions represented in our community demonstrates both the broad appeal of the 'Doughnut' in connecting residents to tackle entrenched issues, as well as a strong desire for citizens and professionals across our city to play an active role in determining the collective future of the place we call home. It is a way to merge professional and grassroot expertise, with love of place, as concerned and engaged citizens. This community creates a bridge between the lived experience of people's work and home lives.



OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

Regen Sydney has a big vision for regeneration on a citywide scale, to ensure that no one is left behind and our living world can thrive. We are collectively guided by the question "how can we live on this land with joy?" to rewire our livelihoods, our values and our systems.

ACTIONS
[WHAT WE DO]

If we develop, test and iterate a Sydney Doughnut as a collective vision for

regeneration;

ACTIVITIES
[HOW WE DO IT]

By creating a portfolio of ambitious, linked, cross-sector, City-Scale Pilots, defining place-based and holistic measures of thriving, and piloting hyper-local Neighbourhood

Activations;

OUTPUTS

[TANGIBLE RESULTS]

It will demonstrate what localised, thriving economies look and feel like, catalyse novel public-private partnerships and alliances, and amplify Sydney's role in the movement for resilient, responsible cities;

OUTCOMES

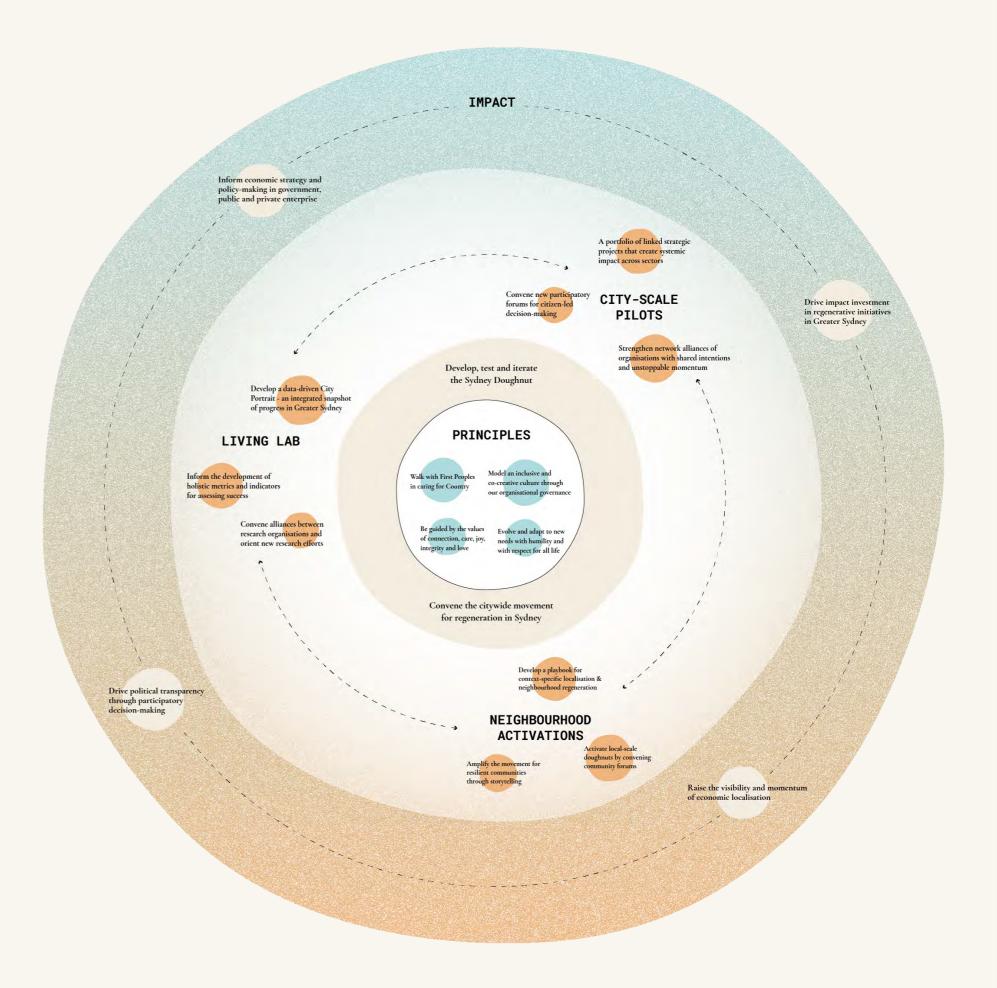
[SYSTEM SHIFTING PATHWAYS]

And consequently, raise the collective ambition of Sydney, inform economic strategy and policy-making in government, public and private enterprise, as well as raise the visibility and momentum of economic localisation and participatory decision-making;

IMPACT

[LONG TERM]

In order to move Greater Sydney and all its diverse regions into the safe and just space for all life, where social foundations and ecological responsibilities are both met.







A SYDNEY DOUGHNUT

What do you see? The value of a sketch is that it is not a finished work, but an invitation: a way of evolving ideas and making decisions to keep rolling forward.

As part of our research, community workshops and stakeholder roundtables held through this body of work, we explored the ways that the Doughnut model might be localised in Greater Sydney.

This 'first sketch' has evolved from the findings from the community workshops and stakeholder roundtables. It augments Kate Raworth's original doughnut framework with additional dimensions that reflect the most pertinent social (inner ring) and ecological (outer ring) dynamics at play in our city. These additional dimensions are 'Access to Nature', 'Arts & Culture' and 'Digital Equity'.

REFRAMING THE ECOLOGICAL DIMENSIONS

The original Doughnut framework contains dimensions that relate relate to Earth system processes that sustain life. These planetary boundaries cannot be effectively downscaled to local or city scales¹. With that in mind, this Sydney Doughnut contains ecological dimensions relevant to the realisation of thriving local ecosystems.



CARING FOR COUNTRY EMBODIED EMISSION

Will Steffen et al. (2015) - <u>Planetary boundaries: Guiding human</u> development on a changing planet



7

ROLLING THE DOUGHNUT AT MULTIPLE SCALES

CITY (REGIONAL) SCALE

Convening the movement at the city-scale centres on mapping regenerative endeavours, fostering strategic collaborations, actively seeking out contribution from underrepresented communities, building relationships with First Nations Elders and community leaders and delivering positive outcomes through alliances, events and projects that enable the complex city ecosystem to dream of a new story for itself.

The region of Greater Sydney as a city itself is a vast area made of diverse potential across various localities. Downscaling the Doughnut model to the city-scale aims to catalyse greater visibility and momentum for regenerative initiatives across other scales². In doing so, deeper and broader alliances can surface to strengthen neighbourhood activations as well as to respond to Sydney's global responsibilities.

NEIGHBOURHOOD (LOCAL) SCALE

"It could be that the neighbourhood, not the individual, is the essential unit of social change. If you're trying to improve lives, maybe you have to think about changing many elements of a single neighbourhood, in a systematic way, at a steady pace."

David Brooks, quoted by Civic Square

Coming together in our local communities allows us to share stories of struggle and hope with our neighbours and enjoy the deep sense of connection and camaraderie that happens at the street level of our lives. "The idea of what the neighbourhood means to us - our homes, streets and wider place - is where we both have most agency and most viscerally feel the results of global system collapse, therefore making it an incredibly important unit of change through which people can be at the forefront of their own safe and just climate transitions."

Civic Square, Birmingham UK

GLOBAL SCALE

As a global city, with global responsibilities, the Doughnut can help us to understand the impacts of Sydney's economy, consumption footprint and supply chains on people and places in other parts of our shared planet.

The indicators and alliances Regen Sydney will develop to strengthen our social fabric and ecological systems can be used to drive better policy making and regulation, while stepping up our global responsibilities.

Rolling our Sydney Doughnut, we can take our place among other Doughnut-friendly cities worldwide. Exciting new possibilities and adventures are made possible through the intersecting and interconnecting of the many feedback loops and currents of the global movement.



Rachel A. Turner & Jane Wills (2022) - <u>Downscaling doughnut economics for sustainability governance</u>



A VISION FOR A REGENERATIVE SYDNEY

Working collaboratively and across silos, the participants created a rich picture of what a regenerative Sydney could look and feel like.

By analysing and clustering the discussion points, we pulled out recurrent themes from participants' vision statements. There were many such themes that were relevant across the two workshops, as well as across the various social and ecological dimensions of the Doughnut.

A synthesis of these themes helps to form the community's vision for a regenerative Sydney.

A REGENERATIVE SYDNEY:



Means no one is left behind.

In this city of great diversity, many geographies, histories and cultures, no one should be left behind. Participants acknowledged that many parts of our society are falling through the cracks when it comes to food and housing. There was a lot of support for building networks of care and support as well as for bridging our huge disparities. Civic infrastructure and services play an increased role in supporting increased accessibility and equity.



Walks with First Peoples.

A truly regenerative Sydney centres First Nations wisdom and an understanding of Natural Law. There is an emphatically strong desire to walk with First Nations people in this work, and a regenerative economy is impossible to create in Sydney without doing so. In doing this work, we can learn from First Nations wisdom and First Laws; whilst addressing urgent calls to end black deaths in custody and progress the development of a long overdue Treaty.



Actively collaborates together.

Sydney values living cultures, living democracy and participation; fostering accessibility, whilst putting sovereignty and care into practice. Flipping a culture of passive consumerism on its head, there is a call for citizen and community empowerment. By harnessing the collective in community-led governance, residents of Sydney can find greater agency and decision-making power. Neighbourhood scale initiatives and economic localisation help to create greater resilience.



Is connected with our ecosystems.

The ecological & social spheres are deeply intertwined, and cannot be considered separately from each other. Our city needs to be ecologically integrated, for example through green corridors, community gardens and water sensitive urban design. Meaningful connection to nearby wild green spaces, bush, beaches and rivers is of utmost importance for its role in supporting the wellbeing of humans and non-humans alike.

MAPPING THE SYSTEM TRANSITION: OPPORTUNITY AREAS

Shown on this page are the key **opportunities areas** that have emerged through the series of stakeholder roundtables and the subsequent synthesis.

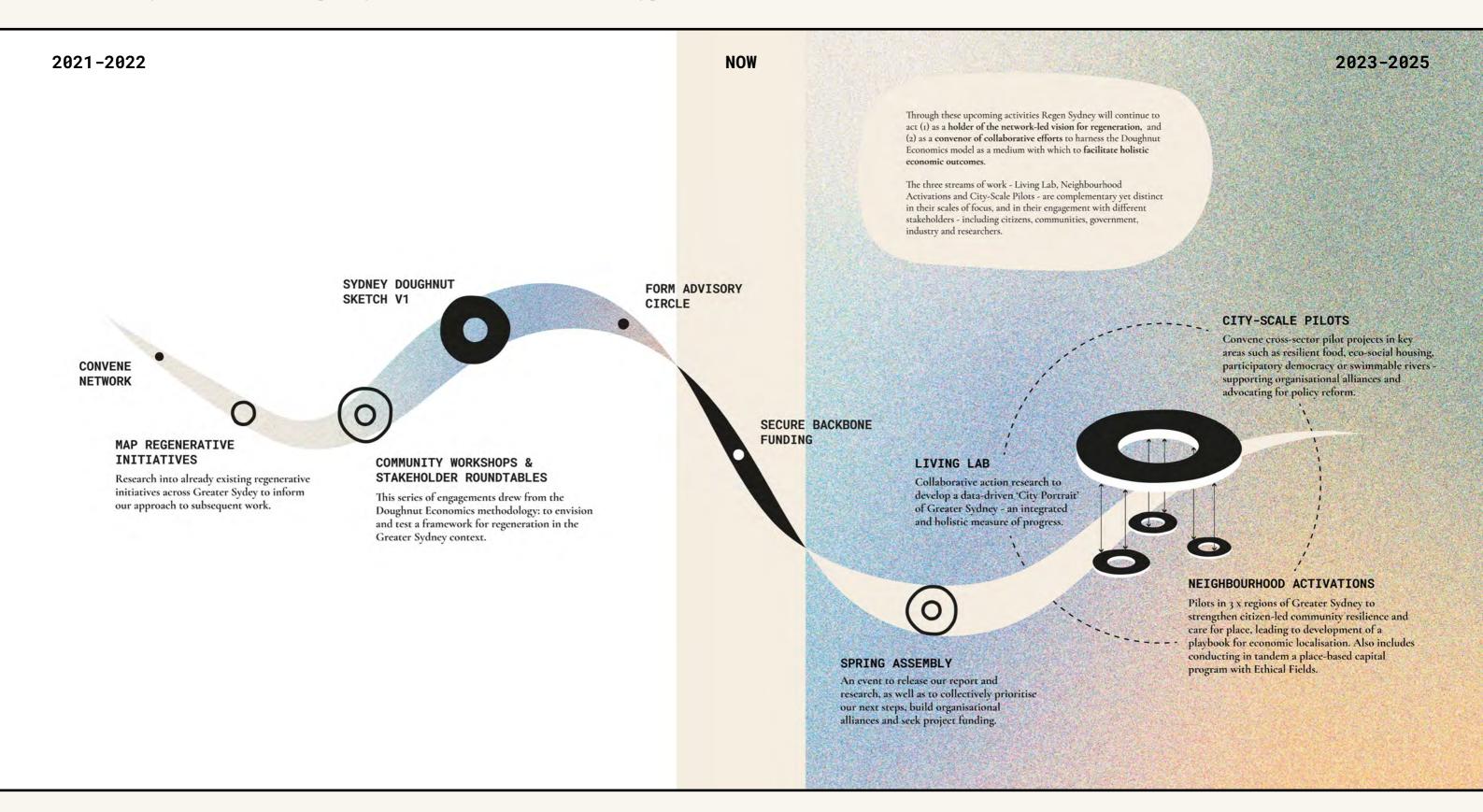
CONTRACTOR AND	STREET, TOUR TRAINING A STREET BASIS FROM THE	THE THE PROPERTY OF STREET AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF TH					
	LANDSCAPE [NARRATIVES, CULTURE, VALUES]	cultural narratives through the stor L(ii): Share the collective identity of the	nongst diverse audiences, and shift prevailing rytelling of case studies. various neighbourhoods of Greater Sydney by tices and stories across urban and peri-urban	as a city, the kinds of local futures we economy could be, and what it means L(iv): Enable greater truth-telling about the	systems of inequity and dispossession stem perpetuates, whilst simultaneously		
	REGIME [SYSTEMS, STRUCTURES, POLICY]	IR(i): Advocate for the rejuvenation of democracy by formalising in the lather inclusion of citizens' assemblies and participatory decision-making - enabling political processes to be more accountable to community. IR(ii): Advocate for better representation of diverse perspectives in decision making (e.g. youth, POC, First Nations, migrant and socially disadvantaged communities).	as a critical aspect of increasing Sydney's food security. 2R(ii): Advocate for the financial disincentivisation of house hoarding	3R(i): Expand the metrics and indicators that define 'success' beyond purely economic growth. 3R(ii): Foster greater knowledge sharing and collaboration across industry alliances for strategically aligned outcomes. 3R(iii): Advocate for state and federal governments to provide incentives for businesses to move to circular economy practices.	4R(i): Enable investment to flow in ways that helps young people and community leaders operationalise responses to problems in their own communities. 4R(ii): Change the rules governing fiduciary duty for superannuation trustees, in order to genuinely have an obligation to invest for the long-term. 4R(iii): Change assessment frameworks and decision-making processes to better reflect the need for portfolios of connected investments, to enable mutually reinforcing initiatives on the ground.	5R(i): Better connect innovators & lawyers to raise legal literacy, 'democratise the law' and make it more accessible. 5R(ii): Identify and advocate to change legislative, policy & regulatory barriers that inhibit economic innovation and place-based outcomes. 5R(iii): Work with change-makers in government to demonstrate and bridge the gap between policy & action-on-the-ground.	6R(i): Provide 'safe & inclusive' spaces for robust debate - enabling participants to get outside of their echo chambers. 6R(ii): Highlight the value of cross-sector collaboration by making visible its place-based impacts to community. 6R(iii): Create forums for cross-sector collaboration across scales (neighbourhood, city, state, national, global) - to better address dynamics of supply chains.
KEY OPPORTUNITY AREAS FOR ACTION→		Citizen participation, local scale initiatives	Food, housing, infrastructure	Markets, business, industry	Funding, investment	Government, law, policy, regulation	Working across silos
	NICHES [INNOVATIONS, NEW MODELS, LOCAL NETWORKS]	IN(i): Establish accountable governance processes (eg. participatory budgeting, citizens' assemblies) to rebuild trust in democratic institutions. IN(ii): Better connect and increase the visibility of inspiring local initiatives across Greater Sydney, b instigating a 'portfolio' approach to transition at the city-scale. IN(iii): Catalyse and strengthen impactful alliances between local initiatives and corporations to unlock collective potential.	economy that is both resilient and regenerative.	3N(i): Foster trusted, cooperative relationships across local supply chains to model circular business across the system. 3N(ii): Increase business confidence and reduce the perceived risk by showcasing the opportunities of being a 'first-mover' in regenerative or circular business. 3N(iii): Enable development and uptake of new business practices that are holistically able to account for social and ecological 'externalities'.	4N(i): Create an economic incentive for private landholders so that they are encouraged to restore ecologies located on private property. 4N(ii): Develop new models of long-term systemic investment, (including the new structures and valuation methods they require), in order to enable portfolios of connected projects.	5N(i): Enable politics to be more accountable to both public servants and communities by introducing mechanisms such as citizens' juries and participatory budgeting. 5N(ii): Create safe and experimental spaces where people can innovate on new governmental and institutional structures that push the boundaries.	6N(i): Create structures that allow public and private entities to collaborate across traditional silos, and to share their learnings. 6N(ii): Build a coalition of researchers working across regenerative initiatives in Greater Sydney. 6N(iii): Harness pilots and demonstrators as a way to experiment with new initiatives, alliances and governance processes, and in doing so create momentum for change. 6N(iv): Enable people to have actual physical experiences of what doughnut economics looks and feels like, including through pilots.
	DEEP ROOTS [GRASSROOTS, MOVEMENTS, PERSONAL CHANGE]	creating space for healthy debate and D(ii): Engage with the diverse lived expense.	nal approach to strategic economic planning, by cross traditional cultural echo chambers. riences of Greater Sydney communities to natised by fires, floods, pandemic, cost of living	D(iii): Create spaces conducive to developing the challenges involved with changing	deep listening practices, and to addressing the system whilst still living in the system.		



PHASE SHIFT

A pivot from theory to action:

From building the movement and exploring theoretical foundations → to creating place-based and cross-sector action



OUR MISSION

POTENTIAL SYSTEM LEVEL	NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTIVATIONS Thriving neighbourhoods with active citizens and localised economies working together to generate community wealth and restore ecological health. NICHES, ROOTS	Connected, well-funded clusters of ambitious, cross-sector pilot initiatives that tangibly shift the city's perception of what's possible. LANDSCAPE, REGIME, NICHES	Integrated, comprehensive, place-centred indicators that can be used to assess progress to guide policymaking in resilient city planning. LANDSCAPE, REGIME
ACTIVITIES	Recruit at least 3 councils to champion the activation of community wealth and ecological health within municipalities across Sydney. Activate 2-5 neighbourhoods across Sydney to adapt the Sydney Doughnut in their neighbourhoods, drawing from DEAL's methodology and toolsets, and supported by Regen Sydney. Develop and trial place-based funding frameworks to finance community leadership in economic localisation. Foster the development of creative and participatory community forums. Nurture capacity for residents, business and council to collaborate on shared vision and action. Develop a playbook for localisation to inspire and support other areas of Greater Sydney - and beyond - to trial their own. Share learnings. Build the capacity of neighbourhoods to tell and share their stories of regeneration, to create a groundswell of local ambition.	Collectively define and prioritise challenge areas with the greatest potential to get Sydney inside the 'safe & just space'. Define an initial 'demonstrator' initiative that makes the promise of a Sydney Doughnut tangible through key prioritised areas of action, e.g. food, participation, housing, waterways. Foster the collaborative courage of Sydney. Nurture bold alliances (public-private) & enhance the collaborative capacity and aspiration of the city's changemakers. Develop and trial collaborative funding frameworks to finance portfolios of initiatives with a shared mission (systemic funding). Work together to create traction and raise ambition for other initiatives. Share learnings. Build the capacity of the city to tell and share stories of regeneration to shift the narrative of what's possible for Sydney.	Form a 'Living Lab' research space to conduct data-oriented collaborative research. Foster the development of holistic indicators to measure progress at the city-scale - helping to form a 'Doughnut Dashboard'. Test and iterate through Neighbourhood Activations and City-Scale Pilots. Develop a detailed City Portrait of Greater Sydney. Use holistic indicators to create a snapshot of Sydney's progress and identify areas of action. Grow an alliance of organisations who are engaged in collaborating through the Regen Sydney network. Share learnings. Build the capacity of the researchers to tell and share stories of regeneration to catalyse holistic policy-making responses.
OUTCOMES	 More resilient and sustainable communities across Greater Sydney Local cultures of active citizenship Localised 'Doughnuts' grounded in place Shareable 'playbook' for localisation 	 Novel cross-sector alliances and partnerships working together to improve community wellbeing, resilience and ecological health Tangible showcases of initiatives that bring to life what regenerative and distributive economies look & feel like. Establishment of systemic funding frameworks Testable prototypes across Greater Sydney 6-24 MONTHS 	 Holistic indicators to inform a 'Doughnut Dashboard' Data-oriented 'City Portrait' reflecting Sydney's current status Active network of researchers Guidance and advocacy for policy-making
ACTORS	 Community leaders & changemakers Local businesses Local governments 	 Corporates, NGOs, start-ups & social enterprises Local and state governments Subject matter experts 	 Ecological economics researchers Policy-makers and subject matter experts Neighbourhood Activation and City-Scale Pilot participants
EXAMPLES	Civic Square: Birmingham Neighbourhood Doughnut; Village Zero	Regen Melbourne: Swimmable Birrarung, Participatory Melbourne	City of Amsterdam: City Portrait; Regen Melbourne: Measuring What Matters

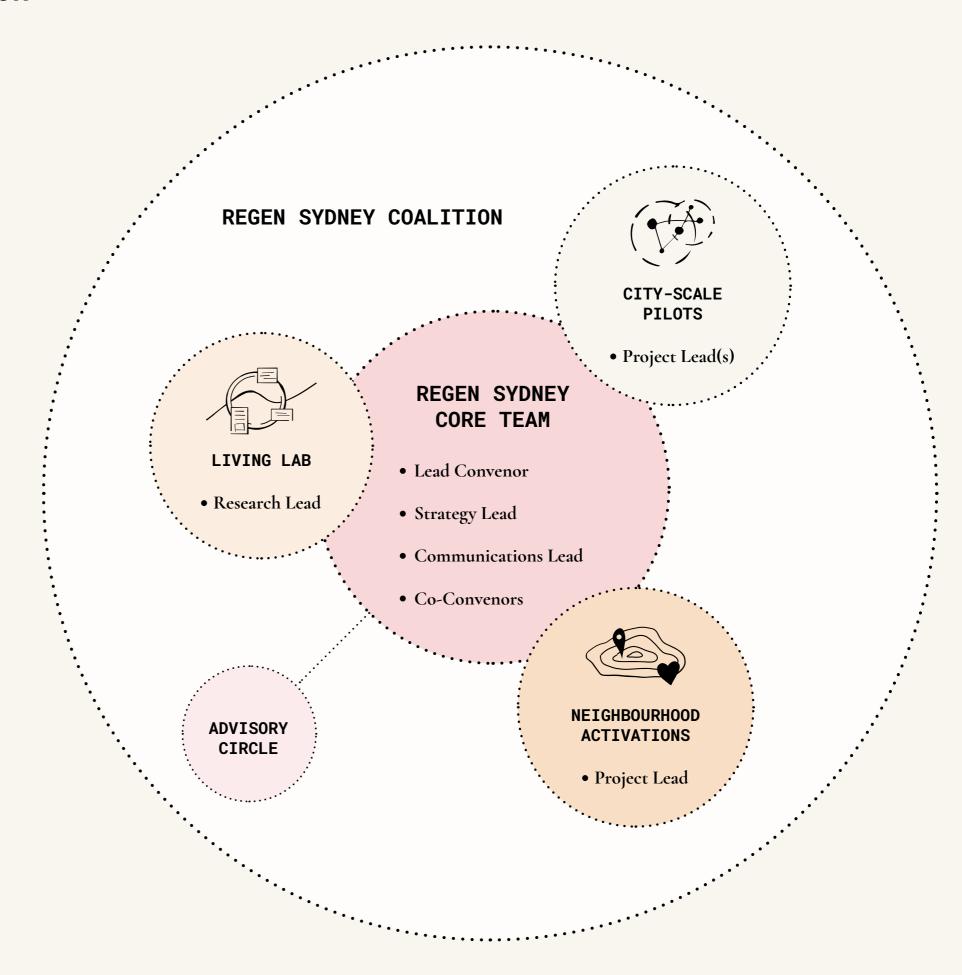
A COALITION TO MOBILISE ACTION

Delivering these three streams of activites, requires a dedicated and highly coordinated team.

Learning from allies who are a step ahead of us in this work (e.g. Regen Melbourne & Civic Square), we are seeking backbone funding to resource our core team of 4 (2 x FTE + 2 x 0.6 FTE), with additional Project Leads attached to each work stream.

Together, these bodies of work will continue to amplify the network of individuals and organisations that make up the Regen Sydney network. Guided by the compass of our Sydney Doughnut, this portfolio will catalyse real action towards activating a safe and just city on the ground.

Regen Sydney is in the process of setting up our organisational model and becoming an incorporated association.



CORE TEAM FUNCTIONS

The core team roles identified on the previous page would together cover the following backbone functions:

Convening & Alliance Building

- Develop and communicate Regen Sydney's vision & strategy;
- Uphold values and integrity of the vision of Regen Sydney;
- Convene an Advisory Circle to guide the strategy;
- Work with strategic partners & funders to resource backbone function;
- Build a coalition of partners and allies to activate the demonstrator initiatives;
- Broker connections across government partners and strategic allies to advocate for policy reform;

Systemic Design

- Develop and communicate Theory of Change (situating it in systemic context);
- Foster and convene unusual alliances across sectors and scales to catalyse City-Scale Pilots and Neighbourhood Activations;
- Design and facilitate collaborative forums for creative, collective action, ensuring diverse and representational participation;
- Conduct synthesis and visualsensemaking of action research;
- Portray the 'bigger picture' evaluate how and where change is happening.

Collaborative Research

- Develop and manage a Regen Sydney
 Living Lab to conduct action research,
 build industry and research partnerships
 and deliver knowledge translation;
- Grow and manage an alliance of research institutions & universities;
- Lead the development of a City Portrait, utilising and connecting data from the City-Scale Pilots and Neighbourhood Activations;
- Test and build the City Portrait to measure progress in Greater Sydney.

Community Weaving

- Nurture the Regen Sydney network to spark unusual and impactful alliances among members and related organisations;
- Amplify the regenerative activities that are already happening across our city; build storytelling capacity of members, curate and share inspiring stories from across the network;
- Event organising to support the design and production of Regen Sydney's forums and gatherings, large and small, virtual and in the real world;
- Establish and manage social platforms to harness community contribution and drive member engagement.





NEGEN STENET

THE ASK

We're seeking funding from a select group of anchor partners to help us deliver this vision. Could this be you?

Backbone funding requirement: \$400,000 per year (2023-25)

This will resource the convening function, research capability, project development, alliance building, participatory engagement and network communications.

Join the Regen Sydney journey.

PARTNER

- Are you a Local Council? Partner with us for Neighbourhood Activations
- Are you a research institute?

 Collaborate with us to activate the Living Lab
- Are you an organisation? Join the Regen Sydney alliance

FUND

- Fund our backbone functions
- Open up access to philanthropic networks
- Contribute to grant application writing

JOIN

- Apply for roles on the core team
- Apply for roles leading the action areas
- Join the advisory circle

FOLLOW

- Sign up for news
- Attend events
- Amplify the network

15

ABOUT

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PANGOLIN ASSOCIATES



Peter Dowson
DIGITAL STORYTELLERS

ILLUSTRATIONS



CONTACT

For more information please visit our website:

https://regen.sydney/

June 2023





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Regen Sydney respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians and the living cultures of the lands and waters that make up the place we now call Greater Sydney. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and generations yet to come. We offer deep gratitude to Aboriginal peoples who continue to care for Country after countless generations, and acknowledge that their sovereignty was never ceded.

We stand in solidarity with those who share the journey of reparation to address the ongoing injustices and devastation of colonialism in communities across Greater Sydney and beyond.

We are proud to celebrate the continuing contributions that Aboriginal people make to the life of this city. There can be no regenerative Sydney without regenerating Culture.

