

BAPS

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Proposed Hindu Temple at
230 Aldington Rd, Kemps
Creek



**Report Title: Social Impact Assessment, Proposed
Hindu Temple at 230 Aldington Rd, Kemps Creek**

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Executive summary

Cred Consulting is an independent social planning consultancy based in Sydney. Cred was engaged by BAPS to prepare a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) looking at the potential social impacts of a proposed development at 230 Aldington Road, Kemps Creek (the subject site). The proposal is for a Hindu Temple with landscaped area, assembly hall, dining hall, temple (Mandir) and a monk's residence. This report responds to pre-lodgement advice from Penrith City Council requiring a Social Impact Assessment for the proposed development, and has been completed in accordance with requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 Sec 79C (1), and Penrith City Council's Development Control Plan 2014 Social Impact Requirements.

The proposal

The proposal is for a Mandir (Hindu Temple) with landscaping including playgrounds, assembly hall, dining hall, and monk's residence, in the Hindu architectural tradition:

- The Mandir is expected to be used for meditation and prayer between 7am to 11:30am and 4pm to 7pm weekdays.
- The assembly hall is anticipated to be used for congregations on Sundays between 4:30pm to 6:30pm.
- The community kitchen and dining hall is anticipated to be used for gatherings in conjunction with congregations in the assembly hall. The hall will also be used for programs e.g. recreation programs for young people, yoga, children's programs.
- The landscaping area includes play spaces, a large grassed kickabout area, seating and planting. The total usable landscaped area is approx. 45,000m².

The site is located in the suburb of Kemps Creek in the Penrith City Council Local Government Area (LGA), in a rural area close to motorways but isolated from public transport. The subject site is located close to the proposed Western Sydney Airport at Badgerys Creek, in the Western Sydney Priority Growth Area, close to the proposed M12 motorway and Western Sydney Employment Area.

Strategic context

Penrith City Council's planning documents (Penrith City Strategy, Community Plan 2017, and Recreation and Cultural Strategy 2004) identify a need for "accessible, culturally appropriate and inclusive services and opportunities to participate in community life", including "events and festivals that provide people with a chance to meet and strengthen social connections", "events that showcase the different cultures of Penrith", "outdoor entertainment spaces for community events, festivals and performances", "recreation opportunities for families and young children, and for young people", improved access to recreation and cultural programs for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and promotion and facilitation of recreation and cultural activities that assist Council's tourism objectives.

Community profile

- The Kemps Creek and Penrith City Council Local Government Area (The LGA) community profile shows a low-density population that is increasing and aging.
- Hinduism is a growing religion in Greater Sydney and in the Penrith City LGA. The growth of the Hindu speaking population, population born in India, and people identifying their religion as Hindu, has increased more rapidly in the Penrith City LGA than population growth between 2011 and 2016.

Social infrastructure needs

While there are a number of Hindu temples in Sydney, there are currently no Hindu temples in Penrith City LGA to cater to the rapidly growing population. There is a growing Hindu population in Penrith City LGA and surrounding areas (e.g. Liverpool LGA) and currently this population has to travel significant distances to visit a temple of their faith.

The proposed development does not indicate demand for new social infrastructure in Kemps Creek.

Case studies

The case studies of similar and prominent facilities in and around Sydney demonstrate that:

- Iconic religious buildings have been recognised as tourist attractions that support the local economy
- Prominent buildings in traditional architectural styles can support the touristic appeal of religious buildings and inspire curiosity in other cultures and religions
- Beautiful landscaping can also support tourism outcomes
- Temples including Hindu temples have a role in cross-cultural education, for example through tours, visitors' centres, festival and events
- Temples also support community development amongst their congregations, with volunteering and education programs including English and other language classes, technology classes, youth programs, and life education programs, and
- Temples also act as a meeting place for their community, for example informal groups of older people and young mothers get together at the existing BAPS temple in Rosehill.

Social impacts and mitigation measures

The table below provides a summary of the key impacts and proposed mitigation/enhancement measures.

Social impact	Type	Proposed mitigation/enhancement measure
Improved access to religious and cultural facilities for the growing and underserved population Hindu population in the Penrith City LGA and surrounding areas.	Positive	None required.

Social impact	Type	Proposed mitigation/enhancement measure
New community facility providing a meeting place for the community, and recreation and cultural programs including programs for young people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse groups.	Positive	None required.
<p>New landscaped area (approx. 45,000m²) with play spaces, kickabout area, seating and planting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing meeting places for users of the facilities, and Providing green space in an area of future development (industrial and residential) 	Positive	Ensure that the design of the landscaped area is inviting and open to the general community to encourage use by future local residents and workers.
Opportunity for improved cross-cultural connections and understanding including through festivals and education.	Positive	<p>Opportunity to work with schools to promote the facility for education e.g. for tours for local schools.</p> <p>Promote major events and festivals to the general community.</p>
Support community development in the area through volunteering and education programs run from the temple.	Positive	None required.
Loss of agricultural land, however the site is not currently used for food production and is located in an area proposed for future residential and industrial development (Western Sydney Priority Growth Area).	Neutral	None required.

Social impact	Type	Proposed mitigation/enhancement measure
New community facility however not accessible by public or active transport.	Negative	<p>Provide buses for weekly services and for young people's programs (e.g. to/from train stations particularly in the Blacktown area).</p> <p>Opportunity to support casual use of the facility (e.g. by informal groups of older people meeting up) through a shuttle bus service.</p> <p>As per the Traffic Impact Assessment, provide up to eleven buses to the facility on major event days.</p>
Large community facility with high numbers of users located close to existing residences.	Negative	<p>As per the Acoustic Assessment, windows to the Mandir and Sabha Hall/dining and activity hall must be kept closed to reduce noise impact during special events, chanting and music performances.</p> <p>Provide a buffer from adjoining properties to soften the proposed development and improve visual aspect for neighbours.</p>

Conclusion

The proposed development provides a number of positive social impacts for the Penrith City LGA community and will support Council in meeting identified needs including for cultural events and festivals, and improved access to recreation and cultural programs for people from CALD backgrounds. Key positive social impacts resulting from the proposed development are: improved access to religious and cultural facilities for the growing and underserved Hindu population in the Penrith City LGA and surrounding areas; a new community facility providing a meeting place and programs for people from culturally and linguistically diverse groups; and a large new landscaped area. Case studies of similar facilities suggest that the proposed development can also encourage cross-cultural education and understanding, and support community development through volunteering programs. There are opportunities to support these positive social impacts through:

- Working with local schools to promote the facility as an education resource
- Providing tours of the facility and a visitor information, and working with Council to promote the facility as a tourist attraction, and
- Promoting major events and festivals to the general community.

While the proposed development provides a new community facility, it is not accessible by public or active transport. Buses will be provided on major event days, however buses should also be provided for weekly services and for young people's programs (e.g. to/from train stations). There is an opportunity to support casual use of the facility through a bus service outside of peak hours (e.g. for informal groups of older people using the facility as a meeting place).

To minimise the impact of the proposed development on residential neighbours, the windows to the Mandir and halls must be kept closed to reduce noise impact during special events, chanting and music performances (as per the Acoustic Assessment). A buffer should be provided from adjoining properties to soften the proposed development and improve visual aspect for neighbours.

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

Cred Consulting is an independent social planning consultancy based in Sydney. Cred was engaged by BAPS to prepare a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) looking at the potential social impacts of a proposed Hindu Temple at 230 Aldington Road, Kemps Creek (the subject site). The proposal is for a Hindu Temple with landscaped area, assembly hall, dining hall, temple (Mandir) and a monk's residence.

Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) is a socio- spiritual Hindu organization with centres in all major cities of Australia, and a worldwide network of over 3,850 centres. One BAPS centre is located in Rosehill, within the City of Parramatta Council. The centre was opened in 2002 and has around 600 patrons. BAPS aims to build a second facility in Penrith so that patrons from the area can more easily attend the congregations and events. The proposed facility will be similar to the current facility in Rosehill, with the addition of a traditional Mandir (temple).

This report responds to pre-lodgement advice from Penrith City Council requiring a Social Impact Assessment for the proposed development. This report also reviews similar facilities within Sydney and likely demand for the proposed facility as well as the community uses it will provide. It provides an assessment of the likely social impacts and makes recommendations on how the development can achieve social sustainability, and deliver public benefits for the broader LGA. Social sustainability can be broadly defined as the maintenance and improvement of well-being for both current and future generations.

1.2. What is Social Impact Assessment?

Social Impact Assessment (SIA) is a method for predicting and assessing the social consequences of a proposed action or initiative, on affected groups of people and on their way of life, life chances, health, culture, and capacity to sustain these¹. This SIA has been completed in accordance with requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 Sec 79C(1) and the Planning Institute of Australia's Social Impact Position Statement.

Penrith City Council requires a Social Impact Assessment "for all major development types which are likely to have a significant social impact on the existing community". As required by the Penrith City Council DCP, this SIA identifies the community; identifies the needs; identifies the issues; and develops recommendations and mitigating measures.

¹ Planning Institute of NSW, SIA National Position Statement, June 2009

1.3. Methodology

This study has been undertaken using the following methodology:

- Review of local planning and policy context and implication
- Site visit and place audit
- Review of local planning and policy context and implications
- Demographic analysis of Kemps Creek and the Penrith City Council LGA
- Review of profile of patrons who will use the facilities including geographical reach of patrons
- Audit and mapping of social infrastructure and services within 1km of the site and within the suburb of Kemps Creek
- Broader analysis of similar facilities within South Western Sydney and likely demand for the proposed facility as well as the community uses it will provide
- Review of relevant technical studies including traffic and noise
- Analysis of social impacts in accordance with PIA Policy Statement and Penrith City Council DCP, and
- Recommendation of mitigation measures to address identified impacts.

2. Proposed development

2.1. The site context

The subject site is 230 Aldington Road, Kemps Creek and has a total area of approximately 10.27ha (Figure 1).

Figure 1 Location of proposed development site at 230 Kemps Creek



The site is located in the suburb of Kemps Creek in the Penrith City Council Local Government Area (LGA). The site is located in a rural area, close to the M4 and M7 motorways. The nearest train station is Mt Druitt, located 9.3km from the site. Leppington Railway Station is 11.5km from the site. The site is currently agricultural, with neighbouring small farms and greenhouses. The subject site is located close to the proposed Western Sydney Airport at Badgerys Creek, in the Western Sydney Priority Growth Area, close to the proposed M12 motorway and Western Sydney Employment Area.



Existing waterway on site.



Existing driveway at the Northern edge of the site, showing neighbouring property with greenhouses.



Neighbouring property to the South.



Neighbouring property to the North.



View from the Eastern edge of the property towards subdivision.



View from site to the West.

2.2. Site observations

- There are impressive views to the Blue Mountains to the West.
- The site is quite steep.
- Neighbouring properties have residential buildings located close to the edge of the site.
- The site is in a currently rural area, however the site is not currently used for agriculture.

2.3. Proposed development

The proposal is for a Mandir (Hindu Temple) with landscaping including playgrounds, assembly hall, dining hall, and monk's residence, in the Hindu architectural tradition.

- The Mandir is expected to be used for meditation and prayer between 7am to 11:30am and 4pm to 7pm weekdays. Currently, around 40-50 individuals are expected to participate separately throughout the day on weekdays and Saturdays for prayer or meditation.
- The assembly hall is anticipated to be used for congregations on Sundays between 2pm to 6:30pm. Around 600 individuals are expected to attend the congregation.
- The community kitchen and dining hall is anticipated to be used for gatherings in conjunction with congregations in the assembly hall. The hall will also be used for programs e.g. recreation programs for young people, yoga, children's programs
- The monk's residence includes accommodation for 8 monks.
- The landscaping area includes play spaces, a large grassed kickabout area, seating and planting. The total usable landscaped area is approx. 45,000m².
- The library and bookstore will stock religious books for loan and purchase.
- Office space for charity functions of the congregation

3. Strategic context

This section provides a summary of existing plans, policies and strategies at Commonwealth, NSW and local government levels that will influence planning in Kemps Creek.

Commonwealth

Western Sydney Airport, Australian Government Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

The Western Sydney Airport project is one of the largest infrastructure projects Australia has seen in recent years, and would be the first major greenfield airport development in decades. This project will bring significant change to the surrounding area, including the site of the proposed development. Infrastructure improvements associated with the airport include the 10-year Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan (a series of road projects to connect the Western Sydney Airport to Sydney's road network), and possible new rail links (the Joint Scoping Study on Western Sydney rail needs will consider the best options for future rail investment to service both the airport and the Western Sydney region).

Figure 2 (overpage) shows the location of the proposed development in relation to Western Sydney Airport and associated infrastructure.

NSW government

Western Sydney Employment Area, NSW Department of Planning and Environment

The New South Wales Government established the Western Sydney Employment Area to provide businesses in the region with land for industry and employment, including transport and logistics, warehousing and office space. The Western Sydney Employment Area will give these businesses access to roads and utility services and is close to the planned new airport at Badgerys Creek.

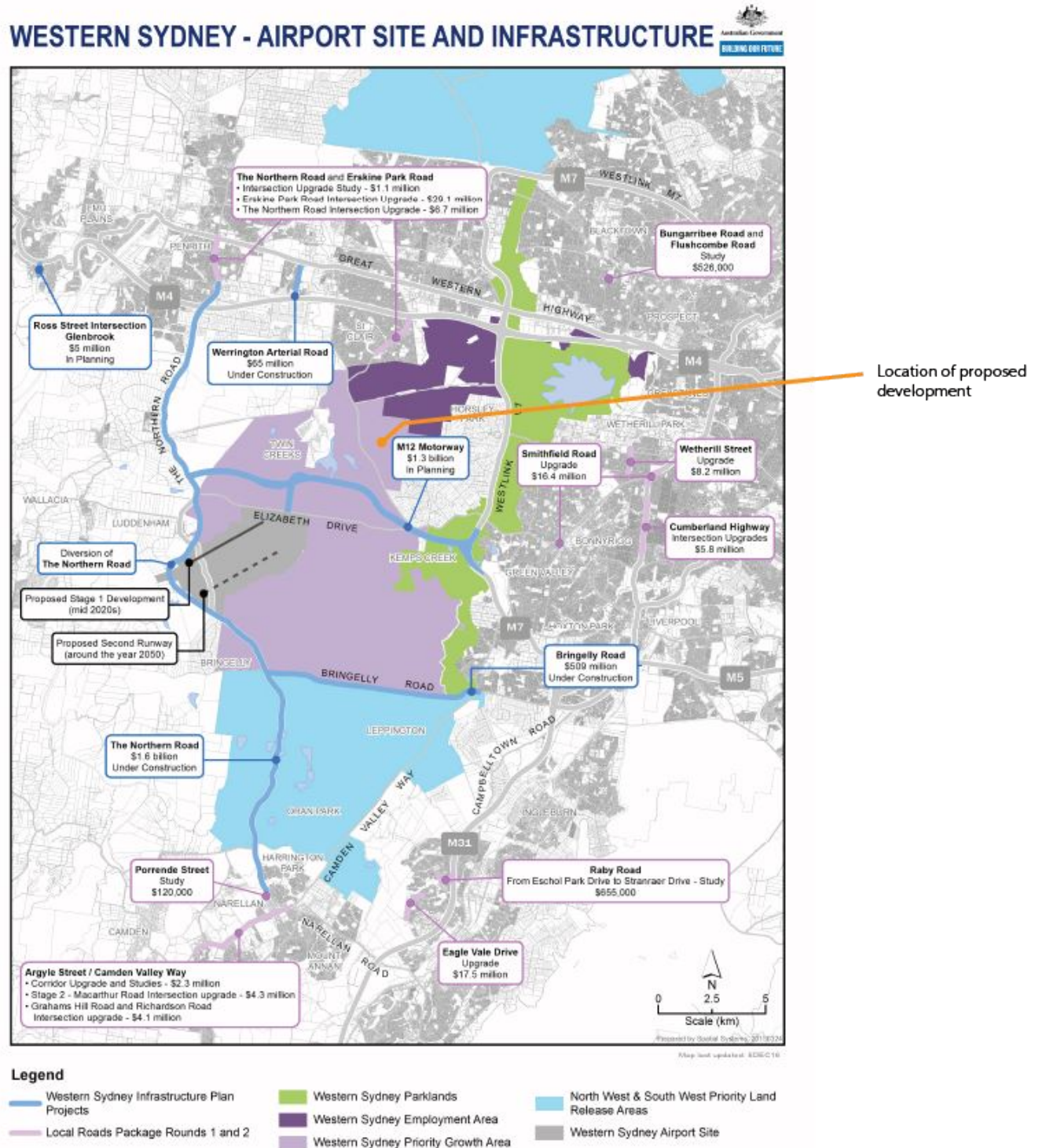
The proposed development is located to the south of the Western Sydney Employment Area.

Western Sydney Priority Growth Area, NSW Department of Planning and Environment

The Western Sydney Priority Growth Area will guide new infrastructure investment, identify new homes and jobs close to transport, and coordinate services in the area. The Department is currently working with Liverpool City Council and Penrith City Council to prepare a draft Land Use and Infrastructure Strategy. This will guide new infrastructure investment, identify new homes and jobs close to transport, and coordinate services in the area. In particular, the study will look at how to better connect new suburbs with the planned second Sydney airport and the regional cities of Penrith and Liverpool. It will also include planning and funding of essential infrastructure and services.

The proposed development is located within the Western Sydney Priority Growth Area.

Figure 2 Location of proposed development in relation to Western Sydney Airport, Western Sydney Priority Growth Area, Western Sydney Employment Area, and associated new infrastructure



Penrith City Council

Penrith City Strategy

The City Strategy seeks to help build a sustainable future for Penrith City Council and community, by examining the key issues over the next 10-20 years and outlining how Council will respond. The City Strategy identifies that "Communities are strengthened through the availability of accessible, culturally appropriate and inclusive services and opportunities to participate in community life".

Community Plan, 2017

The Community Plan outlines a community vision for Penrith, and strategies and measures for Council and the community to work towards, in 7 outcome areas identified as important to the local community. Under the outcome area "We are Healthy and Share Strong Community Spirit" two strategies are particularly relevant to this SIA:

- Strategy 6.2. "Help building resilient, inclusive communities"
 - Council will support community organisations providing direct services or support to the different groups in our community
 - (Council will) Run events and festivals that provide people with a chance to meet and strengthen social connections.
- Strategy 6.3. "Enhance the cultural vitality of the City"
 - (Council will) continue to run and encourage events that showcase the different cultures of Penrith and the skills of our residents.

Recreation and Cultural Strategy, 2004

Penrith City Council is currently developing a Sport, Recreation, Play and Open Space Strategy. The previous strategy, which also looked at community facilities, was completed in 2004. Key priorities for community facilities identified by the study with regard to provision of recreation and cultural facilities were:

- Facilities should be easily accessible by public transport, pedestrian pathways and private vehicle ensuring maximum access
- Provide new recreation and cultural facilities that are undersupplied in the Penrith Local Government Area
 - Provide outdoor entertainment spaces for community events, festivals and performances. Research indicated demand for community events and festivals, and a lack of performance spaces including outdoor space for community events and festivals
 - Recreation opportunities for families and young children, and for young people
- Facilitate diverse recreational and cultural program development
 - Focus groups revealed that people from cultural and linguistically diverse groups had limited access to recreation and cultural programs.
 - Identify recreation and cultural activities that assist Council's tourism objectives, and assist in the promotion and facilitation of these activities.

4. Pre- and post-development community profile

This section identifies the community anticipated to use and/or be impacted by the proposed development.

4.1. Kemps Creek and Penrith City Council LGA community

The Kemps Creek and Penrith City Council Local Government Area (The LGA) community profile shows a low density population that is increasing and aging. The growth of the Hindu speaking population, population born in India, and people identifying their religion as Hindu, has increased more rapidly than population growth between 2011 and 2016.

Community profile	Mount Vernon - Kemps Creek - Badgerys Creek	Penrith City Council LGA	Commentary on change from 2011
Total Population	1,820 people	196,066 people	Increase of 7% or 123 people in Kemps Creek (2011 = 1,697 people) Slight increase of 10% or 17,601 people in the LGA (2011 = 178,465 people)
Population density	0.50 persons per ha	4.84 persons per ha	Slight increase in both Kemps Creek (2011 = 0.46) and the LGA (2011 = 4.41)
Median age	42 years	34 years	Significant increase in Kemps Creek from 39 years. No change in the LGA.
Under 18 years	387 people, 21.3% of population	48,985 people, 25% of population	Increase of 5% or 2,404 people in the LGA (2011 = 46,581 people)
Over 65 years	351 people, 19.3% of population	22,917 people, 11.7% of population	Significant increase of 33% or +7,656 people in the LGA (2011 = 15,261 people)

Community profile	Mount Vernon - Kemps Creek - Badgerys Creek	Penrith City Council LGA	Commentary on change from 2011
Population born in India	9 people, 0.5% of population	3,763 people, 1.9% of population	Significant increase of 67% or +1,509 people in the LGA (2011 = 2,254)
People speaking Hindi at home	<0.1%	1,747 people, 0.9% of population	Significant increase of 25% or +354 people in the LGA (2011 = 1,393 people)
Hindu population	<0.1%	3,476 people, 1.8% of population	Significant increase of 61% or +1,313 people in the LGA (2011 = 2,163 people)
Main industry sector of resident's employment (2011 data)	Construction (20%)	Manufacturing (11.8%)	N/A
# of people employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing	N/A	807 people, 1.1% of jobs in Penrith	Increase of +226 jobs or 34% from 2011

4.2. BAPS community

- Currently, the BAPS temple in Rosehill has around 600 patrons.
- The BAPS organisation has identified that there are many patrons in the growing Penrith, Liverpool and Blacktown Hindu population that have to travel to the existing Rosehill Temple, or do not attend because of travel time
- Around 600 people are expected to attend the new temple, with around 700-800 people attending on festival days (7 per year).

4.3. Hinduism in Sydney

The fastest growing religion in Greater Sydney

- At 3.5% of the population, Hinduism is the 5th most common religion in Greater Sydney, after Catholicism, Anglican, Islam and Buddhism.
- Hinduism grew by 56,827 people from the 2011 census, or a 50% increase making it the fastest growing religion in Greater Sydney by number of followers and third fastest growing religion after "Other Eastern Catholic " (+81%) and "Other Protestant " (+67%) by percentage increase.

Distribution by LGA

In the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils, the LGAs with the largest Hindu population are:

- Blacktown City Council (28,781 people, 8.5%)
- Parramatta Council (25,605 people, 11.3%), and
- Cumberland Council (22,025 people, 10.2%).

Overall, Blacktown City Council and Parramatta City Council have the fastest growing Hindu populations:

- Blacktown City Council (+11,380 people, 65%).
- Parramatta City Council (+9,503 people, 59%).

Penrith City Council has the second fastest growing Hindu population by percentage increase (+61% between 2011 and 2016).

Area	2016		2011		Change	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Penrith City	3,476	1.8	2,163	1.2	+1,313	61%
Blacktown City	28,781	8.5	17,401	5.8	+11,380	65%
Blue Mountains City	218	0.3	162	0.2	+56	35%
Cumberland	22,025	10.2	13,986	7.2	+8,038	57%
Fairfield City	1,473	0.7	1,343	0.7	+130	10%
Hawkesbury City	103	0.2	97	0.2	+6	6%
Liverpool City	10,090	4.9	8,761	4.9	+1,329	15%
Parramatta City	25,605	11.3	16,102	8.3	+9,503	59%
WSROC	91,771	6.0	60,015	4.4	+31,755	53%
Greater Sydney	170,161	3.5	113,334	2.6	+56,827	50%

Key suburbs

The suburbs in Greater Sydney with the largest Hindu populations are:

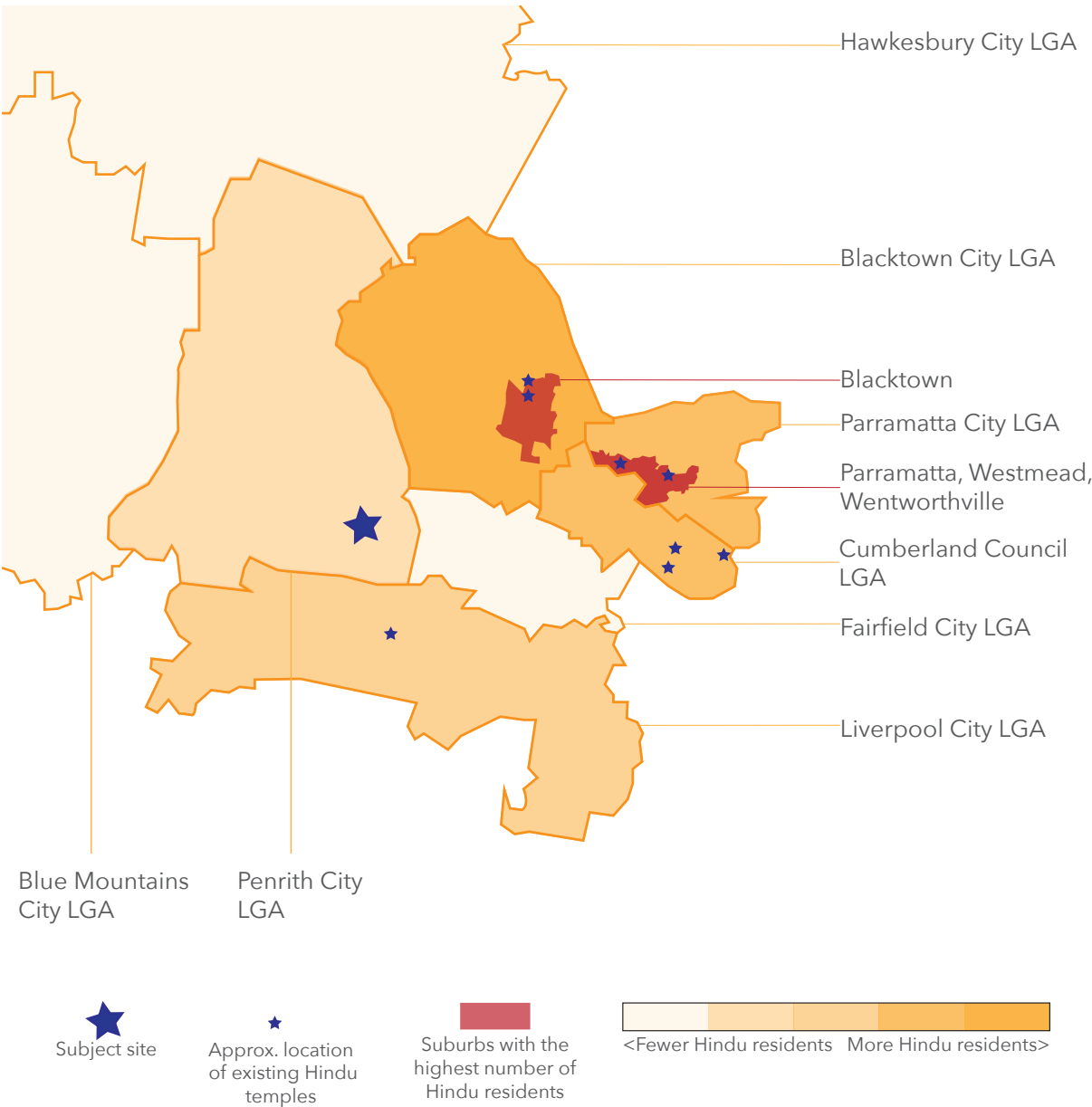
- Parramatta (7,352 people)
- Westmead (6,656 people)
- Blacktown (5,824 people)
- Strathfield (4,170 people), and
- Wentworthville (3,943 people).

The suburbs in Greater Sydney with the fastest growing Hindu populations are:

- Parramatta (+3,376 people)
- Blacktown (+2,225 people)
- Westmead (+1,998 people)
- Auburn (+1,558 people), and
- The Ponds (1,447 people).

Figure 3 (overpage) heat maps the Hindu population across the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils area.

Figure 3 Map of Hindu population across the WSROC



5. Social infrastructure needs

Existing social infrastructure

Existing social infrastructure in Kemps Creek includes:

- Three private/Catholic schools:
 - Trinity Primary School
 - Emmaus Catholic College
 - Mamre Anglican School
- One retirement village: Emmaus Retirement Village
- One child care centre: Little Smarties Early Learning Centre

Located within Kemps Creek suburb, but not with the Penrith City LGA, there is also:

- Kemps Creek Bowling Club
- One child care centre: The Grove Academy Kemps Creek (Child Care)
- One public school: Kemps Creek Public School
- One park: Bill Anderson Park, and
- The Czechoslovakian Country Club.

Need for social infrastructure resulting from the proposed development

As the proposed development does not increase the local residential population, there is no indicated demand for additional social infrastructure.

Hindu temples and community facilities

There are 12 Hindu temples in Sydney, of various deities². Figure 3 (Page 16) shows that while there are a number of Hindu temples in Sydney, there are currently no Hindu temples in Penrith City LGA to cater to the rapidly growing population. There is also a concentration of temples in Blacktown and Parramatta LGAs, which, while these areas have the largest Hindu populations, means that people from other areas including the Penrith LGA and Liverpool LGA have to travel significant distances to visit a temple of their faith.

² <http://www.india2australia.com/list-hindu-temples-sydney-nsw/>

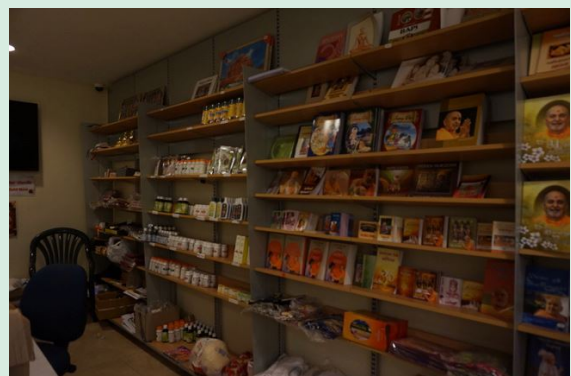
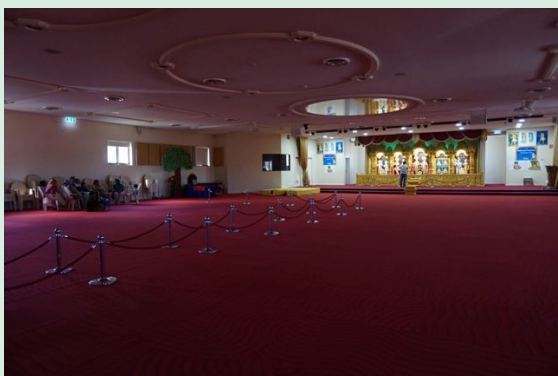
6. Case studies

This section details some case studies of similar or prominent facilities in and around Sydney, and details some of their social impact. These case studies demonstrate that:

- Iconic religious buildings have been recognised as tourist attractions that support the local economy
- Prominent buildings in traditional architectural styles can support the touristic appeal of religious buildings and inspire curiosity in other cultures and religions
- Beautiful landscaping can also support tourism outcomes
- Temples including Hindu temples have a role in cross-cultural education, for example through tours, visitors' centres, festival and events
- Temples also support community development amongst their congregations, with volunteering and education programs including English and other language classes, technology classes, youth programs, and life education programs, and
- Temples also act as a meeting place for their community, for example informal groups of older people and young mothers get together at the existing BAPS temple in Rosehill.

BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir 40 Eleanor Street Rosehill

This is the existing BAPS temple, located in a residential area at Rosehill. The facility includes an assembly hall, kitchen and dining/activity hall, small library and bookstore, small classrooms and storage spaces, and carpark. The congregation also has carparking at the local primary school on Sundays. The temple is open for meditation and prayer throughout the week. Children's programs, music groups and volunteer groups are run in the classrooms. Casual and informal groups, particularly of older people and young mothers with children, also meet at the temple throughout the week. There are about 600 individuals in the congregation currently.





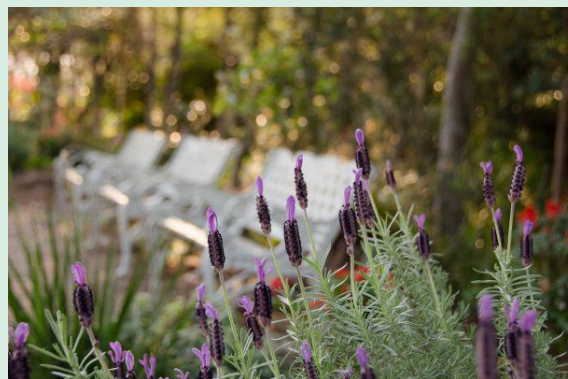
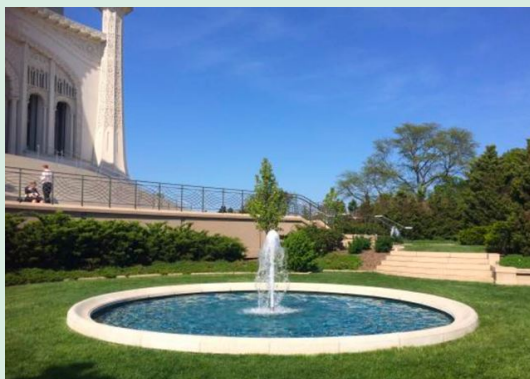
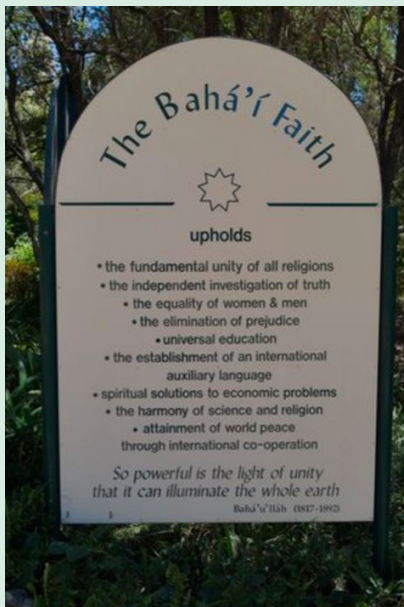
Baha'i House of Worship 173 Mona Vale Road, Ingleside

The Baha'i House of Worship is a prominent landmark on Sydney's Northern Beaches. Built in 1961, it is located in a rural/agricultural area close to National Park. The public is welcome to visit the Baha'i House of Worship to pray or reflect, enjoy the native gardens, or learn more about the Baha'i Faith. There are walking paths and a visitor centre. In addition to congregations and public visits, the House of Worship is also a location for children's programs, youth activities, and adult's meeting groups. Tripadvisor Reviews demonstrate the openness of the facility and the role it plays in educating about the Baha'i Faith:

"The architecture and the gardens also invite you to meditate and wonder. There was a gentleman the day we visited who was very helpful in explaining the spiritual significance of the architecture and the history of the religion."

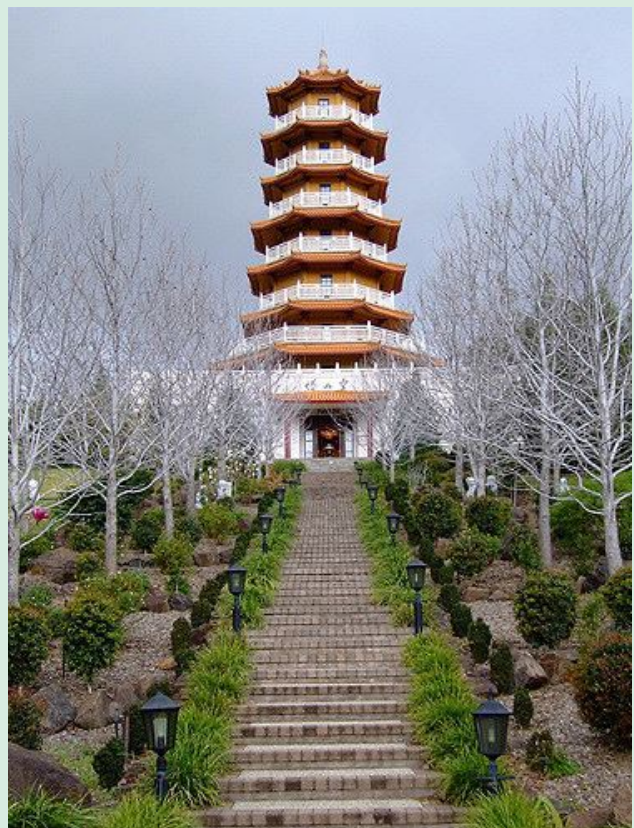
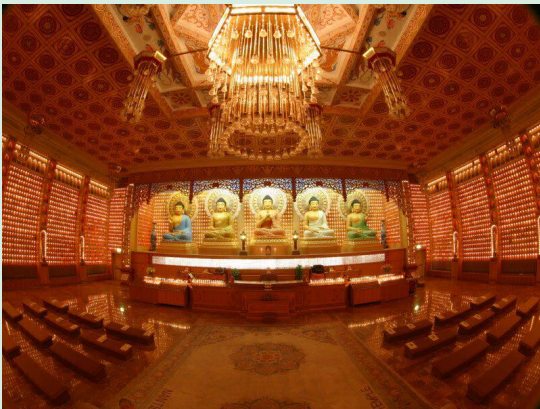
"[It] is a very peaceful and tranquil, stunning building set in beautiful grounds and the staff are all incredibly welcoming too. It has a very interesting visitor centre at the entrance and a book shop with an excellent selection of very interesting and varied books on a variety of faiths and interests."

"The temple itself and its surroundings are great to relax and have a fantastic quiet time with the family."



Nan Tien Temple 180 Berkeley Rd, Berkeley

The Nan Tien Temple opened in 1995 and attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors a year including for retreats³, with accommodation for 100 people. Visitors can “learn tai- chi, eat some delicious vegetarian food, or simply escape the hustle and bustle of the city”. The centre is advertised on TripAdvisor, Sydney Weekender, and Visit NSW and is supported by Wollongong Council as a major tourist attraction in the area. The centre has won awards for tourism and architecture. It is the largest Buddhist temple in the Southern Hemisphere. The temple also acts as an important cultural centre bridging different cultures, offering guided temple tours for schools, clubs and the public.



³ <http://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/628566/nan-tien-temple-uni-back-on-track/>

Auburn Gallipoli Mosque 15-19 Gelibolu Parade, Auburn

The first mosque on this site was opened in 1979, with construction of the present mosque completed in 1999. The mosque was designed based on the Classical Ottoman construct characterised by a central dome and minarets, and has been heritage listed. The building attracts about 800 worshippers every week. The present congregation is approximately 50% Turkish and the remaining 50% is made up of Muslims from diverse ethnic backgrounds. The Auburn Gallipoli Mosque plays an important role in cross-cultural connections, with tours through the mosque available every day except Fridays. The mosque is also a participant in the annual mosque Open Day.



Sri Venkateswara Temple 348 Temple Rd, Helensburgh

The construction of this temple started in 1978 on a "divine site" according to Vedic principles. The temple can be hired for weddings and other events, and regularly holds community events. Plans are underway to build a 400 seat Education Hall where functions can be held, with a library and meditation hall. The temple also provides canteen facilities from 10:00am to 4:00pm on weekends and public holidays. Tours of the temple are offered by the youth group.



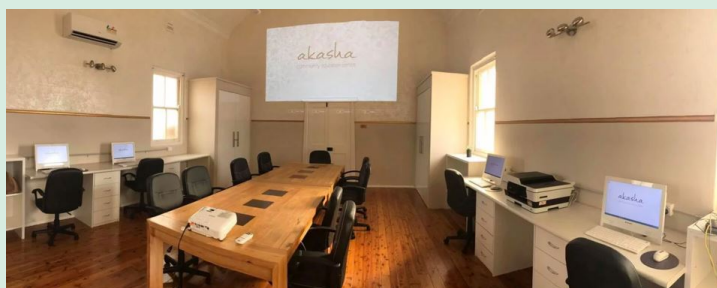
Shree Swaminarayan Mandir Unit 1, 44 Bessemer Street, Blacktown

The Shree Swaminarayan Mandir, located in an industrial area in Blacktown, hosts 9 major festivals per year, open to the community. These include the Holi festival which they celebrate with bonfires in the temple's front yard, rituals, and flinging colours and water on each other. For the kite-flying festival, Uttarayan, the organisation puts on events in local suburbs with kites and refreshment stores. More than 3,500 people have attended this festival.



Sydney Shakti Temple 271 Old Windsor Road, Old Toongabbie

Sydney Shakti Temple, Cultural and Educational Centre was established in Old Toongabbie in 2010, and we have been working to develop the premises and now have a permanent temple area with hawan facilities and Shiva temple area. The temple holds English, Tamil and Hindi language classes, and a Justice of the Peace service. The temple has a community centre where they have held free training and education programs including providing health information sessions, community training with the objective of ensuring that local members are better integrated with the overall Australian community, and technology education for older and CALD citizens. The facility can be hired by the local community.



7. Social impacts and mitigation measures

This section looks at the potential social impacts of the proposed development.

7.1. What are social impacts?

Impact assessment is a method for predicting and assessing the consequences of a proposed action or initiative before a decision is made. Social impact Assessment (SIA) refers to the assessment of the potential social consequences (positive, negative or neutral) of a proposed decision or action⁴. The International Association for Impact Assessment identifies social consequences or impacts as occurring in one or more of the following areas:

- People's way of life - how they live, work, play and interact with each other
- Their culture - their shared beliefs or customs
- Their community - its cohesion, stability, character, services and facilities
- The population - including increases or decreases in population numbers and population change
- Their political systems - the extent to which people are able to participate in decisions affecting them
- Their natural and built environment
- Their health and well-being
- Social equity and quality of life
- Access and mobility
- Their personal and property rights, and
- Their fears and aspirations and safety⁵.

7.2. Social sustainability

Quality of life is a key concept within social sustainability and can be defined as the degree to which societies provide living conditions conducive to health and well-being (physical, mental, social, spiritual). In addition to the social or human elements of social sustainability, there are a number of physical characteristics of social sustainability that are current best practice⁶:

- Safe and secure places
- Accessibility
- Provision of social infrastructure

⁴ Planning Institute of NSW, SIA National Position Statement, June 2009

⁵ International Principle for Social Impact Assessment p.2, May 2003

⁶ Based on the work of Jan Gehl

- Promotion of social interaction and inclusion through design
- Diverse housing options, and
- Preservation of local characteristics.
- Research from the University of Newcastle identified a number of key success factors⁷ in relation to achieving a socially sustainable community which are demonstrated through these developments:

Provision of social infrastructure: Public facilities for basic needs, open spaces to facilitate social gatherings and public interaction, and provision of accommodation for different socioeconomic groups.

Availability of job opportunities: Provision of employment and the working area offers a place for social contact and interaction, to improve the feeling of social well-being of citizens.

Accessibility: Aspirations to live, work and participate in leisure and cultural activities without travelling too far, and to be housed in areas of convenience to access certain places in daily lives, with the freedom of movement.

Good urban design: Pedestrian-oriented streetscapes, visual images of street furniture, and interconnectivity of street layouts.

Preservation of local characteristics: Preservation of heritage items, local characteristics and distinctiveness in existing community networks has to be conserved and public art and landscapes can be utilised for this.

Ability to fulfill psychological needs: Safety and security is an essential element in every neighbourhood. A sense of belonging is essential for a community.

Social impacts and proposed mitigation measures

Social impact	Type	Proposed mitigation/enhancement measure
Improved access to religious and cultural facilities for the growing and underserved Hindu population in the Penrith City LGA and surrounding areas.	Positive	None required.
New community facility providing a meeting place for the community, and recreation and cultural programs including programs for young people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse groups.	Positive	Consider providing hireable spaces for general community use.

⁷ Michael Y MAK and Clinton J Peakock, School of Architecture and Built Environment, The University of Newcastle Australia

Social impact	Type	Proposed mitigation/enhancement measure
<p>New landscaped area (approx. 45,000m²) with play spaces, kickabout area, seating and planting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing meeting places for users of the facilities Providing green space in an area of future development (industrial and residential). 	Positive	Ensure that the design of the landscaped area is inviting and open to the general community to encourage use by future local residents and workers.
Opportunity for improved cross-cultural connections and understanding including through festivals and education.	Positive	<p>Opportunity to work with schools to promote the facility for education e.g. for tours for local schools.</p> <p>Promote major events and festivals to the general community.</p>
Support community development in the area through volunteering and education programs run from the temple.	Positive	None required.
Loss of agricultural land, however the site is not currently used for food production and is located in an area proposed for future residential and industrial development (Western Sydney Priority Growth Area).	Neutral.	None required.
New community facility however not accessible by public or active transport.	Negative	<p>Provide buses for weekly services and for young people's programs (e.g. to/from train stations particularly in the Blacktown area).</p> <p>Opportunity to support casual use of the facility (e.g. by informal groups of older people meeting up) through a bus service.</p> <p>As per the Traffic Impact Assessment, provide up to eleven buses to the facility on major event days.</p>

Social impact	Type	Proposed mitigation/enhancement measure
Large community facility with high numbers of users located close to existing residences.	Negative	<p>As per the Acoustic Assessment, windows to the Mandir and Sabha Hall/dining and activity hall must be kept closed to reduce noise impact during special events, chanting and music performances.</p> <p>Provide a buffer from adjoining properties to soften the proposed development and improve visual aspect for neighbours.</p>

7.3. Conclusion

Cred Consulting is an independent social planning consultancy based in Sydney. Cred was engaged by BAPS to prepare a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) looking at the potential social impacts of a proposed development at 230 Aldington Road, Kemps Creek (the subject site). The proposal is for a Hindu temple with landscaped area, assembly hall, dining hall, temple (Mandir) and a monk's residence.

The proposed development provides a number of positive social impacts for the Penrith City LGA community and will support Council in meeting identified needs including for cultural events and festivals, and improved access to recreation and cultural programs for people from CALD backgrounds. Key positive social impacts resulting from the proposed development are: improved access to religious and cultural facilities for the growing and underserved Hindu population in the Penrith City LGA and surrounding areas; a new community facility providing a meeting place and programs for people from culturally and linguistically diverse groups; and a large new landscaped area. Case studies of similar facilities suggest that the proposed development can also encourage cross-cultural education and understanding, and support community development through volunteering programs. There are opportunities to support these positive social impacts through:

- Working with local schools to promote the facility as an education resource
- Providing tours of the facility and a visitor information, and working with Council to promote the facility as a tourist attraction, and
- Promoting major events and festivals to the general community.

While the proposed development provides a new community facility, it is not accessible by public or active transport. Buses will be provided on major event days, however buses should also be provided for weekly services and for young people's programs (e.g. to/from train stations). There is an opportunity to support casual use of the facility through a bus service outside of peak hours (e.g. for informal groups of older people using the facility as a meeting place).

To minimise the impact of the proposed development on residential neighbours, the windows to the Mandir and halls must be kept closed to reduce noise impact during special events, chanting and music performances (as per the Acoustic Assessment). A buffer should be provided from adjoining properties to soften the proposed development and improve visual aspect for neighbours.