

Belmont Area Sustainable Neighbourhood survey report

June 2022



Executive summary

This report details the results from a community survey, completed as part of Lake Macquarie City Council's Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program in April 2022. The survey of residents in the Belmont area explored neighbourhood values, community attitudes about local environmental challenges and community project ideas.

Respondents indicated they most value their proximity to the lake, beach, ocean or bush. They also highly value being close to amenities and services, and the natural beauty and wildlife in their neighbourhood. They are most concerned about the health of the natural environment, as well as overdevelopment and water quality.

The most commonly suggested project idea was community gardening. Other popular ideas included Landcare and bushland rehabilitation, urban greening and habitat, advocacy for improved footpaths and cycleways, and waterway rehabilitation and erosion control.

1. Background

The Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program was initiated by Lake Macquarie City Council as a way to work with residents to help build strong community relationships as citizens discover the values and strengths of their neighbourhood, understand their community assets, and work alongside their neighbours on projects that will make their neighbourhood an even better place to live.

Sustainable Neighbourhood groups are made up of local residents who take actions to:

- reduce our resource consumption (energy, water, waste)
- increase community involvement in protecting and caring for environment and place
- increase our capacity to respond effectively to environmental threats
- increase community wellbeing and pride in our local areas.

Council is seeking to strengthen and expand the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program, and has the opportunity to help renew or establish two groups in the 2022 calendar year. Following an engagement process with local Sustainable Neighbourhood groups and the broader community, the Belmont area was selected to establish a new group.

The neighbourhood area will include Belmont, Belmont North, Belmont South, Floraville and Jewells.

This survey is part of ongoing community development and engagement activities, which aim to collect input from a broad range of residents to inform the projects and priorities of the Belmont Area Sustainable Neighbourhood.

2. Methodology

In late March 2022, hard copy surveys were posted to about 10,200 households in the Belmont area. The hard copy surveys were in self-return format, with a reply-paid envelope provided.

A digital version was also made available and promoted on the front of the hard copy survey, via a link on the Sustainable Neighbourhoods website, and via email to 421 local contacts subscribed to Council's Eco Advocate enewsletter.

The survey was open for three weeks. During this time, 369 people responded using the hard copy forms, and 123 people responded directly using the online form. There was a total of 492 responses, resulting in a return rate of five per cent.

The response rate is low relative to previous Sustainable Neighbourhood surveys. Since 2010, 16 surveys have been completed with an average response rate of 10 per cent, and ranging from 5-18 per cent. In previous years, a prize draw for a small gift, up to \$100 has been provided as an incentive to complete the survey. In this case, an incentive was not included in order to test the potential impact.

3. Key findings

Neighbourhood values

The top aspects people value about their neighbourhood include:

- proximity to the lake, beach, ocean or bush (92 per cent)
- close to amenities, services and/or facilities (76 per cent)
- natural beauty and wildlife (71 per cent).

Environmental issues

Respondents are most concerned about:

- health of the natural environment (60 per cent)
- water quality (56 per cent)
- overdevelopment (56 per cent).

Community participation

Respondents indicated which actions from a list they would consider participating in. The three highest rated activities included:

- caring for natural areas, local habitat and biodiversity (69 per cent)
- learning about local plants, animals and natural environments or growing native gardens (68 per cent)
- preparing for environmental threats like bushfires, storms or floods (67 per cent).

Community projects

A wide range of ideas for community projects and actions were suggested. The most popular project ideas included:

- community garden
- Landcare and bushland rehabilitation
- advocacy for footpaths and cycle paths
- urban greening and habitat
- waterway rehabilitation and erosion.

Prior knowledge of Sustainable Neighbourhoods

Twenty-four per cent of respondents (113) had heard about the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program before and fourteen (three per cent) had participated before. Seventy-three per cent of respondents (342) had not heard about the program before. Most heard about it through either a Council newsletter, social media or leaflet.

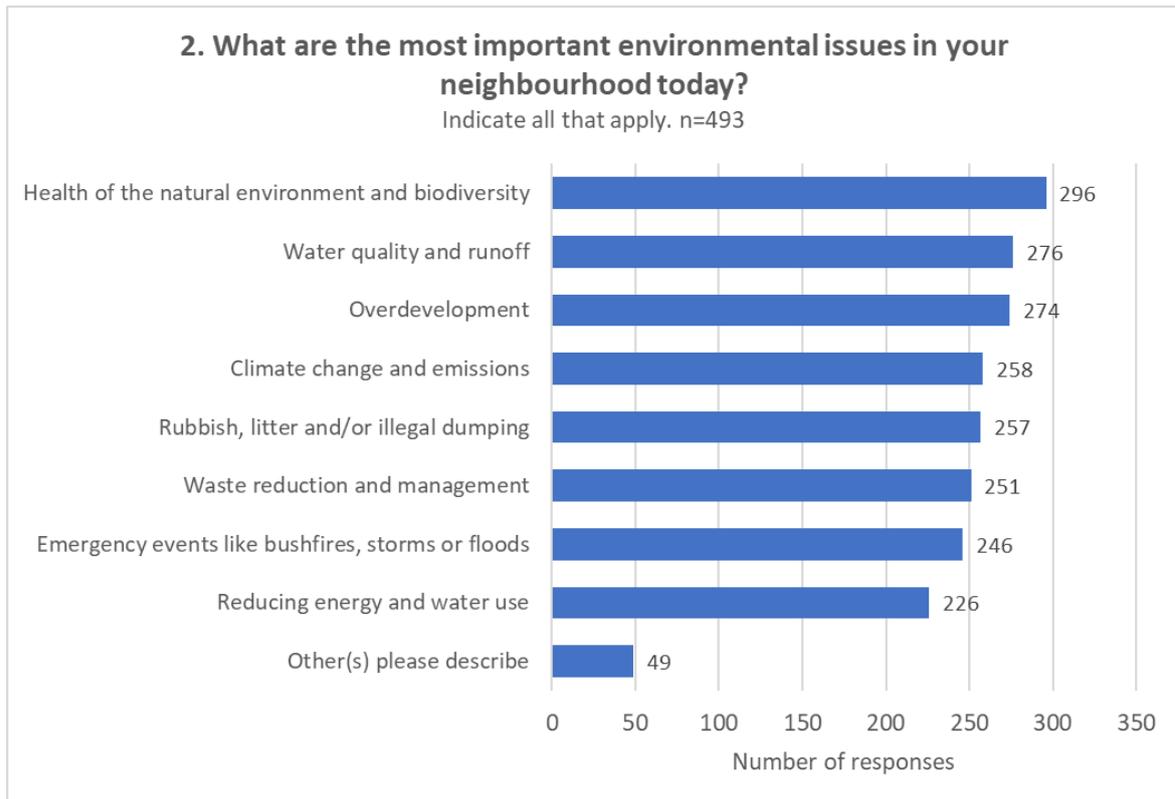
Twenty per cent of respondents (97) asked to be subscribed to the Belmont Area Sustainable Neighbourhood email list.

Demographics

More than 60 per cent of respondents are aged over 60 years.

- Most respondents, 61 per cent, own their homes outright.
- Most households, 45 per cent, consist of two people.
- A majority, 61 per cent, have lived in the neighbourhood for more than 10 years.
- Responses were received from all suburbs in the neighbourhood area, with the highest number of responses from Belmont, 42 per cent.

2. Environmental issues

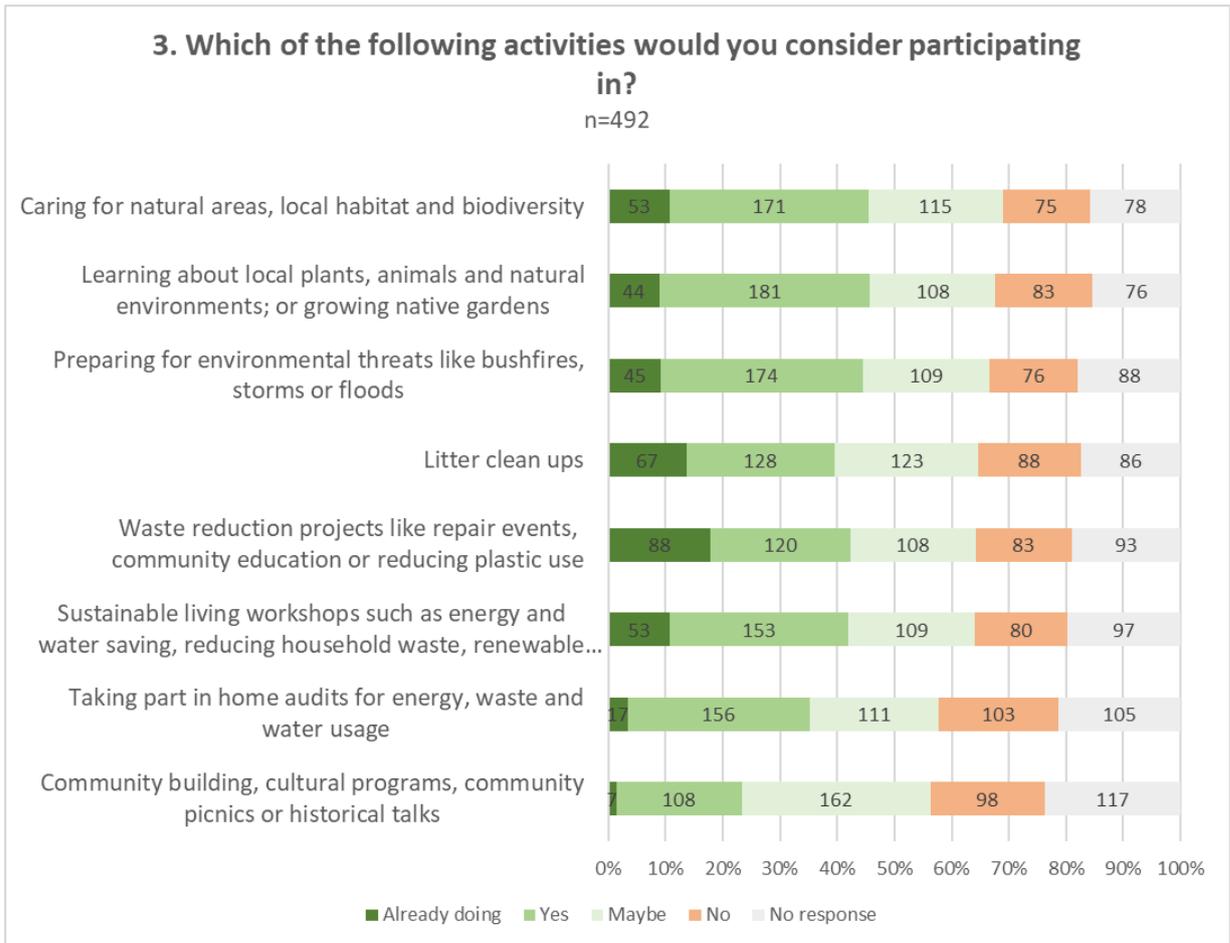


Other responses are summarised in the word cloud below or detailed in Appendix 2.

vehicle access to beach



3. Participation in activities



This question also asked for particular suggestions for workshops, educational events or other community projects they would like to attend. These responses are included in the project ideas below and detailed in Appendix 3.

4. Community projects

The survey asked respondents for their project ideas. "Sustainable Neighbourhood groups are made up of active residents who work together to create positive change. Do you have a project idea that you would like to make happen in your neighbourhood? Please tell us your idea(s)."

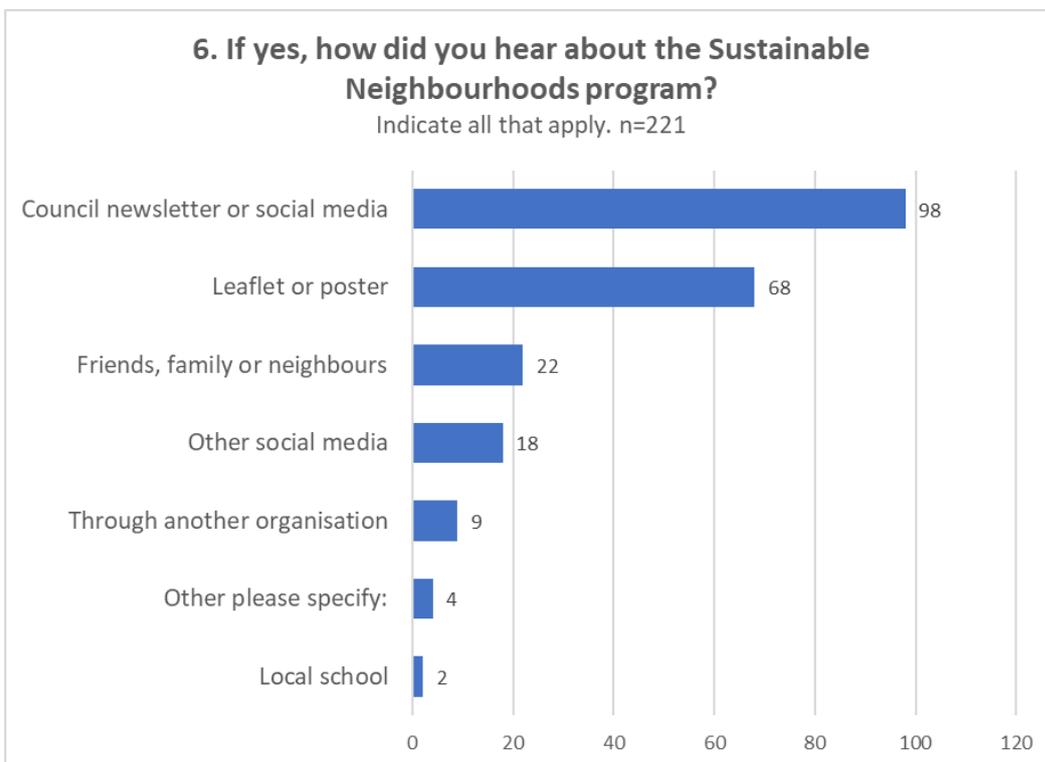
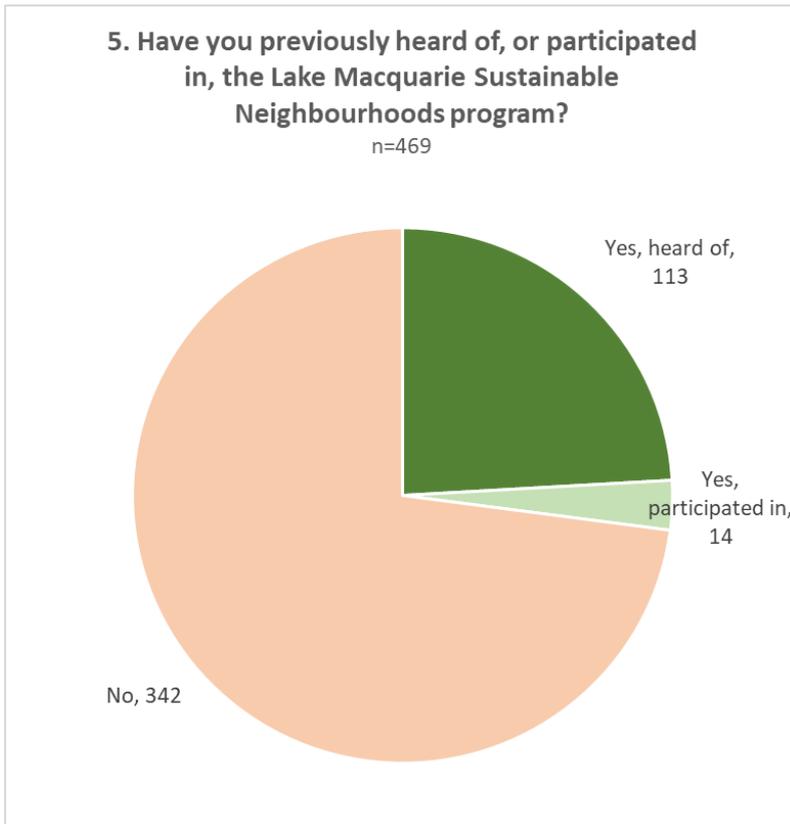
Open ended responses from Question 3 and Question 4 were categorised into project type, category and topic.

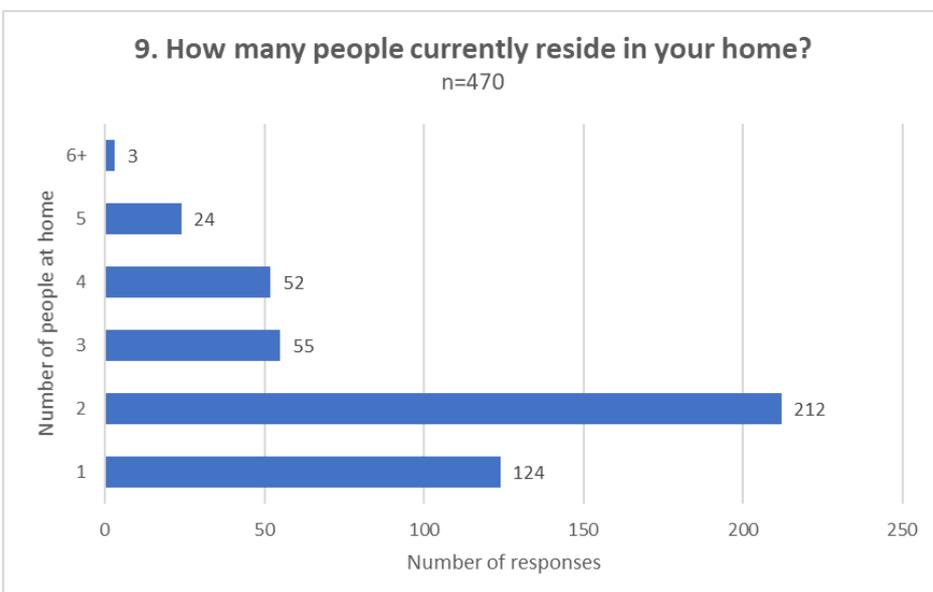
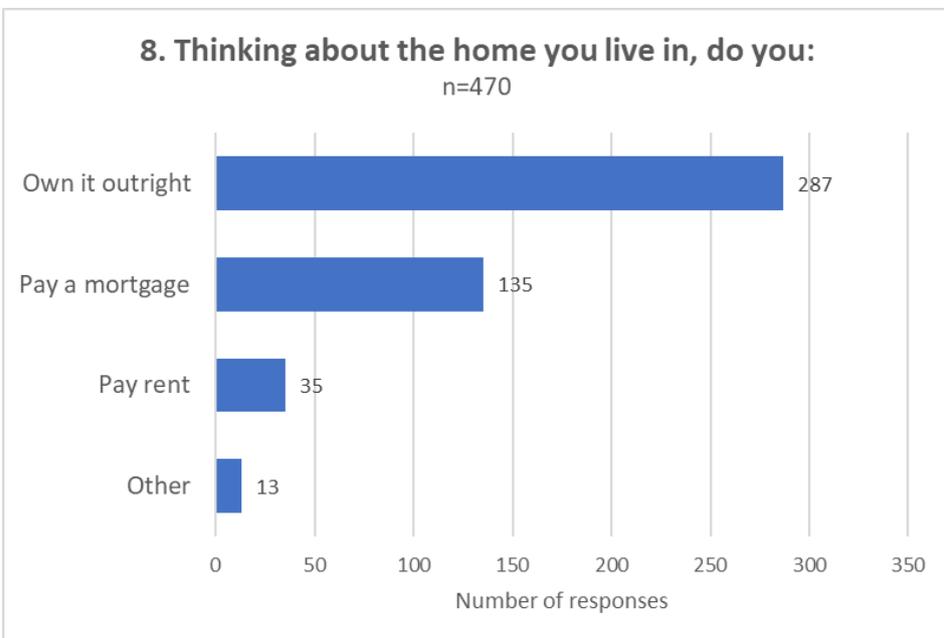
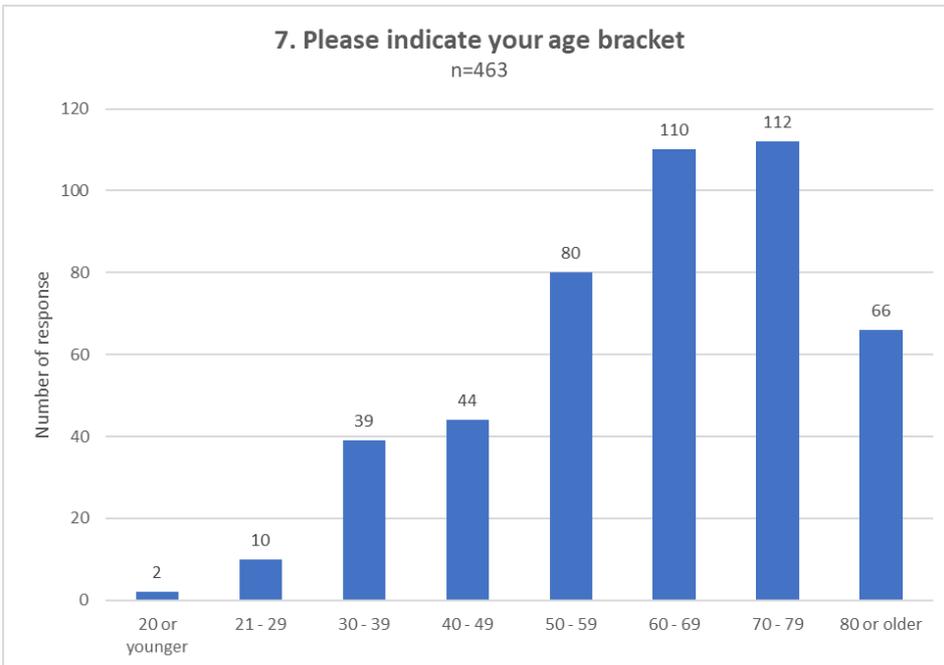
Project ideas (by topic) raised by more than 10 people are summarised here:

- community garden (27)
- Landcare and bushland rehabilitation (19)
- urban greening and habitat (15)
- advocacy for footpaths and cycle paths (15)
- advocacy for waterway rehabilitation and erosion control (11).

A complete list of project ideas and comments is included in Appendix 4.

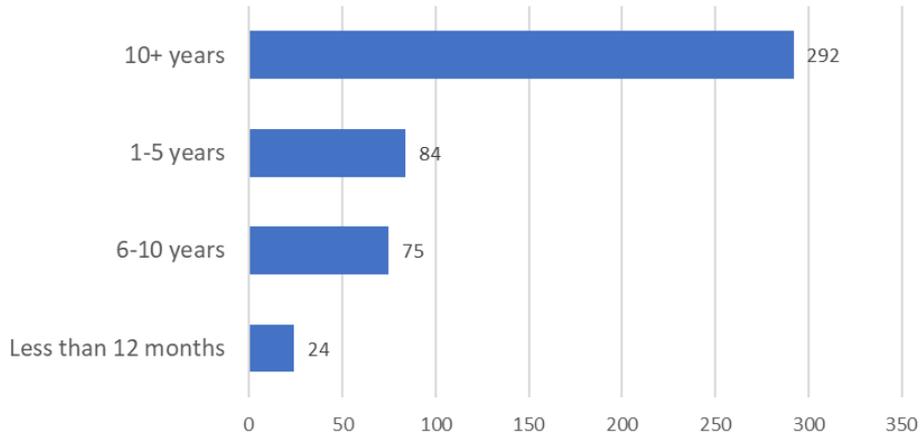
5. Demographics





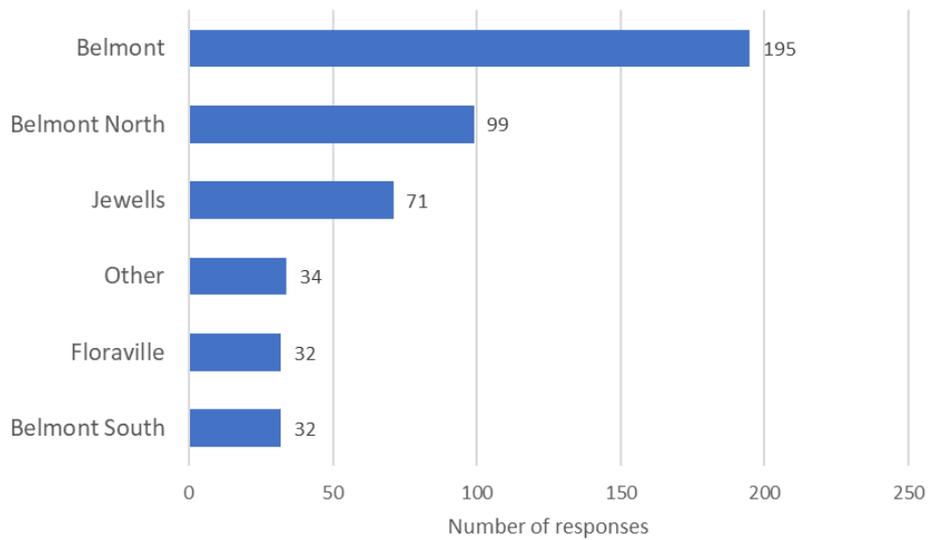
10. How long have you lived in the neighbourhood?

n=475



11. Which suburb do you live in?

n=463



Appendices

Appendix 1 – Neighbourhood values, detailed 'other' responses, unedited

- *New bike path*
- *Better & safer if cycleway or crossing connected Valo to warners bay - especially for my kids now riding on there own.*
- *Easy walking*
- *Proximity to the Fernleigh Track*
- *Close to the fernleigh track*
- *Other local Sustainable groups Active landcare groups*
- *Affordable compared to Sydney where I grew up*
- *Sense of space. Proximity to school. Natural surrounds.*
- *Specifically cycleways, public transport is rubbish in our area*
- *Clean air, open spaces, friendly people.*
- *Clean air*
- *Combination of all above*
- *Walking trails*
- *Moving into a nursing home soon.*
- *Attractive streetscape, no poles and wires everywhere.*
- *Limited high density housing as is happening in many towns eg high rises*
- *could do more family events in Belmont like the family friendly lake fest in January.*
- *walking in green point*
- *bigger backyards*
- *No foot paths from Valentine Gardens down to the school.*
- *Unfortunately Belmont has gone down hill over the years. So much plastic in waterways, so much I think school kids toss. Have spoken to management at Coles. Police Called constantly to the drunks and drugies.*
- *Croudace Bay dog park*
- *Lacking - Peace and quite Lacking - Community spirit/pride No question on what most disliked about what's happening in the neighbourhood community.*
- *Freedom to be yourself*
- *No more units. no more social housing.*
- *Abundance of natural bushland*
- *Coastal climate is pleasant*
- *Peace & Quiet - Id like to say yes but LMCC wont enforce DA on business next door.*
- *Close to amenities, service and/or facilities- what happen to all our banks? Natural beauty and wildlife - the bats are delightful (sarcasm) Public transport/ cycleways - you are joking, could fly from Ireland to London for less than a Newcastle return taxi and do it faster.*
- *Bicycle lanes on brooks parade, Croudance Bay road. (all Bicycle lanes) on roads are to narrow. Many cyclists dont even look, obey road rules and swerve around vehicles parked.*
- *Twice yearly major rubbish pick up*
- *onto others as you wish to be done by. I have traveled, best country. always keep it clean.*
- *Only crossroad very poor traffic condition at Belmont pacific Hwy is a Mand St.*
- *Eateries, golf, sailing, gym, fernleigh track, beach and walking tracks*
- *Mobility scooter access allowing the lake.*
- *Public transport/cycleways - Very bad and dangerous*
- *Feeling safe*
- *Nice Clean air*
- *Walking tracks*
- *Public transport is a disgrace*
- *Climate - Sub tropical Comfort - No snow, mild summers*
- *Its my wifes hometown she wouldn't have it any other way*
- *Belmont seems to be forgotten - the old school in a total disgrace -overgrown, abestos concerns from a fire etc.*
- *cycle ways are dangerous for elderly people to walk on. cyclist have little consideration for others using them. we live very close to the fernleigh track and can no longer use it chose to passive sport for elderly and non atheletics. billards and snooker at Belmont 16 sailing club*
- *it isn't overdeveloped it has an appropriate level of development.*
- *Concentrate to upgrade all sporting areas to be used all year round which will help mentally with all age groups*

Appendix 2 – Environmental issues, detailed ‘other’ responses, unedited

- *New to this neighbourhood but all these issues are relevant to most neighbourhoods.*
- *I believe that much more can be done to protect and rehabilitate the remaining natural environment in the Belmont to Swansea area. The areas of particular concern are the Belmont wetlands and Nine Mile Beach. The wetlands are badly degraded from the largely uncontrolled abuse by four wheel drives and motorbikes (many unregistered). Vehicular access to the beach within a suburban region adjacent to a significant wetlands reserve is no longer appropriate and diminishes the amenity of the area for all potential users.*
- *Air quality*
- *Climate change most important*
- *Current east coast lows*
- *Noxious weeds/invasive plants.*
- *Less clearing of land for development would support native flora and fauna diversity and existence. Rules around pet ownership to reduce impact on native wildlife e.g. cats indoors at night etc*
- *I would like to see more corridors of natural habitat as it is being destroyed for housing not taking into account that we need to share it with other species to ensure the health of the planet*
- *Promoting responsible eco management suitable to the area.*
- *Keeping the lawns and edges manicured of community pride.*
- *Sustainable new development*
- *Stench on breeze from Belmont Street surge treatment plant - lived here all my life and it is horrendous now.*
- *Spend more money in Belmont (like Warners bay, Toronto etc)*
- *Dogs dumping in Green Point*
- *Reduce 4WDs in conservation area and beach*
- *Local council dosent upkeep footpaths parks etc. grass and weeds grow exponentially.*
- *overhanging trees on Croudance bay road*
- *Bigger Backyards*
- *Collection of general garbage fortnightly instead of weekly does not work. it stinks*
- *Climate change has always been revolving school children should not be brainwashed and threatened, due to teachers opinion.*
- *Lack of mowing of grass*
- *Volume of traffic on Ntaba Road with no safe crossings*
- *, Roads, Traffic volume, Traffic light timing*
- *plastic and rubbish from coles into the lake. school kids tossing all the time.*
- *Recycling bins*
- *Toxic smoke from oil or wood fired home heaters floods the neighbourhood each winter. this kills babies with SIDS and children or elderly etc with asthma. doors and windows cannot be opened. this is unnecessary and handful of polluters ruin it for everyone else.*
- *My place floods all the time, over it.*
- *Belmont is being wrecked with overdevelopment*
- *Overdevelopment - Major issue*
- *Water quality and runn off - speaking of run off, please do something about the lack of drainage on pearce ave. climate change and emissions- Stick your UN agenda elsewhere! address pollution we can not change the weather. Irresponsible dog owners leaving animal crap everywhere.*
- *overdevelopment - But LMCC still approve and it is excessive. Better regular grass cutting in public parks etc, Lake Macquarie is like a jungle and looks ugly.*
- *Clearing reserves of weeds such as lantarna.*
- *No high rise*
- *water quality and run off - no more chemicals in drinking water. climate change and emissions- weather manipulation should cease. chemtrails - what are we being sprayed with? and why? no 5G*
- *Circular economy*
- *Road infrastructure*
- *Repair to foreshore in Village Bay*
- *Lack of wide educational and professional qualifications*
- *Need tree planting and replacement program, management of parking*
- *Radio tower not removed as ordered by council.*
- *Over development without increases infrastructure roads/storm water/parking/sewage etc. housing not built to captilise on nature - caves, north facing windows double glazed.*
- *That they use 1080 in Belmont Wetlands killing everything*

- *reduce noise of rescue helicopters enter a depart from western end of runway from 10pm to 6am daily.*
- *Removal of trees and landfill. Council approving development where land clearing is needed when other cleared sites could have been used.*
- *the main bus stop at Belmont shops is a disgraceful - filthy dirty*
- *lack of red bin collections. enormous environmental hazard as a result*
- *lack of indoor passive sport facilities for community use*
- *weeds that are unsightly along our streets. lack of cleanliness and maintenance of public toilets.*
- *land CLeaning, residents cutting down established native trees*

Appendix 3. Workshop, event and project suggestions, detailed comments, unedited

Other comments from Question 3, “suggestions for workshops, educational events or other community projects they would like to attend?”.

	Category	Topic	Comments, unedited
Advocacy	Active transport	Footpaths and cycle paths	<i>Community accessibility eg Walking, running, cycle way access for pedestrians etc. around the esplanade in Bareki Road</i>
	Development	Consultation	<i>Constructive, honest meetings with residents before "developments" get to go ahead. Well advised with genuine consultation.</i>
		Overdevelopment	<i>Bigger backyards</i>
	Local infrastructure	Park	<i>There is only one park in the Jewells area, would like it upgraded and perhaps another one.</i>
		Streetscape	<i>Clean up of pacific highway would be nice. currently vacant old buildings, overgrown gardens etc.</i>
	Natural environment	Pest management	<i>Control of feral animals (cats, rabbits, foxes)</i>
	Services	Passive indoor sports	<i>i would like to see council provide billiards and snooker facility along with other passive indoor sports</i>
Swimming and sauna facilities		<i>Community free swimming lessons at different times @ our local pool.</i>	
Community projects	Community resilience and civic pride	Local events	<i>Something family friendly. the new playground maybe a fun day and proceeds go to the local area.</i>
			<i>More local markets, food festivals and fairs.</i>
			<i>Events for single people wanting to meet someone.</i>
			<i>exercise and social events</i>
	Natural environment	Landcare and bushland rehabilitation	<i>Noxious weed identification and how to manage in a sustainable way e.g. avoiding use of chemicals and alternatives to these</i>
			<i>Bush regeneration groups in Bonnells bay 2264</i>
			<i>Removal of bitou, Lantana etc around the lake</i>
			<i>I volunteer at Green Point Landcare every Wednesday morning.</i>
			<i>Lantana clearing - Trees & fern planting</i>
	Litter education and clean up	<i>I would be interested in joining a litter clean up group attending different areas around the area for clean up.</i>	
		<i>More clean up activities for Lake Mac Shores. There should be paid employees cleaning up our lake and beaches.</i>	
Sustainable living	Community garden	<i>1. Find a place to have a Community Garden - more for Social reasons</i>	
		<i>Growing a community orchard.</i>	
		<i>The creation of a Belmont Community Garden</i>	

Education workshops and skill sharing			<i>Would love to see more community gardens in the area. maybe an environmental centre.</i>	
			<i>Community Garden,</i>	
			<i>A community garden would be terrific? a place to connect with like minded neighbours and learn more about sustainable garden/self sufficiency.</i>	
	Community and culture	Aboriginal culture		<i>Indigenous history and culture walks and presentations</i>
				<i>Awakal history/ bush tucker walks</i>
		Heritage		<i>Ed Tonks type history/environment tours</i>
		Seniors		<i>Extra workshops or tutoring sessions especially for seniors getting left behind with technology ie computers and phones, really getting disfranchised in a big way.</i>
			<i>2. Access to a broader ranger of social activities / courses for over 50's</i>	
	Community capacity building	Community engagement		<i>Engaging at local markets to ask community for their suggestions</i>
				<i>Reports/meetings on activities happening in our area. not much action in Jewells</i>
				<i>Recongise unpaid workers on their contribution to smaller community areas.</i>
	Natural environment	Local wildlife		<i>Nesting boxes and animal care for the area.</i>
		Nature trail		<i>Local bush walks to identify plants, birds and animals.</i>
				<i>Green Point exploration workshops (flora / fauna)</i>
				<i>utilise Belmont wetlands for more educational events.</i>
	Urban greening and habitat		<i>Education about habitat, not clearing bushland for views or so it lioks tidy. The importance of not dumping garden waste. Education about the importance of different ecosystems and plant communities. Unfortunately the people doing these thinks don't want to learn or hear about our beautiful bushland.</i>	
	Sustainable living	Aboriginal culture		<i>local aboriginal foods/medicines</i>
		Bee keeping		<i>Keeping native bees</i>
				<i>Bee Keeping,</i>
		Bees wax wraps		<i>bees wax wraps making</i>
		Energy		<i>We have solar panels, how can we learn about solar batteries and making our homes ev car charging ready</i>
		Engaging with schools and young people		<i>Youth engagement with sustainable projects</i>
				<i>Roots and shoots program (Jane Goodall)</i>
				<i>Projects for schools to encourage above.</i>
				<i>Educate school children that life is good and they are not going to die from climate change, they can achieve the goals they want.</i>
				<i>Youth education</i>
		Fermentation		<i>Fermentation</i>
		Gardening and composting		<i>Composting, , planting fruit trees or vegetables,</i>
			<i>Growing plants for food for us and native species</i>	
Health and beauty			<i>Making products for health and beauty at home</i>	
Keeping chickens		<i>How to keep chickens responsibly</i>		
Permaculture		<i>Anything permaculture related Low toxic</i>		
Sustainable living		<i>at home changes for a more sustainable future.</i>		
Waste	Recycling		<i>More education about recycling. I work in the community and always see people incorrectly recycling their garbage.</i>	

			<i>Souling garbage for the elderly.</i>
		Waste reduction	<i>Reducing plastic & chemical use</i>
Other comments			<i>Much as I would love to participate in all of these activities, which I consider extremely important, I am unable to do so due to health issues.</i>
			<i>Both Husband and I are to old to participate.</i>
			<i>Stich all UN, agenda 21, agenda 30 etc where the sun dosent shine. Roads, rubbish, reserves.</i>
			<i>I support all of the above but age prevents my involvement</i>
			<i>Sorry I am 93 years old.</i>
			<i>age and infirmity prevent us from participating in any that we have interested us</i>
			<i>Place please continue with the BI annual club pick ups</i>
			<i>i am physically unable to participate in most of these activities but consider them important</i>
			<i>We pay a lot of council rates - do your job - you get paid for the above "activities"</i>

Appendix 4. Project ideas, detailed comments

	Category	Topic	Comments, unedited
Advocacy	Active transport	Footpaths and cycle paths	<i>Footpaths</i>
			<i>More footpaths around Valentine especially between the school and shops/playgrounds</i>
			<i>I would like to see pathways particularly path for children at Belmont Primary School (Darling street)</i>
			<i>walkways built around the lake</i>
			<i>Put a footpath for walking in Wommare Ave from Pacific Highway to Jewells crossing bike track.</i>
			<i>The particular area I am interested is promoting Richmond Vale Rail Trail. Currently being promoted by LMC, NNC and Cessnock councils but has many hurdles prior to start.</i>
			<i>Maintaining walksways through bush areas behind properties. Council needs to mow and not rely on community.</i>
			<i>cycle ways for old people not for cycle areas.</i>
			<i>Improve pedestrian lakeshore access where there are gaps or obstructions. Improve connectivity of cycle/walking paths.</i>
			<i>footpaths etc.</i>
			<i>1- Upgrade and extend the Fernley track to Swansea.</i>
			<i>The borma track. a trail connecting Deane street Belmont through to lenaghan oval Belmont north. previously a path mine workers used do get to John Doiling Collery</i>
			<i>Maintain Fernleigh track</i>
	<i>a more friendly walking access for prams/young children and older folk between Green Point and Valentine. the existing pathway is not user friendly on one of the lakes most pleasant water front.</i>		
	Traffic safety		<i>Enforcing traffic speeds in smaller suburban streets</i>

		<p>Yes Valentine Gardens could do with a reduction of speed limit to 40km and a speed bump to slow down some of the drivers.</p> <p>Speed camera at Evans street would pay for it self in a week. Should have been done years ago.</p> <p>Fix gutter outside baths always floods on the roads. DANGEROUS</p> <p>banning cyclist motorbikes the use of electric bicycles/scooters from riding as on the lake in front of properties it going out our lawns and is an accident waiting to happen. they should be banned.</p>
Development	Belmont desalination plant	Stop the building of the desalination plant proposed at Belmont wetlands, waste of the payers money and expense to run and operate.
	Consultation	More restaurants along the foreshore. No more service stations.
		A resident consultation group - probably Beaumont action group. who have a genuine right to consult on development. over development is wrecking everything good about Belmont and the lake.
Overdevelopment	no development in Wetland areas. no new housing development.	
Local infrastructure	Barbecue	BBQ areas at Belmont Baths - in addition to those near lions park
	Channel dredging	Keeping the lake entrance/channel open for deep vessels
	Dog park	I would like to see a fully fenced dog park created on the existing off lead dog designated area behind Lenaghan Oval Belmont North. At the moment it has been over taken by motorbike riders and isn't used for its intended purpose. Being unfenced it is also not possible for some dogs to be off lead (eg mine, as he would run onto the road). I think the area could be turned into something really nice for dog owners and then people watching the football on the oval could bring their dogs and chairs and sit and enjoy the space too.
	Drainage	the providing means of drainage for large pool of water 15m X 1 1/2m x100mm opposite 52 Brooks Pde which forms after rain.
	Guttering	I have a problem exiting and entering the driveway to my unit. the kerb which is fine for cars etc. scrapes the bottom of my mobility scooter and has caused damage to it. same problem with kerb at bottom of the road onto pathway which links crossing Ross street.
	Lake level rise protection	Raise the lake foreshore to protect the residents from flooding.
	Playground	more parks for under 2's
		A new playground for Jewells
		Vacant land near shopping centre would make a good play area for children. there is a drain to would have to be fenced off.
		More playgrounds with shade for children
		Full fence (pool fencing) the little park opposite shops at Marks Point. Knock down the ugly brick construction that is there. Put in some lovely playground equipment a
Roads	Pacific Highway bypass around Belmont from Swansea to Bennets Green	
	Improved systems for the regular maintenance and repair frequency or suburban roads in particular "Ntaba Road"	
	Fixing the bank that holds up Old Belmont road. Council needs to start taking this seriously it is becoming more and more dangerous all the time.	
	2- Extend Pelican - Blacksmith Pacific highway straight "under" the Lake ocean entrance and remove Swansea bridge to allow boating entrance and exit to Lake Macquarie.	
Seating	Clean up Jewells train platform area. seal the area and provide seating.	
	rest on the lakes edge in the Village Bay close, Belmont South	

	Sports fields	<i>Cahill Oval - Fix seats around ground. more shade around courts. Back oval needs more seats.</i>
		<i>fencing marks oval</i>
		<i>ovals behind Cahill oval new facilities new grounds better look for our group</i>
	Streetscape	<i>See attached letter- proposing maintenance and improvements to Macquarie Street Cenotaph plaza</i>
		<i>Belmont Central Lakeside could do with a makeover (see Warners Bay) and could the shops across from the lake. Shops in center look rather jaded. could all do with a clean up.</i>
		<i>The name as I proposed maybe 10 years ago when council asked the same question in Belmont shopping center on the highway, maling was done though. have all the shops painted the same colour to look like a village.</i>
Natural environment	Hazard reduction	<i>yes - in splinker ridge drive there is a small forest surrounding the damage creek - bushfire hazards</i>
		<i>Keep fire trails clear of overgrowth of vegetation.</i>
		<i>Better bushfire hazard reduction Dangerous tree management</i>
		<i>Clearing bushfire hazards. i think the council workers should clear debris and growth to prevent bushfires</i>
		<i>Local burn off's</i>
	Illegal dumping	<i>Bangalay Reserve - illegal dumping</i>
	Vehicle restrictions	<i>Less motorcycles in dunes.</i>
		<i>Reduce Traffic on Redhead Beach</i>
		<i>Residents group to limit 4WDs on the beach and conservation areas.</i>
		<i>less usage of cars, 4WDs on the beach</i>
		<i>4WDs banned on the beach</i>
	<i>I would like to see more done to clean up Bangalay Reserve - dirt bikes.</i>	
	Waterway rehabilitation and erosion control	<i>Cleaning of pond 33</i>
		<i>A clean out of all the rocks and razor fish in Belmont Baths shallow area to make it a safe place for kids to swim. Its not a natural phenomenon for rocks to be in the baths as it was a smooth sandy bottom 60 years ago. They took the time to redo the baths so why not do it properly.</i>
		<i>wing to help stop erosion of channel banks. Grass banks on low area of channel and lake. new board - sea wall from Black Smith long over due.</i>
<i>Clean up the water front (seaweed) get rid of the rocks on the water front</i>		
<i>Cleaning up the banks of coal</i>		
<i>Access to the Jewells swamp</i>		
<i>Cleaning out the creek between Ntaba road and Curley street</i>		
<i>Creeks that flow into Jewells Wetlands around Jewells are weed and rubbish infested E.G 2 creeks along Ntaba road.</i>		
<i>Clean up the sea grass mess from the waterfront along Brooks Parade and Ross Street, especially in front of the boatshed at Belmont 16 Fts. This needs to be a regular program.</i>		
<i>Clean out the rocks in Belmont Baths. Have told you so many times, NO ONE CARES.</i>		
<i>Cleaning old tee creek</i>		

	Resilience and natural disasters	Structural audits	<i>Property structural census, at least half of the houses and buildings that I have seen around Newcastle and lake mac have some structural damage caused by the 80s earthquake, if this event occurs again the changes of a building to collapse would be higher. It would be good to encourage people and the local councils to analyze certain houses with weak structure and what can be done to support and make them stronger for a natural disaster.</i>
	Services	Cemeteries	<i>I would like to see Belmont Cemetery mowed more often, so that when i visit my late husband grave i can see the headstone.</i>
		Consultation	<i>More interaction between council and residents on levels of maintenance of council land.</i>
		Mowing	<i>Mowing of public areas</i>
			<i>Clean up more often reserve next door (60 Ntaba Rd, Jewells) has not been mowed or anything for months.</i>
			<i>would like to see the work that is being done in Warners bay Belmont Valentine extended to Caves Blacksmiths and Swansea. especially the grass mowing along the main roads</i>
		Passive indoor sports	<i>establish a billiards and snooker facility in the area. along with other passive indoor sports for the able bodied and physically handicapped people.</i>
		Ranger services	<i>Yes, have the council enforce dog regulations in Green Point reserve and have council rangers actively listen for nuisance dog barking on its perimeter.</i>
		Street sweeping	<i>Regular motorised street sweeping</i>
		Swimming and sauna facilities	<i>Belmont Baths to remove all rocks and replace with sand to make it more user friendly</i>
<i>Please remove all the rocks on the foreshore side of Belmont Baths to enable younger children to use baths.</i>			
Taxi	<i>Taxi at Jewells shops</i>		
Waste	<i>Restor weekly garbage collections with half size bins asking people to pay twice for weekly collection is unethical.</i>		
Community projects	Community resilience and civic pride	Gardening	<i>Plant a bed of flowers at the convergence of the Pacific Highway, Old Main Road Belmont North and Dalrymple St Jewells</i>
		Local events	<i>or a fencing/sword fighting group.</i>
		Mural	<i>mural on Cahill oval grandstand.</i>
		Seniors	<i>Caring for the elderly and infirmed. A buddy system where you check only the buddy. loneliness effects mental health. not enough done for these people.</i>
		Tiny houses	<i>Tiny houses to reduce homelessness</i>
	Natural environment	Landcare and bushland rehabilitation	<i>I was part of a group that established Jewells /Gilsmere Reserve landcare. I was eventually the last person standing, and now find myself getting older and 'time poor'. We really need our green corridors maintained free of introduced plants, but neighbours do not like the idea of people working behind their property, but some increase their footprint by encroaching into the corridors, which can be a fair issue as it reduces the impact of bushfire on their property.</i>
			<i>2. Weed control in green point reserve</i>
			<i>Mills Gully clean-up and cool burning program</i>
			<i>clear weeds and rubbish from Green Point reserve.</i>
			<i>Reactivate landcare activities in Green Point reserve with a focus on removing weeds like Lantana.</i>
<i>Maintaining paths through and around Green Point Reserve.</i>			

		<p><i>upgrading/improving of Naru Bushland area - this is a superb area currently in mess, need a plan to turn it into a natural garden/rainforest - no ovals just pathways and areas for kids to roam. not Croudace Bay park more like Green Point</i></p> <p><i>Removal of bitou buch, lantan in Green Point area and bush areas on Spinnaker Ridge Way.</i></p> <p><i>We need volunteers for Landcare as we do great job working at Green Point.</i></p> <p><i>End of George street Belmont reserve</i></p> <p><i>More walking trails through bush areas.</i></p> <p><i>Removal of weeds/invasive species of plants for creeks and waterways</i></p> <p><i>Bangalay Reserve - weed encroachment,</i></p> <p><i>yes - in splinker ridge drive there is a small forest surrounding the damage creek - bushfire hazards</i></p>
	Litter education and clean up	<p><i>Collecting rubbish that litters Lake Macquarie shoreline where I live</i></p> <p><i>Blackies breakwall is an absolute disgrace. All the rubbish that the fisherman leave is polluting a beautiful spot. they should be fined/banned and have bins and signs installed.</i></p>
	Urban greening and habitat	<p><i>Street trees,</i></p> <p><i>Local native tree planting.</i></p> <p><i>I would like to help 'beautify' the Jewells station on the Fernleigh Track. It is currently over run with weeds and could be made into a really nice space with native plants and chairs to sit and observe nature/wildlife.</i></p> <p><i>Use of grassland for the community to plant native shrubs, or herbs etc</i></p> <p><i>I'm writing about responsible tree ownership. We need to develop a harmonious approach to environmental sustainability ie a suitable model compared to density. Maintaining large trees on boundaries and exposing neighbours to risk is not the right approach to this.</i></p> <p><i>Plant spreading shade trees down the middle of the streets. installing flower baskets off every street pole and light. plant a community orchard (apple trees, citrus etc) every few blocks.</i></p> <p><i>Replace front lawns and nature strips with native gardens.</i></p> <p><i>Planting native tree/shrubs in parks/medium wide strips/streets etc to reduce temperatures in summer + beautify neighbourhoods + provide more habitat + food for native animals</i></p> <p><i>I would like to see more trees in the centre of Belmont.</i></p> <p><i>Maintaining the beautiful trees and schrubs that are already growing in our area</i></p> <p><i>Tree planting/replacing on footpaths</i></p> <p><i>help support the local gov with maintaining all of our parks and public areas. compared to other council areas eg. Coffs Harbor. we could do alot better. east alke mac is special and should be looked after.</i></p> <p><i>maintain our Park</i></p>
Sustainable living	Community garden	<p><i>Community Garden - the one at Bunya Park Eleebana is beautiful</i></p> <p><i>Community garden,</i></p> <p><i>I work at TAFE Belmont. I would love to see permaculture gardens set up for students to sit in and or enjoy eating from. Especially a and b blocks and on a terrace there</i></p> <p><i>Council could allocate some land for a Community Garden - more for Social reasons - meet like minded people</i></p>

			<i>Kids community garden,</i>
			<i>Creating gardens which have indigenous plants for health and the table that can be shared with neighbours</i>
			<i>1. Community garden. and</i>
			<i>Community garden would be nice</i>
			<i>Community garden,</i>
			<i>Community Garden in Belmont</i>
			<i>Establish a community garden in our area.</i>
			<i>Community Garden in our neighbourhood</i>
			<i>Belmont needs a community garden</i>
			<i>and have also part of it as a community garden.</i>
			<i>Community garden - vegetables.</i>
			<i>A community garden where we can grow food together.</i>
			<i>To retain our pebble beach community garden</i>
			<i>A community garden - a place to connect with like minded neighbours and learn about sustainable gardening/self-sufficiency</i>
			<i>Community Garden</i>
			<i>Seed swap/local garden for community to swap veggies, plants or take what they need for their family.</i>
	<i>Neighborhood garden? neighbourhood swap/sell stalls quarterly</i>		
	<i>Install a community managed ground mount solar system to power public facilities.</i>		
	Repair, reuse and DIY	<i>Share shop, repair shop, soup kitchen at maybe Belmont Neighbourhood centre Can you guys buy the Anglican Church in Jewells and turn it into an awesome hub for community?</i>	
		<i>book exchange</i>	
		<i>Please see attached letter with my idea for a repurposing community cafe. This would be an initiative that serves two purposes. please see attached letter. Letter proposes community hub for reuse and work opportunities for people with disabilities.</i>	
		<i>Street library/Book community engage</i>	
	Water tank bulk purchase	<i>Bulk supply of water tanks to collect all of this extra rain we are getting, or even a rebate to purchase water tanks</i>	
Education workshops and skill sharing	Community and culture	Heritage	<i>I am interested in interviewing older residents and recording oral history. I have an interest in genealogy and history and my work as a psychologist involves interviewing people. I think this would be a worthwhile project.</i>
			<i>Historical Walks</i>
	Community capacity building	Community engagement	<i>Already help keep street/area connected and check in on elderly neighbours or those struggling</i>
	Natural environment	Engaging with schools and young people	<i>bush school in green point (WA has a great organisation!)</i>
		Fishing	<i>Junior fishing workshops and recycle of fishing equipment.</i>
	Local wildlife	<i>I would like to see some possum boxes be installed in trees and possum crossings over high traffic roads.</i>	

			<i>I would like a workshop putting up possum boxes and bird nesting boxes up. there is no birds in the wetlands</i>
		Nature trail	<i>Aquatic Lecture at the old TAFE site. . Clearing of walking trails from Belmont North to Floraville Public awareness of why we have Green Point Reserve and why dogs shouldnt be walked i allowed to run free in the reserve Only one bush walking in groups with someone who knows the background of the area. Walking paths through bushland at Belmont South of beach and Marrot street and behind cemetery to beach.</i>
		Urban greening and habitat	<i>Education and awareness of local biodiversity issues.</i>
	Sharing with neighbours	Gardening	<i>Seed swap/local garden for community to swap veggies, plants or take what they need for their family. Neighborhood garden? neighbourhood swap/sell stalls quarterly</i>
		Mowing	<i>My street runs down to the lake, it has a wide medium strip, which is always in need of mowing, maybe neighbour's with a suitable mower could do the section in front of their homes.</i>
	Sustainable living	Bee keeping	<i>beehives,</i>
		Energy	<i>how we can all reduce energy consumption and waste initiatives</i>
		Engaging with schools and young people	<i>youth week.</i>
		Gardening and composting	<i>Veggie gardens</i>
	Waste	Recycling	<i>Metal recycling bins More information regarding recycle programs for soft plastic rubbish reduction.</i>
		Waste reduction	<i>Community waste reduction tips. Campaign McDonalds to allow reusable cups! also we have a dept of housing state that leave rubbish and bins out all year round. It certainly cant hurt to get more involvements. plastics are evil things particularly non recyclable ones. how we can all reduce energy consumption and waste initiatives</i>
Local businesses	Local businesses	Community engagement	<i>Engaging with local businesses for ideas</i>
Other comments			<i>Looked towards setting up neighborhood group in Jewells but unable to commit to times caring for elderly relative. I will actively embrace any projects include the community engaging in How about safety, get rid of asbestos and lead based paints in older homes before playing community greenie, we are surrounded by bushland. At my age of 91 years. I don't think i will be to work physically in a group, However I do want to implement my gratitude and appreciation about the work LMCC has done over the years in Lake Macquarie. it is amazing how much the council has done over the years and still does. I have thanked the council several times in the past, we moved to our house in Evans St in 1962. Thank you so much Lake Macquarie City Council.</i>

		<i>Safe house for school children.</i>
		<i>We are happy with our current situation in the area as it is now</i>
		<i>Salvation Army</i>
		<i>Look for accidents about to dont wait for it to happen</i>
		<i>Belmont is a neglected suburb, heavy traffic most of the time north and south, empty shops, shops are spread out, traffic lights are uncoordinated</i>