

# Sustainable Neighbourhoods – Charlestown East Community Research

A research report prepared for

***Lake Macquarie City Council***

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## Background

Lake Macquarie City Council engaged Micromex Research to assist in the design, format and analysis of a baseline community attitudes' survey for the *Sustainable Neighbourhood program*.

The goal of the survey was to gather baseline information on the community of Swansea Heads' attitudes, perspectives and behaviours towards the environment and environmental issues (global, regional, and locally relevant), which can then be used as an evaluation and reporting tool against set project outcomes:

## Methodology

Micromex Research undertook a telephone interview with 200 Charlestown East residents.

The sample for the survey was obtained from Local List CDROM (Electronic White Pages) classified as residences only. The global sample included all residents with telephones. The database of numbers was computer randomised, geographically stratified and evenly distributed within the strata.

This provided an even distribution of numbers across the whole area.

### General

Respondents were filtered to ensure that they were permanent residents and had lived in the Charlestown East area for a minimum of 6 months. In order to qualify, respondents were aged 18 years or older.

### Questionnaire

Micromex, together with Lake Macquarie City Council, developed the questionnaire.

### Piloting

Piloting of the questionnaire ensured a functional questionnaire in terms of phrasing and the placement of questions in judicial order.

The questionnaire was coded and tabulated for meaningful cross-tabulations.

### Sampling error

A sample size of 200 residents provides a maximum sampling error of plus or minus 6.5% at 95% confidence.

### Interviewing

Interviewing was conducted in accordance with IQCA (Interviewer Quality Control Australia) Standards and the Australian Market and Social Research Society (AMSRS) Code of Professional Conduct using a computer-aided telephone interviewing system (CATI).

### Scripts

All introductory and interview scripts included the management of privacy issues in accordance with the Research Privacy Principles.

### Analysis

All data analysis is undertaken using SPSS V15, SPSS Text Analysis with reporting using MS Word and Excel 2003/2007.

For comparisons with age and gender, Micromex utilised the statistical procedure 'Independent samples t-test for Equality of Means' (2-tailed) where applicable.

**Errors:** Data in this publication is subject to sampling variability because it is based on information relating to a sample of residents rather than the total number. This difference (sampling error) may occur due to imperfections in reporting and errors made in processing the data. This may occur in any enumeration, whether it is a full count or sample.

Efforts have been made to reduce the non-sampling error by careful design of the questionnaire and detailed checking of completed questionnaires.

## Key Findings

### Climate change

#### *Climate change having a direct impact on life in the next 20 years*

- The majority of respondents, 74%, 'agree' to 'strongly agree' that climate change will have a direct impact on their lives over the next 20 years. 8% were neutral and 19% disagreed
- The younger the age group, the more likely they were to agree with climate change impacting on their lives
- Females were significantly more likely to agree than males that climate change will have a direct impact on their lives over the next 20 years

#### *Main impact of climate change in the next 20 years*

In this open ended question, respondents were asked what they believe would be the main impact of climate change in the next 20 years. The responses were as follows:

	Count	Column %
Changes in weather/extreme weather events	61	30.5%
Less water available	17	8.5%
Don't believe in climate change	15	7.5%
Increased temperatures/warmer weather	11	5.5%
Increased cost of living	10	5.0%
Rising sea levels	8	4.0%
Drought/higher temperatures and lower rainfall	6	3.0%
Growing of crops	5	2.5%
Increased health problems	3	1.5%
Pollution	3	1.5%
Pollution from an increasing number of vehicles	2	1.0%
Other	12	6.0%
Don't know	47	23.5%
Total	200	100.0%

#### *The actions of the average person having a large impact on slowing climate change*

- 66% of respondents agreed that the actions of the average person have a large impact on slowing climate change, whilst 9% remained neutral and 25% disagreed
- Respondents in the age group 55+ and males were significantly less likely to agree that the actions of the average person have a large impact on slowing climate change

#### *Single most important environmental issue in neighbourhoods today*

- Respondents believed pollution was the single most important environmental issue in their neighbourhood, followed by water conservation/management
- 41% of respondents replied that they didn't know what was the most important environmental issue in their neighbourhood today

## Key Findings (Cont'd)

### Importance of specific criteria to neighbourhoods

- With the exception of 'preparing for sea level rise', which was rated of moderate importance, all criteria were rated in the 'important' to 'very important' range
- 'Reducing waste', 'reducing energy consumption' and 'protecting and improving the natural environment' were considered the most important to their neighbourhood by respondents
- Those in the age group 18 – 34 were significantly less likely to rate 'improving streetscape and stormwater systems through environmental design' and 'protecting against natural disasters' as important
- Males were significantly less likely than females to rate the following as important:
  - Reducing waste
  - Reducing water consumption
  - Improving communication and partnership with Council
  - Protecting against natural disasters
  - Minimising health risks from the environment
  - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
  - Preparing for sea level rise

### Items included on properties

- The most utilised items were 'water efficient appliances and fittings' (92%), 'energy efficient appliances' (85%) and 'insulation' (80%)
- Respondents in the 18 – 34 age group were significantly less likely to have 'insulation' installed, whilst those in the 35 – 54 age group were significantly more likely to have a 'native garden'
- There were no statistically significant differences between the genders

### Compost bins

- 62% of respondents have compost bins
- There was no statistically significant difference in the age groups, however males were significantly more likely to own a compost bin than females
- When asked why they didn't have a compost bin, the predominant responses were 'I live in a unit/townhouse', 'no need for one' or 'no room'

### Greenpower

- 14% of respondents utilise greenpower for their energy requirements
- The average percentage of greenpower utilised was 28%, however, 41% of those who use greenpower were unsure of what percentage they used
- The younger the respondent, the more likely they were to access greenpower, whilst males and females were equal in their usage
- When asked why they didn't utilise greenpower in a follow up question, respondents predominantly gave their reasons as 'cost' (47%) or 'don't know much about it' (27%)

## Key Findings (Cont'd)

### Frequency of using public transport and recycling

#### **Public transport**

- 6% of respondents 'always' and 9% 'often' catch public transport
- Those in the 55+ age group were significantly more likely to utilise public transport than those in the 35 – 54 age group

#### **Recycling**

- 87% of respondents 'always' and '13% 'often' recycle

### Importance of specific factors in assisting improvements to environmental behaviour

- Respondents rated three of the factors, 'a personal responsibility to do the right thing for the environment', 'saving money' and 'rebates and incentives' as very important, whilst 'the feeling that most other people are doing it and you should be doing it too' was rated as 'moderately important'
- There were no statistically significant differences between the age groups or genders

### Visiting natural environments during leisure and recreation time

- 73% of respondents had visited natural environments during their leisure and recreation time in the past 4 weeks
- Respondents in the age groups 18 – 34 and 35 – 54 were significantly more likely to visit natural environments than those in the 55+ age group
- Males were significantly more likely than females to visit natural environments during their leisure and recreation time

### Activities that respondents would consider participating in

- 78% of respondents would or may consider participating in a 'neighbourhood clean-up', whilst 70% would or may consider 'growing native gardens' and 68% a 'home audit of backyard, energy, waste and water use'
- Respondents in the age group 35 – 54 were significantly more likely than those in the 55+ age group to consider 'growing native gardens'
- Males were significantly more likely than females to consider 'growing native gardens' and a 'home audit of backyard, energy, waste and water use'

### Sustainable Neighbourhoods program

- 9% of respondents had heard of or participated in the Sustainable Neighbourhoods program. The most predominant methods of finding out about the program were from 'newspapers', 'brochure from the Council' or 'Landcare'
- There were no significant differences between the age groups or genders
- 47% of respondents who hadn't yet taken part in the Sustainable Neighbourhood program would or may be interested in participating
- Interest in the program was similar across the age groups and genders



## Key Findings (Cont'd)

### Level of agreement with specific statements

Respondents were asked to rate their level of agreement with 9 statements.

- A very high level of agreement was attributed to the statement 'I can call on a neighbour if I need help', whilst high levels were attributed to the statements 'natural features in my neighbourhood should be protected and improved by residents' and 'I take measures to reduce my ecological footprint'
- 'I would like to improve my skills, knowledge and behaviour in order to be more sustainable' and 'there are adequate natural environments in my neighbourhood for me to participate in leisure time activities' attained moderately high levels of agreement
- There was a moderate level of agreement with the statements 'my neighbourhood is a safe place for all residents', 'I would be prepared to pay more for electricity if it was generated from renewable sources such as solar or wind' and 'my neighbourhood has a strong sense of community', whilst 'I regularly participate in local volunteer groups' received only a low level of agreement
- There were no statistically significant differences between the age groups regarding the statements
- Females were significantly more likely to agree with the statement 'I would be prepared to pay more for electricity if it was generated from renewable sources such as solar or wind', whilst males were significantly more likely to agree with the statement 'I regularly participate in local volunteer groups'

### Value of living in their neighbourhood

In this open ended question, respondents were asked what they most valued about living in their neighbourhood. Their responses are as follows:

	Count	Column %
Close to all amenities/facilities, e.g. shops, medical	69	34.5%
Friendly community/neighbourhood	37	18.5%
Location	28	14.0%
Peace and quiet	27	13.5%
Beaches	24	12.0%
Bushland	22	11.0%
Community	14	7.0%
Availability of public transport	9	4.5%
Natural environment	9	4.5%
Security	9	4.5%
Other	61	30.5%
Total	200	100.0%

# **Section 1**

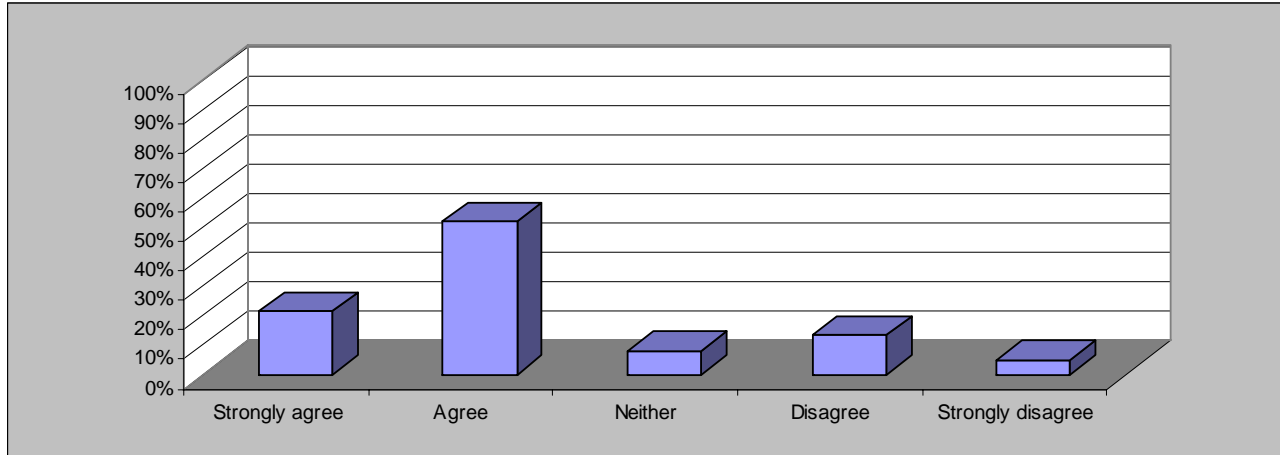
## **Climate change over the next 20 years**

**Q1a. How strongly do you agree, or disagree, that climate change will have a direct impact on your life over the next 20 years?**

- The majority of respondents, 74%, 'agree' to 'strongly agree' that climate change will have a direct impact on their lives over the next 20 years. 8% were neutral and 19% disagreed
- The younger the age group, the more likely they were to agree with climate change impacting on their lives
- Females were significantly more likely to agree than males that climate change will have a direct impact on their lives over the next 20 years

**Mean rating – 3.72**

**Mean ratings: 1 = strongly disagree, 5 = strongly agree**



	Count	Column %
Strongly agree	43	21.5%
Agree	104	52.0%
Neither	16	8.0%
Disagree	27	13.5%
Strongly disagree	10	5.0%
Total	200	100.0%

**Cross correlation by age and gender**

	18-34		35-54		55+		Male		Female	
	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %
Strongly agree	5	27.8%	19	31.1%	19	15.7%	21	20.2%	22	22.9%
Agree	12	66.7%	30	49.2%	62	51.2%	49	47.1%	55	57.3%
Neither	1	5.6%	8	13.1%	7	5.8%	7	6.7%	9	9.4%
Disagree	0	.0%	3	4.9%	24	19.8%	18	17.3%	9	9.4%
Strongly disagree	0	.0%	1	1.6%	9	7.4%	9	8.7%	1	1.0%
Total	18	100.0%	61	100.0%	121	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%

## Q1b. What do you think will be the MAIN impact of climate change in the next 20 years?

In this open ended question, respondents were asked what they believe would be the main impact of climate change in the next 20 years. Their responses were as follows:

	Count	Column %
Changes in weather/extreme weather events	61	30.5%
Less water available	17	8.5%
Don't believe in climate change	15	7.5%
Increased temperatures/warmer weather	11	5.5%
Increased cost of living	10	5.0%
Rising sea levels	8	4.0%
Drought/higher temperatures and lower rainfall	6	3.0%
Growing of crops	5	2.5%
Increased health problems	3	1.5%
Pollution	3	1.5%
Pollution from an increasing number of vehicles	2	1.0%
Other	12	6.0%
Don't know	47	23.5%
Total	200	100.0%

### Other

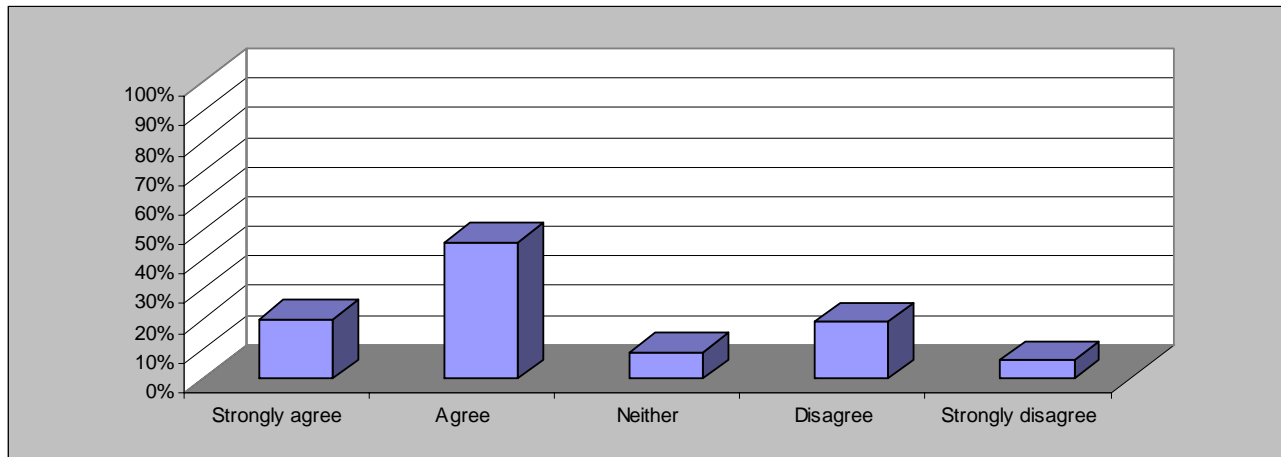
• Beach erosion	1
• Carbon emissions	1
• Coal consumption	1
• Coal dust pollution	1
• Disappearance of natural vegetation, e.g. trees	1
• Negative impacts on the economy	1
• Forced changes to lifestyle/behaviours	1
• Global warming	1
• Great impact on the drainage systems	1
• Increased use of public transport	1
• Looking at renewable energy sources	1
• Output of pollution from industries	1

**Q1c. How strongly do you agree, or disagree, that the actions of the average person have a large impact on slowing climate change?**

- 66% of respondents agreed that the actions of the average person have a large impact on slowing climate change, whilst 9% remained neutral and 25% disagreed
- Respondents in the age group 55+ and males were significantly less likely to agree that the actions of the average person have a large impact on slowing climate change

**Mean rating – 3.55**

**Mean ratings: 1 = strongly disagree, 5 = strongly agree**



	Count	Column %
Strongly agree	40	20.0%
Agree	92	46.0%
Neither	18	9.0%
Disagree	38	19.0%
Strongly disagree	12	6.0%
Total	200	100.0%

**Cross correlation by age and gender**

	18-34		35-54		55+		Male		Female	
	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %
Strongly agree	4	22.2%	20	32.8%	16	13.2%	19	18.3%	21	21.9%
Agree	9	50.0%	25	41.0%	58	47.9%	41	39.4%	51	53.1%
Neither	1	5.6%	7	11.5%	10	8.3%	8	7.7%	10	10.4%
Disagree	4	22.2%	8	13.1%	26	21.5%	26	25.0%	12	12.5%
Strongly disagree	0	.0%	1	1.6%	11	9.1%	10	9.6%	2	2.1%
Total	18	100.0%	61	100.0%	121	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%

**Section 2**  
**Local sustainability issues in your  
neighbourhood**

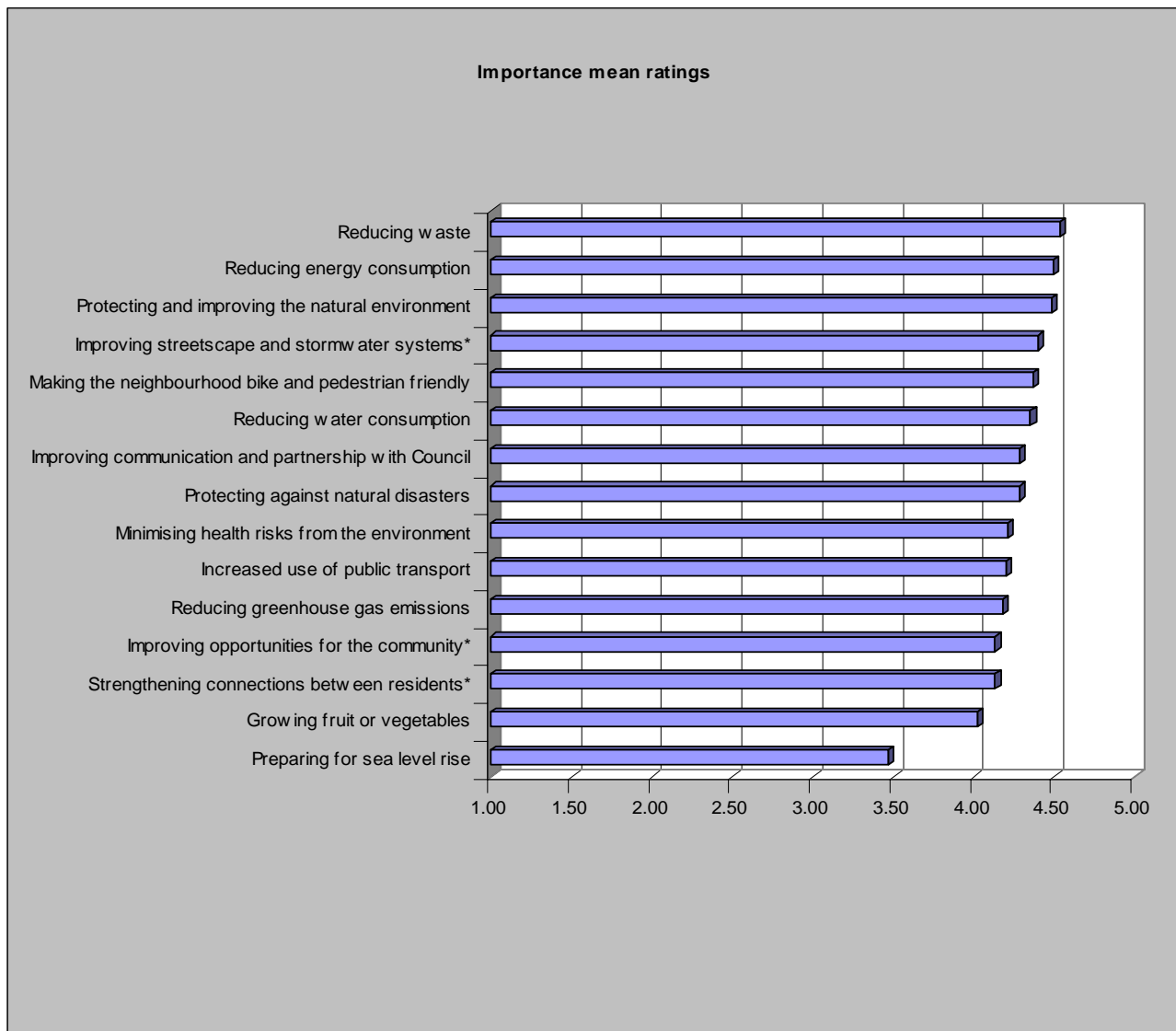
## Q2a. What is the single most important environmental issue in your neighbourhood today?

- Respondents believed pollution was the single most important environmental issue in their neighbourhood, followed by water conservation/management
- 41% of respondents replied that they didn't know what was the most important environmental issue in their neighbourhood today

Don't know	82	Continuous planting of trees	1
Pollution	11	Cost of fuel	1
Water conservation/management	7	Destruction of walking tracks and trails	1
Car pollution/noise	6	Dog walkers not cleaning up after their dogs	1
Garbage/litter	6	Drought	1
Weed control	6	Effect of commercial development	1
Controlling development	5	Emissions from old storage heaters	1
Recycling	4	Fuel courses	1
Traffic	4	Habitat loss	1
Increased development where infrastructure can't keep up e.g. traffic congestion	3	Increase in temperature	1
Coal mining	2	Lack of adequate stormwater drainage	1
Commercial development	2	Lack of open space	1
Conservation of the green belt	2	Lights being left on all night in new developments	1
Drought/no rain	2	Local regeneration of the local parks	1
Dust from construction work	2	Monitoring of bush for fire hazards, e.g. back burning	1
Energy consumption	2	Need an improved public transport system so people will use it	1
Excessive traffic	2	Non collection of green waste from residents	1
Losing water runoff into the creek and down gutters and drains	2	None	1
Noise pollution	2	Over development in Charlestown	1
Overgrown areas	2	Overspill of chlorine from a local nursing home	1
Preserving natural bushland	2	Plastic garbage bags	1
Road maintenance	2	Preparing to bulldoze some bushland for the Warra Rd link	1
Rubbish in the stormwater drains	2	Public transport	1
Absence of program for reusing water from sporting ground	1	Recreation parks	1
Air pollution from increased traffic	1	Residents need to be water conscience	1
Air quality	1	Too much landfill and not enough recycling	1
Building of new high rise	1	Use of coal	1
Bushland overgrown with non native plants	1	Vandalism	1
Climate change	1	Wasting stormwater that should be treated and redirected to where needed	1
Construction work	1	Water erosion	1
Consumption of fossil fuels for motor transport	1	Woodfire smoke	1

**Q2b. 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.**

- With the exception of 'preparing for sea level rise', which was rated of moderate importance, all criteria were rated in the 'important' to 'very important' range
- 'Reducing waste', 'reducing energy consumption' and 'protecting and improving the natural environment' were considered the most important to their neighbourhood by respondents
- Those in the age group 18 – 34 were significantly less likely to rate 'improving streetscape and stormwater systems through environmental design' and 'protecting against natural disasters' as important
- Males were significantly less likely than females to rate the following as important:
  - Reducing waste
  - Reducing water consumption
  - Improving communication and partnership with Council
  - Protecting against natural disasters
  - Minimising health risks from the environment
  - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
  - Preparing for sea level rise



**\*Please see the table on the following page for the full details**

**Mean ratings: 1 = not at all important, 5 = very important**

*Continued on the following page*



**Q2b. 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. (Cont'd)**

	Importance mean ratings
Reducing waste	4.53
Reducing energy consumption	4.49
Protecting and improving the natural environment	4.48
Improving streetscape and stormwater systems through environmental design	4.40
Making the neighbourhood bike and pedestrian friendly	4.37
Reducing water consumption	4.35
Improving communication and partnership with Council	4.28
Protecting against natural disasters	4.28
Minimising health risks from the environment	4.21
Increased use of public transport	4.20
Reducing greenhouse gas emissions	4.18
Improving opportunities for the community to be involved in environmental and sustainability projects	4.13
Strengthening connections between residents in the neighbourhood	4.13
Growing fruit or vegetables	4.02
Preparing for sea level rise	3.47

**Mean ratings: 1 = not at all important, 5 = very important**

	18-34	35-54	55+	Male	Female
Reducing waste	4.39	4.62	4.50	4.42	4.64
Reducing energy consumption	4.39	4.54	4.48	4.39	4.59
Protecting and improving the natural environment	4.33	4.51	4.49	4.44	4.52
Improving streetscape and stormwater systems through environmental design	3.94	4.49	4.42	4.34	4.47
Making the neighbourhood bike and pedestrian friendly	4.06	4.36	4.41	4.27	4.47
Reducing water consumption	4.11	4.36	4.38	4.22	4.49
Improving communication and partnership with Council	4.11	4.36	4.26	4.16	4.41
Protecting against natural disasters	3.78	4.16	4.40	4.11	4.46
Minimising health risks from the environment	3.89	4.21	4.26	4.02	4.42
Increased use of public transport	4.00	4.21	4.22	4.10	4.31
Reducing greenhouse gas emissions	4.22	4.28	4.12	3.99	4.39
Improving opportunities for the community to be involved in environmental and sustainability projects	4.22	4.10	4.12	4.01	4.25
Strengthening connections between residents in the neighbourhood	3.83	4.05	4.21	4.07	4.20
Growing fruit or vegetables	3.72	4.02	4.07	3.88	4.17
Preparing for sea level rise	2.83	3.34	3.62	3.14	3.81

= A significantly higher level of agreement (by group)  
 = A significantly lower level of agreement (by group)

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**Q2b. 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. (Cont'd)**

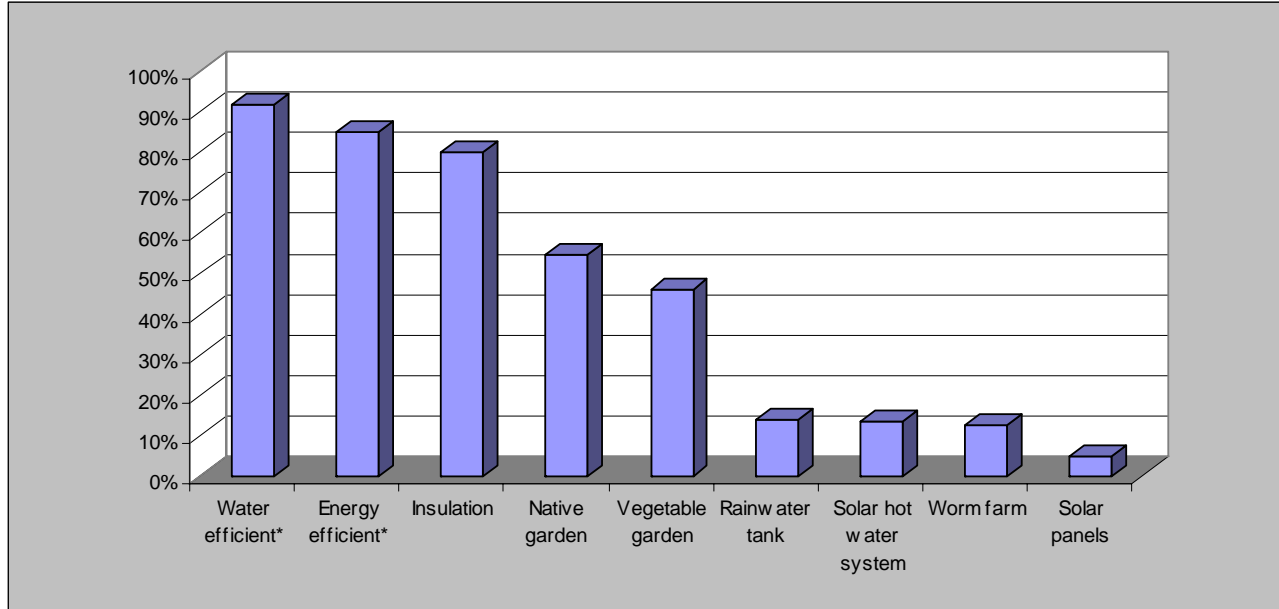
	Not at all important		Not important		Neither		Important		Very important		Total	
	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %
Protecting and improving the natural environment	0	.0%	3	1.5%	21	10.5%	53	26.5%	123	61.5%	200	100.0%
Protecting against natural disasters	3	1.5%	13	6.5%	25	12.5%	44	22.0%	115	57.5%	200	100.0%
Preparing for sea level rise	28	14.0%	28	14.0%	35	17.5%	41	20.5%	68	34.0%	200	100.0%
Minimising health risks from the environment	2	1.0%	13	6.5%	29	14.5%	53	26.5%	103	51.5%	200	100.0%
Reducing greenhouse gas emissions	4	2.0%	11	5.5%	33	16.5%	49	24.5%	103	51.5%	200	100.0%
Reducing water consumption	3	1.5%	6	3.0%	22	11.0%	56	28.0%	113	56.5%	200	100.0%
Reducing waste	0	.0%	4	2.0%	14	7.0%	55	27.5%	127	63.5%	200	100.0%
Reducing energy consumption	0	.0%	4	2.0%	17	8.5%	56	28.0%	123	61.5%	200	100.0%
Growing fruit or vegetables	6	3.0%	14	7.0%	38	19.0%	54	27.0%	88	44.0%	200	100.0%
Improving opportunities for the community to be involved in environmental and sustainability projects	2	1.0%	8	4.0%	35	17.5%	73	36.5%	82	41.0%	200	100.0%
Strengthening connections between residents in the neighbourhood	1	.5%	7	3.5%	42	21.0%	65	32.5%	85	42.5%	200	100.0%
Making the neighbourhood bike and pedestrian friendly	4	2.0%	5	2.5%	21	10.5%	54	27.0%	116	58.0%	200	100.0%
Improving communication and partnership with Council	0	.0%	4	2.0%	34	17.0%	64	32.0%	98	49.0%	200	100.0%
Increased use of public transport	2	1.0%	5	2.5%	35	17.5%	67	33.5%	91	45.5%	200	100.0%
Improving streetscape and stormwater systems through environmental design	1	.5%	4	2.0%	19	9.5%	66	33.0%	110	55.0%	200	100.0%

## **Section 3**

# **Your sustainability choices**

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

- The most utilised items were 'water efficient appliances and fittings' (92%), 'energy efficient appliances' (85%) and 'insulation' (80%)
- Respondents in the 18 – 34 age group were significantly less likely to have 'insulation' installed, whilst those in the 35 – 54 age group were significantly more likely to have a 'native garden'
- There were no statistically significant differences between the genders



	Yes		No		Don't know		Total	
	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %
Water efficient appliances and fittings	183	91.5%	16	8.0%	1	.5%	200	100.0%
Energy efficient appliances	170	85.0%	23	11.5%	7	3.5%	200	100.0%
Insulation	160	79.9%	33	16.8%	7	3.4%	200	100.0%
Native garden	109	54.5%	91	45.5%	0	.0%	200	100.0%
Vegetable garden	92	46.0%	108	54.0%	0	.0%	200	100.0%
Rainwater tank	28	14.0%	172	86.0%	0	.0%	200	100.0%
Solar hot water system	27	13.5%	173	86.5%	0	.0%	200	100.0%
Worm farm	25	12.5%	175	87.5%	0	.0%	200	100.0%
Solar panels	10	5.0%	190	95.0%	0	.0%	200	100.0%

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## Q3a. Do you have any of the following items on your property? (Cont'd)

### Cross correlation by age and gender

		18-34		35-54		55+		Male		Female	
		Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %
Worm farm	Yes	4	22.2%	10	16.4%	11	9.1%	13	12.5%	12	12.5%
	No	14	77.8%	51	83.6%	110	90.9%	91	87.5%	84	87.5%
	Don't know	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%
	Total	18	100.0%	61	100.0%	121	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%
Rainwater tank	Yes	4	22.2%	13	21.3%	11	9.1%	19	18.3%	9	9.4%
	No	14	77.8%	48	78.7%	110	90.9%	85	81.7%	87	90.6%
	Don't know	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%
	Total	18	100.0%	61	100.0%	121	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%
Solar panels	Yes	0	.0%	5	8.2%	5	4.1%	6	5.8%	4	4.2%
	No	18	100.0%	56	91.8%	116	95.9%	98	94.2%	92	95.8%
	Don't know	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%
	Total	18	100.0%	61	100.0%	121	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%
Solar hot water system	Yes	1	5.6%	8	13.1%	18	14.9%	18	17.3%	9	9.4%
	No	17	94.4%	53	86.9%	103	85.1%	86	82.7%	87	90.6%
	Don't know	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%
	Total	18	100.0%	61	100.0%	121	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%
Insulation	Yes	12	70.6%	41	77.4%	90	82.6%	73	78.5%	70	81.4%
	No	2	11.8%	11	20.8%	17	15.6%	18	19.4%	12	14.0%
	Don't know	3	17.6%	1	1.9%	2	1.8%	2	2.2%	4	4.7%
	Total	17	100.0%	53	100.0%	109	100.0%	93	100.0%	86	100.0%
Water efficient appliances and fittings	Yes	11	61.1%	59	96.7%	113	93.4%	97	93.3%	86	89.6%
	No	6	33.3%	2	3.3%	8	6.6%	7	6.7%	9	9.4%
	Don't know	1	5.6%	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	1	1.0%
	Total	18	100.0%	61	100.0%	121	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%
Energy efficient appliances	Yes	15	83.3%	57	93.4%	98	81.0%	88	84.6%	82	85.4%
	No	3	16.7%	3	4.9%	17	14.0%	12	11.5%	11	11.5%
	Don't know	0	.0%	1	1.6%	6	5.0%	4	3.8%	3	3.1%
	Total	18	100.0%	61	100.0%	121	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%
Native garden	Yes	11	61.1%	42	68.9%	56	46.3%	60	57.7%	49	51.0%
	No	7	38.9%	19	31.1%	65	53.7%	44	42.3%	47	49.0%
	Don't know	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%
	Total	18	100.0%	61	100.0%	121	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%
Vegetable garden	Yes	9	50.0%	33	54.1%	50	41.3%	52	50.0%	40	41.7%
	No	9	50.0%	28	45.9%	71	58.7%	52	50.0%	56	58.3%
	Don't know	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%
	Total	18	100.0%	61	100.0%	121	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%

### Q3b. Do you have a compost bin?

- 62% of respondents have compost bins
- There was no statistically significant difference in the age groups, however males were significantly more likely to own a compost bin than females
- When asked why they didn't have a compost bin, the predominant responses were 'I live in a unit/townhouse', 'no need for one' or 'no room'

	Count	Column %
Yes	123	61.5%
No	77	38.5%
Total	200	100.0%

	18-34		35-54		55+		Male		Female	
	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %
Yes	11	61.1%	41	67.2%	71	58.7%	72	69.2%	51	53.1%
No	7	38.9%	20	32.8%	50	41.3%	32	30.8%	45	46.9%
Total	18	100.0%	61	100.0%	121	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%

### Q3c. (If no), may I ask why not?

I live in a unit/townhouse	17	Compost bins attract mice	1
No need for one	17	Currently landscaping our backyard	1
No room	15	Had one before and don't think they work	1
I live alone and don't have many scraps	4	I did have one but it attracted cockroaches	1
Too old to manage one	3	I put my scraps straight into the garden	1
No reason	3	I rent and would have to get permission	1
Haven't got around to it	2	Not allowed under the strata laws	1
I have not thought about it	2	Our rabbit eats the scraps	1
Don't know much about them	3	Too busy	1
Can't stand the smell of them	1	We had one but it took over everything	1

### Q3d. Do you use greenpower?

- 14% of respondents utilise greenpower for their energy requirements
- The average percentage of greenpower utilised was 28%, however, 41% of those who use greenpower were unsure of what percentage they used
- The younger the respondent, the more likely they were to access greenpower, whilst males and females were equal in their usage
- When asked why they didn't utilise greenpower in a follow up question, respondents predominantly gave their reasons as 'cost' (47%) or 'don't know much about it' (27%)

	Count	Column %
Yes	27	13.5%
No	173	86.5%
Total	200	100.0%

#### Cross correlation by age and gender

	18-34		35-54		55+		Male		Female	
	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %
Yes	5	27.8%	10	16.4%	12	9.9%	14	13.5%	13	13.5%
No	13	72.2%	51	83.6%	109	90.1%	90	86.5%	83	86.5%
Total	18	100.0%	61	100.0%	121	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%

### Q3e. (If yes), what percentage?

Average use	28%
-------------	-----

	Count	Column %
5	1	6.3%
10	6	37.5%
15	2	12.5%
20	2	12.5%
25	2	12.5%
70	1	6.3%
100	2	12.5%
Total	16	100.0%

**Nb: Some respondents did not answer**

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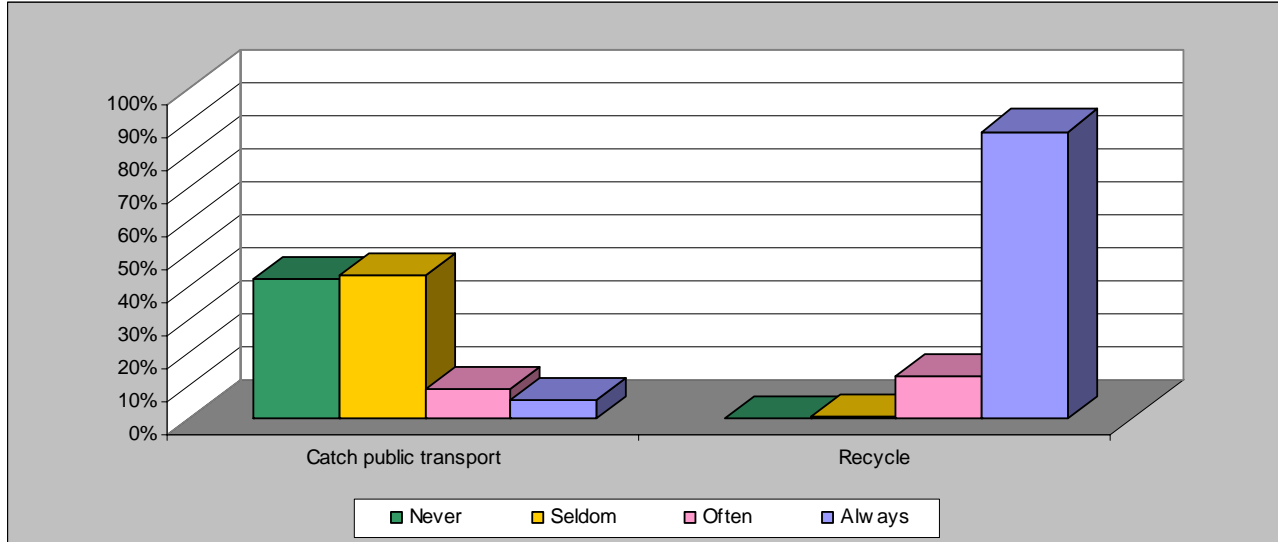
**Q3d. Do you use greenpower? (Cont'd)****Q3f. (If no), may I ask why not?**

Cost	81	Does not seem relevant at this time	1
Don't know much about it	47	Don't have the facilities	1
Haven't got around to it	10	Had it, but it was not achieving its goal	1
Don't know	7	Happy with what I currently have	1
Not thought about it	4	Husband signed up for it	1
Don't believe all the hype	3	I am renting	1
Not interested	3	I am switching to greenpower next year	1
Don't see a need for it	2	I provide my own solar power	1
Haven't been asked about it	2	Live in a unit	1
Not convinced that greenpower is genuinely environmentally friendly	2	Locked into a contract	1
Changed supplier and forgot to sign up	1	Undecided about it at the moment	1



### Q3g. How often do you:

- 6% of respondents 'always' and 9% 'often' catch public transport
- Those in the 55+ age group were significantly more likely to utilise public transport than those in the 35 – 54 age group
- 87% of respondents 'always' and '13% 'often' recycle



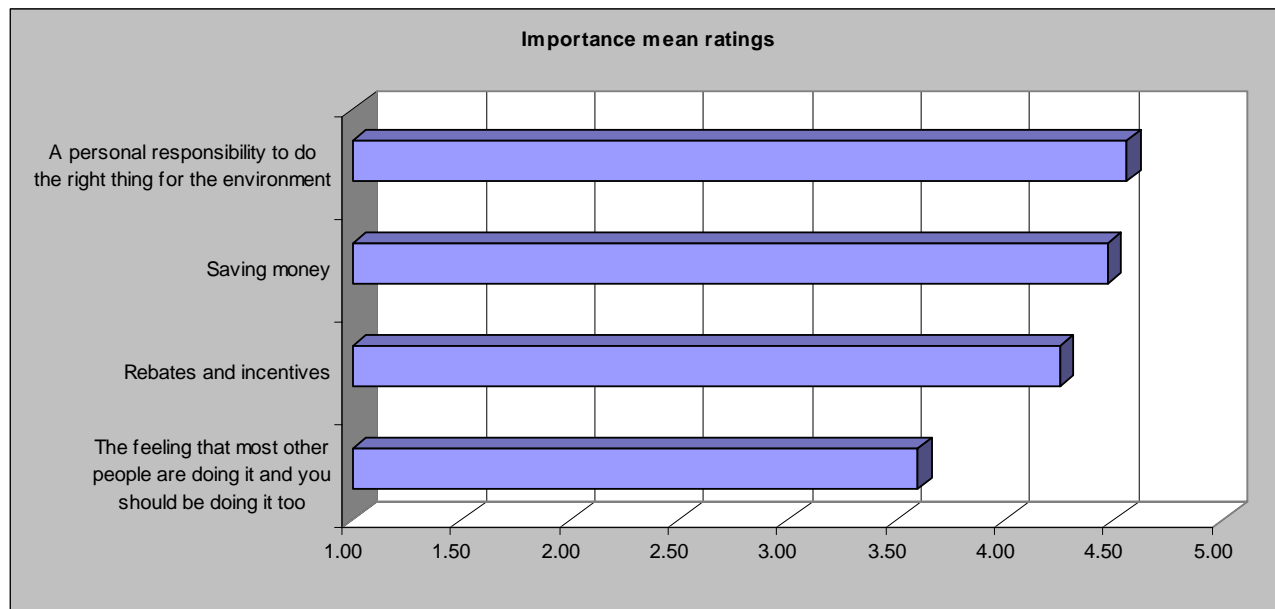
	Never		Seldom		Often		Always		Total	
	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %
Catch public transport	84	42.0%	87	43.5%	18	9.0%	11	5.5%	200	100.0%
Recycle	0	.0%	1	.5%	25	12.5%	174	87.0%	200	100.0%

### Cross correlation by age and gender

		18-34		35-54		55+		Male		Female	
		Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %
Catch public transport	Always	2	11.1%	0	.0%	9	7.4%	3	2.9%	8	8.3%
	Often	1	5.6%	3	4.9%	14	11.6%	8	7.7%	10	10.4%
	Seldom	8	44.4%	27	44.3%	52	43.0%	47	45.2%	40	41.7%
	Never	7	38.9%	31	50.8%	46	38.0%	46	44.2%	38	39.6%
	Total	18	100.0%	61	100.0%	121	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%
Recycle	Always	15	83.3%	57	93.4%	102	84.3%	87	83.7%	87	90.6%
	Often	2	11.1%	4	6.6%	19	15.7%	17	16.3%	8	8.3%
	Seldom	1	5.6%	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	1	1.0%
	Never	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%
	Total	18	100.0%	61	100.0%	121	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%

### Q3h. How important are the following factors in assisting you to improve your environmental behaviour?

- Respondents rated three of the factors, 'a personal responsibility to do the right thing for the environment', 'saving money' and 'rebates and incentives' as very important, whilst 'the feeling that most other people are doing it and you should be doing it too' was rated as 'moderately important'
- There were no statistically significant differences between the age groups or genders



Mean ratings: 1 = not at all important, 5 = very important

	Importance mean ratings
A personal responsibility to do the right thing for the environment	4.56
Saving money	4.47
Rebates and incentives	4.25
The feeling that most other people are doing it and you should be doing it too	3.60

#### Cross correlation by age and gender

	18-34	35-54	55+	Male	Female
A personal responsibility to do the right thing for the environment	4.39	4.43	4.65	4.52	4.60
Saving money	4.61	4.46	4.45	4.37	4.57
Rebates and incentives	4.00	4.33	4.24	4.23	4.26
The feeling that most other people are doing it and you should be doing it too	3.56	3.67	3.56	3.56	3.64

*Continued on the following page*

### Q3h. How important are the following factors in assisting you to improve your environmental behaviour? (Cont'd)

	Not at all important		Not important		Neither		Important		Very important		Total	
	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %
Rebates and incentives	3	1.5%	9	4.5%	27	13.5%	58	29.0%	103	51.5%	200	100.0%
A personal responsibility to do the right thing for the environment	0	.0%	2	1.0%	11	5.5%	60	30.0%	127	63.5%	200	100.0%
Saving money	2	1.0%	2	1.0%	17	8.5%	59	29.5%	120	60.0%	200	100.0%
The feeling that most other people are doing it and you should be doing it too	20	10.0%	25	12.5%	40	20.0%	46	23.0%	69	34.5%	200	100.0%

### Q3i. 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?

- 73% of respondents had visited natural environments during their leisure and recreation time in the past 4 weeks
- Respondents in the age groups 18 – 34 and 35 – 54 were significantly more likely to visit natural environments than those in the 55+ age group
- Males were significantly more likely than females to visit natural environments during their leisure and recreation time

	Count	Column %
Yes	145	72.5%
No	55	27.5%
Total	200	100.0%

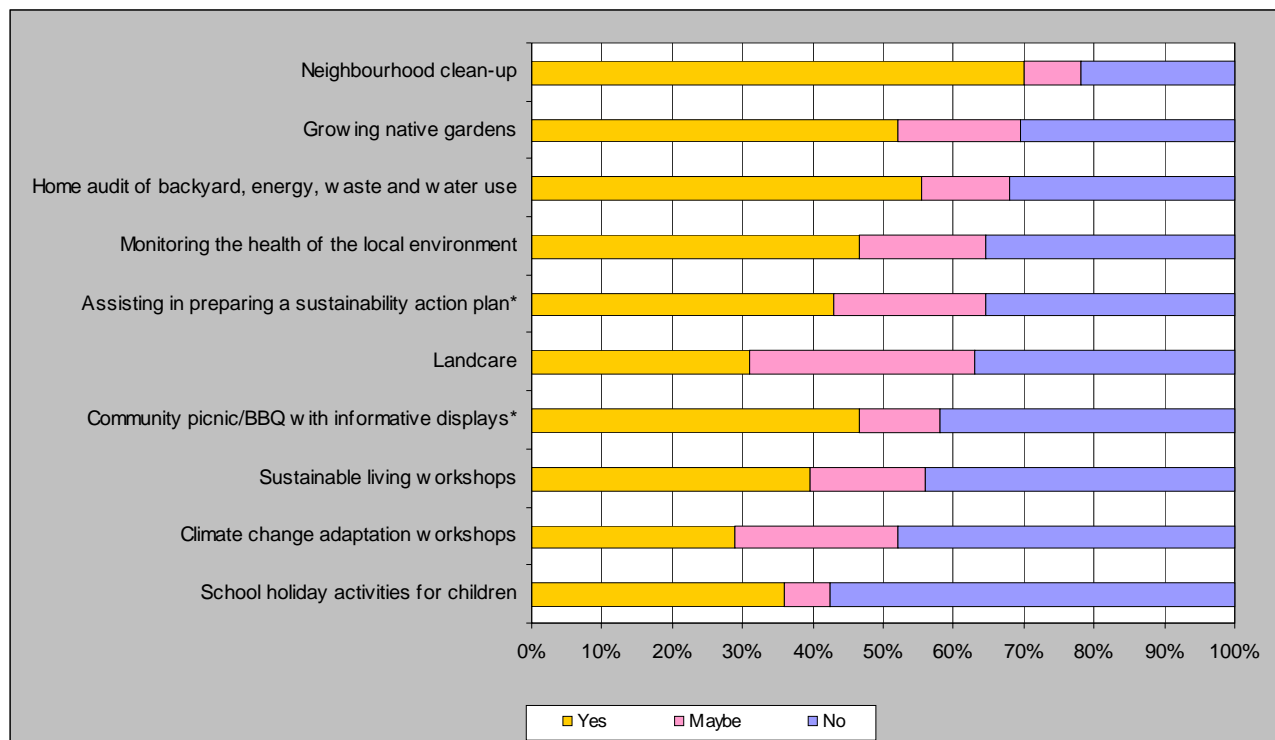
#### Cross correlation by age and gender

	18-34		35-54		55+		Male		Female	
	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %
Yes	18	100.0%	55	90.2%	72	59.5%	83	79.8%	62	64.6%
No	0	.0%	6	9.8%	49	40.5%	21	20.2%	34	35.4%
Don't know	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%
Total	18	100.0%	61	100.0%	121	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%

**Section 4**  
**Sustainability actions in your  
neighbourhood**

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

- 78% of respondents would or may consider participating in a 'neighbourhood clean-up', whilst 70% would or may consider 'growing native gardens' and 68% a 'home audit of backyard, energy, waste and water use'
- Respondents in the age group 35 – 54 were significantly more likely than those in the 55+ age group to consider 'growing native gardens'
- Males were significantly more likely than females to consider 'growing native gardens' and a 'home audit of backyard, energy, waste and water use'



	Yes		Maybe		No		Total	
	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %
Neighbourhood clean-up	140	70.0%	16	8.0%	44	22.0%	200	100.0%
Growing native gardens	104	52.0%	35	17.5%	61	30.5%	200	100.0%
Home audit of backyard, energy, waste and water use	111	55.5%	25	12.5%	64	32.0%	200	100.0%
Assisting in preparing a sustainability action plan for my neighbourhood	86	43.0%	43	21.5%	71	35.5%	200	100.0%
Monitoring the health of the local environment	93	46.5%	36	18.0%	71	35.5%	200	100.0%
Landcare	62	31.0%	64	32.0%	74	37.0%	200	100.0%
Community picnic/BBQ with informative displays and children's activities	93	46.5%	23	11.5%	84	42.0%	200	100.0%
Sustainable living workshops	79	39.5%	33	16.5%	88	44.0%	200	100.0%
Climate change adaptation workshops	58	29.0%	46	23.0%	96	48.0%	200	100.0%
School holiday activities for children	72	36.0%	13	6.5%	115	57.5%	200	100.0%

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## Q4a. Which of the following activities/events would you consider participating in? (Cont'd)

### Cross correlation by age and gender

		18-34		35-54		55+		Male		Female	
		Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %
Landcare	Yes	8	44.4%	22	36.1%	32	26.4%	38	36.5%	24	25.0%
	No	5	27.8%	11	18.0%	58	47.9%	31	29.8%	43	44.8%
	Maybe	5	27.8%	28	45.9%	31	25.6%	35	33.7%	29	30.2%
	Total	18	100.0%	61	100.0%	121	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%
Growing native gardens	Yes	12	66.7%	45	73.8%	47	38.8%	63	60.6%	41	42.7%
	No	3	16.7%	5	8.2%	53	43.8%	28	26.9%	33	34.4%
	Maybe	3	16.7%	11	18.0%	21	17.4%	13	12.5%	22	22.9%
	Total	18	100.0%	61	100.0%	121	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%
Sustainable living workshops	Yes	7	38.9%	29	47.5%	43	35.5%	46	44.2%	33	34.4%
	No	7	38.9%	14	23.0%	67	55.4%	40	38.5%	48	50.0%
	Maybe	4	22.2%	18	29.5%	11	9.1%	18	17.3%	15	15.6%
	Total	18	100.0%	61	100.0%	121	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%
Climate change adaptation workshops	Yes	9	50.0%	22	36.1%	27	22.3%	33	31.7%	25	26.0%
	No	6	33.3%	19	31.1%	71	58.7%	46	44.2%	50	52.1%
	Maybe	3	16.7%	20	32.8%	23	19.0%	25	24.0%	21	21.9%
	Total	18	100.0%	61	100.0%	121	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%
Monitoring the health of the local environment	Yes	7	38.9%	32	52.5%	54	44.6%	55	52.9%	38	39.6%
	No	8	44.4%	11	18.0%	52	43.0%	30	28.8%	41	42.7%
	Maybe	3	16.7%	18	29.5%	15	12.4%	19	18.3%	17	17.7%
	Total	18	100.0%	61	100.0%	121	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%
Community picnic/BBQ with informative displays and children's activities	Yes	13	72.2%	32	52.5%	48	39.7%	49	47.1%	44	45.8%
	No	4	22.2%	18	29.5%	62	51.2%	46	44.2%	38	39.6%
	Maybe	1	5.6%	11	18.0%	11	9.1%	9	8.7%	14	14.6%
	Total	18	100.0%	61	100.0%	121	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%
School holiday activities for children	Yes	10	55.6%	24	39.3%	38	31.4%	41	39.4%	31	32.3%
	No	7	38.9%	33	54.1%	75	62.0%	56	53.8%	59	61.5%
	Maybe	1	5.6%	4	6.6%	8	6.6%	7	6.7%	6	6.3%
	Total	18	100.0%	61	100.0%	121	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%
Neighbourhood clean-up	Yes	15	83.3%	50	82.0%	75	62.0%	75	72.1%	65	67.7%
	No	1	5.6%	4	6.6%	39	32.2%	20	19.2%	24	25.0%
	Maybe	2	11.1%	7	11.5%	7	5.8%	9	8.7%	7	7.3%
	Total	18	100.0%	61	100.0%	121	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%
Home audit of backyard, energy, waste and water use	Yes	11	61.1%	39	63.9%	61	50.4%	66	63.5%	45	46.9%
	No	6	33.3%	15	24.6%	43	35.5%	29	27.9%	35	36.5%
	Maybe	1	5.6%	7	11.5%	17	14.0%	9	8.7%	16	16.7%
	Total	18	100.0%	61	100.0%	121	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%
Assisting in preparing a sustainability action plan for my neighbourhood	Yes	9	50.0%	28	45.9%	49	40.5%	48	46.2%	38	39.6%
	No	5	27.8%	13	21.3%	53	43.8%	32	30.8%	39	40.6%
	Maybe	4	22.2%	20	32.8%	19	15.7%	24	23.1%	19	19.8%
	Total	18	100.0%	61	100.0%	121	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%

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

- 9% of respondents had heard of or participated in the Sustainable Neighbourhoods program. The most predominant methods of finding out about the program were from 'newspapers', 'brochure from the Council' or 'Landcare'
- There were no significant differences between the age groups or genders

	Count	Column %
Yes, heard of	14	7.0%
Yes, participated in	3	1.5%
No	183	91.5%
Total	200	100.0%

### Cross correlation by age and gender

	18-34		35-54		55+		Male		Female	
	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %
Yes, heard of	1	5.6%	5	8.2%	8	6.6%	6	5.8%	8	8.3%
Yes, participate in	1	5.6%	2	3.3%	0	.0%	2	1.9%	1	1.0%
No	16	88.9%	54	88.5%	113	93.4%	96	92.3%	87	90.6%
Total	18	100.0%	61	100.0%	121	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%

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

Newspapers	7	Church	1	Our street has a program	1
Brochure from the Council	3	Display at the library	1	Radio	1
Landcare	3	NBN	1	Word of mouth	1
Can't remember	1				

**Nb: Some respondents gave more than one answer**

*Continued on the following page*

**Q4d. Would you be interested in participating in the Sustainable Neighbourhood program?**

- 47% of respondents who hadn't yet taken part in the Sustainable Neighbourhood program would or may be interested in participating
- Interest in the program was similar across the age groups and genders

	Count	Column %
Yes	44	22.3%
No	104	52.8%
Maybe	49	24.9%
Total	197	100.0%

**Cross correlation by age and gender**

	18-34		35-54		55+		Male		Female	
	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %
Yes	2	11.8%	17	28.8%	25	20.7%	21	20.6%	23	24.2%
No	9	52.9%	27	45.8%	68	56.2%	54	52.9%	50	52.6%
Maybe	6	35.3%	15	25.4%	28	23.1%	27	26.5%	22	23.2%
Total	17	100.0%	59	100.0%	121	100.0%	102	100.0%	95	100.0%

**Q4e. (If yes or maybe), would you like to provide us with your name and telephone details for Council to contact you about this program?**

***Nb: Contact names were sent directly to Council***



## **Section 5**

# **About your neighbourhood**

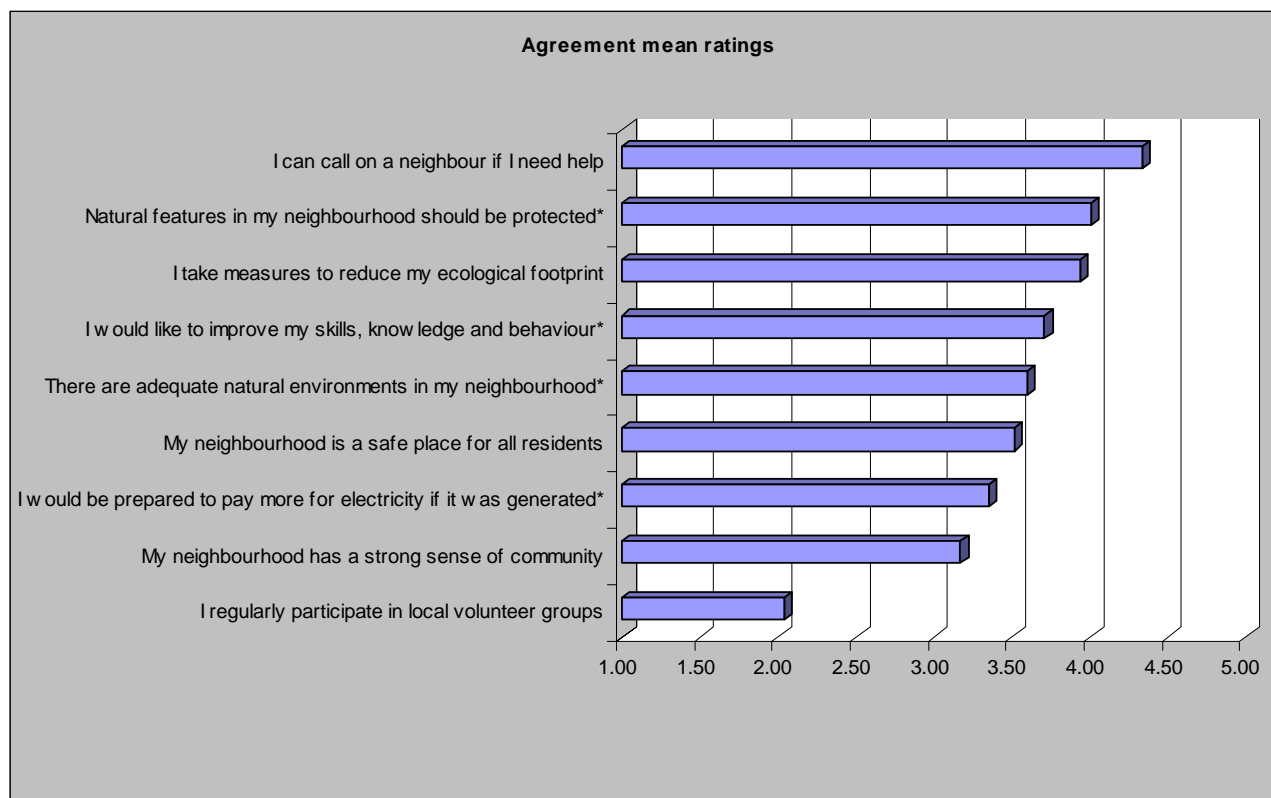
**Q5a. Please rate your level of agreement with each of the following statements.**

Respondents were asked to rate their level of agreement with 9 statements.

- A very high level of agreement was attributed to the statement 'I can call on a neighbour if I need help', whilst high levels were attributed to the statements 'natural features in my neighbourhood should be protected and improved by residents' and 'I take measures to reduce my ecological footprint'
- 'I would like to improve my skills, knowledge and behaviour in order to be more sustainable' and 'there are adequate natural environments in my neighbourhood for me to participate in leisure time activities' attained moderately high levels of agreement
- There was a moderate level of agreement with the statements 'my neighbourhood is a safe place for all residents', 'I would be prepared to pay more for electricity if it was generated from renewable sources such as solar or wind' and 'my neighbourhood has a strong sense of community', whilst 'I regularly participate in local volunteer groups' received only a low level of agreement
- There were no statistically significant differences between the age groups regarding the statements
- Females were significantly more likely to agree with the statement 'I would be prepared to pay more for electricity if it was generated from renewable sources such as solar or wind', whilst males were significantly more likely to agree with the statement 'I regularly participate in local volunteer groups'

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**Q5a. Please rate your level of agreement with each of the following statements.  
(Cont'd)**



**\*Please see the table below for the full description**

**Mean ratings: 1 = strongly disagree, 5 = strongly agree**

	<b>Agreement mean ratings</b>
I can call on a neighbour if I need help	4.34
Natural features in my neighbourhood should be protected and improved by residents	4.01
I take measures to reduce my ecological footprint	3.94
I would like to improve my skills, knowledge and behaviour in order to be more sustainable	3.71
There are adequate natural environments in my neighbourhood for me to participate in leisure time activities	3.60
My neighbourhood is a safe place for all residents	3.52
I would be prepared to pay more for electricity if it was generated from renewable sources such as solar or wind	3.35
My neighbourhood has a strong sense of community	3.17
I regularly participate in local volunteer groups	2.04

*Continued on the following page*

## Q5a. Please rate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. (Cont'd)

### Cross correlation by age and gender

	18-34	35-54	55+	Male	Female
I can call on a neighbour if I need help	4.56	4.13	4.41	4.27	4.41
Natural features in my neighbourhood should be protected and improved by residents	4.11	3.93	4.03	4.02	3.99
I take measures to reduce my ecological footprint	3.56	3.89	4.03	3.90	3.99
I would like to improve my skills, knowledge and behaviour in order to be more sustainable	3.78	3.90	3.60	3.71	3.71
There are adequate natural environments in my neighbourhood for me to participate in leisure time activities	3.72	3.78	3.49	3.74	3.45
My neighbourhood is a safe place for all residents	3.50	3.47	3.55	3.46	3.58
I would be prepared to pay more for electricity if it was generated from renewable sources such as solar or wind	3.61	3.49	3.24	3.16	3.57
My neighbourhood has a strong sense of community	3.33	2.97	3.25	3.19	3.16
I regularly participate in local volunteer groups	1.72	1.87	2.17	2.30	1.75

= A significantly higher level of agreement (by group)  
 = A significantly lower level of agreement (by group)

**Mean ratings: 1 = strongly disagree, 5 = strongly agree**

	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Neither		Agree		Strongly agree		Total	
	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %	Count	Row %
My neighbourhood has a strong sense of community	14	7.3%	36	18.8%	64	33.5%	57	29.8%	20	10.5%	191	100.0%
I regularly participate in local volunteer groups	97	49.0%	46	23.2%	19	9.6%	23	11.6%	13	6.6%	198	100.0%
My neighbourhood is a safe place for all residents	12	6.0%	22	11.1%	45	22.6%	91	45.7%	29	14.6%	199	100.0%
I can call on a neighbour if I need help	4	2.0%	4	2.0%	17	8.6%	69	34.8%	104	52.5%	198	100.0%
There are adequate natural environments in my neighbourhood for me to participate in leisure time activities	20	10.2%	17	8.6%	34	17.3%	77	39.1%	49	24.9%	197	100.0%
Natural features in my neighbourhood should be protected and improved by residents	2	1.0%	14	7.0%	35	17.6%	78	39.2%	70	35.2%	199	100.0%
I take measures to reduce my ecological footprint	4	2.0%	8	4.0%	36	18.1%	98	49.2%	53	26.6%	199	100.0%
I would be prepared to pay more for electricity if it was generated from renewable sources such as solar or wind	29	14.6%	18	9.1%	40	20.2%	76	38.4%	35	17.7%	198	100.0%
I would like to improve my skills, knowledge and behaviour in order to be more sustainable	13	6.5%	16	8.0%	35	17.6%	87	43.7%	48	24.1%	199	100.0%

***Nb: Some respondents did not answer***

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

In this open ended question, respondents were asked what they most valued about living in their neighbourhood. Their responses are as follows:

	Count	Column %
Close to all amenities/facilities, e.g. shops, medical	69	34.5%
Friendly community/neighbourhood	37	18.5%
Location	29	14.5%
Peace and quiet	27	13.5%
Beaches	24	12.0%
Bushland	22	11.0%
Community	14	7.0%
Availability of public transport	9	4.5%
Natural environment	9	4.5%
Security	9	4.5%
Other	56	28.0%
Total	200	100.0%

### Other

Proximity to the lake	6	Landscape	1
Convenience	4	Less traffic than Sydney	1
Close to parks	3	Lifestyle	1
Close to business district/commercial amenities	2	Living by the Lake	1
Outlook	2	My native garden	1
Up high, we won't get flooded	2	Natural features	1
Affordability	1	Natural wildlife in the reserve	1
Busy	1	Nice place to live	1
Can ride my bike to work	1	Not too built up	1
Clean	1	Plenty of nature strips in our area	1
Climate and social activities	1	Pretty area	1
Close to the city	1	Private street	1
Communication amongst residents	1	Proximity to Dudley Beach	1
Convenience to employment opportunities	1	Proximity to work and family	1
Creek	1	Range of child friendly resources, e.g. library, pool, park, schools and child care centres etc.	1
Dog friendly parks	1	Safe and secure area to raise a family	1
Everything, it's a wonderful place to live	1	Self sufficient suburb	1
Good weather	1	The general ambience	1
Green area	1	Very pleasant	1
I have lived here all my life and I know my way around	1	Vineyards	1
Island	1	Walking tracks	1
It's not Sydney	1		

**Nb: Some respondents gave more than one answer**

## **Section 6**

### **Your ideas**

**Q6. Have you any suggestions about how households, local businesses, or Council could improve the environment or community of your neighbourhood?**

• Maintaining parks and open spaces	4
• Improve public footpaths/walkways	3
• Keep the community more informed	3
• Plant more trees	3
• Playground or park areas where people could sit, meet friends etc.	3
• Stop/limit construction of high rise buildings	3
• Continue the cleanups	2
• Establishing local community gardens	2
• Green waste should be collected weekly instead of fortnightly	2
• Maintain the current level of native bushland	2
• Spend Council's money wisely	2
• Better planning of developments	1
• Better road system on the eastern side of Pacific Highway near Highfield	1
• Build a bypass	1
• Build more energy efficient houses	1
• Charlestown needs a green waste drop off point instead of having to drive to Summer Hill or Awaba	1
• Community involvement in street maintenance, e.g. nature strips	1
• Community solar electricity	1
• Community workshops	1
• Control speeding cars	1
• Council could give rebates on water tanks	1
• Crossing at Frederick Street for children	1
• Encourage a healthy lifestyle by improving the quality and number of walking tracks	1
• Encourage children to be involved in neighbourhood activities	1
• Encourage sporting clubs to be responsible for their environmental impact	1
• Encourage usage of the native bushland with walking tracks	1
• Energy saving systems need to be more readily available	1
• Ensure the safety of pedestrians in the area	1
• Eradicate noxious weeds from the bush in Kaleen Street	1
• Everyone should be conscious and reduce their ecological footprint	1
• Fireworks should be monitored	1
• Green waste bins	1
• Help protect houses from flooding	1
• More recycling collection places available and on a more regular basis, i.e. every month for people to take things to that can't go in the recycling bins	1

*Continued on the following page*

**Q6. Have you any suggestions about how households, local businesses, or Council could improve the environment or community of your neighbourhood?**

• Improve the Council pick up program to reduce litter	1
• Improve the street lighting	1
• Increase the number of trunk roads to break the flow of traffic	1
• Increasing the price of water and electricity	1
• Instigate a possum protection program	1
• Make ecological changes to the infrastructure so people can see the changes	1
• Minimise traffic	1
• Monitor commercial development in Charlestown	1
• More community events	1
• More compact cities to preserve the bushland	1
• More crossings for children	1
• More use of solar power	1
• Mowing of Council strips	1
• Neighbourhood events with information provided by Council	1
• Police patrols at night	1
• Public transport should be made available	1
• Reduce greenhouse emissions	1
• Reduction of noise pollution from motorbikes in public reserves	1
• Regular and broader recycling e.g. can and bottle collection scheme with a refund	1
• Repair the footpaths around Charlestown	1
• Shade trees all along the footpaths	1
• Streets are much too narrow in the main business district	1
• Tighter control on traffic flow on the Pacific Highway	1
• Utilise the child care centre at Charlestown, which is currently not being used	1



## **Section 7**

# **Demographics**

**Q7a. Please stop me when I read out your age group.**

	Count	Column %
18-34	18	9.0%
35-54	61	30.5%
55+	121	60.5%
Total	200	100.0%

**Q7b. Are you an owner/occupier or do you rent?**

	Count	Column %
Owner/occupier	173	86.5%
Renter	26	13.0%
Neither	1	.5%
Total	200	100.0%

**Q7c. How many people currently reside in your home?**

	Count	Column %
1	54	27.0%
2	79	39.5%
3	26	13.0%
4	26	13.0%
5	10	5.0%
6+	5	2.5%
Total	200	100.0%

**Q7d. How long have you lived in the neighbourhood?**

	Count	Column %
Less than 12 months	1	.5%
1-5 years	44	22.0%
5-10 years	34	17.0%
11-20 years	27	13.5%
More than 20 years	94	47.0%
Total	200	100.0%

**Q7e. How many motor vehicles does your household have?**

	Count	Column %
0	16	8.0%
1	82	41.0%
2	74	37.0%
3	20	10.0%
4	6	3.0%
5	2	1.0%
Total	200	100.0%

**Q7f. Gender.**

	Count	Column %
Male	104	52.0%
Female	96	48.0%
Total	200	100.0%

# Appendix A

## Comparative Reports

The research allowed for comparisons across the following questions and reports:

- Q1a – Hunter Region Environment Attitudes Paper 2006 – 2009
- Q1c – Hunter Region Environment Attitudes Survey 2007 – 2008
- Q3d – Hunter Region Environment Attitudes Survey 2007
- Q3i – Hunter Valley Wellbeing Watch 2008
- Q5a – Hunter Region Environment Attitudes Paper 2006 – 2008
  - 'I would be prepared to pay more for electricity if it was generated from renewable sources such as solar or wind'
- Q5a – Hunter Valley Wellbeing Watch 2008
  - 'There are adequate natural environments in my neighbourhood for me to pursue leisure time activities'

The report comparisons indicate that residents of Charlestown East had statistically significant differences with regards to the following result:

Mean ratings: 1 = strongly disagree, 5 = strongly agree

*Hunter Valley Wellbeing Watch 2008*

- Q5a. Please rate your level of agreement with the following statement:  
'There are adequate natural environments in my neighbourhood for me to pursue leisure time activities'

Compared to residents in the Hunter Region overall, Charlestown East residents are significantly less likely to believe that there are adequate natural environments in their neighbourhood to pursue leisure time activities. The percentage who 'agree' to 'strongly agree' differs from 88% of Hunter Valley residents in 2008 to 64% of Charlestown East residents in 2009

	Agreed to strongly agreed	
	2008	2009
There are adequate natural environments in my neighbourhood for me to pursue leisure time activities	88%	64%

# Appendix B

## Sustainable Neighbourhood – Community Research 2009

### Climate change over the next 20 years

**Q1a. How strongly do you agree, or disagree, that climate change will have a direct impact on your life over the next 20 years? *Prompt***

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

**Q1b. What do you think will be the MAIN impact of climate change in the next 20 years? *Do not prompt***

**Note:** This is an open ended question. When reporting, responses will be categorised as follows.

- Changes in weather/extreme weather events
- Increased cost of living
- Increased temperatures/warmer weather
- Forced changes to lifestyle/behaviours
- Job losses
- Decreased food production/higher food prices
- Increased energy/fuel costs
- Less water available
- Increased air pollution
- Increased health problems
- Drought/higher temperatures and lower rainfall
- Rising sea levels
- Negative impacts on the economy
- Other (please specify)  .....
- None

**Q1c. How strongly do you agree, or disagree, that the actions of the average person have a large impact on slowing climate change? *Prompt***

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

### Local sustainability issues in your neighbourhood

**Q2a. What is the single most important environmental issue in your neighbourhood today?**

.....

**Q2b. 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. Prompt**

	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 sea level rise	<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	<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"/>
Improving 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"/>

**Your sustainability choices**

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

	Yes	No	Don't know
Worm farm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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	<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 garden	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vegetable garden	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Q3b. Do you have a compost bin?**

Yes  No  (If yes, go to Q3d)

**Q3c. (If no), may I ask why not? .....**



**Q3d. Do you use greenpower?**

Yes  No  (If no, go to Q3f)

**Q3e. (If yes), what percentage?** .....

**Q3f. (If no), may I ask why not?** .....

**Q3g. How often do you: *Prompt***

	Never	Seldom	Often	Always
Catch public transport	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recycle	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Q3h. How important are the following factors in assisting 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. *Prompt***

	Not at all important			Very important	
	1	2	3	4	5
Rebates and incentives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A personal responsibility to do the right thing for the environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Saving money	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The feeling that most other people are doing it and you should be doing it too	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Q3i. 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?**

Yes  No  Don't know

**Sustainability actions in your neighbourhood**

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

	Yes	No	Maybe
Landcare	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Growing native gardens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sustainable living workshops	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climate change adaptation workshops	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Monitoring the health of the local environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community picnic/BBQ with informative displays and children's activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
School holiday activities for children	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neighbourhood clean-up (like a mini 'Clean-up Australia Day')	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Home audit of backyard, energy, waste and water use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assisting in preparing a sustainability action plan for my neighbourhood	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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

Yes, heard of  Yes, participated in  No  (If no, go to Q4e)

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

**Q4d. Would you be interested in participating in the Sustainable Neighbourhood program?**

Yes  No  Maybe  (If no, go to Q5)

**Q4e. (If yes or maybe), would you like to provide us with your name and telephone details for Council to contact you about this program? All details are confidential and will be reported separately to this survey.**

Name .....  
 Phone number .....  
 Email .....

**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. Prompt**

	Strongly disagree			Strongly agree		Don't Know
	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)	<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"/>
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 value most about living in your neighbourhood?**

.....

**Your ideas**

**Q6. Have you any suggestions about how households, local businesses, or Council could improve the environment or community of your neighbourhood?**

.....

**Demographics**

**Q7a. Please stop me when I read out your age group.**

18-34                  35-54                  55+  
                                                                   

**Q7b. Are you an owner/occupier or do you rent?**

Owner/occupier                     Renter                     Neither  

**Q7c. How many people currently reside in your home?**

1      2      3      4      5      6+  

**Q7d. How long have you lived in the neighbourhood?**

Less than 12 months     
1-5 years     
5-10 years     
11-20 years     
More than 20 years  

**Q7e. How many motor vehicles does your household have?**

1      2      3      4      5      6+  

**Q7f. Gender.**                  Male                     Female