



**Greater Charlestown**  
Sustainable Neighbourhood Group

# Greater Charlestown Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan

**For residents and friends of Charlestown and surrounding suburbs.**

Lake Macquarie City residents have a strong commitment to their environment and community. In response, Lake Macquarie City Council has established the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program. The program encourages active citizenship by enabling residents to:

- Protect and care for their environment and place
- Reduce resource consumption
- Respond effectively to environmental threats
- Participate in public life and decision-making

## Action Plan 2014 - 2024

### 1. Protect and care for the natural environment

- Develop a prioritised list of local conservation and regeneration activities
- Run local clean up events, organise lagoon and creek clean ups
- Advocate to protect and enhance existing local green spaces and to improve public access to local bushland (for example, develop educational and artistic walkways through bushland)
- Support existing local Landcare groups and develop new groups when necessary
- Inform and encourage residents to follow responsible pet care principles

### 2. Reduce resource consumption

- Reinvigorate existing community gardens and look into establishing new sites
- Encourage and support backyard gardening
- Investigate verge gardening of natives and food plants
- Run energy and water savings workshops
- Run healthy food growing and cooking workshops
- Promote existing seasonal 'low food mile' information resources
- Investigate the introduction of recycling schemes and services for recyclables not already collected (e.g. soft plastics)
- Promote and distribute existing waste minimisation resources
- Organise social information evenings where experts present on a range of topics
- Advocate for improved pedestrian and bike path connectivity between shops, facilities, bushland, homes, the Fernleigh Track and transport hubs
- Encourage residents to reuse goods by running local garage sale events

### 3. Community wellbeing

- Investigate collaborative art projects to be undertaken with other community groups
- Advocate to have street basketball rings installed on local streets where possible
- Develop a community babysitting register
- Support those in need with travel to/from appointments and services
- Organise weekly casual get-togethers
- Facilitate community story sharing
- Work with Council to investigate opportunities for community involvement at the local cemetery
- Advocate for local hubs of regional education institutions
- Find ways to work with other community organisations and groups with similar goals and values

**Join us!**

**We'd love to hear from you!**

Contact us if you would like to join the Greater Charlestown Sustainable Neighbourhood Group, participate in an upcoming activity or project, share your ideas or simply find out more.

[www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/greater-charlestown](http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/greater-charlestown)

**Contact us**

[greatercharlestownsg@gmail.com](mailto:greatercharlestownsg@gmail.com)  
or contact Council on 4921 0117



Lake Macquarie  
City Council  
Sustainable Neighbourhoods  
is an initiative of  
Lake Macquarie City Council

**The Charlestown East Sustainable Neighbourhood Group recently expanded into the Greater Charlestown area.**

This Plan contains a vision for the neighbourhood and documents the features that residents and friends of the Greater Charlestown area love and value about their community and want to protect or enhance. It also identifies opportunities for change and outlines how the vision will be achieved through a variety of local community-led projects. Around 200 local residents contributed to the development of this plan.

**Did you know:**

- People living in the Greater Charlestown area are, on the average, younger than those living elsewhere in Lake Macquarie
- Urban density (people per kilometre) is significantly higher in the Greater Charlestown area compared with the average for Lake Macquarie
- Charlestown was named after Charles Smith, manager of Waratah Coal Company, which was granted the land now occupied by Charlestown
- There are 504 businesses located in the Charlestown CBD
- Glenrock, an important local area of open space, was declared a State Recreation Area in 1986
- It has been speculated that the first European people to visit Glenrock were escaped convicts Mary and William Bryant in 1791
- The suburb name Kahibah is linked to the Awabakal word “Ky-yee-bah” which means either a place for games or to be active and eager
- Whitebridge is said to have received its name when the bridge over the Belmont railway line was painted white

**Our vision for a Sustainable Neighbourhood**

*“In 2024, we will have a vibrant, friendly and healthy neighbourhood. Our people will actively collaborate on projects including community gardens, conservation works and local scale renewable energy activities, and enjoy walking and cycle track networks that link homes, services, local businesses, sporting facilities, parks and bushland. We will have a rich network of green spaces comprised of popular parks and thriving native ecosystems.”*

**We will work together to create:**

**Strong community spirit**

- Warm, friendly and creative community feel
- People freely engaging and interacting across all generations
- Safe neighbourhood

**Abundant healthy natural environment**

- Protected bushland and attractive parks
- Lots of native wildlife
- Fresh, clean air and water

**Well designed and used community infrastructure**

- Well used and safe systems of pedestrian and cycle paths
- Efficient transport hubs linking public transport, taxis and pedestrian and cycle routes
- Excellent sport and leisure facilities

**Leading local sustainability initiatives and practices**

- Advanced renewable energy technologies servicing the local community
- Productive community gardens
- Food streets
- Minimal waste generation

**Distinctive village feel**

- Village atmosphere around the thriving and trendy local shopping areas
- Sustainable development now and into the future
- Vibrant local food and retail culture



**Our residents value:**

- Opportunities to interact with neighbours from all generations
- The community’s shared identity
- Locals feeling proud of their place
- A friendly and ‘trendy’ vibe and village feel of surrounding suburbs
- Convenient location and easily accessible to places of interest
- Surrounding bushland and wildlife
- Well-functioning waste and recycling services

