

Dudley Sustainable Neighbourhood Community Attitudes Survey

December 2010

A report on the attitudes of the Dudley community, prepared by Lake Macquarie City Council as part of the Sustainable Neighbourhoods program, February 2011.

BACKGROUND

Council's Sustainable Neighbourhoods program provides support to communities to plan and make changes that will reduce their ecological footprint at a neighbourhood scale.

In late 2010, Council and the Dudley community joined forces to support the growth of a Dudley Sustainable Neighbourhood Group and develop a Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) for Dudley. We have embarked on a range of activities to engage our neighbours, deepen our understanding of Dudley, and discover what Dudley residents are most passionate about.

This report presents the results of the Community Attitudes Survey, undertaken in Dudley in December 2010. The survey aims to gauge community attitudes to the natural environment, sustainable living, and climate change issues in order to inform the development of the Dudley SNAP.

The survey forms part of a program of community development and engagement activities to collect input from the broadest possible range of Dudley residents. Public workshops, information stalls, media articles, and hands on activities will also be used to gain input from residents. The survey captures some of the values, attitudes, and concerns of residents who may not participate in other engagement activities, and gives a broader perspective for the development of the SNAP for Dudley.

METHODOLOGY

In December 2010, the survey was posted to approximately 900 households in Dudley utilising Council's ratepayer database. The survey was a self-return format, with a prize draw promoted on the front cover as an incentive for residents to complete it. The survey form can be found in Appendix 1.

The survey asked respondents to:

- have lived in Lake Macquarie City for more than six months;
- be over 18 years old; and
- be one of the key decision makers in their household.

In total, 148 surveys were returned – a return rate of 16%.

Key Findings

1. Local sustainability issues in Dudley

Respondents were most concerned about:

- Biodiversity (Protecting and enhancing bushland, habitat, wildlife, and natural environments)
- Threat from bushfire
- Water quality and stormwater management

The issues rated of most importance were:

- Having access to parks, beaches, bushland and other natural areas
- Protecting and improving the natural environment
- Reducing waste

2. Climate change over the next 20 years

The majority (68%) of residents agreed that climate change will directly impact their life over the next 20 years, with the main impacts being:

- Changes in weather / extreme weather events
- Increased cost of living
- Increased temperatures / warmer weather

3. Your sustainability choices

Most respondents (>70%) have one or more of these items on their property:

- Water efficient appliances and fittings
- Household insulation
- Energy efficient appliances

Native gardens (64%), vegetable gardens (54%), and composts (49%) are also relatively widespread.

Food scraps and organic waste

Over 70% of respondents dispose of their food / organic scraps in a compost, worm farm, or chooks. The most common reasons for not having a compost or worm farm include:

- My living circumstances are not appropriate
- I need more information before I decide
- I do not need or want a worm farm / compost

GreenPower

Almost one in five respondents purchased GreenPower, with comments indicating some confusion about what it is. The main reasons for not purchasing GreenPower are:

- I cannot afford GreenPower
- I do not know much about GreenPower

Public transport

Most respondents (over 78%) reported that they never or seldom use public transport. The most common reasons included:

- the route and timetables for public transport in my area is not convenient
- I prefer to use my car

Motivation

Respondents ranked 'A personal responsibility to do the right thing for the environment' as their primary motivation for improving their environmental behaviour, closely followed by, 'Rebates and incentives', and 'Saving money'.

4. Sustainability actions in your neighbourhood

Participation

Respondents indicated they are most likely to participate in activities such as:

- Growing native gardens
- Taking part in home audits (energy, waste, water usage)
- Education events specific to the region's flora, fauna and natural environment

The Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program

One third of respondents had either heard of (31%) or participated in (3%) the Sustainable Neighbourhoods program, with a flyer (included in the survey mail-out) being the primary means they had heard about it.

One hundred and nineteen respondents (80%) indicated that they would like to be kept informed about neighbourhood projects in Dudley.

5. About Dudley

Respondents had a high level of agreement that:

- There are adequate natural environments in my neighbourhood for me to pursue leisure time activities
- I can call on a neighbour if I need help
- Natural features in my neighbourhood should be protected and improved by residents
- In general, I feel that most people in my neighbourhood can be trusted
- I take measures to reduce my ecological footprint

The top three things people like about living in Dudley include:

- Proximity to natural environments (especially local bushland, coastline, and beaches)
- It is peaceful and quiet
- People (friendly, trustworthy neighbours, community spirit)

6. Your Ideas

Respondents contributed over 100 ideas and suggestions about how Dudley residents and/or businesses could improve the environment or community of Dudley. These were grouped into a number of categories including:

- Fernleigh track, connecting cyclepaths, footpaths and pedestrian friendly
- Protecting and enhancing natural areas and systems
- Environmental education and awareness raising
- Community gatherings, meeting places and fostering social connection

- Reducing household energy use, water use, and consumption
- Public and community transport, and Ocean St maintenance
- Reducing household waste
- Community wellbeing, safety, fostering pride of place and improving aesthetic
- Legislation and planning controls
- Other

Implications for the Dudley Sustainable Neighbourhood Project

The results of this survey highlight some important points relevant to the development of a Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan for Dudley, and will be used to supplement similar information to be gathered from a range of other activities such as information displays and community workshops, and targeted community engagement activities.

Values and Assets

The suburb is set in a beautiful natural setting, surrounded in three directions by high quality bushland (Glenrock and Awabakal Nature Reserves), beaches, and a spectacular coastline. The proximity to these natural assets and the community's clear appreciation for them highlight the potential for community involvement in managing and protecting these natural assets.

Dudley is in a distinct location (there is no through traffic), and has a small, village or hamlet atmosphere, enabling residents to experience peace and quiet, while being relatively close to major town centres at Charlestown and Newcastle.

Dudley residents have identified they live in a safe, friendly, and tight-knit community. This connectedness amongst residents and feeling of community pride is a significant asset to integrate into the development of a more sustainable and resilient neighbourhood.

Issues

Respondents identified a very broad range of issues in their neighbourhood, with a high proportion of responses relating to the protection of the natural environment. In addition, the threat of bushfire appeared as a significant issue for many residents, as well as waste management, transport (public transport and cycling), reducing water and energy use, and public infrastructure, urban development and government services.

Identification of these issues from a broad cross section of the Dudley community is essential as a basis for developing sustainability actions that will address those actions of highest priority for the majority of Dudley residents.

Actions

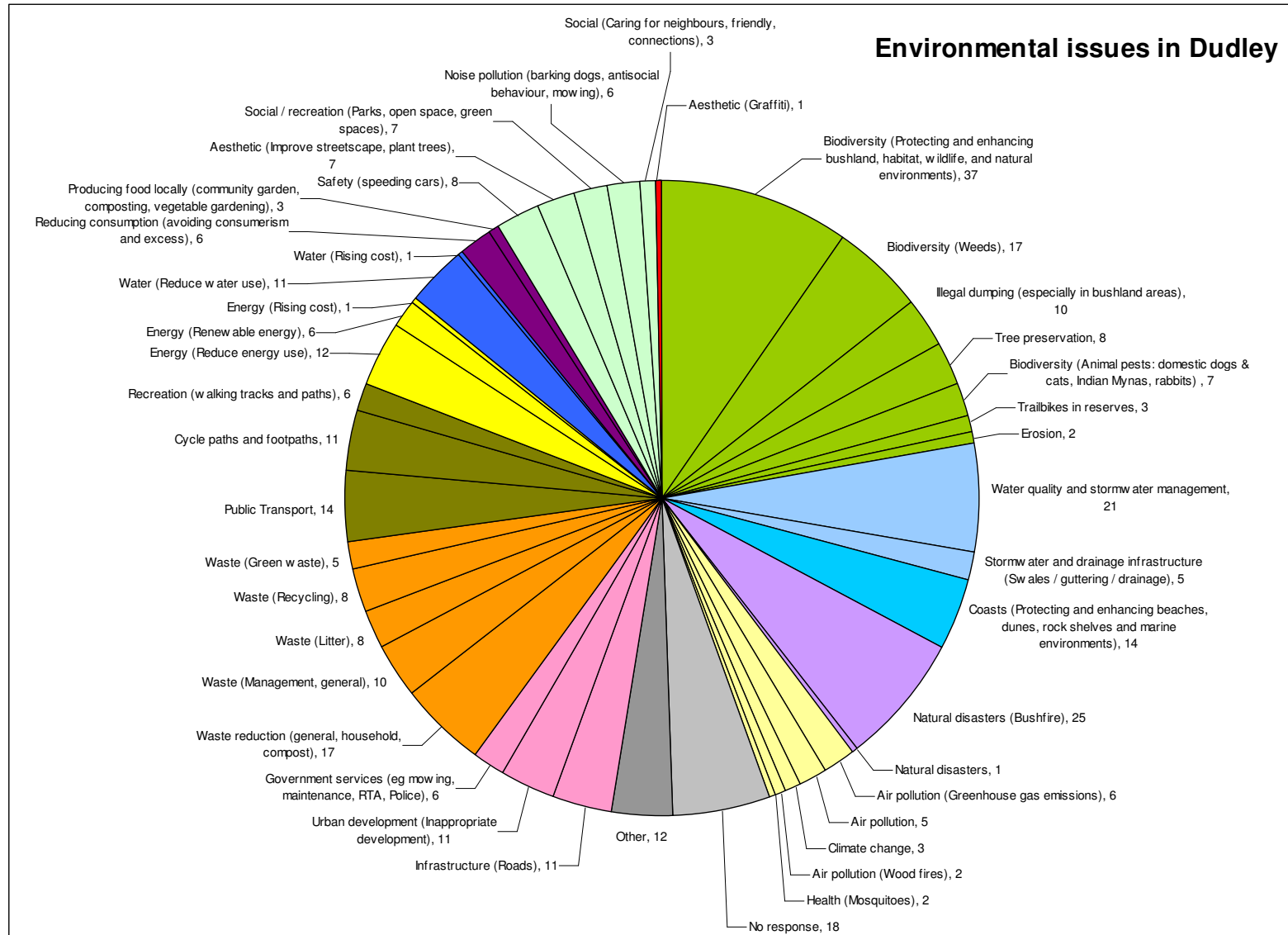
The survey results highlight some potential neighbourhood actions and give an indication of activities that are likely to gain popular support from the Dudley community. Actions that address the issues mentioned above are likely to have community support. Other popular suggestions included:

- Community support to connect the existing Fernleigh Track route to Dudley and otherwise encourage improved public transport, cycleways and pedestrian friendly infrastructure;
- Establish a community garden;
- A variety of projects to protect and enhance Glenrock and Awabakal reserves and adjoining bushland, coastline, and beaches;
- Actions to prepare residents for bushfire emergency;
- Information and hands on workshops, educational field trips, and home audits of backyard, energy, waste and water use; and
- Community social events and gatherings such as picnics and performances.

Detailed Results

1. LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES IN DUDLEY

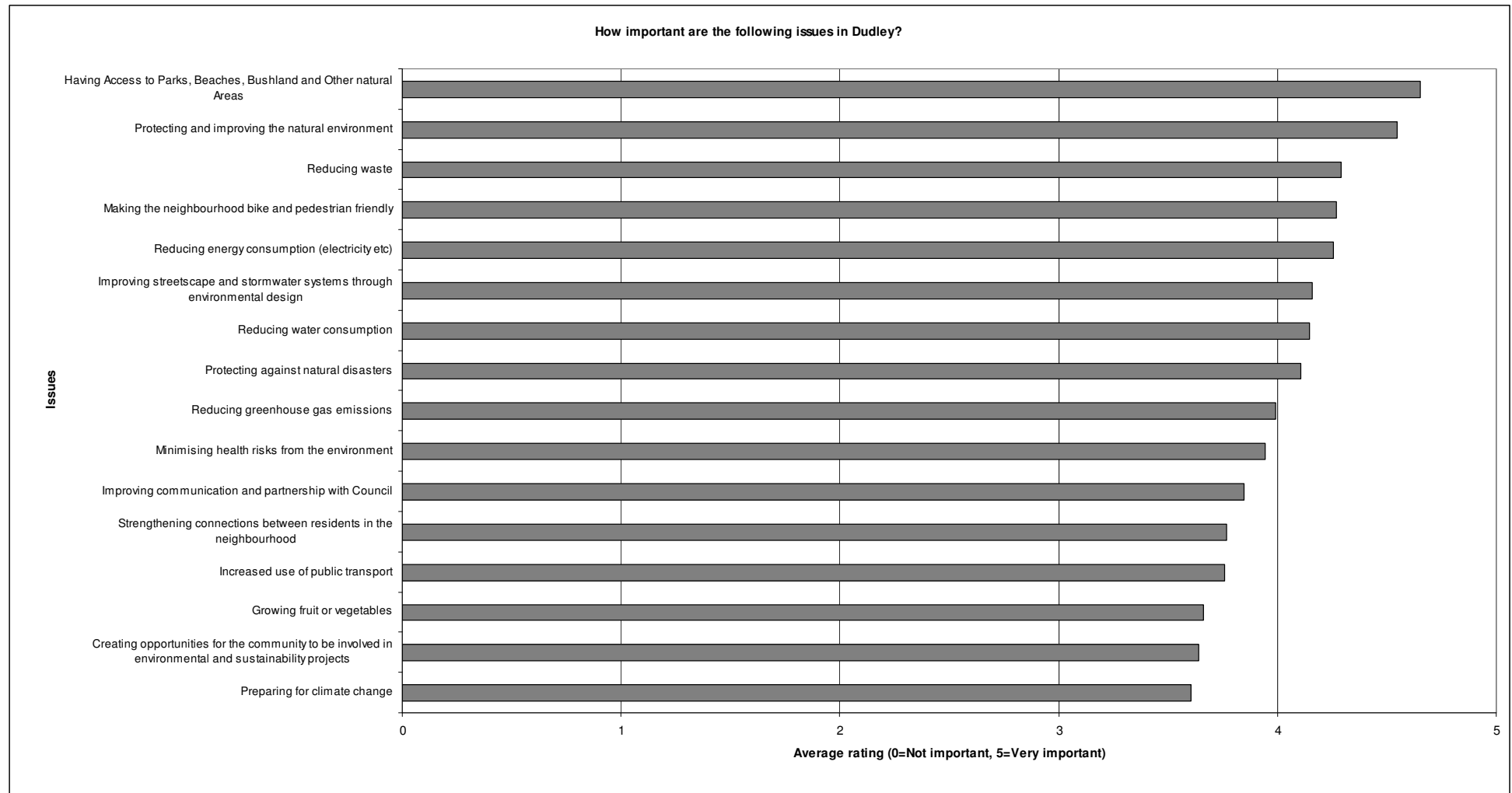
Q1a. What are the three most important environmental issues in your neighbourhood today? (list no more than 3)



Other responses included:

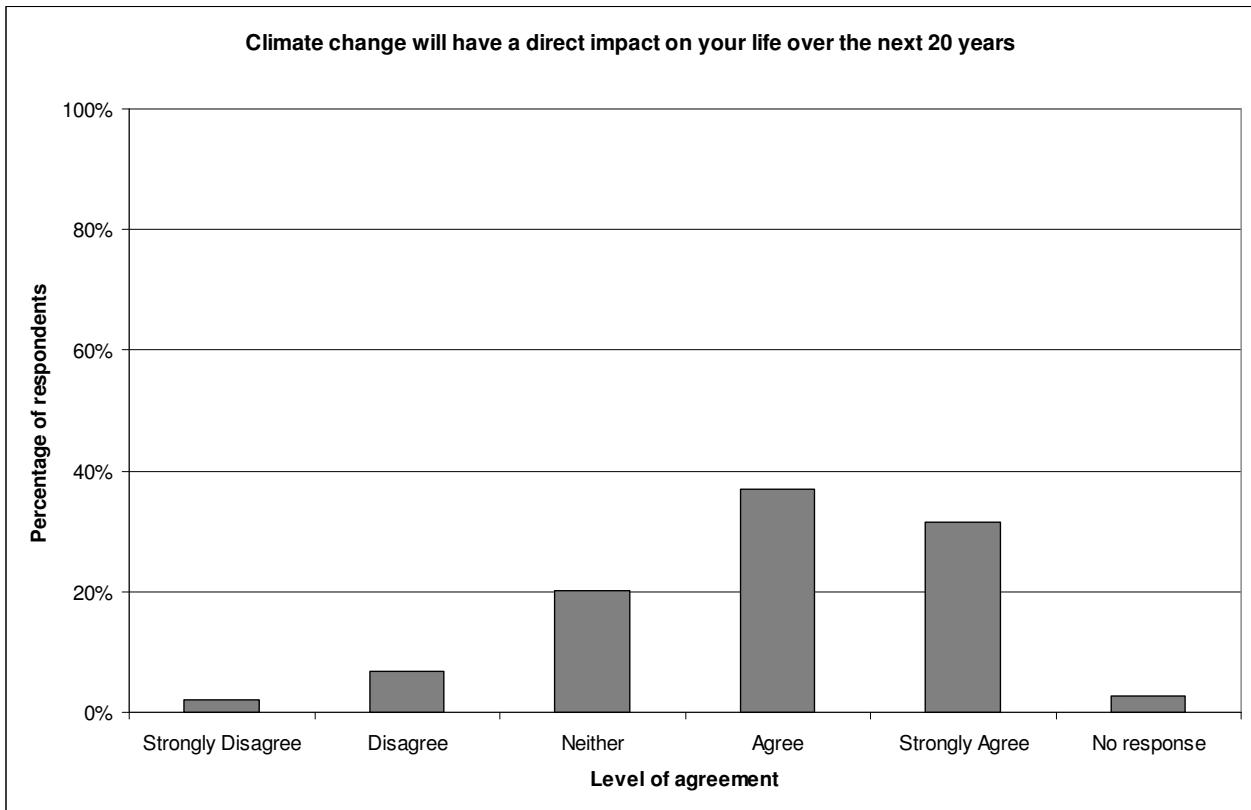
- I like Dudley the way it is
- Maintaining residual status
- Inappropriately placed vegetation
- The quarry being the old dump
- Pollution
- No incentive for rental properties to install solar, water tanks etc
- Residents having access to snake catchers
- More support to move to greener living (solar, community vegetable garden)
- Overharvesting of sea snails and other rock shelf fauna
- Threat of pollution from shipping
- Stray dogs
- Too many greenies

Q1b. Please rate how important you think the following are to your neighbourhood

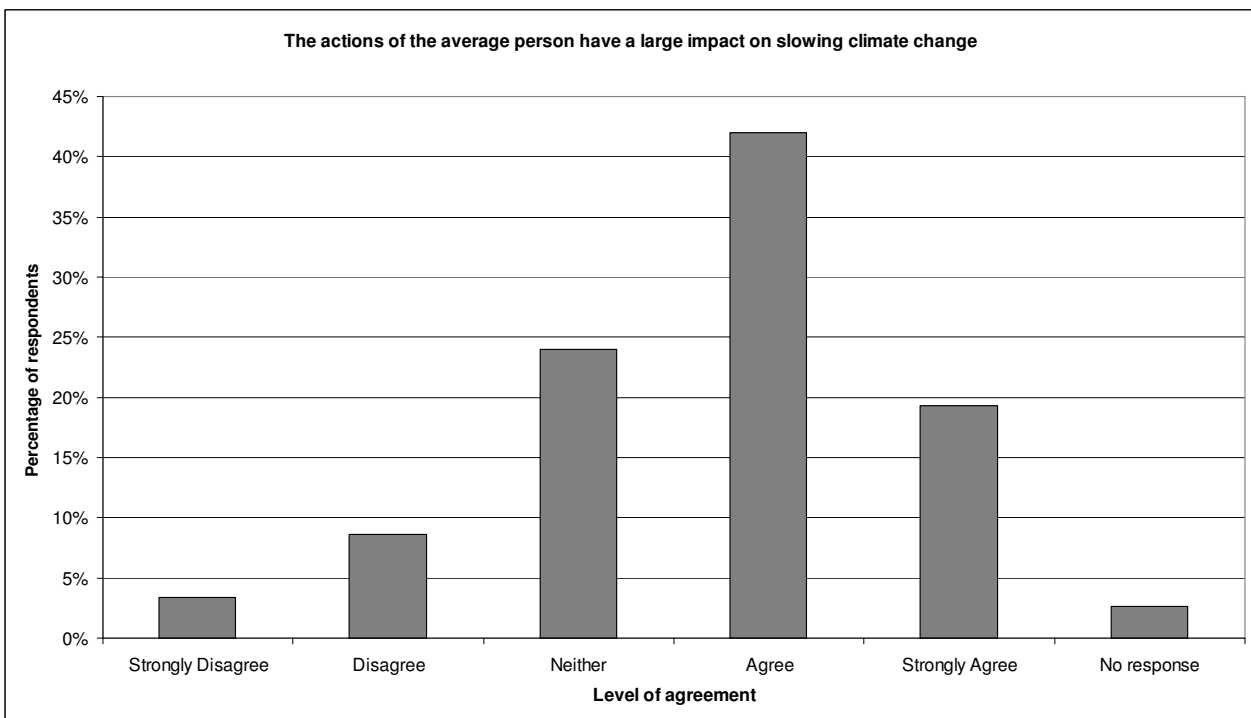


2. CLIMATE CHANGE OVER THE NEXT 20 YEARS

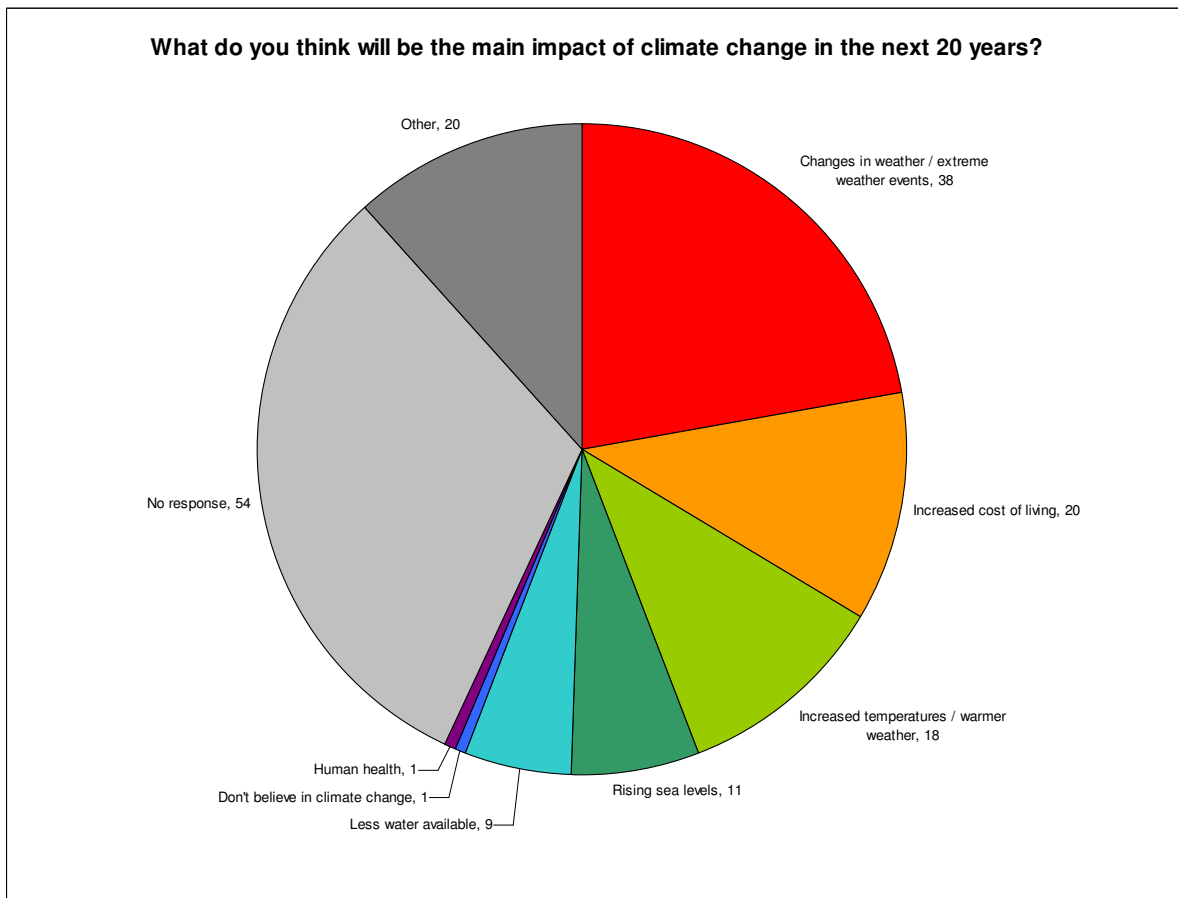
Q2a. How strongly do you agree, or disagree, that climate change will have a direct impact on your life over the next 20 years?



Q2c. How strongly do you agree, or disagree, that the actions of the average person have a large impact on slowing climate change?



Q2b. If you agree or strongly agree with the statement in Q2a, what do you think will be the MAIN impact of climate change in the next 20 years?

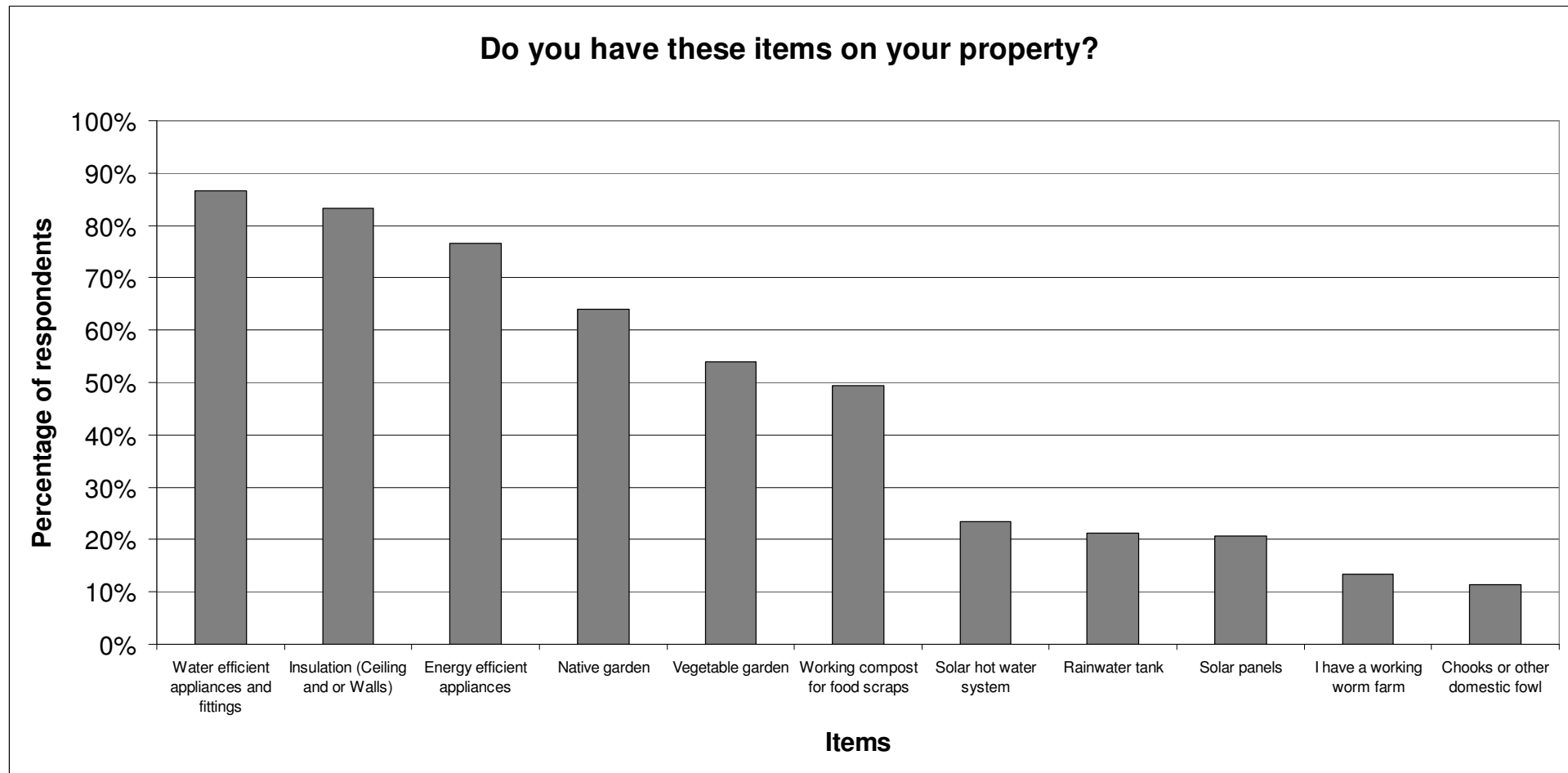


Other responses included:

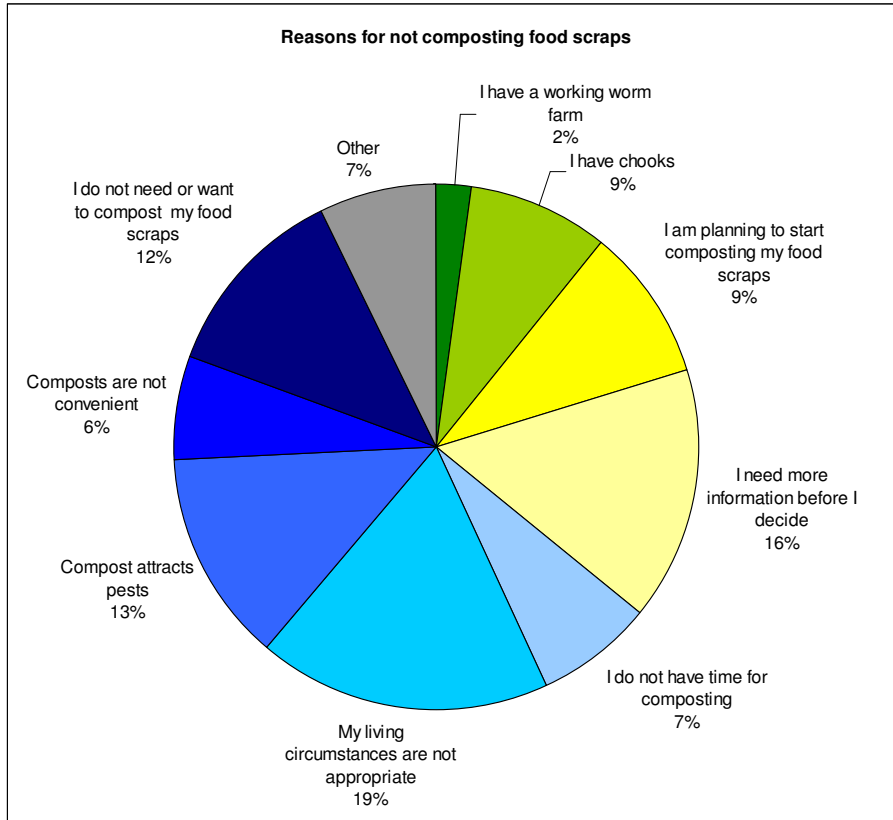
- Population growth
- Over population
- Air and sea pollution
- Air and water pollution
- Pollution
- Food security
- Environment
- Changes to environment such as habitat destruction and changes to composition of the atmosphere and its consequences
- Making changes to prevent its occurrence
- Green house gas - we don't have enough or consistent and accessible public transport in the Dudley area
- Waste and energy levels as there is only so much of the underground we can dig up
- Our habits and their impact on the earth
- Increased ultraviolet through ozone layer
- Inability to get a price on carbon because of hostility from mining interests
- Heat, power, water consumption, More concern of peak oil crises
- Won't be around in 20 years but it is very important to my grand kids
- Running out of resources
- Food shortages, possibly due to changes in rainfall and temp leading to poor yields and unexpected pests and diseases affecting crops
- Difficult to answer that question as climate change will impact on everything as causing chaos to our natural environment will result in chaos in our man made environment
- Loss of freedom, I hope in 20 years time our lifestyle would have changed from major consumption to one of sharing

3. YOUR SUSTAINABILITY CHOICES

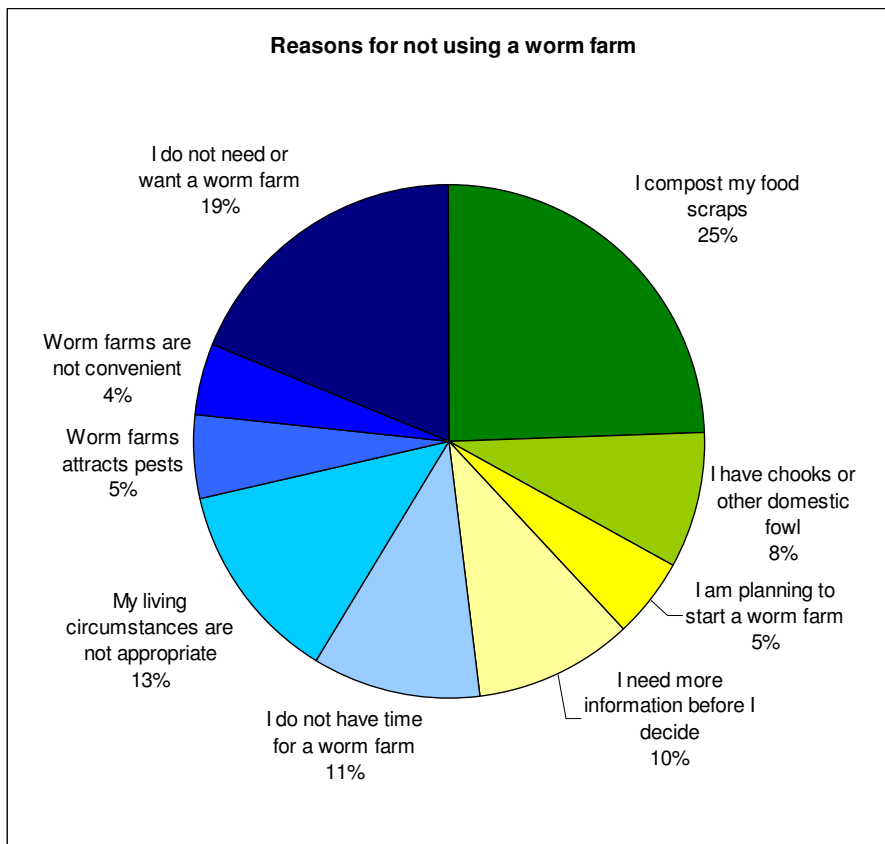
Q3a. Do you have any of the following items on your property?



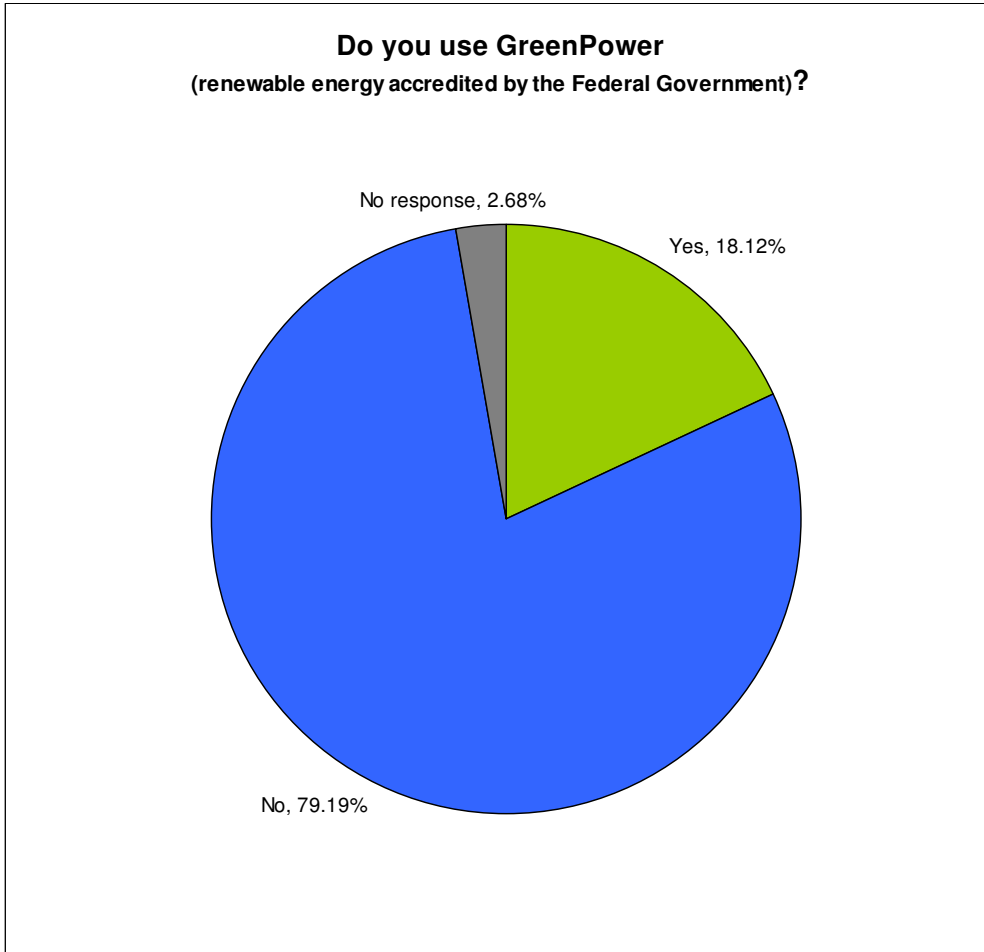
Q3b. If you do not compost food scraps, please indicate why. List all reasons that apply.



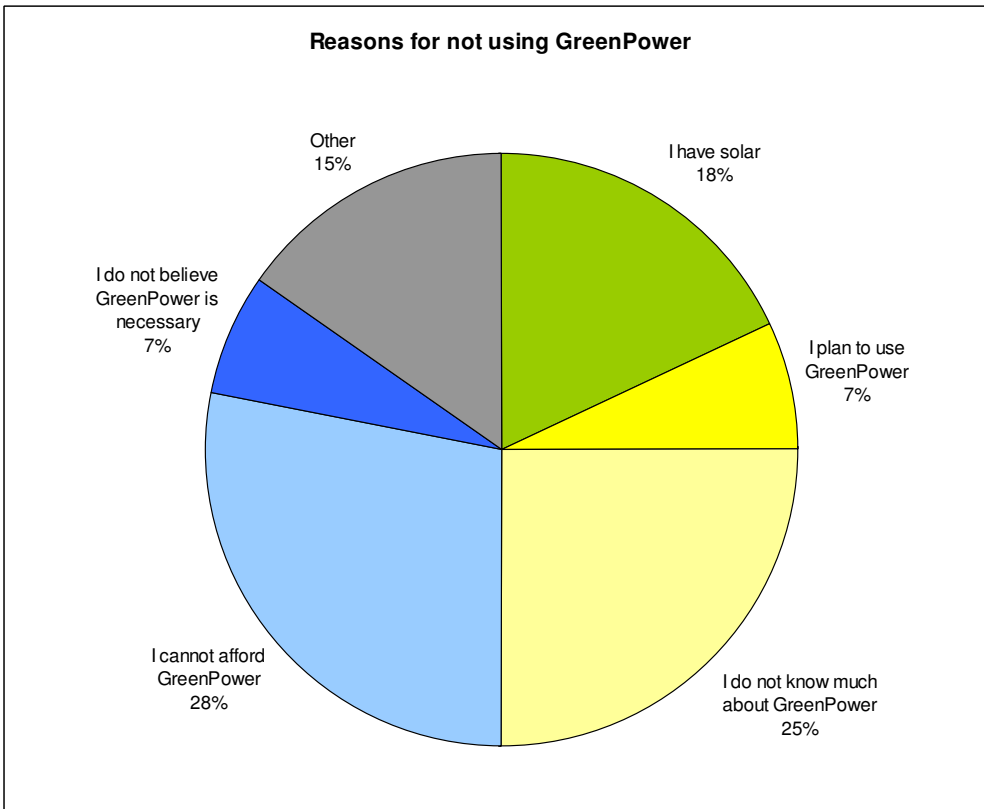
Q3c. If you do not have a working worm farm, please indicate why. List all reasons that apply.



Q3d. Do you use GreenPower (renewable energy accredited by the Federal Government)?



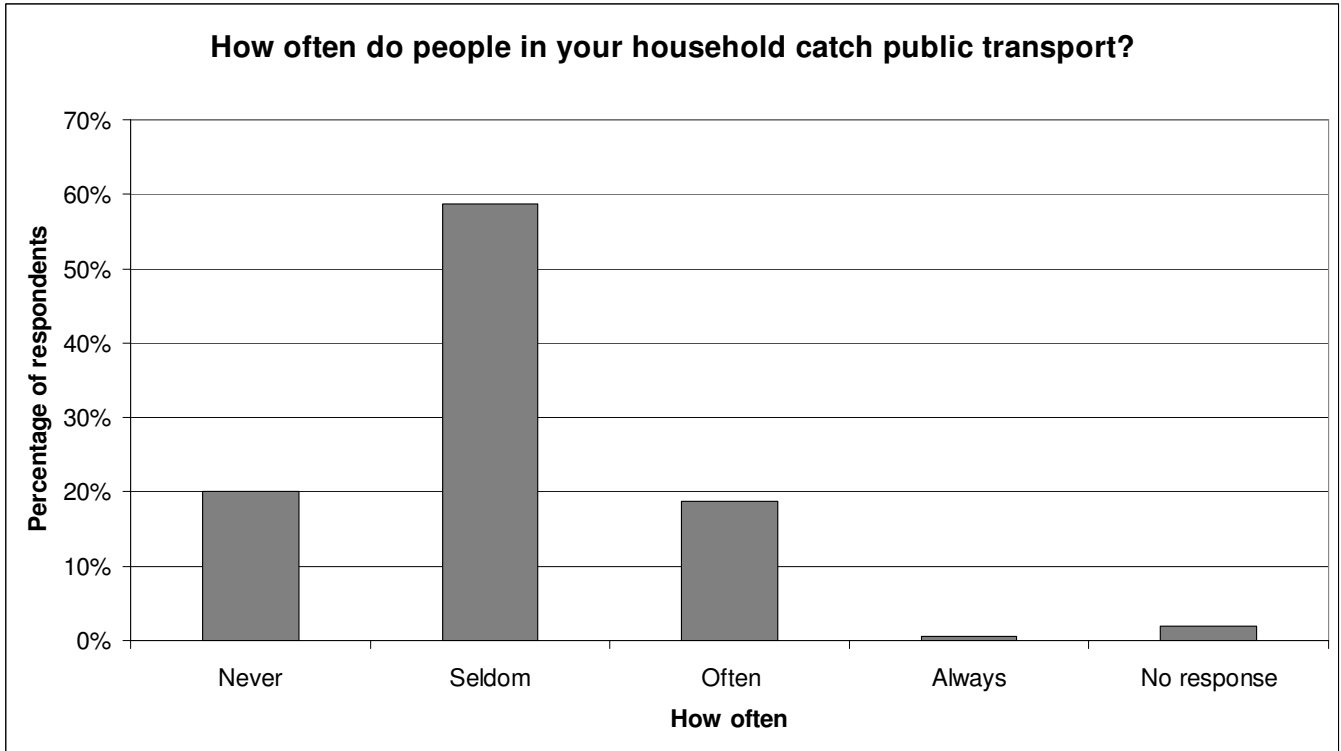
Q3e. If you do not use GreenPower, please indicate why. List all reasons that apply.



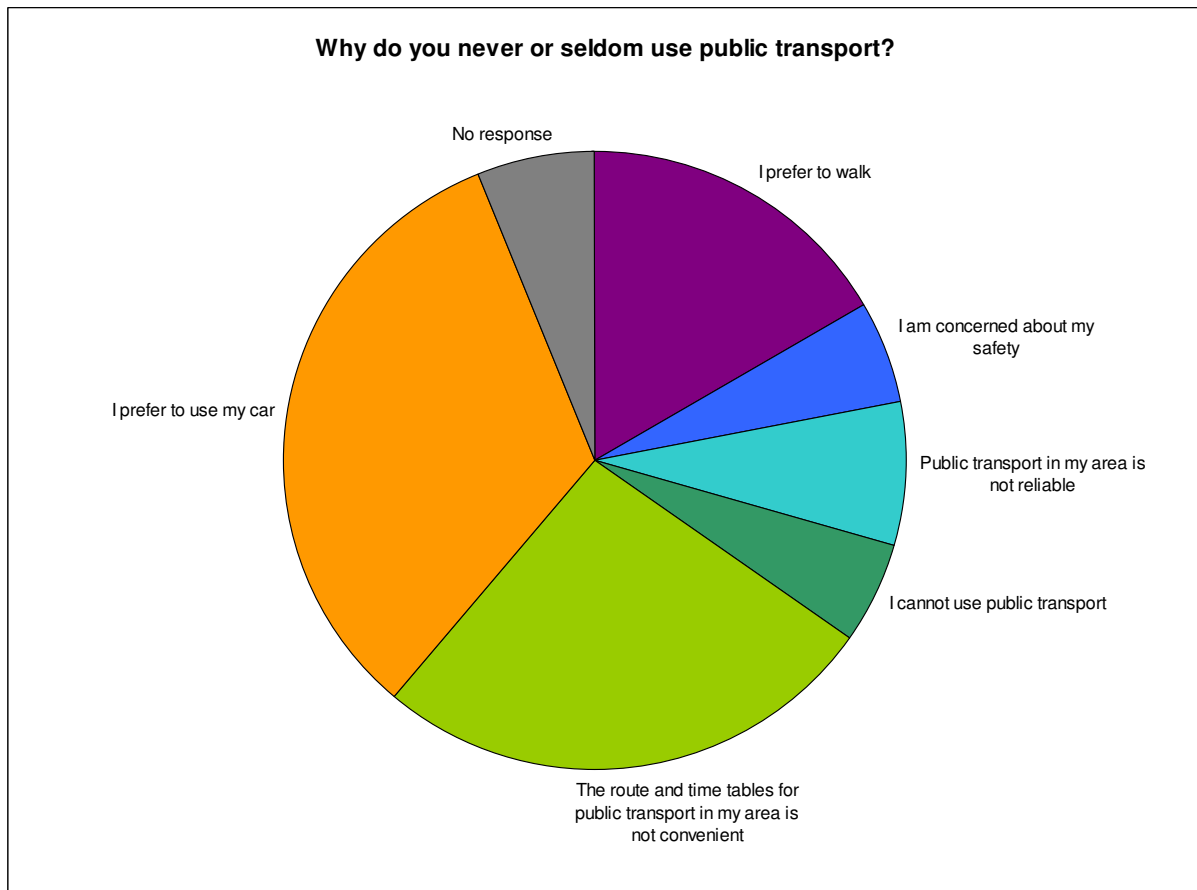
Other reasons and extra explanations included:

- Solar panels are still too expensive and inefficient. If the Government is serious it needs to fund these for all households at no cost. Payback period is still far too long.
- There was an oversubscription to green power and not all applicant's received what they asked for.
- Stop subsidising coal power and make green power cheaper.
- When it becomes cost effective as an alternative.
- Renting otherwise I would.
- Should not be up to individuals to kick start 'green' power generation. This should be a priority for federal and NSW governments.
- I believe there is too much profiteering from green power at the moment.
- Gas as it is equated to best value energy source for lowest carbon footprint and cost.
- Husband works at power generator - the nature of electricity is not certain the renewable energy is what you use.
- Very frugal consumer of electricity. At this stage not cost effective 20c no 45c yes.
- Used to but changed provider.
- Coal mining foundations, believe 'Green Power' is a hoax.
- Why pay more as all the power coming into the home is the same.
- Can't afford to install it.
- I don't trust this accounting.
- The tariff was too high on an already expensive power bill. All power sources should cost the same rate.
- This house is energy efficient - built n/s, with windows for cross flow, native garden self sufficient and uses minimal energy.
- It should be a community/national initiative.
- Exposure to SE gales makes solar collectors on roof likely to cause catastrophic failure to roof sheeting.
- Feel that green power cannot meet demands at present. We can't have solar power because of gum tree corner.
- I'm not convinced the money is spent on greenpower initiatives.

Q3f. How often do people in your household use public transport?



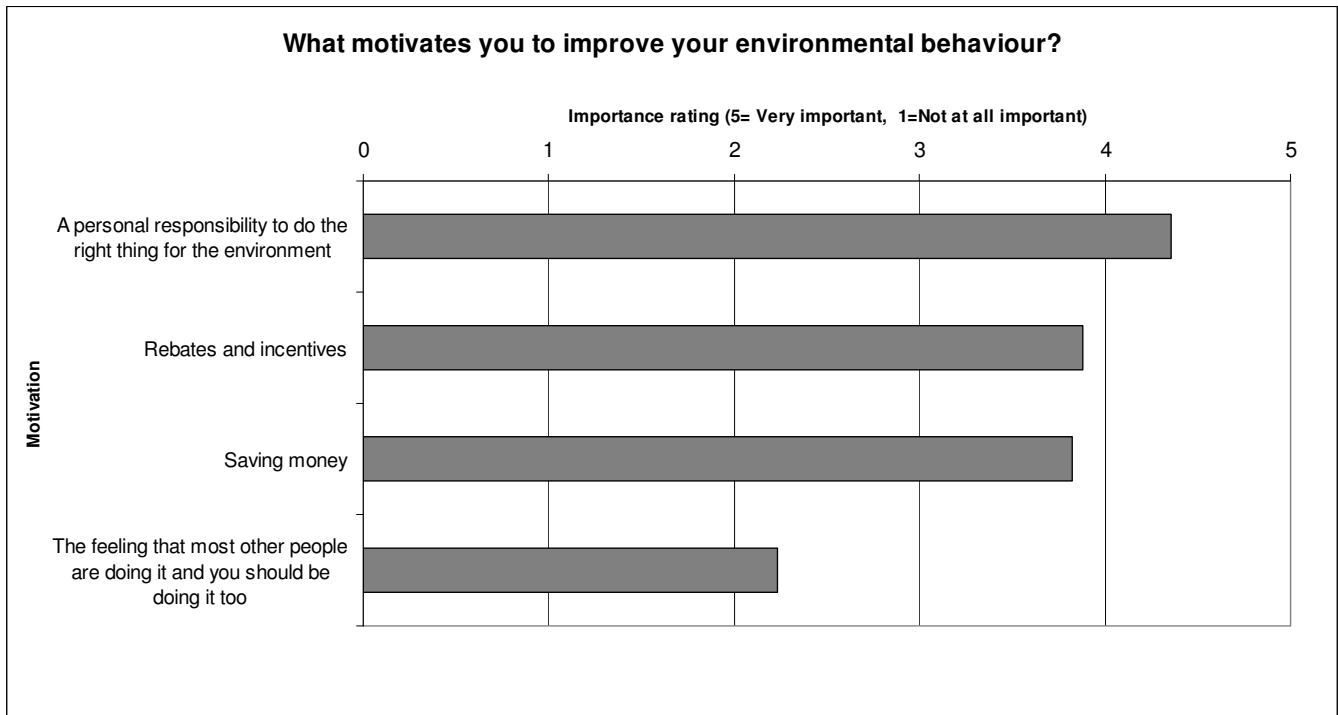
Q3g. If your household never or seldom uses public transport, please indicate why. List all that apply.



Other reasons and extra explanations included:

- Very young children, not practical
- None
- Using car means mobility
- Wife has multiple sclerosis
- Hope to more as the kids grow up
- Bus routes too circuitous and take too long
- Small buses ran more frequently may change consumer use
- The bus trip to the city takes 1 hour by a circuitous route. By car it is 15-20 minutes
- Arranging your life around timetables
- I live 1 hours drive from work at Tocal - no suitable public transport options exist
- Buses are too infrequent
- Public transport is neither on time, reliable or hygienic
- Buses are not frequent enough
- It takes 20 mins to Newcastle by car and 45 mins by bus, Why use the bus?
- I still work - not possible or practical to place of work, frequency inadequate (hourly)
- Difficult to take 2 small children on public transport
- Public transport is far too slow (i.e. 1 hr to Newcastle by bus but by train often 2 to 3 hours to Sydney)
- The current bus makes it to the city - takes upward of 2 hours, as opposed to 20 mins in the car
- Public transport take too long to get anywhere
- It takes 1 hr 15 mins to catch the bus to Newcastle CBD and only 20 mins to drive
- My workplace/site locations prevent this
- My husband and I are aged and lacking mobility
- Employment circumstances require being on the road
- By bus, it takes 1 hr to get to Newcastle Station, by car about 17 minutes, buses only run hourly or less
- Time pressures car (or even cycling) is quicker
- My work circumstances require me to use my company car
- You need a car for supermarket shopping or entertainment these day

Q3h, What motivates you to improve your environmental behaviour?

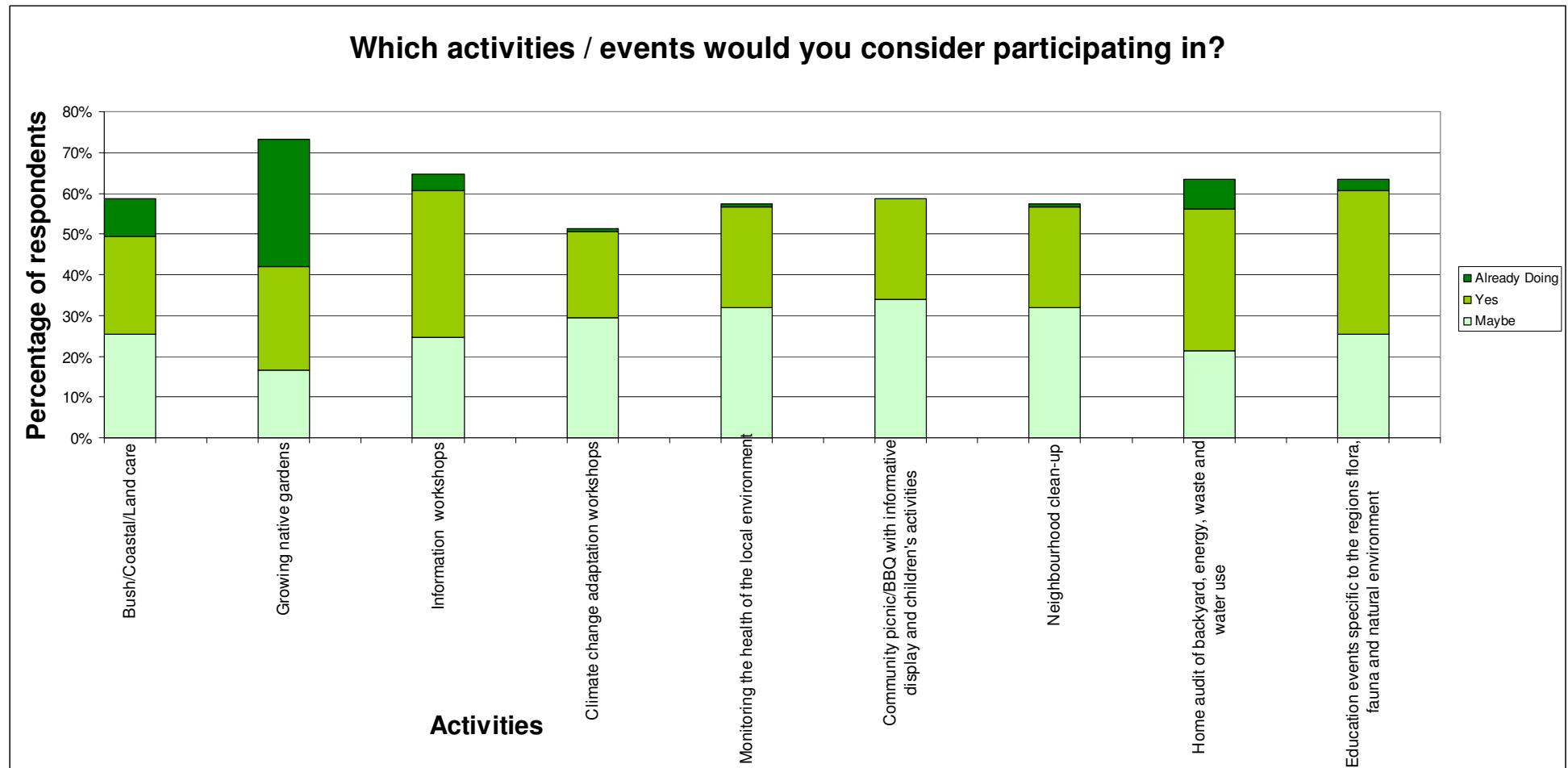


Other reasons and extra explanations included:

- Bike and walk to work fitness
- Preserve what we have now for following generations
- Future - I want my family to enjoy the beautiful surrounds as I have
- Knowing it works and doesn't simply relocate a problem
- Knowledge and awareness of the impacts of pollution on sea level rise, habitat destruction, clearing of nature vegetation and the negative impact that all of those things combined have on the environment and species
- More options
- Leaving the place better than I found it
- Legislation
- We would if we could
- My concerns that my children will have a safe environment to grow up in

4. SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

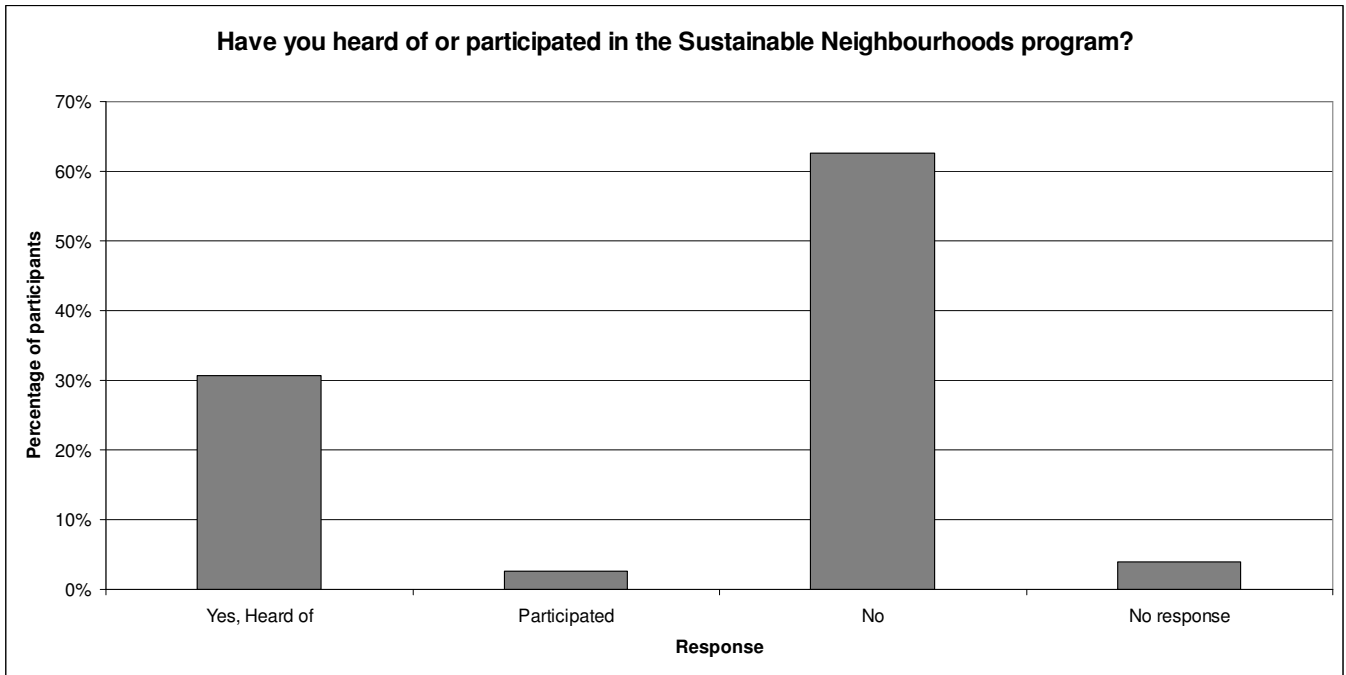
Q4a. Which of the following activities / events would you consider participating in?



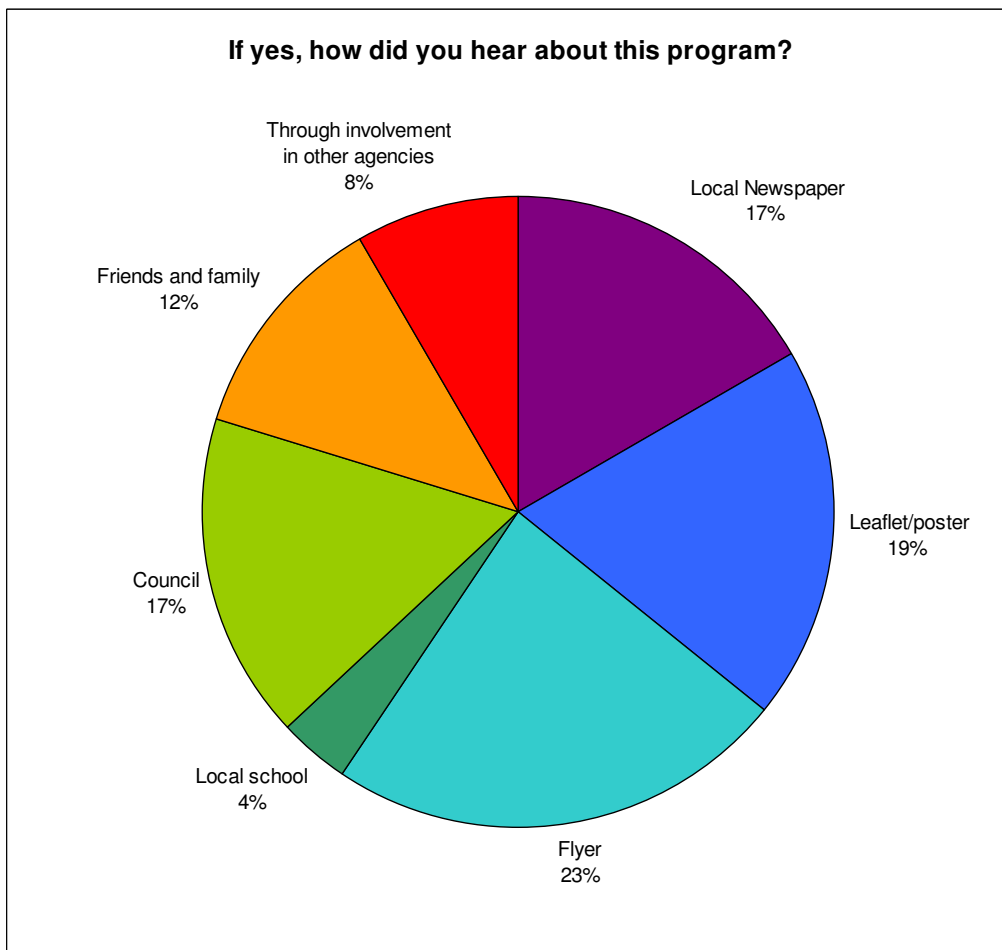
Suggestions for workshops / educational events / or other community activities included:

- Community garden e.g. beside Dudley Pensioner Hall, Preserving marine life a rack shelf Dudley Bluff region
- Community garden
- Community garden
- Spend money wisely - too top heavy
- Continuous flyers on general knowledge to improve environment
- How much it costs to set up rainwater tanks, solar power, rebates how does it work? A one stop workshop.
- Practical examples of how to reduce energy consumption in your dwelling
- Resource use education (lots of people still hosing driveways and watering roads rather than garden).
- Minimising impacts of recreational use of reserves (mountain biking, horse riding).
- Aboriginal significance education - Awabakal/Glenrock etc
- Street tree planting
- Community purchase of tanks
- If people were fined for littering more often they would not litter, I always take my rubbish home if no bins are provided. Everyone should do the same. We pay enough in rates not to pick up rubbish
- Have limited mobility/energy for physical work but am happy to support and encourage others
- I already work in natural resource management as a day job and play in a band, I am too time poor at present
- My wife has MS and I am her carer - she is 73 and I am 75

Q4b. Have you heard of or participated in the Sustainable Neighbourhoods program?



Q4c. If yes, how did you hear about this program? List all methods that apply.



Other responses included:

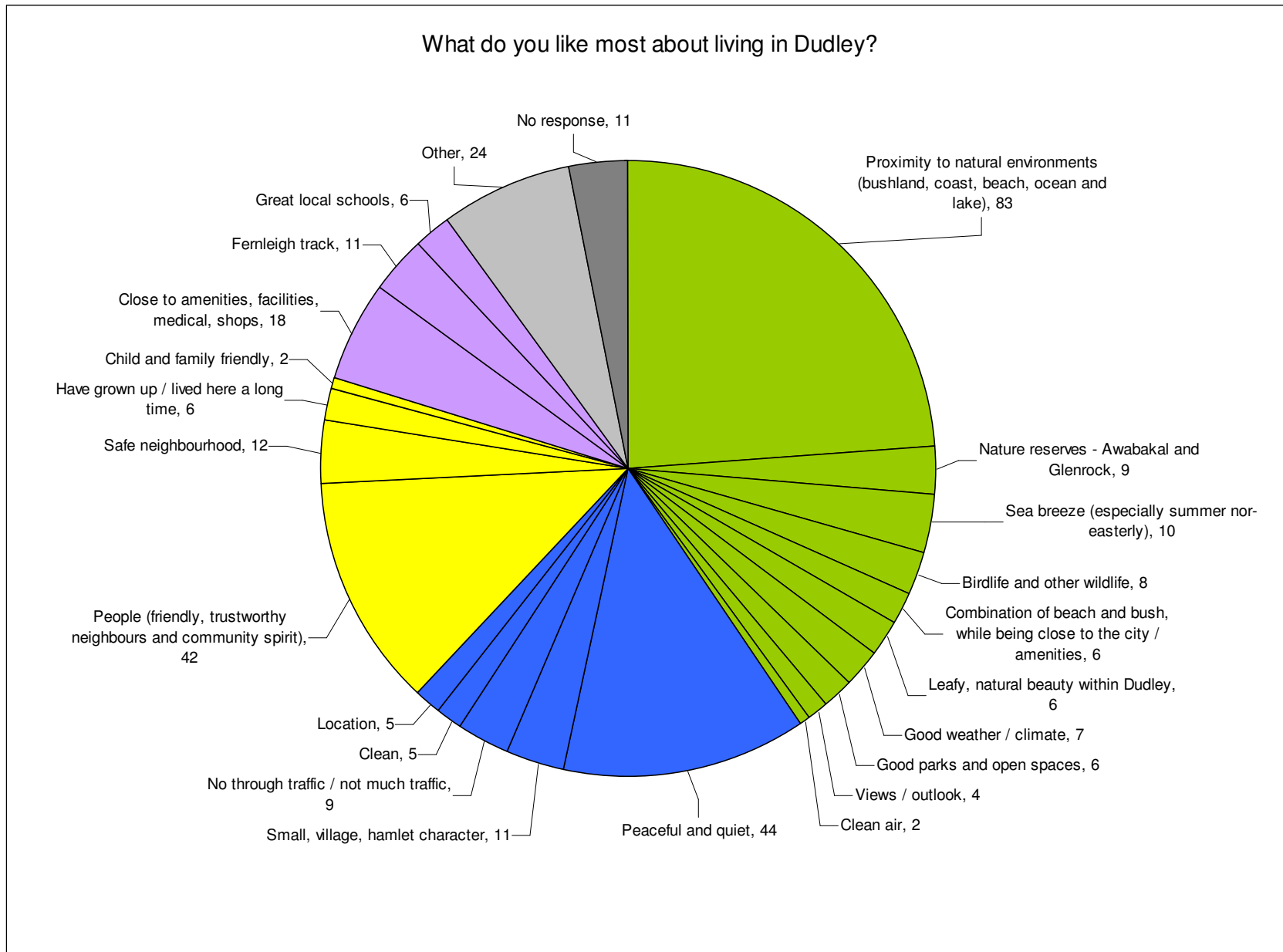
- Local community meeting
- Can't remember exactly
- Door knock
- Council contact with local Progress Association

5. ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Q5a. Please rate your level of agreement with each of the following statements.



Q5b. What do you like most about living in your neighbourhood?



Other responses included:

- I have lived here for over 50 years and like to think we have kept Dudley as the best place in Australia to live
- Lake atmosphere
- It did have safe, beautiful natural walks - but no longer so, see original questions
- My partner and my dog
- Don't really need to travel away from Dudley as we already feel as though everyday is a holiday
- Clean air
- Has an urban fringe environment
- Proximity to family
- Good old fashioned Aussie neighbourhood
- Nice and aesthetic collection of home styles
- After 65 years, being 85 years old
- Clean air
- Close to work
- Not over developed
- Small shops
- Very stable, low turnover (population / community)
- Walking areas
- Dogs are tolerated
- Beach lifestyle
- Privacy
- A true paradise on earth, not spoilt by tourists and as I have lived here most of my life that is the way I like it
- It is a lovely place to live
- Fishing

6. YOUR IDEAS

Q6. Do you have any suggestions about how you, the people in your neighbourhood and/or business could improve the environment or community of your neighbourhood? *Responses have been categorised into six major categories.*

Ferneigh track, connecting cyclepaths, footpaths, pedestrian friendly

- Link old rail corridor (behind hotels via Foxdale Avenue) to Ferneigh Track
- Bicycle walking link to Ferneigh Track, Improving local service businesses and community health and connection by meeting on the link and Ferneigh Track
- Use of former Dudley rail line as a connection to the Ferneigh Track
- More cycle ways leading to Charlestown and Whitebridge to keep off roads
- Continue Ferneigh Track to Dudley
- Develop access to Ferneigh Track from Dudley, Develop coastal walk from Dudley Bluff to Redhead (it is possible to walk this already but a lot could be done to improve access to the track and signage)
- Better access to Ferneigh Track from Ocean Street
- Build the Dudley Spur to the Ferneigh Track which follows the old railway line and finishes at the pub. What an asset to the village this would be and would make access to the track safer
- Cycleway connection to Ferneigh Track (partly privately funded by residents, good for environment/local residents/business)
- Strong need to have a cycle link to Ferneigh track so that children in Dudley can get there safely - probably the most inaccessible of all suburbs east of the old Highway
- Upgrade link from Dudley to join existing Ferneigh Track, At present many including kids have to ride along the main road to get to Whitebridge
- Connect to the Ferneigh Track as a community project including Dudley School
- Improve relationship between cyclists/motorists
- Footpaths
- Footpaths so you can walk with a pram in safety off the road
- Footpath between Thomas and Railway Street North Side of Dudley Road - what a mess
- Improve footpaths often non-existent, even as bus stops, often sloping/uneven ground
- Continuing the cycleway to the sports ovals via the old railway cutting.
- Better quality walking tracks - Ferneigh Track is great but there are lots of short tracks that could be built or improved
- Roads take up approximately 30% of our area. Better use through traffic calming devices, cul-de-sac for children's play area through 5km/hr speed limit as practiced in Canada

Community Garden

- Community gardens (for vegetables and social gatherings)
- Community garden
- Community vegetable garden
- Get in and do it (especially the community garden)
- Community garden
- Start a community garden
- Community garden
- Community garden
- Community garden near Pensioners Hall
- Community gardens

Protecting and enhancing natural areas and systems

- Greater controls over water runoff and weeds in edges of reserves - active management by community in partnership with NPWS and LMCC.
- When I walk down bush track to Dudley Beach rock platform and remove all new bitou bush growth and have done so for many years
- Weeding and clearing of the Dudley Spur line corridor
- We could form a Landcare group for the Awabakal Reserve and surrounding areas after council has eradicated weed infestation in the surrounds
- More street trees
- Nature strip vegetation where appropriate - residents with help from LMCC
- Street tree planting by members association with wires underground
- Nature strip planting of suitable native shrubs
- Don't throw garden waste and grass clippings in bush reserves
- Stop putting grass clippings in our waterways and reserve areas. Absolute joke by residents I am victimised for objecting
- Traps for Myna Birds (a bounty)
- Environmental works such as constructed wetlands to treat water flowing from Eden Close to Dudley Beach and at the head of creeks draining into South Dudley Beach
- Clean gutters, no storm water can run away
- Curb and guttering roads to assist with silt and storm water
- Greater use of storm water capture
- Keep their property tidy, Regular mowing
- Community environmental work e.g. planting with associated picnic
- Have a clean up of Dudley Beach / Family day with a BBQ
- Rubbish dumped at end of Ocean Road
- Awabakal Car Park to be monitored and cleaned
- Plan to preserve the natural environment by improving the drainage, increase vegetation and most importantly ensuring safer access through improving bush walking tracks
- Owners of neighbouring building blocks should be taken to task over the state (overgrown) of their asset

Environmental Education and Awareness Raising

- Understanding of individuals responsibility to environmental issues
- Share information increase awareness of how we can do a bit more towards sustainability
- Education, Meetings at Dudley Public School
- By knowing the massive impact that our every day decisions are creating and understanding that by fact this is not a good thing.
- A little more education of residents to what walking trails exist apart from Fernleigh - Awabakal, goat track, Bombala etc, This will make those that don't go there appreciate the area even more
- Environmentally aware of what needs to be done and help do something about it
- That locals become more involved in their local community and take direct responsibilities relating to a cleaner more sustainable environment. Bring the tasks back to the people make them feel a sense of pride in their actions
- .Placing more responsibility on individuals by means of education about implementing sustainability measures in homes and streets
- Increased knowledge of the environment (promote through schools)

Community gatherings, meeting places, and fostering social connection

- To have fetes or fairs (local school)
- Have performances or music/art through local sites
- Community meetings - community day
- Sporting clubs unite
- Local fairs, markets, surf festivals
- Council could help organise street markets as an annual celebration
- Get together - regular meetings and activities (builds trust and focus and action)
- A playgroup based in Dudley
- More off leash dog parks
- Play equipment for children
- More parks and children's playgrounds, skate parks etc to keep children occupied and out of trouble
- Weather shelters in parks near Pensioners Hall, BBQ, meeting place
- Dudley Day/night fair once a year
- Community markets
- Neighbourhood watch (or similar) to reduce antisocial behaviour such as hooning drivers, graffiti and litter.
- A good skateboard park, could be near the Dudley Spur line behind Ocean View Hotel or near League or Soccer Oval
- More community events, participate in more of these
- better space for gathering around local shopping centres
- Skateboard park near the community hall
- Have a local 4 monthly meeting to discuss issues in our area and ways to fix the problems. Then pass it onto the Council

Reducing household energy use, water use, and consumption

- Information on keeping chickens
- Affordable solar and water tanks for working families
- Bulk buying of solar panels and rain water tanks
- Greater use of solar electricity
- Community swap meet
- I think pools in private homes should be banned as a way of saving water whether they can afford it or not. It is a waste of a valuable resource as we are fortunate to have the sea, Lake and council pools.
- Group take up of solar and natural gas utilities.

Public and community transport, and Ocean St maintenance

- Better public transport, Light rail all around Newcastle, smaller buses like they use in the UK
- Community car pool system(s)
- Walking school bus(es)
- Better public transport, less use of cars
- Fix Ocean Street - this is dangerous and is a disgrace amongst all residents
- For a start, we would so like a safe road, the upkeep is second to none from the shopping centre to the end of Ocean Street, it is appalling, an accident waiting to happen at the Junction of Bombala and Ocean Street
- We need to do something about the very very unsafe Ocean Rd in Dudley
- Have regular meetings, get togethers to protest about how terrible Ocean Street road is

Reducing waste

- Community composting/worm farming (maybe an alternative to a third green waste bin),
- Recyclables to local schools and preschools for use (art and craft paper, containers etc)
- Have state-wide returnable deposit on glass bottles, Plastic containers
- Local dump point (e.g. Dudley end of Oakdale Rd) for domestic use only of electrical, oil, batteries, gas cylinders, paint, larger tree off cuts and some building products) that your collections do not collect each year
- As a community we could campaign Lake Macquarie Council for green waste bins and smaller waste (general) bins
- Creating a better waste system for individual houses. We have 5 people in one house and 2 are babies (Lots of rubbish and not enough bins)
- Third waste bin should be optional not compulsory
- Bar code garbage bins so user pays on rates, I live alone and don't need to put bins out as often but pay the same as others
- Clean up rubbish in streets when see it not just on one day per year
- Reduce packaging or make packaging biodegradable

Community wellbeing, safety, fostering pride of place, and improving aesthetic

- When I retire from work I intend to use the extra time to be involved in community building activities
- Integrating environment/community groups with the P&C and school
- Not really. I consider myself to be a good neighbour, not a nosey one
- Stop putting themselves first
- Remove one liquor license from Dudley
- Very dark at night, needs lights
- Focus on and support local businesses
- Police/rangers need to stop nude sunbathers at northern end of Dudley Beach
- Do something about the mosquitoes
- Take down the 8 foot fence around the oval roundabout at the top of the hill
- Speed bumps on Ocean Street
- Hotels to take more responsibilities for smashed glass on footpaths
- Remove sports grounds fencing - this is a direct contradiction to sustainable neighbourhood!!
- Remove monument and put down near School of Arts Hall, and put roundabout at Dudley and Redhead road intersection
- A statuesque town tree to be planted in the roundabout at Whitebridge - gives pride to our environment
- Become more community proud of the great little place we live in
- look at putting in another shop where bottle shop was
- Improve the small shopping centre area around Glass/Dudley Stop & Go with some street planting, bollards or maybe some public art
- Fix up the dilapidated shop opposite Dudley Public School on Ocean Street

Legislation and planning controls

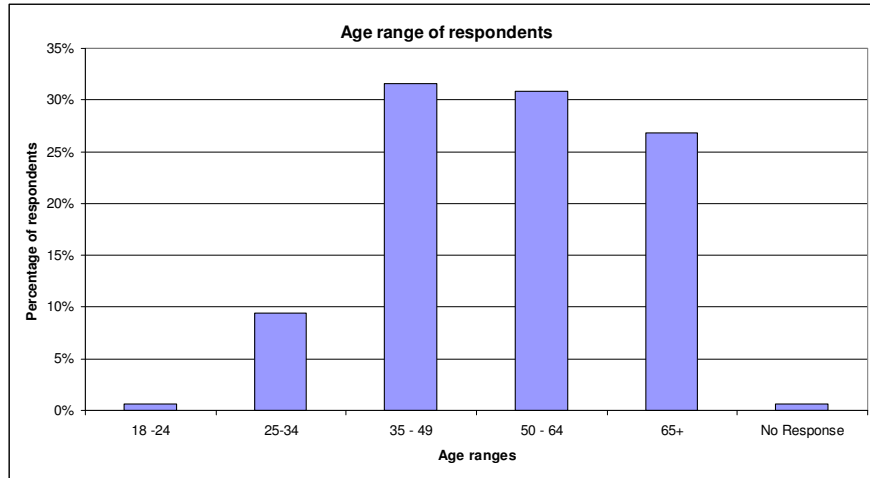
- By not allowing a house to be pulled down and for units to be put on the block
- As our suburb is building up and becoming covered by house -we intended to extend our tiny house and keep our green space, our environmentally sensitive architect plans were not accepted instead we were advised to build over our garden. Not happy we need space and green
- Keep housing density low
- Be open minded about new dwellings and heritage
- Increase car parking off street
- Restrict high density development
- Not really - I think the council should be limiting the size of buildings in our street - its ridiculous the buildings that have been approved
- I believe the trees make the suburb very liveable and are good but a sensible view on this is required. Too many residents want trees protected that are dangerous for fires and white ant damage. These are the same people who still have wood fires.

Other

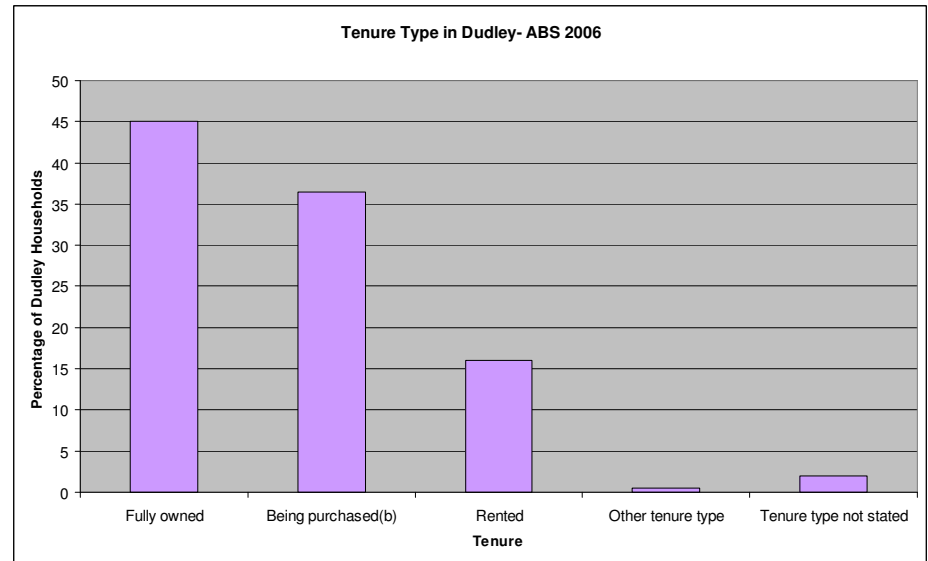
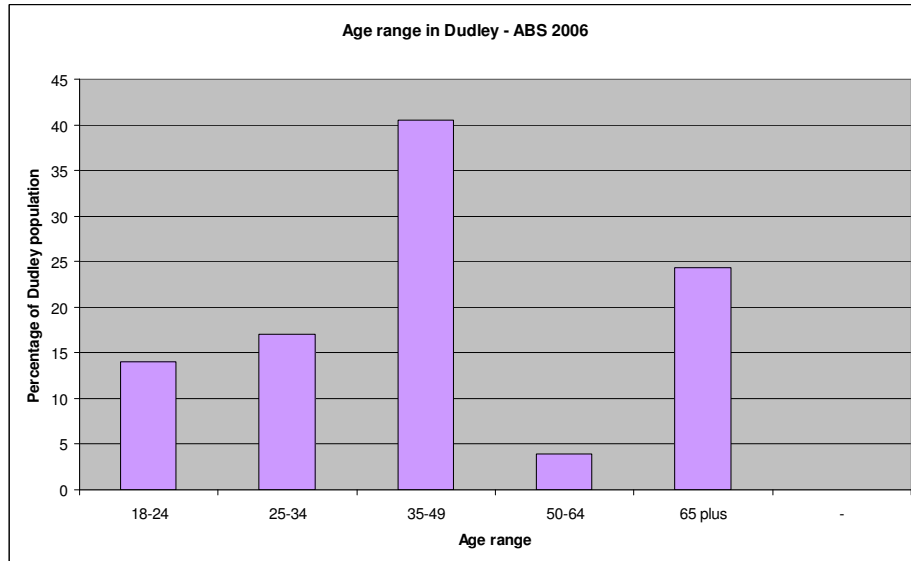
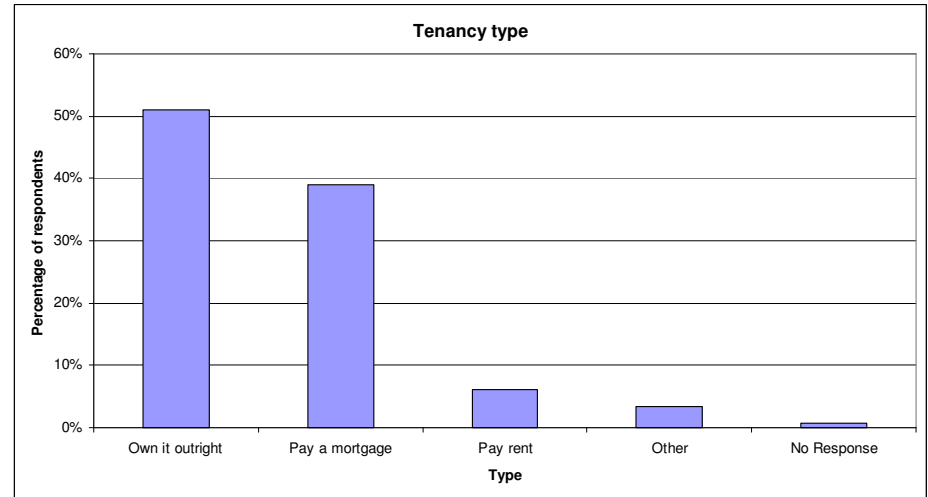
- It is hard to improve on perfection
- Monetary incentives, Don't provide council activities that don't work and keep council workers employed
- No, because it is pretty good
- I like Dudley as it is it was more friendly in the 50s and 60s but there are so many interests now
- Increase library resources - maybe centralise Redhead library to Charlestown and provide a mobile weekly service

7. DEMOGRAPHICS

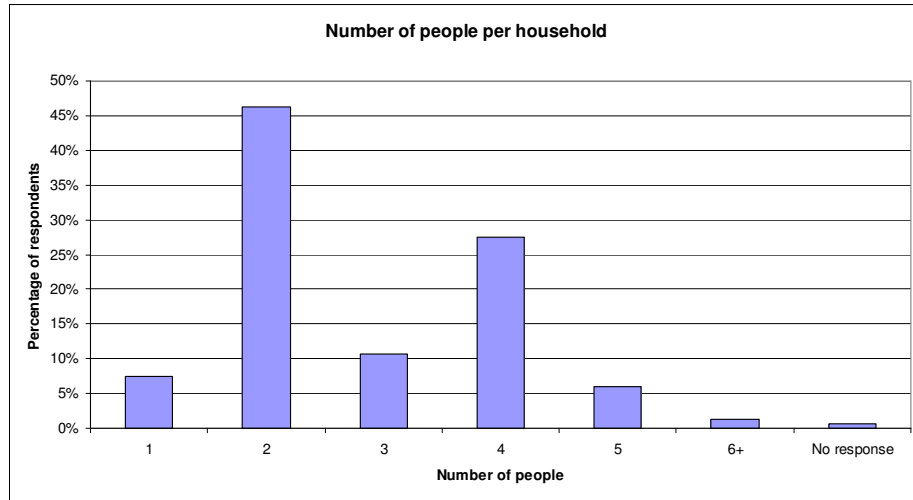
Q7a. Please indicate your age bracket



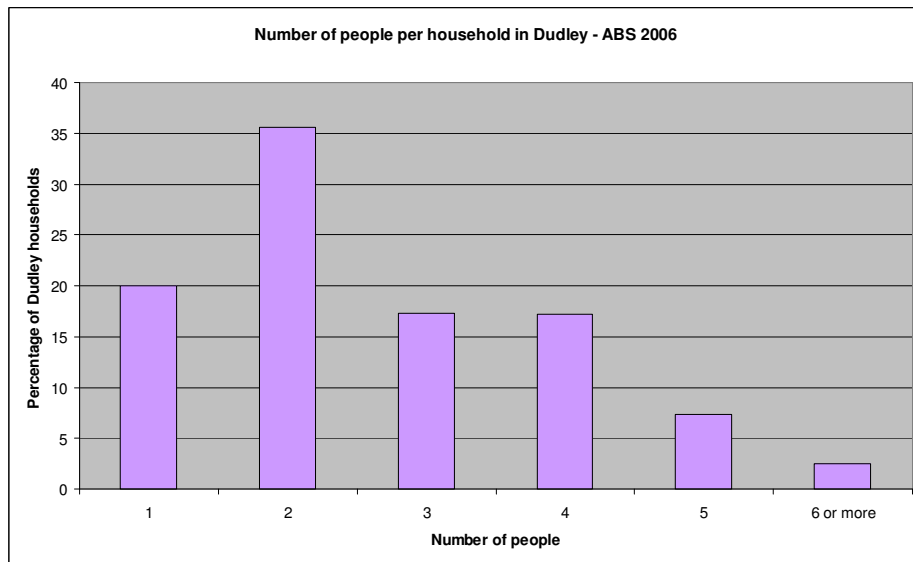
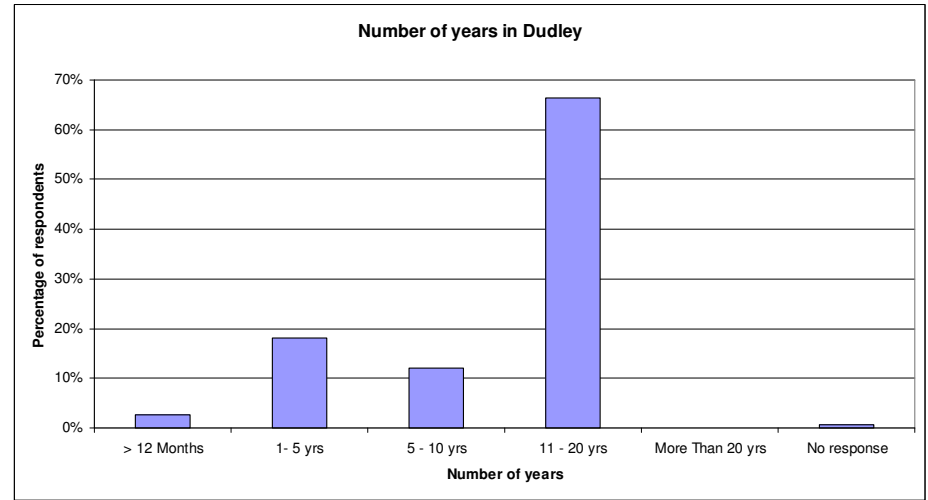
Q7b. Thinking about the home you live in, do you:



Q7c. How many people currently reside in your home?



Q7d. How long have you lived in the neighbourhood?



Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program

Dudley - Community Research 2010

Return a completed survey by Tuesday 14 December 2010 for a chance to

WIN

This survey marks the beginning of the Dudley Sustainable Neighbourhood initiative, which will bring together local residents, businesses, and community groups to share ideas and create a better Dudley.

Please complete this survey on behalf of your household if you:

- have lived in Lake Macquarie City for more than six months,
- are over 18 years old; and
- are one of the key decision makers in your household.

The survey will take approximately 15 minutes. Your response to this survey will remain anonymous.

RETURN YOUR SURVEY AND THE COMPETITION ENTRY FORM for your chance to win prizes supplied by Dudley businesses.

Prizes

\$50 Voucher for dinner at the *Ocean View Hotel*

\$45 Voucher for a mini-facial from *Ocean Beauty Therapy*

\$40 Voucher for shampoo, cut and blow dry from *Gloss Hair Studio*

\$30 Voucher for breakfast at *The Shop @ Dudley*

\$30 Voucher from the *Dudley Takeaway*

To be eligible, please place the completed survey and entry form in the attached reply paid envelope and post it back to Council by Tuesday 14 December 2010. No postage stamp is required.



Competition Entry Form for Sustainable Neighbourhood Survey Community Research 2010 - Dudley

Name

Phone number Email

Address

Please keep me informed about neighbourhood projects in Dudley: Yes No

SURVEY TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Entries close Tuesday 14 December 2010. Entries posted by Tuesday 14 December are eligible.
2. The Competition Entry Form must be posted to Council in the Reply Paid envelope enclosed along with your completed Survey. Your personal details will be detached from your Survey to protect your privacy. Your personal details will be used for competition prize draw purposes only, unless you also tick the box indicating you would like to be contacted with more information about the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program.
3. The Competition is open only to residents of Dudley.
4. Only one entry per household will be accepted.
5. Lake Macquarie City Council Councillors, employees and their households are not eligible to enter.
6. Winning entrants will be selected on Thursday, 16 December 2010, at the Administrative Centre, Lake Macquarie City Council. Winners will be contacted by telephone or e-mail.
7. Competition results are final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD PROGRAM

Lake Macquarie City Council understands that residents have a strong connection and commitment to their environment and local area. The Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program has been established by Council to help local communities develop plans and actions that will protect and enhance the natural features of neighbourhoods, reduce their ecological footprint, and build community capacity and networks.

Involvement in the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program also builds strong community relationships as citizens embark on a journey together to discover the values and strengths of their neighbourhood, develop their local plans, and work alongside their neighbours on projects that they decide will enhance their neighbourhood amenity.

There are a number of ways residents can get involved. An initial community workshop is planned for March 2011 for neighbours to discuss the Dudley environment, the community, and their vision for the future of Dudley. The findings of this survey will also be presented. A second workshop will be run later in 2011 to plan community actions. Interested community members are encouraged to attend. Or simply stay in touch with what is happening by joining the email list.

If you would like more information, or require help completing this survey, please contact Rachelle McConville at Lake Macquarie City Council, on 4921 0333 or email rmconville@lakemac.nsw.gov.au.

Thank you for completing this survey. Your voice is important in your community, and in shaping the future of your neighbourhood.

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| **If you wish, please indicate your level of interest below (one or more):**

| I would like to be added to the program's mailing list (include email overleaf)

| I would like to attend program workshops/meetings

| I would be willing to be involved in occasional neighbourhood activities

|

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LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Q1a. What are the three most important environmental issues in your neighbourhood today? (list no more than 3)

.....

.....

.....

Q1b. Please rate how important you think the following are to your neighbourhood on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not at all important and 5 is very important.

	Not at all important			Very important	
	1	2	3	4	5
Protecting and improving the natural environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protecting against natural disasters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preparing for climate change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Minimising health risks from the environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing greenhouse gas emissions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing water consumption (electricity etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing waste	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing energy consumption	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Growing fruit or vegetables	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creating opportunities for the community to be involved in environmental and sustainability projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strengthening connections between residents in the neighbourhood	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Making the neighbourhood bike and pedestrian friendly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improving communication and partnership with Council	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased use of public transport	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improving streetscape and stormwater systems through environmental design	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Having access to parks, beaches, bushland and other natural areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

CLIMATE CHANGE OVER THE NEXT 20 YEARS

Q2a. How strongly do you agree, or disagree, that climate change will have a direct impact on your life over the next 20 years?

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q2b. If you agree or strongly agree with the statement in Q2a, what do you think will be the MAIN impact of climate change in the next 20 years?

.....

.....

Q2c. How strongly do you agree, or disagree, that the actions of the average person have a large impact on slowing climate change?

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

YOUR SUSTAINABILITY CHOICES

Q3a. Do you have any of the following items on your property?

	Yes	No	Unsure
Rainwater tank	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Solar panels	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Solar hot water system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insulation (ceiling and/or walls)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water efficient appliances and fittings (e.g. 4 or 5 star rated washing machine, dishwasher, showerhead, taps, dual flush toilet)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Energy efficient appliances (e.g. 4 or 5 star rated products, fridges, freezers)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Native gardens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vegetable gardens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chooks or other domestic fowl	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A working worm farm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A working compost for food scraps	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q3b. If you do not compost food scraps, please indicate why. List all reasons that apply

I have a working worm farm	<input type="radio"/>
I have chooks or other domestic fowl	<input type="radio"/>
I am planning to start composting my food scraps	<input type="radio"/>
I need more information before I decide	<input type="radio"/>

continued on next page...

- I do not have time for composting ○
- My living circumstances are not appropriate ○
- Composts attract pests ○
- Composts are not convenient ○
- I do not need or want to compost my food scraps ○
- Other - If other, please list reason ○

Q3c. If you do not have a working worm farm, please indicate why. List all reasons that apply

- I compost my food scraps ○
- I have chooks or other domestic fowl ○
- I am planning to start a worm farm ○
- I need more information before I decide ○
- I do not have time for a worm farm ○
- My living circumstances are not appropriate ○
- Worm farms attract pests ○
- Worm farms are not convenient ○
- I do not need or want a worm farm ○
- Other - If other, please list reason ○

Q3d. Do you use GreenPower (renewable energy accredited by the Federal Government)?

Yes	No
If yes please go on to Q3e ○	○

Q3e. If you do not use GreenPower, please indicate why. List all reasons that apply.

- I have solar ○
- I plan to use Green Power ○
- I do not know much about Green Power ○
- I cannot afford Green Power ○
- I do not believe Green Power is necessary ○
- Other - If other, please list reason ○

Q3f. How often do people in your household catch public transport

Never	Seldom	Often	Always
○	○	○	○

**Q3g. If your household never or seldom uses public transport, please indicate why.
List all that apply**

- I prefer to walk or cycle 0
- I am concerned about my safety on public transport 0
- The public transport in my area is not reliable 0
- I cannot use public transport due to health/mobility or other factors (prams etc) 0
- The route and timetables for public transport in my area is not convenient 0
- I prefer to use my car 0
- Other - If other, please list reason 0
-

**Q3h. What motivates you to improve your environmental behaviour?
Ratings are on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not at all important and 5 is very important.**

	Not at all important			Very important	
	1	2	3	4	5
Rebates and incentives	0	0	0	0	0
A personal responsibility to do the right thing for the environment	0	0	0	0	0
I need/want to save money	0	0	0	0	0
The feeling that most other people are doing it and I should be doing it too	0	0	0	0	0
Other - If other, please list reason					

.....

SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Q4a. Which of the following activities/events would you consider participating in?

	Already Doing	Yes	No	Maybe
Bush/coastal/land regeneration projects (eg. Landcare)	0	0	0	0
Growing native gardens	0	0	0	0
Information Workshops such as, native plants, green cleaning, energy and water saving tips, etc	0	0	0	0
Climate change adaptation workshops	0	0	0	0
Programs to monitor the health of the local environment (eg. Waterwatch, flagship species, bird observers etc)	0	0	0	0
Community picnics and/or BBQs	0	0	0	0
Neighbourhood clean ups in parks/foreshores/bushland (like Clean up Australia activities)	0	0	0	0
Taking part in home audits (energy, waste, water usage)	0	0	0	0
Educational events specific to the regions flora, fauna and natural environment	0	0	0	0

If you have particular suggestions for workshops/educational events/or other community activities, please list below

.....

Q4b. Have you heard of or participated in the Sustainable Neighbourhoods program?

	Yes, heard of	Yes, participated in	No
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q4c. If yes, how did you hear about this program? List all methods that apply.

I read about it in the local newspaper	<input type="radio"/>
I saw a leaflet/poster in the local area	<input type="radio"/>
A flyer was delivered to my home	<input type="radio"/>
I heard about it from the local school	<input type="radio"/>
I heard about it through Council	<input type="radio"/>
I was told about it (friends, family etc)	<input type="radio"/>
I heard about it through my involvement with other community agencies	<input type="radio"/>
Other - If other, please list	<input type="radio"/>

ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Q5a. Please rate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. The scale is 1 to 5, where 1 is strongly disagree and 5 is strongly agree.

	Strongly disagree				Strongly agree	Unsure
	1	2	3	4	5	
My neighbourhood has a strong sense of community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I regularly participate in local volunteer groups (e.g. volunteering for a sporting club, church, meals on wheels, Rotary, Landcare)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My neighbourhood is a safe place for all residents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I can call on a neighbour if I need help	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There are adequate natural environments in my neighbourhood for me to pursue leisure time activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Natural features in my neighbourhood should be protected and improved by residents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In general, I feel that most people in my neighbourhood can be trusted	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I take measures to reduce my ecological footprint	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would be prepared to pay more for electricity if it was generated from renewable sources such as solar or wind	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would like to improve my skills, knowledge and behaviour in order to be more sustainable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q5b. What do you like most about living in your neighbourhood?

.....

.....

YOUR IDEAS

Q6. Do you have any suggestions about how you, the people in your neighbourhood and/or business could improve the environment or community of your neighbourhood?

DEMOGRAPHICS

Q7a. Please indicate your age bracket

- 18-24 25-34 35-49 50-64 65+

Q7b. Thinking about the home you live in, do you

- Own it outright
 Pay a mortgage
 Pay rent
 Other

Q7c. How many people currently reside in your home?

- 1 2 3 4 5 6+

Q7e. How long have you lived in the neighbourhood?

- Less than 12 months
 1-5 years
 6-10 years
 10 years plus



Lake Macquarie
City Council

Thank you for your participation

If you have any questions or require help completing this survey, please contact Rachelle McConville, Lake Macquarie City Council, on **4921 0333**, or email rmcconville@lakemac.nsw.gov.au