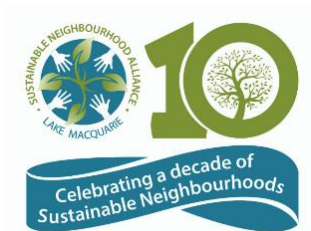


# Renewing Sustainable Neighbourhood groups

## Engagement summary to January 2022



### Summary

Council and the Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance are seeking to strengthen and expand the Sustainable Neighbourhoods program, and will have the opportunity to help renew or establish two groups in 2022.

A community survey and invitation to existing Sustainable Neighbourhood groups were completed in late 2021 to identify two neighbourhood areas for renewal.

#### *Key outcomes*

- Work with the West Wallsend District Sustainable Neighbourhood Group to renew their membership, and expand their neighbourhood area to include Cameron Park (and Wakefield TBC).
- Establish a new group in the Belmont Area including suburbs of Belmont, Belmont North, Belmont South, Floraville and Jewells.
- Continue to deliver support for all Sustainable Neighbourhood groups, including continued implementation of the Sustainable Neighbourhood Strategic Plan, with a focus on impact, visibility, volunteer support and financial sustainability.

### Project purpose

#### **Vision – long term to 2030**

All Lake Mac community has opportunity to participate in a local Sustainable Neighbourhood Group.

#### **Project Aim – short/medium term 2021-2024**

Strengthen existing Sustainable Neighbourhood groups and expand coverage across the city.

#### **Objectives**

- Improve community equity, representation and participation in the Sustainable Neighbourhoods program across the city
- Enhance the long-term viability of existing & new groups
- Increase progress towards the SN vision, 'Neighbourhoods that are empowered to live sustainably'.

## Engagement activities to date

<b>September 2021</b>	Discussion with Alliance board and Council staff to agree on approach and relevant considerations
<b>October – November 2021</b>	Identify local demand, opportunities and challenges + possible nominations for new or renewing areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Email request to SN network, 3 expressions of interest</li><li>• Community survey, 75 respondents</li></ul>
<b>December 2021</b>	Council analysis of Expressions of Interest and survey results

## Summary of engagement results

We used an asset-based approach to identify community enthusiasm and local opportunities that are likely to result in the successful establishment or renewal of Sustainable Neighbourhood groups. We also strived to balance these opportunities with needs that are identified.

### Expressions of interest

Three expressions of interest were received from existing Sustainable Neighbourhood groups.

- Pelican Area
- Valentine
- West Wallsend District

The Morisset and Peninsula SNG was also included for consideration, as their current capacity for project delivery is limited.

### Survey results

The community survey identified more than 50 individuals who were keen to be involved in Sustainable Neighbourhoods.

- 52 new subscribers to the Sustainable Neighbourhood News e-newsletter
- 46 new contacts who want to directly connect with the Sustainable Neighbourhood network
  - 27 live in a suburb with an existing Sustainable Neighbourhood group. These contacts were provided to local group leaders to contact directly.
  - 17 live in a suburb where there is not an existing Sustainable Neighbourhood group
  - 2 did not indicate their suburb of residence

Of those new contacts without an existing group, survey analysis identified a number of potential volunteer leaders in the following suburbs.

- Speers Point Area, 4 – Argenton, Speers Point
- Belmont Area, 3 – Belmont, Belmont North and Jewells
- Swansea Area, 2 – Caves Beach, Swansea

These areas were added to the list of locations for consideration.

## Recommended areas for renewal

West Wallsend District including Cameron Park, and the Belmont Area have been selected for renewal in 2022.

The West Wallsend District SNG submitted a detailed expression of interest identifying their willingness to participate in the renewal process, and suggesting an expansion of their neighbourhood area to include Cameron Park.

The presence of a well-functioning committee, and their management of the Holmesville Community Garden represents an opportunity to successfully engage and mentor new members. The West Wallsend District group was originally established in 2013, and have been operating independently since then.

An attempt to establish a group in Cameron Park and Edgeworth was initiated in 2012, but was not successful. Particularly in the newly built areas of Cameron Park, residents did not have time or enthusiasm to be involved. Ten years on, we expect residents are likely to have more connection to place, and an increased capacity to engage in community endeavours.

It is also recommended to include the rural suburb of Wakefield, to ensure residents in that locality have an opportunity to be involved, and recognise potential links with Killingworth.

The Belmont Area is also recommended for renewal in 2022. The locality, including Jewells and Floraville will fill a significant gap in coverage on the eastern side of the LGA. A number of keen community members were identified in the recent survey.

Council attempted to establish a group in Belmont in 2012, and in the Jewells area in 2016 without success. It is anticipated that re-engaging with residents around the Belmont town centre, and bringing residents together from a wider neighbourhood area will improve group capacity and opportunities for involvement.

Council and the Alliance will continue to deliver support for all Sustainable Neighbourhood groups, including continued implementation of the Sustainable Neighbourhood Strategic Plan, with a focus on impact, visibility, volunteer support and financial sustainability.

## Selection considerations

Each of the potential areas were analysed according to a number of selection criteria related to geographic spread and scale, barriers, leaders, supporters, projects and partners.

The key considerations for each area are summarised below.

Group / Area	Suburbs included or considered	Population (ABS 2016)	Key considerations
<i>Existing groups</i>			
<b>Morisset and Peninsula SNG</b>	Morisset Morisset Park Bonnells Bay Yarrowonga Park Balcolyn Silverwater Mirrabooka Sunshine Brightwaters Windermere Park	<b>19,308</b>	Significant population and area. Morisset initially established in 2009 and then expanded to include Peninsula in 2014-15 Limited activity in recent years. Current committee of 4 members, with limited capacity for activity. 1 new direct contact from survey Will benefit from assistance to promote and boost profile, and get projects started.
<b>Pelican Area SNG</b>	Blacksmiths Marks Point Pelican Little Pelican	<b>4517</b>	Small population. East Ward location. Current committee is active with good dynamics. Regularly have 6-10 volunteers attend meetings. 1 new direct contact from survey A number of active projects in progress, and regular participation in citywide projects. Will benefit from assistance to promote and boost profile.
<b>Valentine SNG</b>	Valentine	<b>5516</b>	Small population. East Ward location. Close to active group nearby (Warners Bay) Existing committee inactive for some years, but recently reactivated with new resident interest. 2 new direct contacts from survey. Recent group-led community workshop and survey has initiated new interest and activity. Some project ideas are active with community support. Will benefit from assistance to promote and boost profile, and get projects started.
<b>West Wallsend District SNG</b>	Barnsley Holmesville Killingworth West Wallsend Seahampton O'Donnelltown  + TBC Wakefield Cameron Park	6500       144 7995  <b>14,494</b>	EOI included idea to expand to Cameron Park & potential name change. Community garden asset (Holmesville) could be utilised by more people & groups, and for varied projects – especially from Cam Park where there are smaller residential lots. Existing committee has good culture and ability to mentor newcomers. Recent retirement of key members, and need to renew enthusiasm. 3 new direct contacts from survey. Will need to manage expansion to new area with potentially different character to existing group. Potential for conflict around Link Road housing development.

Group / Area	Suburbs included or considered	Population (ABS 2016)	Key considerations
<i>New areas</i>			
<b>Belmont Area</b>	Belmont Belmont North Belmont South Jewells Floraville	7114 6335 1204 2407 1856 <b>18,916</b>	Significant population and fills gaps in coverage. East ward location. More streamlined approach with direct resident engagement likely to be more successful than previous attempts to establish group in 2012. 4 new direct contacts from survey (incl 3 leaders)
<b>Speers Point Area</b>	Glendale Argenton Boolaroo Speers Point Edgeworth	<b>15,007</b>	5 new direct contacts from survey (incl 4 leaders) Existing access / alignment with Cardiff and Warners Bay SNGs in lieu of local group New developments around Speers Point – Preference to wait and let these residents settle in.
<b>Swansea Area</b>	Swansea Swansea Heads Caves Beach  +TBC Murrays Beach Nords Wharf Cams Wharf Catherine Hill Bay	<b>11,549</b>	Significant population and fills gaps in coverage. East ward location. 3 new direct contacts from survey (incl 2 leaders) Three previous attempts to establish a group in Swansea Heads (2009) Swansea (2011), and Caves Beach – Swansea Area (2014).

### Measurement of key considerations

Consideration	Notes / How to measure
<p><b>Geographic spread and scale</b> Does it contribute to equitable coverage across geography / location? Does it fill an existing gap? Does it contribute to ward equity? Include around 8-10k population to provide critical mass of potential participants. Consider smaller areas to maintain natural neighbourhood areas/boundaries.</p>	See ABS data for area population Consider known boundaries, gathering areas eg shopping centres and other community assets
<p><b>Barriers</b> Are there significant demographic or other barriers in the area that might discourage engagement? Where we have attempted to establish a group before, have circumstances changed significantly? Have previous challenges been addressed, or barriers removed?</p>	SN records and staff comment re SN history
<p><b>Leaders</b> Are there at least 3-5 people who are willing and able to lead and manage the group and/or projects - enthusiastic, dynamic, positive, passionate?</p>	Estimate for existing groups (through known project leaders & committee members) Include survey question to identify keen eois
<p><b>Supporters</b> Are there people who are willing to support with their time, ideas, enthusiasm and smaller tasks?</p>	Contact lists + estimate for existing groups Include survey question to identify keen eois

<p><b>Projects</b> Are there active projects or project ideas that people want to make happen, and that offer opportunity for others to get involved?</p>	<p>Easy to measure for existing groups Include survey question to identify valid project idea / what project people want to lead or support?</p>
<p><b>Partners</b> Is there interest from complimentary organisations or partners?</p>	<p>All areas will have relevant partners present. Note specific opportunities for potential partners.</p>