

Morisset Sustainable Neighbourhood Community Attitudes Survey

May-June 2010

A report on the attitudes of the Morisset community, prepared by Lake Macquarie City Council as part of the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program, September 2010.

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 2009, Council and the Southlake Neighbourhood Centre joined forces to support the growth of a Morisset Sustainable Neighbourhood Group and develop a sustainable neighbourhood action plan for Morisset. We have embarked on a range of activities to engage our neighbours, deepen our understanding of Morisset, and discover what Morisset residents are most passionate about.

This report presents the results of the Community Attitudes Survey, undertaken in Morisset in May-June 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 a Morisset Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan.

The survey forms part of a program of community development and engagement activities to collect input from the broadest possible range of Morisset residents. Public workshops, information stalls, media articles, and hands on activities have been used to gain input from residents. The survey results captured some of the values, attitudes, and concerns of residents who may not have participated in other engagement activities, and give a broader perspective for the development of a Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan for Morisset.

METHODOLOGY

In May 2010, the survey was posted to approximately 630 households in Morisset according to mailing addresses in 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 is shown in Appendix 1.

Instructions on the front of the survey asked for respondents who:

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

In total, 64 surveys were returned – a return rate of 10%.

People aged over 50 years, and home owners were over-represented in the survey respondents, compared to the 2006 Morisset Census data. Census data is shown in Appendix 2.

KEY FINDINGS

Local Sustainability Issues in Morisset

Respondents are most concerned about:

- Urban development and expansion
- Waste (mainly litter related)
- Transport (footpaths/cyclepaths, congestion and public transport)

The issues rated of most importance are:

- Protecting and improving the natural environment
- Making the neighbourhood bike and pedestrian friendly; and
- Minimising health risks from the environment

Climate Change Over the Next 20 Years

A majority of respondents (58%) agree that climate change will directly impact their life over the next 20 years, with the main impacts being:

- Changes in weather / extreme weather events
- Less water available
- · Rising sea levels

Your Sustainability Choices

Most respondents (>70%) have the following items on their property:

- Water efficient appliances and fittings
- Insulation
- Energy efficient appliances

Native gardens (63%) and vegetable gardens (58%) are also relatively common.

Over 90% of households use their recycling bin 'always' (80%) or 'often' (11%).

Food scraps / organic waste

Almost 60% dispose of their food / organic scraps in either a compost, worm farm, chooks, or digging into the garden. With some more information or resources, 16% would have a compost or worm farm, and the remaining 25% either can't have one, don't think they need one, or don't want one.

GreenPower

Only 11% of respondents purchase GreenPower, with comments indicating some confusion about what it is. The main reason for not purchasing GreenPower is a lack of understanding and the cost.

Public transport

A relatively high level (59%) of respondents often or always catch public transport. From those who don't, the main reason is either that the timetable / route is inadequate, or that it is inconvenient.

Motivation

Respondents rank 'saving money' as the most important motivator to improve their environmental behaviour, closely followed by 'a personal responsibility to do the right thing for the environment'.

Participation in environmental activities

Activities that respondents indicate they are most likely to participate in include:

- · Growing native gardens
- Neighbourhood clean-up
- Home audit of backyard, energy, waste, and water use

Activities that respondents indicate they are least likely to participate in include:

- Assisting in preparing a sustainability action plan for my neighbourhood
- Climate change adaptation workshops

The Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program

Twenty-one respondents (33%) have either heard of or participated in the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program, with the newspaper, existing networks, and word of mouth the primary way they had heard about it. Forty respondents (63%) indicated that they are or might be interested in participating in the program.

About Morisset

Respondents have a high level of agreement that:

- · I can call on a neighbour if I need help
- · I take measures to reduce my ecological footprint
- Natural features in my neighbourhood should be protected and improved by residents

The four most popular things people like about living in Morisset include:

- Close to amenities, facilities, medical, shops
- Natural environment, beaches, bushland parks
- Peace and quiet
- Friendly neighbourhood / community

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE MORISSET SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD PROJECT

The results of this survey highlight some important points relevant to the development of a Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan for Morisset.

Values

The things that people value about Morisset are consistent amongst survey respondents, and from participants in other activities.

- Balance of country living and city facilities (peaceful and quiet surrounds, country feeling, away from the big city, along with accessibility to Morisset town centre and Sydney, Newcastle, Central Coast via the F3 and train line.)
- · Friends, family and community
- The natural features including bushland, wildlife, birdlife, proximity to the lake and mountains, open space
- Recreational activities like bike riding, horse riding, kayaking, fishing, walking, and motorbike riding
- Facilities and services including shopping centres, library, community events, dance schools, and swimming pool

Issues

In general, the range of issues are consistent with input from the community so far. The survey results confirm the importance of a number of sustainability issues in the community:

- Urban development and expansion
- Waste (mainly litter related)
- Transport (pedestrian and cycle friendly, congestion and public transport)

Two additional issues that have not been previously raised, but rate highly in the survey include:

- Air pollution
- Minimising health risks from the environment

Actions

The survey results highlight some potential neighbourhood actions and give an indication of activities that are likely to gain popular support from the Morisset community. Some of these are reflected in the issues highlighted above.

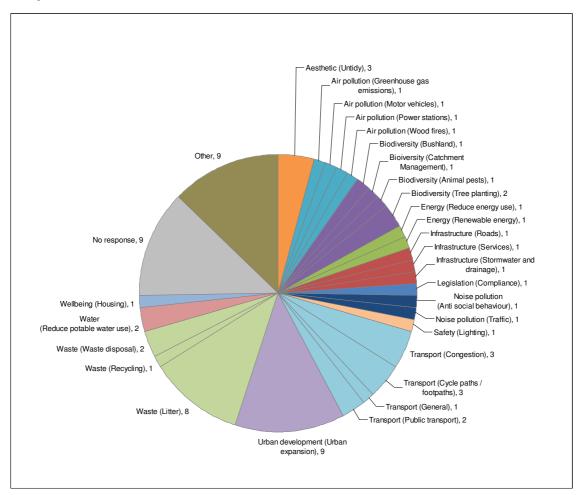
Actions highlighted by the survey include:

- Encouraging worm farm or compost uptake by providing information, support, and resources (16% of survey respondents indicated that they didn't have a worm farm or compost because they either need more information, are in the process of starting one, or don't have a compost bin/worm farm)
- Widespread information and education about GreenPower what it is, how it works, and that you can 'purchase' 10% for free (almost 60% of survey respondents indicated that they either don't understand GreenPower, or that it costs too much.)
- Activities which would be most likely to attract broad public participation include:
 - Growing native gardens
 - Neighbourhood clean-up
 - Home audit of backyard, energy, waste, and water use
 - Sustainable living workshops
 - Monitoring the health of the natural environment
- Activities which respondents indicated they were least likely to participate in included:
 - Assisting in preparing a sustainability action plan for my neighbourhood
 - Climate change adaptation workshops

DETAILED RESULTS

1. LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES IN MORISSET

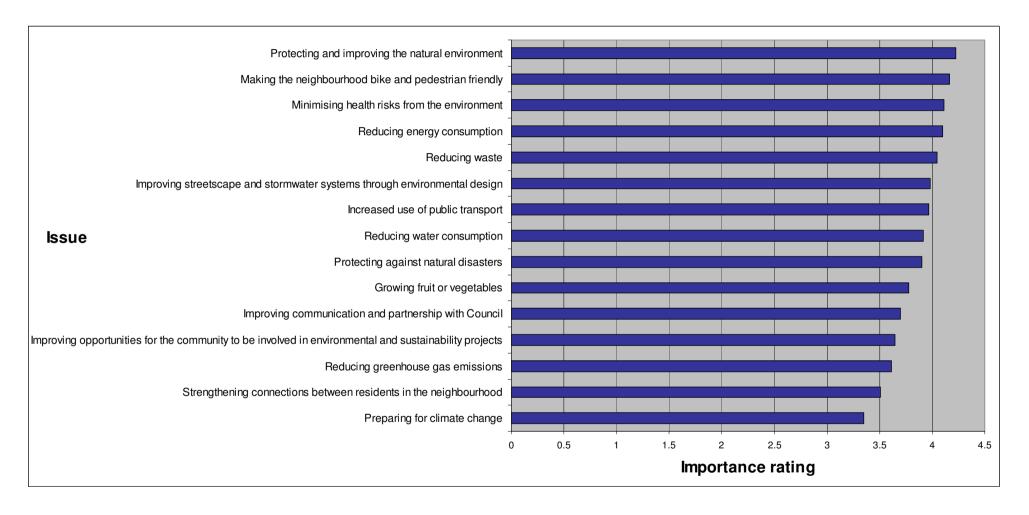
Q1a. What is the single most important environmental issue in your neighbourhood today?



'Other' responses included:

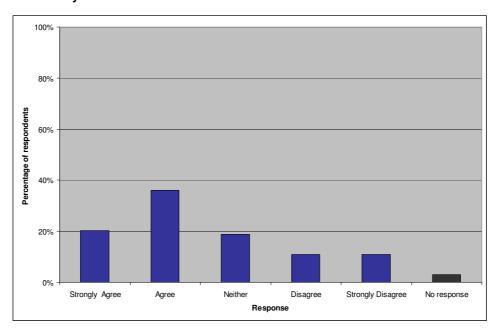
- High density living
- No particular problems climate change happening for millions of years
- Great area in every way/good neighbourhood relations
- Cooranbong creek clean and free of debris/fallen trees (canoeing)
- · Reducing coal mining in Lake Macquarie City
- Trim trees back on Freemans Drive
- Morisset Park Marina construction
- Over use of coal for power generation. Cancel the construction of the Tillegra Dam that we don't need. We have plenty of water.

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

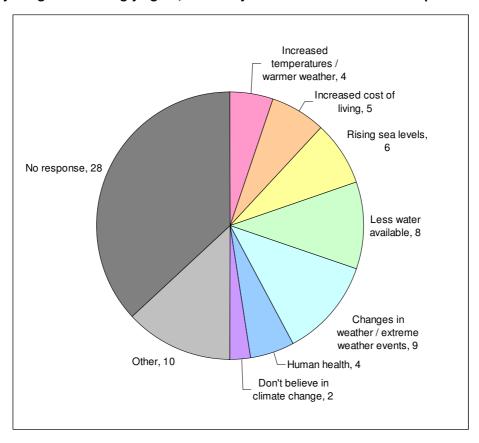


2. CLIMATE CHANGE OVER THE NEXT 20 YEARS

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



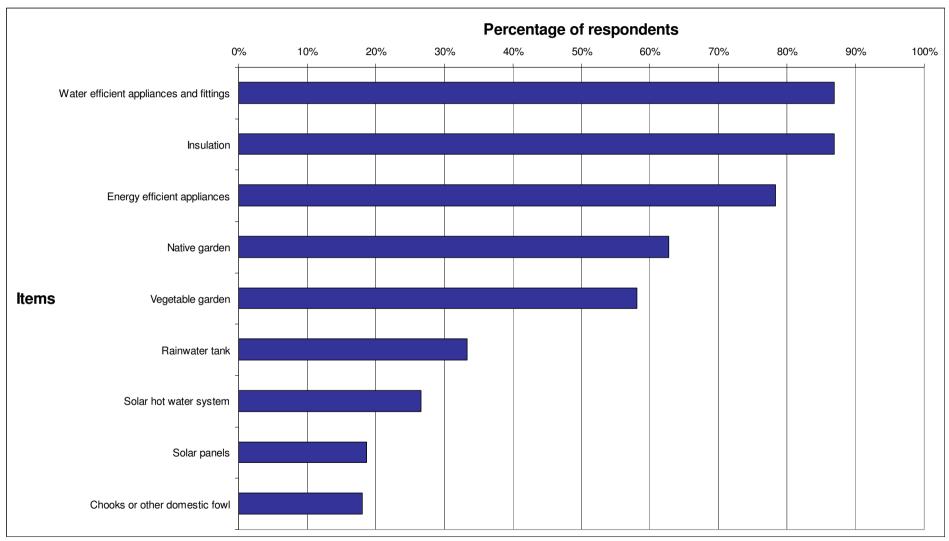
Q2b. If you agree or strongly agree, what do you think will be the MAIN impact?



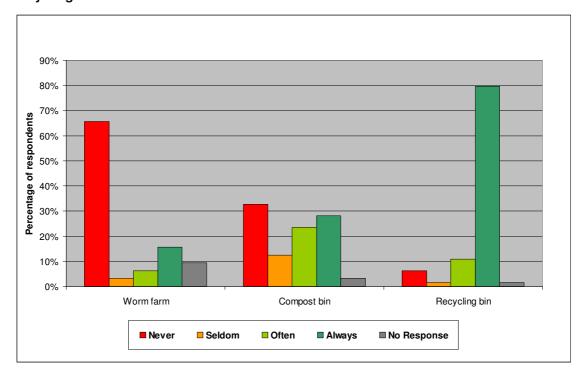
'Other' responses included:

- Fumes from cars and trucks
- What we do wont make much difference- It is China, USA, Russia, India big pollution countries
- Increased taxes on emissions
- Waste of time and money
- Pollution from mining, motor vehicles, power stations
- Air pollution
- Pollution
- Traffic
- Energy consumption and car waste
- Volcanic erruptions.1 large volcano puts more co₂ in air than all humanity does in 100 years

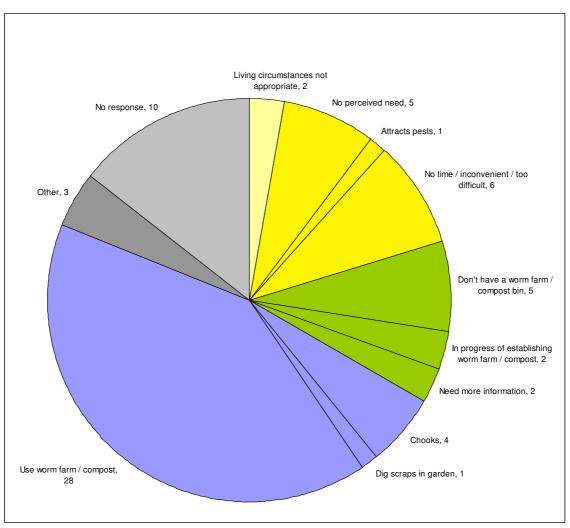
3. YOUR SUSTAINABILITY CHOICES Q3a. Do you have any of the following items on your property?



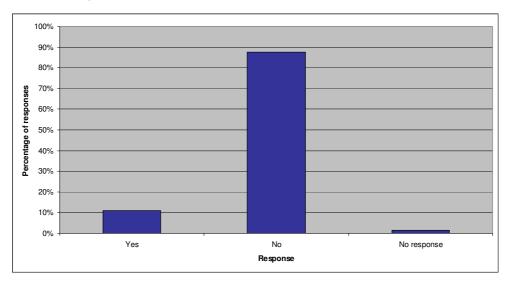
Q3b. How often does your household make use of a Worm Farm, Compost Bin, and Recycling Bin:



Q3c. If you never or seldom use a Worm Farm or Compost Bin, could you please indicate why?



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

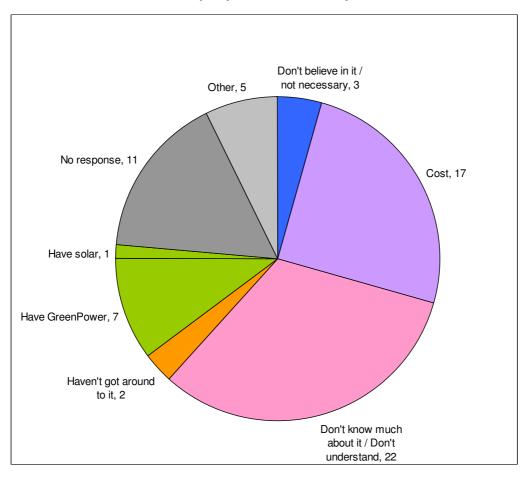


Q3e. If yes, could you please indicate what percentage of GreenPower you purchase?

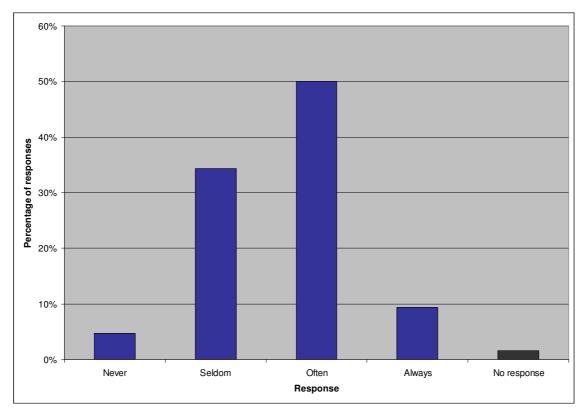
Response	Count
5% *	1
50%	1
100%	3
no response	3

*Note - It is not possible to buy 5% GreenPower

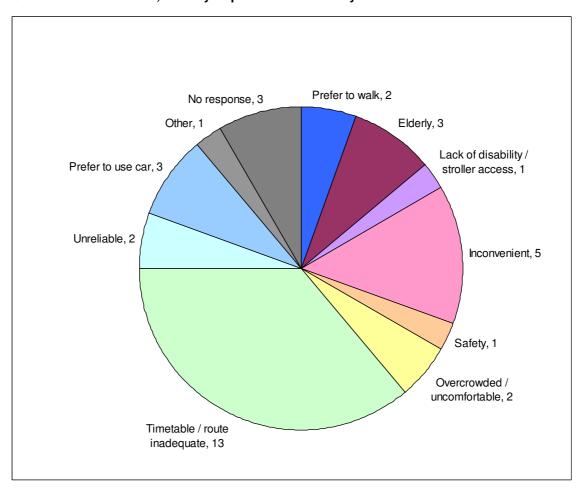
Q3f. If never or seldom, could you please indicate why?



Q3g. How often do people in your household catch public transport?

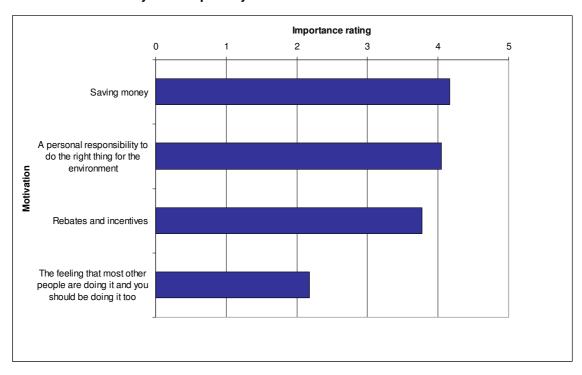


Q3h. If never or seldom, could you please indicate why?

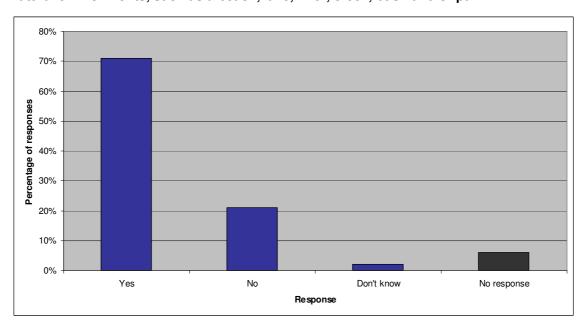


Other: use train to visit family in Sydney

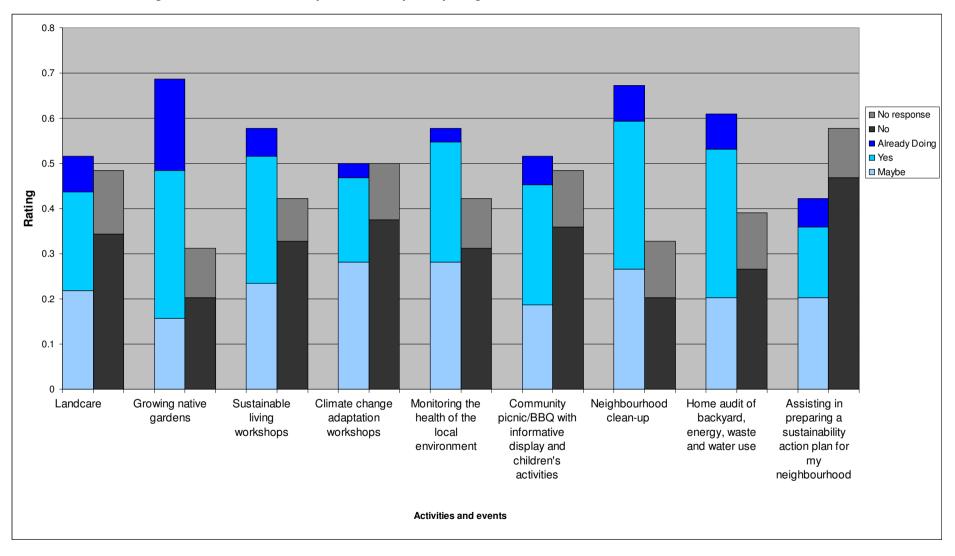
Q3i. What motivates you to improve your environmental behaviour?



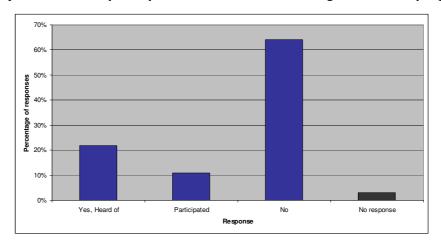
Q3j. In the past 4 weeks, during your leisure and recreation time, have you visited any natural environments, such as a beach, lake, river, creek, bushland or park?



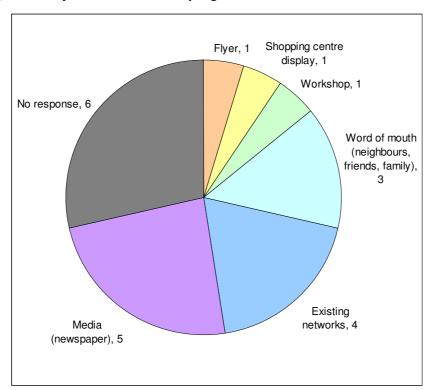
Q4a. Which of the following activities/events would you consider participating in?



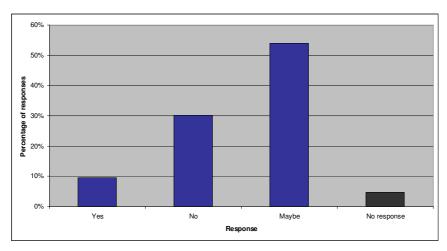
Q4b. Have you heard of or participated in the Sustainable Neighbourhoods program?



Q4c. If yes, how did you hear about this program?

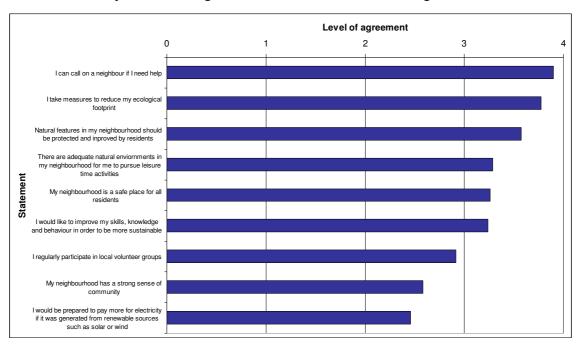


Q4d. Would you be interested in participating in the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program?

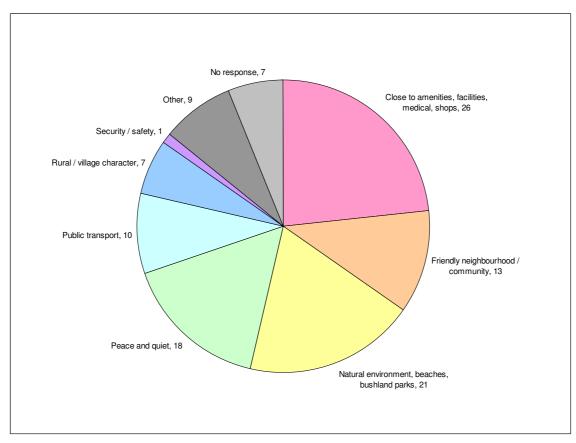


ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

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:

- Walk tracks
- · General atmosphere
- F3 freeway,
- · Morisset festival,
- Few people

- Nothing
- Apart from trains, dogs barking [content removed] fine
- Have lived here 50 yrs
- Good voluntary work available

YOUR IDEAS

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

Encouraging a vibrant, connected and active community

- · more community meetings
- be kind to your neighbours
- /volunteering
- community projects
- participation local events
- community activity,
- · community projects
- · respect others
- · more community get togethers ag show

- community education permaculture
- audit businesses measures to reduce footprint
- self awareness wasteful living
- the new shops should have had water tanks, skylights, etc
- community education
- water tank

Protecting our natural environment

- · noxious weeds
- · keep the bush and creek rubbish free

Services and urban planning

- major sporting complex needed 'now'
- please stop the intensive housing plan at Morisset
- rangers patrolling-more fines for littering
- council pickup rubbish prior to mowing over
- freeway barriers, all year pool use(cover)improve bus
- /maintain rubbish receptacles

- would like council to do more in our area
- keep public informed of council plans
- clearing gutters and walkways, buildings repaired
- We need a real hospital. Increased size of medical centres are not good enough. [content removed] there is nothing after 5pm

Utilising public spaces and facilities

- footpaths to encourage tidy streets
- /fenced parks/footpaths/bike paths
- footpaths & repairs to roads
- lobby to council to continue footpath Morisset to Cooranbong
- cigarette disposal units shops, cycle/walkway
- footpath/walkway extended,
- Avondale nature walk extend
- native strips tidy,

- Urgent need teenage hang out ie YMCA, larger library
- Help the showground trust(25 yr member, retired)
- Area between local pool and soccer ovalforgotten
- more paths/cycle tracks,
- Improve kerbs and gutters and lighting
- walking / cycle paths

Waste and rubbish reduction

- unemployed to pickup rubbish from parks, streets
- lots of rubbish laying around streets
- educate re: rubbish disposal

Other

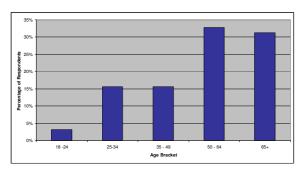
- Once it is gone it is gone forever
- permission refused x3 to install water tanks previous
- need 24hr police station manned
- bus Cessnock weekend
- air smells due to Aust Native Landscape business
- · being well looked after
- thrilled re: housing development

- encourage small business
- · impossible to coexist with the environment
- neglected gardens
- tidv
- not sure
- · labour govt useless, wont be re elected
- shopping trolleys collected
- business area kept cleaner

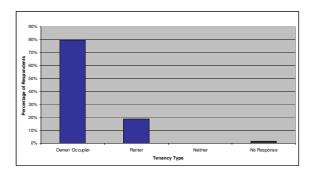
^{* 14} people (22%) did not respond

DEMOGRAPHICS

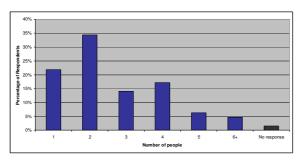
7a. Age bracket



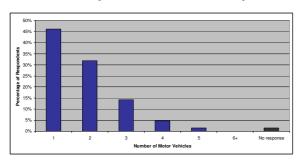
Q7b. Tenancy type



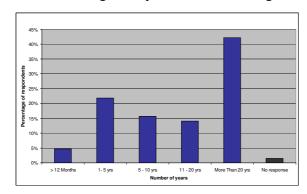
Q7c. How many people currently reside in your home?



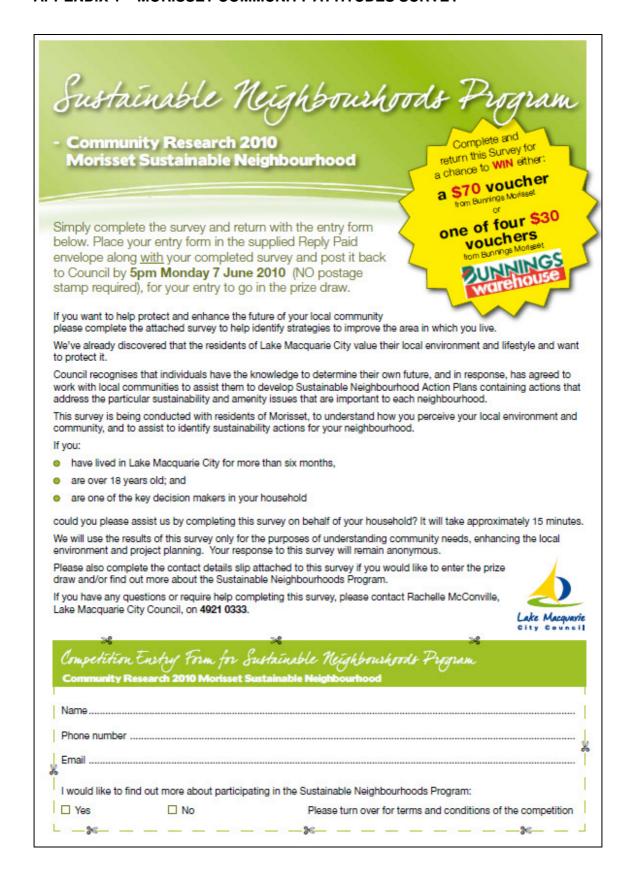
Q7d.How many motor vehicles does your household have?



Q7e. How long have you lived in the neighbourhood?



APPENDIX 1 - MORISSET COMMUNITY ATTITUDES SURVEY



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Entries open at 9am on Thursday 20 May 2010 and close at 5pm on Monday 7 June 2010. Entries received after this date will not be accepted.
- 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 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 Morisset Sustainable Neighbourhood area.
- 4. Only one entry per household will be accepted.
- 5. Lake Macquarie City Council Councillors, employees and their households are not eligible to enter.
- Winning entrants will be selected on on Tuesday 8 June 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.





Q1a. What is the single most important environmental issue in your	neigh	bourho	od tod	ay?	
Q1b. Please rate how important you think the following are to your to 5, where 1 is not at all important and 5 is very important.	neighl	oourhoo	od on a	scale	of 1
Not a import				impo	Very rtant
·	1	2	3	4	5
Protecting and improving the natural environment	0	0	0	0	0
Protecting against natural disasters	0	0	0	0	0
Preparing for climate change	0	О	О	0	0
Minimising health risks from the environment	0	0	0	0	0
Reducing greenhouse gas emissions	0	0	0	0	0
Reducing water consumption	0	0	0	0	0
Reducing waste	0	О	О	0	0
Reducing energy consumption	0	О	О	0	0
Growing fruit or vegetables	0	0	0	0	0
mproving opportunities for the community to be involved in environmental and sustainability projects	0	0	0	0	0
Strengthening connections between residents in the neighbourhood	0	0	О	0	0
Making the neighbourhood bike and pedestrian friendly	0	0	0	0	0
mproving communication and partnership with Council	0	0	0	0	0
ncreased use of public transport	0	0	0	0	0
mproving streetscape and stormwater systems through environmental design	0	0	0	0	0

2a. How strongly do you our life over the next 20	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 agree	Agree O	Neither Di	isagree O	Str	rongly	disagree)				
Q2b. If you agree or strong impact of climate change	in the next 20 y	rears?								
Q2c. How strongly do you impact on slowing climate	change?									
Strongly agree O	Agree O	Neither Di ○	isagree O	Str	rongly C	disagree)				
			Yes	No	Do	on't know				
Q3a. Do you have any of t			Yes O	No O	Do					
Q3a. Do you have any of the Rainwater tank Solar panels			0		Do	C				
Q3a. Do you have any of the Rainwater tank Solar panels Solar hot water system			0	0	Do	C				
Q3a. Do you have any of the Rainwater tank Solar panels Solar hot water system Insulation	he following ite	ms on your property?	0	0	Do	(
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Q3d. Do you use GreenPower (renewable energy accredited b	y the l	Federal Go	vernn	nent)	?	
				Yes		No
			(If no,	_	e go to	_
Q3e. If yes, could you please indicate what percentage of Gre	enPov	ver you pu	rchas	e?		
						%
OOK Mark and an allowed indicate orders						
Q3f. If no, could you please indicate why?						
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					Al-	
	lever	Seldom	Of	ften	Alv	vays
			Of	ften O	Alv	-
Q3g. How often do people in your household catch public tran N Q3h. If never or seldom, could you please indicate why?	lever	Seldom	Of		Alv	vays
N	lever	Seldom	Of		Alv	-
N	lever	Seldom	Of		Alv	-
N Q3h. If never or seldom, could you please indicate why?	lever O	Seldom O		0		
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	Yes	s No	Do Do	n't know
	C) (0	
SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS IN YOUR NEIGHBOUR	HOOD			
Q4a. Which of the following activities/events would you consider p	participati	ng in?		
Alrea	dy Doing	Yes	No	Maybe
andcare	0	0	О	0
Growing native gardens	0	0	0	0
Sustainable living workshops	0	0	0	0
Climate change adaptation workshops	0	0	0	0
Monitoring the health of the local environment	0	0	0	0
Community picnic/BBQ with informative displays and children's activities	0	0	0	0
Neighbourhood clean-up (like a mini 'Clean-up Australia Day')	0	0	0	0
Home audit of backyard, energy, waste and water use	0	0	0	0
			_	_
Assisting in preparing a sustainability action plan for my neighbourhood	0	0	0	0
Q4b. Have you heard of or participated in the Sustainable Neighbo Yes, heard of	ourhoods p	progran	m? ated in	No
Q4b. Have you heard of or participated in the Sustainable Neighbo	ourhoods p	progran	m? ated in	No O
Q4b. Have you heard of or participated in the Sustainable Neighbo Yes, heard of	ourhoods p	progran	m? ated in	No O
Q4b. Have you heard of or participated in the Sustainable Neighbo Yes, heard of	ourhoods p	progran	m? ated in	
24b. Have you heard of or participated in the Sustainable Neighbo Yes, heard of	ourhoods p	progran	m? ated in	No O
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Q4b. Have you heard of or participated in the Sustainable Neighbo Yes, heard of Q4c. If yes, how did you hear about this program?	yes, p	program particip	n? ated in O (If no, g	No O go to Q4d
24b. Have you heard of or participated in the Sustainable Neighbo Yes, heard of O 24c. If yes, how did you hear about this program?	yes, p	program particip	n? ated in O (If no, g	No O go to Q4d n? Maybe O

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			St	rongly agree	Don't Know
	1	2	3	4	5	
My neighbourhood has a strong sense of community	0	0	0	0	0	0
I regularly participate in local volunteer groups (e.g. volunteering for a sporting club, church, meals on wheels, Rotary, Landcare)	0	0	0	0	0	0
My neighbourhood is a safe place for all residents	0	0	0	0	0	О
I can call on a neighbour if I need help	0	0	О	0	0	О
There are adequate natural environments in my neighbourhood for me to pursue leisure time activities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Natural features in my neighbourhood should be protect and improved by residents	ted O	0	0	0	0	0
I take measures to reduce my ecological footprint	0	0	0	0	0	0
I would be prepared to pay more for electricity if it was generated from renewable sources such as solar or win	d O	0	0	0	0	0
I would like to improve my skills, knowledge and behavi in order to be more sustainable	our O	0	0	0	0	0
YOUR IDEAS						
Q6. Do you have any suggestions about how you neighbourhood could improve the environment						ur
						•••••
			•••••			

Q7a. Please indicate your age	0 18-24	0 25-34	O 35	-49	0 50	0-64	0	65+
Q7b. Please indicate your tena	ancy type							
		Owner	occupier/		Rente	r	Nei	ther
			0		C)		0
Q7c. How many people curren	tly reside in	your home?						
			1	2	3	4	5	6+
				-	•	-	_	
			0	0	0	0	0	0
Q7d. How many motor vehicle	s does your l	household have	o 9?	2	3	4	5	5+
Q7d. How many motor vehicle	s does your l	household hav	0	0	0	0		
Q7d. How many motor vehicle Q7e. How long have you lived			o 9?	2	3	4	5	5+
			o 9?	2	3 0	4	5 O	5+
			o 9?	2	3 0	4 0	5 O	5+
			o 9?	2	0 Le 0 1-0 5-	4 O	5 O	5+



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**.

SUS 7134

APPENDIX 2 - CENSUS DATA FOR MORISSET SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA, Census 2006

(Comprising Census Collection Districts 1120510, 1120512, 1120513)

Population	Morisset	Lake Macquarie	Population Growth	Morisset	Lake Macquarie
	1636 persons* 52% male 48% female	183139 persons 49% male 51% female	2001-2006	-14.9%***	3.1%
Ancestry	Morisset	Lake Macquarie	Age Distribution	Morisset	Lake Macquarie
Indigenous	1.5%	2.3%	0-24 years	33%	32%
Australian born	81%	85%	25-44 years	24%	24%
Speaks English only	90%	93%	45-64 years	27%	27%
			65 years plus	15%	17%
			15 years plus	81%	80%
Selected Medians	Morisset	Lake Macquarie	Households Persons	Morisset	Lake Macquarie
Age	39 years	40 years	No of households**	590	67442
Weekly household income	\$655	\$922	One person household	28%	23%
Monthly mortgage	\$1,155	\$1,300	Two person household	35%	36%
Monthly rent	\$746	\$832.50	Fully owned	37%	40%
Household Size	2.4	2.6	Being purchased	28%	34%
Unemployment	7.3%	6.7%	Renting	32%	22%
Street address 1 year ago	76%	88%	Family households	69%	75%
Street address 5 years ago	49%	65%	Other household type	31%	25%
Education	Morisset	Lake Macquarie	Couple family with child	39%	44%
Years 11/12	33%	36%	Couple family no child	34%	38%
Post school qualifications	49%	52%	One parent household	26%	17%
Main Fields of Study	Morisset	Lake Macquarie	Employment	Morisset	Lake Macquarie
Health	13%	9%	Full time employed	63%	60%
Engineering and related	18%	22%	% pop aged 15 years plus in workforce	45%	56%
Volunteers	Morisset	Lake Macquarie	Main Employment Sectors	Morisset	Lake Macquarie
	24%	17%	Community workers	14%	9%
Need Assistance with Self Care	Morisset	Lake Macquarie	Technicians and trades	16%	17%
	6.4%	5.4%	Labourers	15%	10%

These statistics are based on the 2006 ABS Census collector districts. Collector district 1120514 has been excluded because it encompasses Morisset Hospital which significantly skewed the information.

^{*} Total population including Morisset Hospital is 2162 persons.

^{**} Total number of households including Morisset Hospital is 769 households.

^{***} Population growth cannot be calculated accurately due to change in Collection District 1120510 between 2001 – 2006.