

---

*The* **future of Hurstville City Council**

---

# PROPOSED COUNCIL AMALGAMATION

**HAVE YOUR SAY**



**Hurstville City Council**

# A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Hurstville City Council is potentially facing its biggest change in its proud 128-year history and we want our residents to have their say on its future.

In late 2014, the NSW Government launched 'Fit for the Future' – a blueprint for the future of Local Government. The initiative aims to encourage the majority of NSW councils to consider amalgamations with their neighbouring councils to ensure stronger local communities in the future. The NSW Government has proposed that, in line with the Final Report of the NSW Independent Local Government Review Panel (October 2013), Hurstville amalgamate with Canterbury City Council, Kogarah City Council and Rockdale City Council.

As part of the 'Fit for the Future' requirements, our Council must prepare a submission by 30 June 2015 to outline how it will become sustainable, provide effective and efficient services and have the scale and capacity needed to meet the needs of communities and partner with the NSW Government.

I am proud that Hurstville has a balanced budget and consistently provides outstanding services and facilities to our community. Additionally, in 2011, the Division of Local Government carried out a Promoting Better Practice Program which stated that Hurstville "is a well-managed and efficient local government authority" and has a "strategic and integrated approach to managing its finances and assets". Furthermore, in 2013, the NSW Treasury Corporation undertook a Financial Assessment and Benchmarking Report which revealed that Hurstville's "financial flexibility is sound" and that its capital expenditure is "well above the benchmark indicating its high level of spending on new capital works".

Here at Hurstville we already work collaboratively with our neighbouring councils on various joint projects and contracts. This is to ensure best practice is achieved and to secure superior outcomes for our community, whether it be financially or through more efficient and effective service levels.

In the 2015/16 financial year, our Council will meet all the 'Fit for the Future' criteria including sustainability; effective infrastructure and service management; and efficiency. The only criteria Council cannot meet is scale and capacity. In 2013, the Independent Local Government Review Panel recommended that any amalgamated council should have a population of more than 250,000 by 2016. If Hurstville amalgamates with Canterbury City Council, Kogarah City Council and Rockdale City Council, the estimated population will be more than 405,000 people by this date. It should be noted that the Independent Local Government Review Panel also recommended that a number of councils with less than half this population remain unchanged.

Although the NSW Government has stated there will be no forced amalgamations, it has also made it clear that "doing nothing is not an option". So we at Hurstville are now seeking community input on the future of our Council. I urge you to read this important document and consider and compare each council's information.

As the Mayor of Hurstville, I would like to hear your views on amalgamation and the best way forward for our wonderful City. Please take the time to fill out the enclosed community survey and return it to us by **Friday, 3 April 2015**. Alternatively, visit **[www.hurstville.nsw.gov.au/fitforthefuture](http://www.hurstville.nsw.gov.au/fitforthefuture)** and have your say. Rest assured, all your responses will be heard and form part of Council's submission to the NSW Government in June 2015.

**Councillor Con Hindi**  
Mayor of Hurstville

## WHAT IS FIT FOR THE FUTURE?

Fit for the Future is the NSW Government's program for Local Government structural reform. The initiative aims to encourage the majority of NSW councils to consider amalgamations with their neighbouring councils to ensure stronger local communities in the future. Using set criteria, each council must demonstrate how it will become sustainable; provide effective and efficient services; and have the scale and capacity needed to meet the needs of communities and partner with the NSW Government into the future. Submissions are due by 30 June 2015.

## WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS FOR HURSTVILLE CITY COUNCIL?

The NSW Government has proposed that, in line with the Final Report of the NSW Independent Local Government Review Panel (October 2013), Hurstville amalgamate with Canterbury City Council, Kogarah City Council and Rockdale City Council.

Should the amalgamation proceed, it is not known whether current services and facilities, such as libraries and community centres, will be retained in their current state. This will be a decision for the new council.

## WHO WILL BE MAKING THE DECISION?

The NSW Government is establishing an independent expert panel to review all submissions prepared by councils across NSW. The panel will make a final recommendation to the NSW Premier who will make the final decision.

## JOINT INITIATIVES

Hurstville has joined forces with a number of its neighbouring councils to secure the best outcomes for its community. Some examples include a joint waste collection initiative with Kogarah City Council and Rockdale City Council which is saving a total of \$45 million over the life of the contract, shared payroll services with Randwick City Council, and hosting and membership of the Georges River Combined Councils' Committee (GRCCC) with eight other councils to protect, conserve and enhance the Georges River.

## BUDGET

In the 2015/16 financial year, Hurstville will meet all the 'Fit for the Future' criteria including sustainability; effective infrastructure and service management; and efficiency. The only criteria Hurstville cannot meet is the scale and capacity population threshold of 250,000. Hurstville has Operating surpluses both before and after capital contributions, thus fully funding its depreciation.

With over \$60 million on hand, reserves are available to meet Hurstville's statutory obligations, renew infrastructure and invest in new projects. Hurstville has two loans totalling \$7.5 million which will be fully paid in the next few years. Infrastructure assets are also well maintained.

## MAJOR PROJECTS

Over the past few years, Hurstville has created a number of new community assets including Hurstville Transport Interchange, Hurstville Aquatic Leisure Centre expansion, Kingsgrove Community Centre and Peakhurst Light Industrial Stormwater Harvesting and Reuse Scheme. Projects currently underway include the construction of a new community centre in Jubilee Park and a Plan of Management for Penshurst Park.

Hurstville also has a significant property portfolio with development potential to address both future community priorities and economic returns.

## QUESTIONS

If you have any further questions, please visit [www.fitforthefuture.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.fitforthefuture.nsw.gov.au/)

Alternatively, you can call Hurstville City Council on 9330 6222.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

TO HAVE YOUR SAY, PLEASE:

**EMAIL:** [fitforthefuture@hurstville.nsw.gov.au](mailto:fitforthefuture@hurstville.nsw.gov.au)

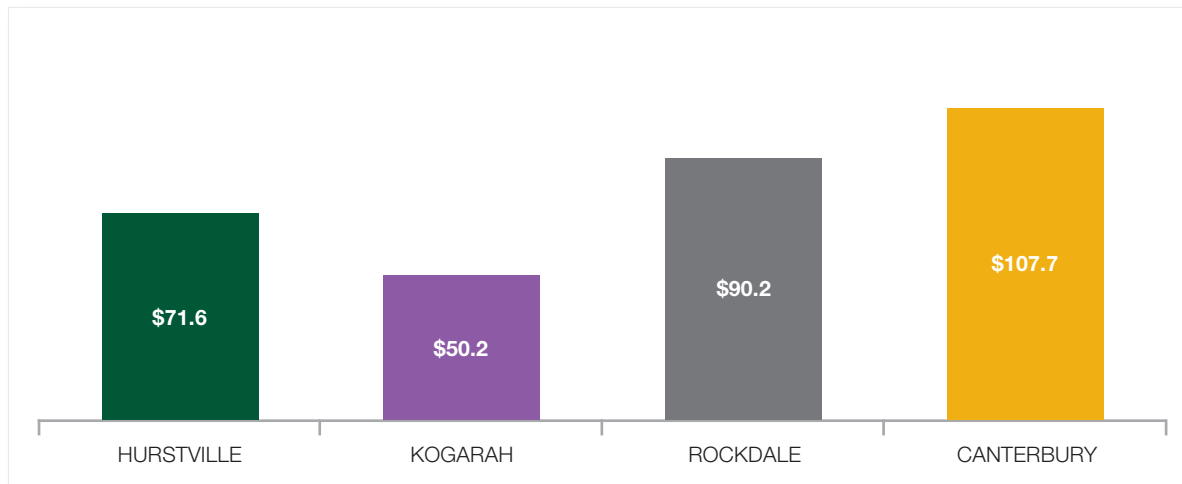
**MAIL:** The General Manager, Hurstville City Council,  
PO Box 205, Hurstville BC NSW 1481

**PHONE:** 9330 6222

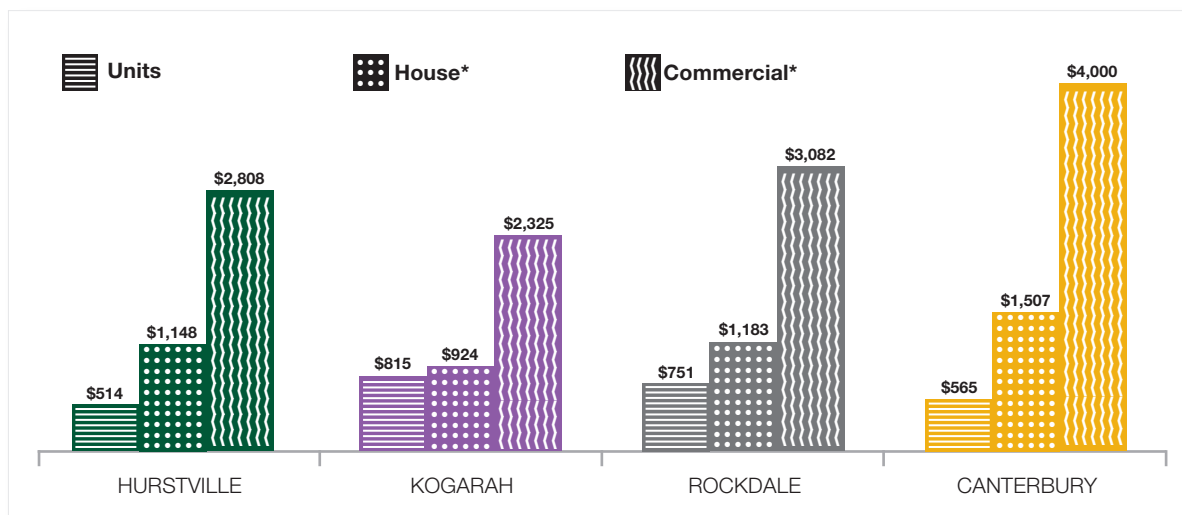
**WEBSITE:** [www.hurstville.nsw.gov.au/fitforthefuture](http://www.hurstville.nsw.gov.au/fitforthefuture)

**Submissions close on Friday, 3 April 2015.**

## 1. Budget (\$ millions)

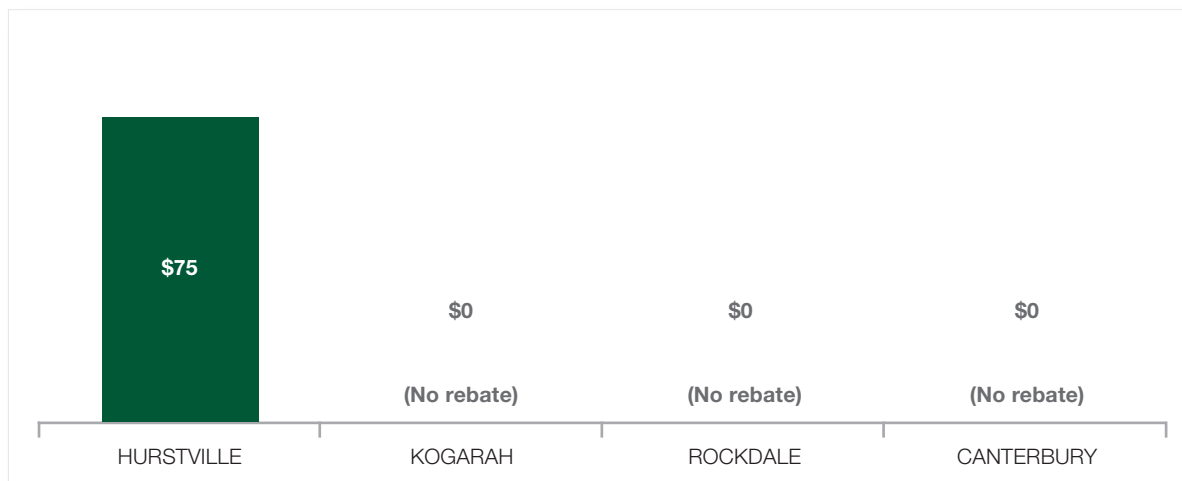


## 2. Comparable Rates

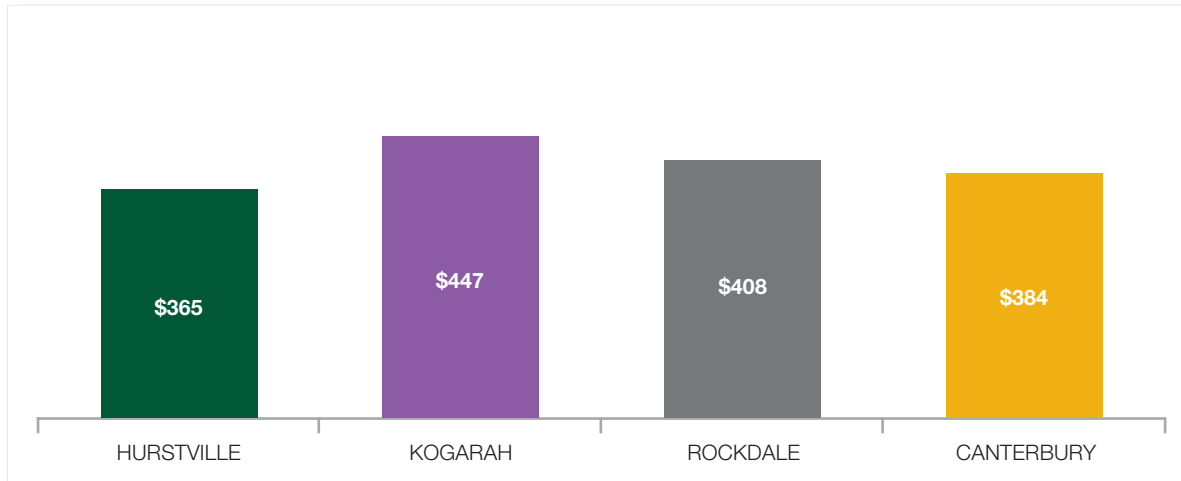


\* Based on \$500,000 land value.

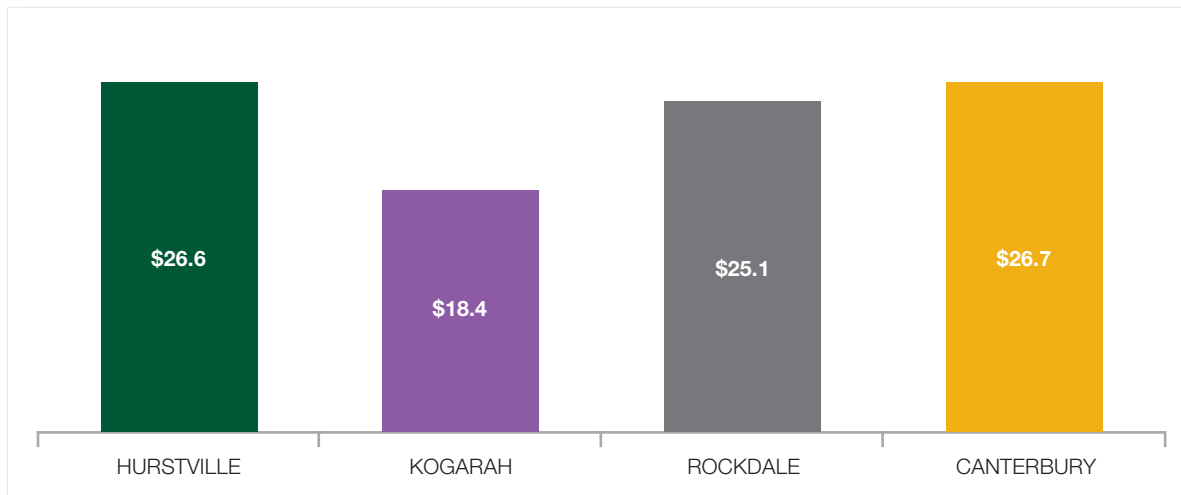
## 3. Pensioner Rebate on Rates



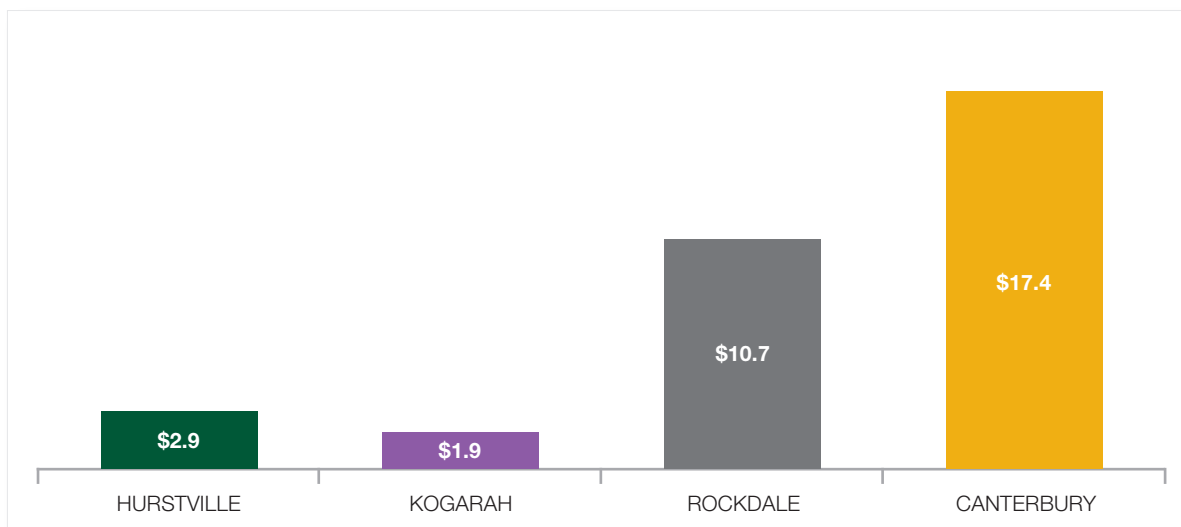
#### 4. Domestic Waste Charge



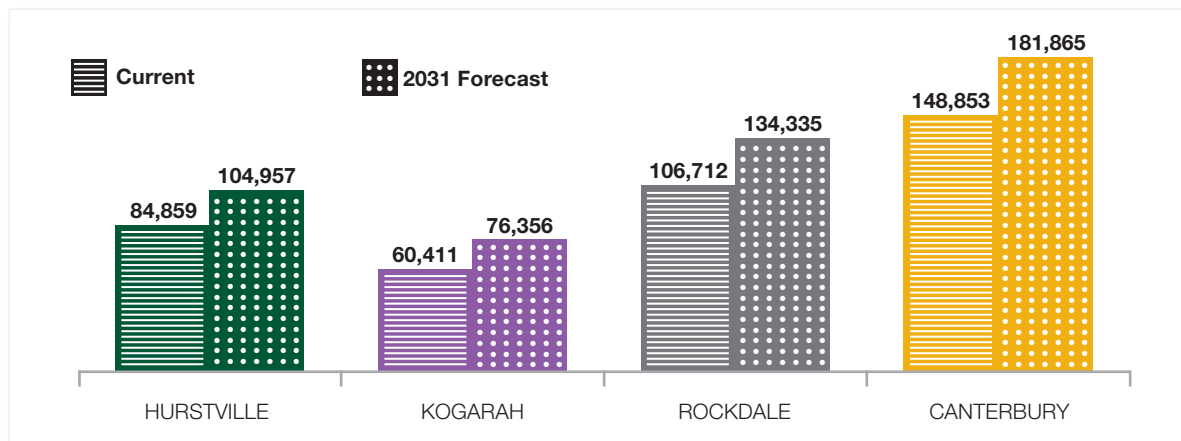
#### 5. Available Cash (\$ millions)



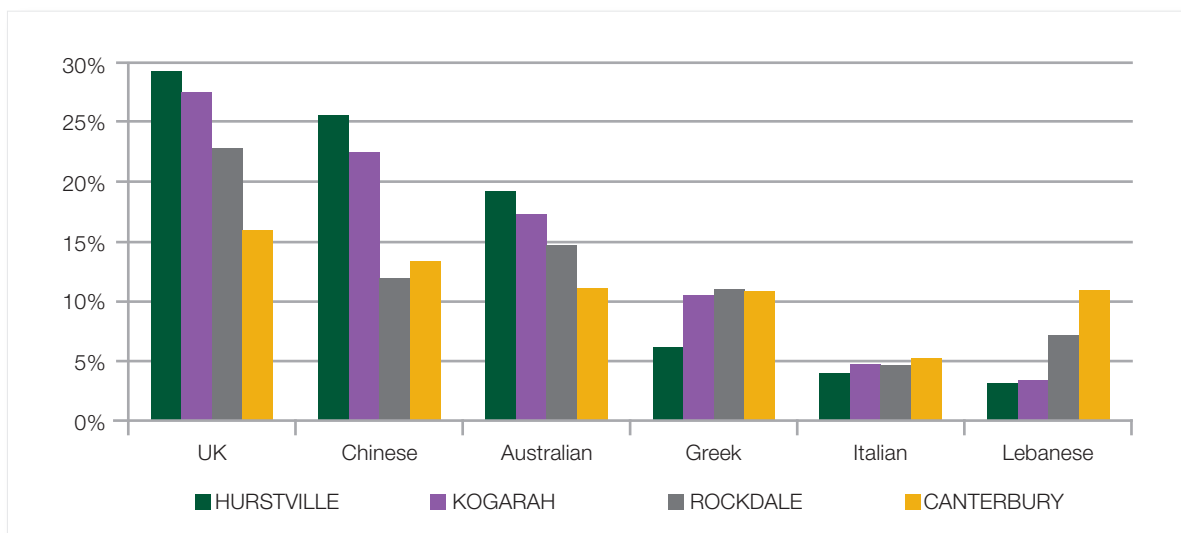
#### 6. Infrastructure Repair Backlog (\$ millions)



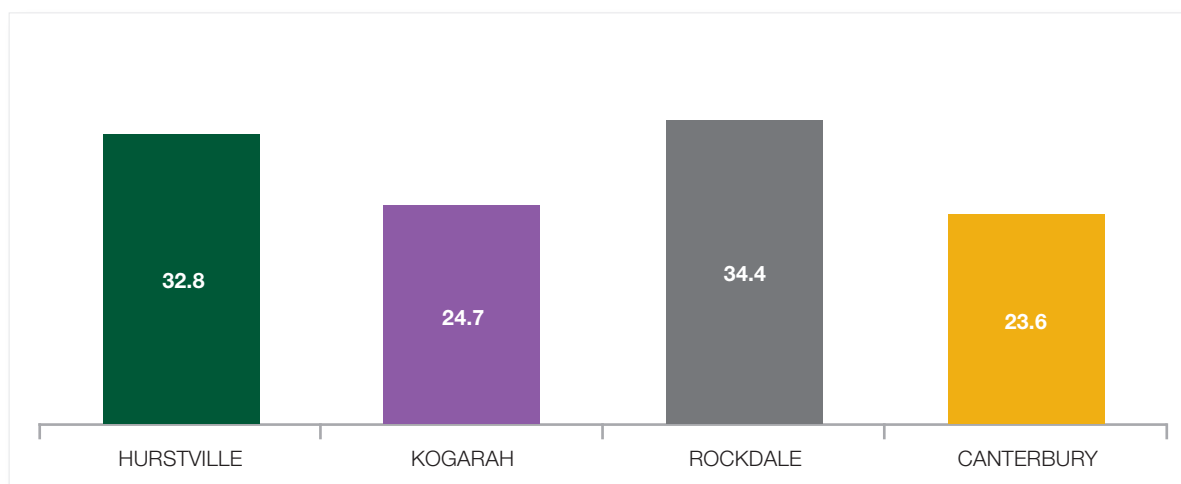
## 7. Population



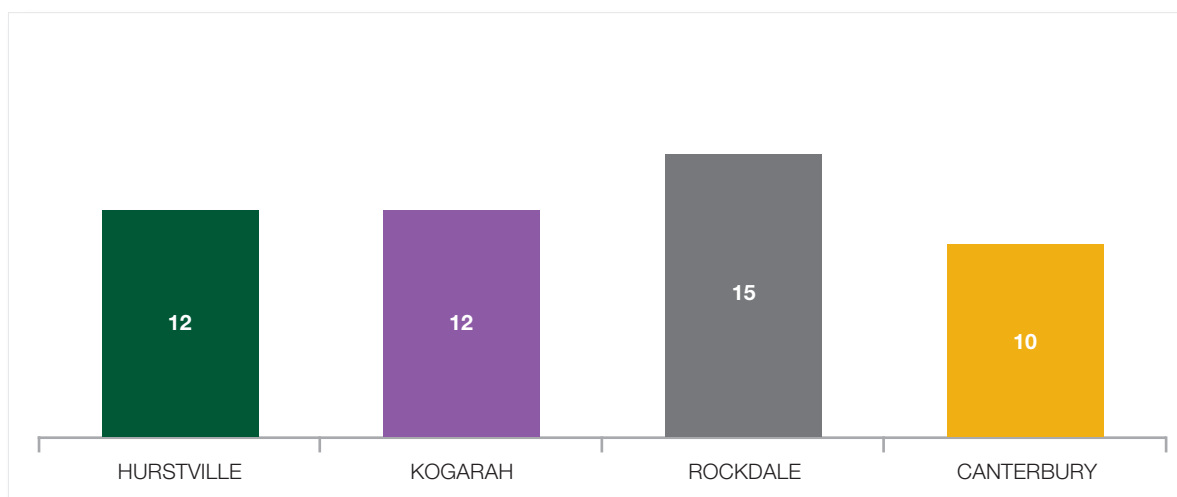
## 8. Ancestral Diversity



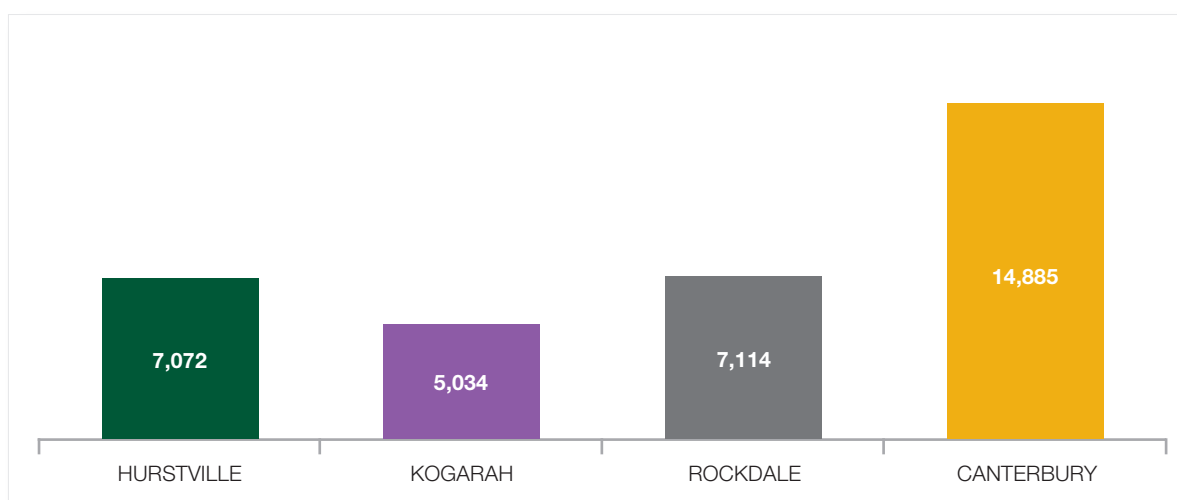
## 9. Green Space per Resident (square metres)



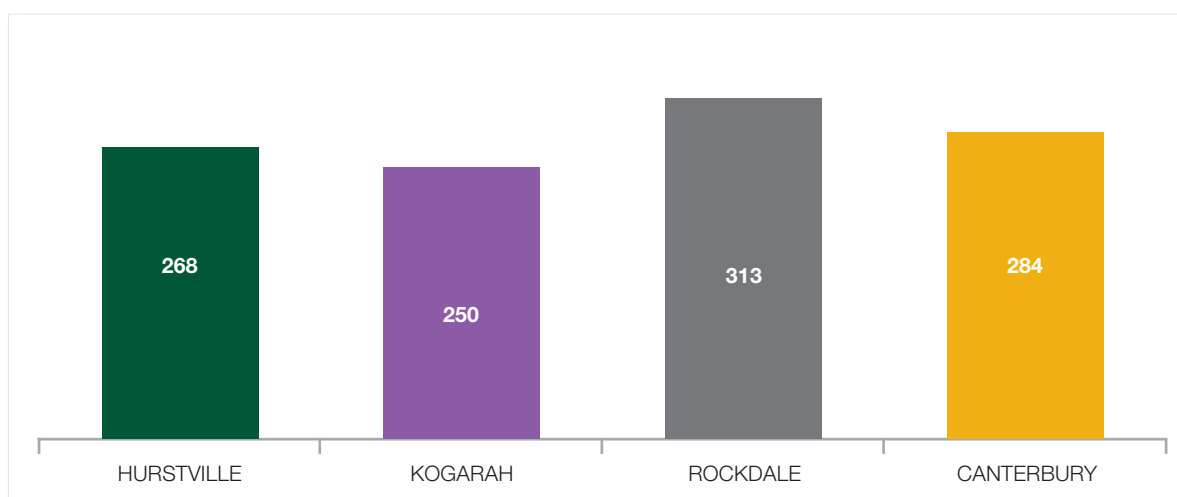
## 10. Number of Councillors



## 11. Residents per Councillor



## 12. Residents per Employee





## PENSHURST



**Con Hindi**  
Mayor  
9330 6256



**Justin Mining**  
0400 681 407



**Dominic Sin**  
0400 788 127



**Christina Wu**  
0400 241 851

## PEAKHURST



**Michelle Stevens**  
Deputy Mayor  
0400 770 137



**Jack Jacovou**  
0418 272 270



**Rita Kastanias**  
9533 4060  
0407 230 017



**Philip Sansom**  
Emeritus Mayor  
0411 745 258

## HURSTVILLE



**Vince Badalati**  
Emeritus Mayor  
0411 745 255



**Colin Drane**  
0418 537 310



**Nancy Liu**  
9586 0625  
0434 327 845



**Brent Thomas**  
0477 747 901

	ARABIC	CHINESE (TRADITIONAL)
To obtain interpreter assistance in your community language, contact the Telephone Interpreter Service on 13 14 50 and ask them to ring Council on 9330 6222 on your behalf.	للحصول على مساعدة في لغة جاليتك، اتصل بخدمة الترجمة الشفوية عبر الهاتف على الرقم ١٣ ١٤٥٠ واطلب منهم الاتصال بالمجلس على الرقم ٩٣٣٠ ٦٢٢٢ بالنيابة عنك.	若需要你的社區語言傳譯服務可撥打電話傳譯服務 13 1450, 請他們為你撥通市政會電話 9330 6222.
CHINESE (SIMPLIFIED)	GREEK	MACEDONIAN
若需要你的社区语言传译服务可拨打电话传译服务 13 1450, 请他们为你拨通市政会电话 9330 6222.	Για να λάβετε βοήθεια από διερμηνέα στη γλώσσα σας, επικοινωνήστε με την Τηλεφωνική Υπηρεσία Διερμηνέων στο 13 1450 και ζητήστε τους να τηλεφωνήσουν για λογαριασμό σας το Δημαρχείο στο 9330 6222.	За да добиете помош од преведувач на јазикот што се зборува во вашата заедница, контактирајте ја Телефонската преведувачка служба на 13 1450 и замолете ги да телефонираат во општината на 9330 6222 во ваше име.



# Hurstville City Council