



LMCC Sustainable Neighbourhoods April 2010

Prepared by:



www.micromex.com.au

Prepared for:
Lake Macquarie City Council

Confidential

The information contained herein is believed to be reliable and accurate. However, no guarantee is given as to its accuracy and reliability, and no responsibility or liability for any information, opinions or commentary contained herein, or for any consequences of its use, will be accepted by Micromex Research, or by any person involved in the preparation of this report.

Table of Contents

Introduction

Background	1
Methodology	1
Key Findings	2

Results

Most important environmental issue in your neighbourhood today	6
Rating of specific criteria	9
Agreement that climate change will have a direct impact on your life	13
Main impact of climate change	14
Agreement that the average person has an impact on slowing climate change	16
Sustainability items on your property	17
Frequency of household use of worm farm, compost bin and recycling bin	18
Indication of why there is no use of worm farms, compost bins and recycling bins	19
Frequency of GreenPower use	21
Amount of GreenPower used	21
Indication of why there is no use of GreenPower	22
Frequency of public transport use	23
Indication of why there is no use of public transport	24
Motivations to improve environmental behaviour	26
Visits to any natural environments in leisure and recreation time	28
Participation in activities/events	29
Heard of/or participated in Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program	30
Interest in participating in Sustainable Neighbourhoods Programs	30
Agreement with specific statements	31
Most liked in your neighbourhood	33
Suggestions to improve the environment or community of your neighbourhood	36
Demographics	39

Appendix

Questionnaire	
---------------	--

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 Neighbourhoods Program*.

The goal of the survey was to examine local community attitudes, perspectives and behaviours towards the environment and environmental issues (global, regional, and locally relevant).

To facilitate this, Council distributed to and collected from residents in the Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point areas. Micromex Research was then contracted to conduct the data entry and reporting of the results.

Methodology

Survey area

Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point areas of the Lake Macquarie City Council Local Government Area.

Sample selection and error

In March 2010, Lake Macquarie City Council distributed a copy of the neighbourhood environment survey to 1,094 households within the Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point area. 129 surveys were returned, which represents 12% of all households. 5 additional surveys were also received after the analysis had been completed, so are not included within this report. A copy of the survey is included in the Appendix.

Data analysis

Data analysis was undertaken using SPSS V15 and the report compiled using Microsoft Excel and Word.

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

Single most important environmental issue

In this open ended question, respondents were asked what the single most important environmental issue is in their neighbourhood today. Their responses are as follows.

	Count	Column %
The cleanliness and maintenance of Lake Macquarie	19	15%
Maintaining parks and gardens	5	4%
Rubbish	5	4%
Graffiti	4	3%
Littering	4	3%
Noise pollution	4	3%
Climate change	3	2%
Water quality in the lake	3	2%
Other	81	63%
Total	129	100%

Respondents were then asked to rate the importance of a series of criteria in their neighbourhood. Responses ranged from moderate for 'growing fruit or vegetables' and 'preparing for climate change' to very high for 'minimising health risks from the environment', 'improving streetscape and stormwater systems through environmental design', 'protecting against natural disaster', 'reducing waste', 'making the neighbourhood bike and pedestrian friendly' and 'protecting and improving the natural environment'.

	Not at all important to not very important	Neutral	Important to very important	Ratings
Protecting and improving the natural environment	0%	6%	95%	Very high
Making the neighbourhood bike and pedestrian friendly	2%	16%	83%	Very high
Reducing waste	2%	16%	83%	Very high
Protecting against natural disasters	7%	14%	80%	Very high
Improving streetscape and stormwater systems through environmental design	3%	20%	78%	Very high
Reducing energy consumption	3%	22%	75%	High
Minimising health risks from the environment	5%	21%	74%	Very high
Improving communication and partnership with Council	4%	27%	70%	High
Reducing water consumption	4%	28%	68%	High
Increased use of public transport	10%	29%	60%	Moderately high
Reducing greenhouse gas emissions	14%	26%	60%	Moderately high
Strengthening connections between residents in the neighbourhood	11%	33%	57%	Moderately high
Improving opportunities for the community to be involved in environmental and sustainability projects	12%	34%	54%	Moderately high
Preparing for climate change	21%	27%	53%	Moderate
Growing fruit or vegetables	20%	32%	48%	Moderate

Impact of climate change over the next 20 years

- There was a moderate level of agreement with climate change having a direct impact on the respondents' lives over the next 20 years, with the majority (55%) agreeing to strongly agreeing, 20% remained neutral and 25% disagreed to strongly disagreed

In a follow up question, respondents who agreed with the statement were asked what they thought would be the main impact of climate change.

- 28% of respondents chose 'unpredictable weather patterns', 15% 'rise in sea levels' and 13% 'temperature changes'
- There was a moderate level of agreement with the statement that the actions of the average person have a large impact on slowing climate change, with 48% of respondents agreeing to strongly agreeing, 29% remaining neutral and 23% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing

Sustainability items included on properties

Respondents were prompted as to whether they had certain sustainable items on their properties, the most predominant responses were:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Insulation | 85% |
| • Water efficient appliances and fittings | 80% |
| • Energy efficient appliances | 67% |
| • Native garden | 57% |

Frequency of household use of worm farms, compost bins and recycling bins

- 99% of respondents 'always' or 'often' use their 'recycling bin', 37% 'always' or 'often use a 'compost bin' and 15% always or often use a 'worm farm'

In a follow up question, when asked why they 'never' or 'seldom' use any of these items, the most predominant responses were 'no need', 'no room', or 'don't have a worm farm/compost bin'.

GreenPower

- 8% of respondents use GreenPower

In a follow up question, respondents were asked how much of their total energy GreenPower was

- 78% of these respondents purchase 10% of their energy as GreenPower

In a further follow up question, respondents who don't use GreenPower were asked why.

- 40% of these respondents stated that it is 'too expensive'

Key Findings (Cont'd)

Public transport

- 20% of respondents 'always' or 'often' use public transport, 57% 'seldom' use it and 22% 'never' use public transport

In a follow up question when those respondents who 'never' or 'seldom' use public transport were asked why:

- 32% stated that 'it doesn't go where I need to go, when I need to go', 17% that it was 'inconvenient' and 15% that it is 'more convenient to use my own car/cycle'

Factors used as motivations to improve environmental behaviour

When asked what motivated them to improve their environmental behaviour, the following responses were given:

	Not important to not at all important	Important to very important	Importance rating
Saving money	4%	79%	Very high
A personal responsibility to do the right thing for the environment	4%	80%	Very high
Rebates and incentives	11%	70%	High
The feeling that most other people are doing it and you should be doing it too	40%	27%	Moderately low

Visiting natural environments during leisure and recreation time

- 86% of respondents had visited natural environments such as a beach, lake, river, creek, park or bushland in the past four weeks, during their leisure and recreation time

Activities that respondents would consider participating in

When asked to select from a list which activities/events they would consider participating in, respondents chose the following as their most preferred:

- Home audit of backyard, energy, waste and water use 78% (already doing/would consider)
- Neighbourhood clean-up 76%
- Growing native gardens 70%
- Monitoring the health of the local environment 68%

Sustainable Neighbourhoods program

- 19% of respondents had heard of the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program, of these 2% had participated in it
- Respondents were most likely to have heard of the Program from a local newspaper

In a follow up question, when asked if they would be interested in taking part, 64% of respondents stated that they would or may take part in the Program.

Key Findings (Cont'd)

Level of agreement with specific statements

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

- A high level of agreement was attributed to the statements, 'I can call on a neighbour if I need help', 'there are adequate natural environments in my neighbourhood for me to participate in leisure time activities' and 'natural features in my neighbourhood should be protected and improved by residents'
- There was a moderately high level of agreement with the statement, 'I take measures to reduce my ecological footprint' and moderate levels of agreement with the statements 'I would like to improve my skills, knowledge and behaviour in order to be more sustainable', 'my neighbourhood is a safe place for all residents' and 'my neighbourhood has a strong sense of community'
- The statement 'I regularly participate in local volunteer groups' also rated a moderate level of agreement, whilst 'I would be prepared to pay more for electricity if it was generated from renewable sources such as solar or wind' received only a low level of agreement

What respondents most like about living in their neighbourhood

Respondents were asked in an open ended question, what they most liked about living in their neighbourhood. Their responses are as follows:

	Count	Column %
Friendly neighbourhood	30	23%
Beautiful environment	29	22%
Quiet area	24	19%
Bushland	20	16%
Walkways and cycle paths around the lake	14	11%
Proximity to shopping facilities	13	10%
Proximity to parks and public spaces	11	9%
Peaceful environment	10	8%
Total	129	100%



Results

Most important environmental issue in your neighbourhood today

In this open ended question, respondents were asked what the single most important environmental issue is in their neighbourhood today. Their responses are as follows.

	Count	Column %
The cleanliness and maintenance of Lake Macquarie	19	15%
Maintaining parks and gardens	5	4%
Rubbish	5	4%
Graffiti	4	3%
Littering	4	3%
Noise pollution	4	3%
Climate change	3	2%
Water quality in the lake	3	2%
Other	81	63%
Total	129	100%

Other

• Amounts of rubbish abandoned on sides of roads and in the bush	2
• Energy and water consumption	2
• Keeping the environment clean	2
• Lack of public transport	2
• Air quality	1
• All the rainwater goes down the drains, this could be stored and reused	1
• Bringing back the bird life and water life in the lake after Pasminco	1
• Bushfires	1
• Clean up the Marmong Cove Marina	1
• Clean up all the kerbside rubbish after free Council pick ups	1
• Community gardens to allow growth of fruit and vegetables	1
• Diminishing bushland	1
• Dog owners not cleaning up after themselves	1
• Dumping of waste into the bushland and roadside	1
• Feral animals	1
• Fish stocks for Lake Macquarie	1
• Improved bicycle and pedestrian paths	1
• Improved public transport	1
• Increased housing/population density	1

Continued on the following page

Most important environmental issue in your neighbourhood today (Cont'd)

• Increased natural flow into all water areas	1
• Indian Myna bird population increasing	1
• Invasion of wetlands by exotic plants and animals	1
• Keeping as much natural bushland and parkland as possible	1
• Keeping my area in its present condition	1
• Keeping the lake clean and eco friendly as well as its surroundings for natural wildlife	1
• Keeping the lake clean, so our children can enjoy it the way past generations have	1
• Keeping the rubbish from entering the waterways and silt traps	1
• Lack of reticulated gas mains connected to the area	1
• Lack of water pressure	1
• Large amounts of land are being used as dumping grounds, i.e. Quigley Estate	1
• Loud and messy neighbours	1
• Loud, illegal motor bike riders	1
• Maintaining the existing water catchments	1
• Making the lake safe for swimming	1
• Marmong Point Marina expansion plans which will increase the already congested parking areas and boat ramp traffic	1
• Monitoring of bushland	1
• More control of motorcycles on reserves	1
• More sustainable firebreaks on reserves backing onto residential areas	1
• No community garden opportunities	1
• Overdevelopment with over population	1
• Overgrowth of bushlands	1
• Plant trees on the waterfront and in the park	1
• Pollution in the creek behind our house that goes into the lake	1
• Pollution, e.g. leaves allowed to enter gutters and then into the lake	1
• Protecting and respecting our existing environment	1
• Protecting the lake and the surrounding natural environments from stormwater pollution and erosion	1
• Protecting the lake ecosystem	1
• Rain water runoff from homes and roads discharging into the lake. Whilst silt may have trapped the sulphide contamination, if allowed to continue lake foreshores will be unusable	1
• Ranclaud St, we were told two years ago that the street was going to be redone. Our tree had to be cut down for the work but nothing was ever done	1
• Recreation of bushland	1
• Recycling of water for Council use	1
• Reducing out carbon footprint	1
• Removal of rubbish from streets and bushland	1
• Removal of sewerage outlets from the lake	1

Continued on the following page

Most important environmental issue in your neighbourhood today (Cont'd)

• Responsible expenditure of rates and taxes by local and state governments	1
• Retention of all reserves, availability of same for public use	1
• Rubbish being dumped in bushland	1
• Rubbish flowing into the waterways	1
• Rubbish, litter and green waste	1
• Safe access for children, e.g. no razor fish	1
• Sea levels rising	1
• Street parking	1
• Sustainable energy	1
• The cleaning of yards and gutters to reduce the risk of increased vermin and disease	1
• The lack of co-operation in looking after Landcare gardens	1
• The lake, with the fauna and flora that live around it	1
• The re-development of the Marmong Cove Marina	1
• The spread of weeds	1
• Too much undergrowth on reserves	1
• Use of facilities in an environmentally friendly way	1
• Vandalism	1
• Waste pollution of creeks and the lake	1
• Water contamination of the lake from Cockle Creek and its tributaries run off. The issue has a long history but has never effectively been dealt with	1

Rating of specific criteria

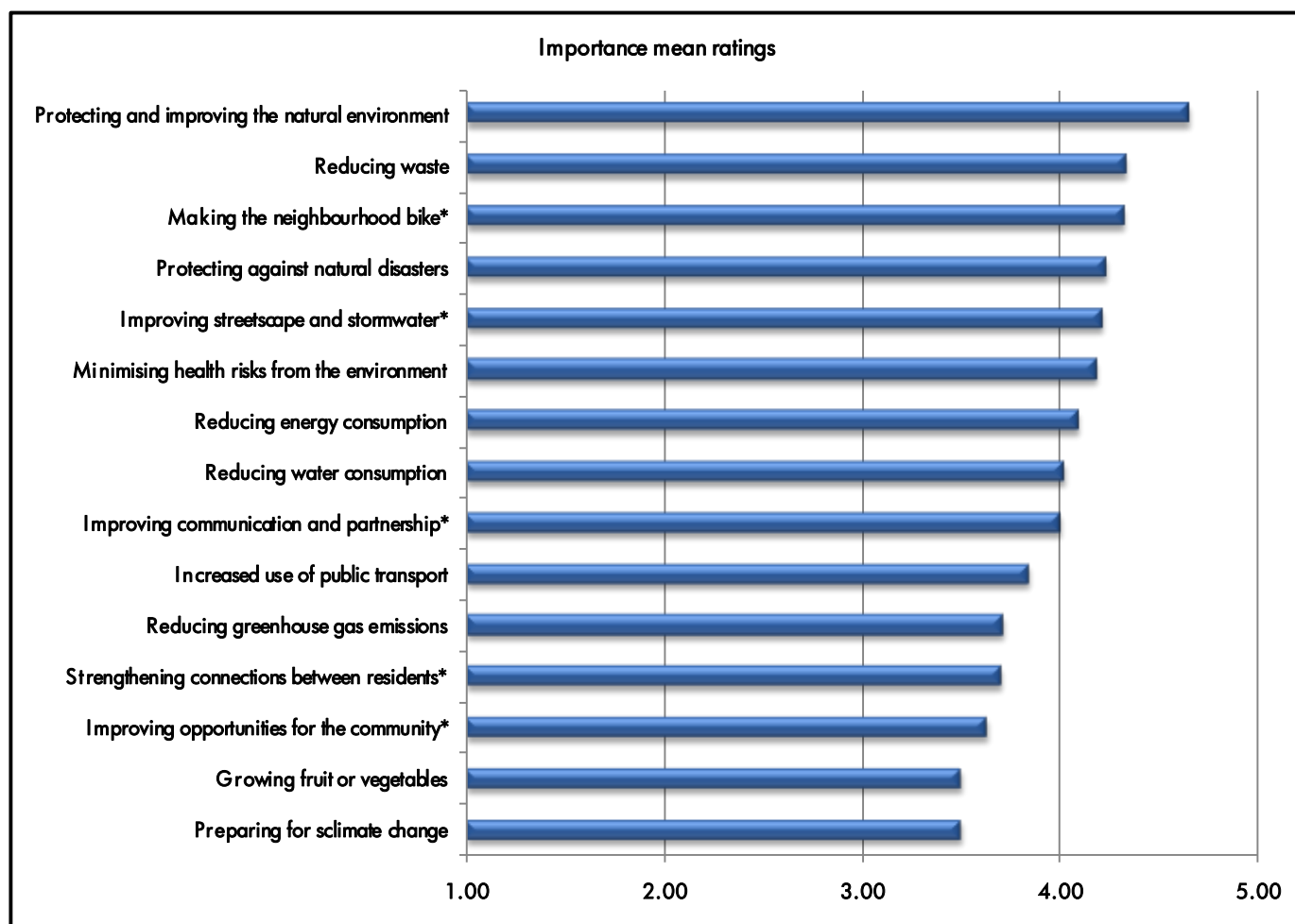
Respondents were asked to rate how important a series of environmental issues were to their neighbourhood.

- Responses ranged from moderate for 'growing fruit or vegetables' and 'preparing for climate change' to very high for 'minimising health risks from the environment', 'improving streetscape and stormwater systems through environmental design', 'protecting against natural disaster', 'reducing waste', 'making the neighbourhood bike and pedestrian friendly' and 'protecting and improving the natural environment'

	Not at all important to not very important	Neutral	Important to very important	Ratings
Protecting and improving the natural environment	0%	6%	95%	Very high
Making the neighbourhood bike and pedestrian friendly	2%	16%	83%	Very high
Reducing waste	2%	16%	83%	Very high
Protecting against natural disasters	7%	14%	80%	Very high
Improving streetscape and stormwater systems through environmental design	3%	20%	78%	Very high
Reducing energy consumption	3%	22%	75%	High
Minimising health risks from the environment	5%	21%	74%	Very high
Improving communication and partnership with Council	4%	27%	70%	High
Reducing water consumption	4%	28%	68%	High
Increased use of public transport	10%	29%	60%	Moderately high
Reducing greenhouse gas emissions	14%	26%	60%	Moderately high
Strengthening connections between residents in the neighbourhood	11%	33%	57%	Moderately high
Improving opportunities for the community to be involved in environmental and sustainability projects	12%	34%	54%	Moderately high
Preparing for climate change	21%	27%	53%	Moderate
Growing fruit or vegetables	20%	32%	48%	Moderate

NB: All percentages are calculated to the nearest whole number and therefore the total may not exactly equal 100%.

Continued on the following page



*Please see the table on the next page for the full description

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

Continued on the following page

Rating of specific criteria (Cont'd)

	Importance mean ratings
Protecting and improving the natural environment	4.65
Reducing waste	4.33
Making the neighbourhood bike and pedestrian friendly	4.32
Protecting against natural disasters	4.23
Improving streetscape and stormwater systems through environmental design	4.21
Minimising health risks from the environment	4.18
Reducing energy consumption	4.09
Reducing water consumption	4.02
Improving communication and partnership with Council	4.00
Increased use of public transport	3.84
Reducing green house gas emissions	3.71
Strengthening connections between residents in the neighbourhood	3.70
Improving opportunities for the community to be involved in environmental and sustainability projects	3.63
Growing fruit or vegetables	3.50
Preparing for climate change	3.50

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

Continued on the following page

Rating of specific criteria (Cont'd)

	Not at all important		Not important		Neither		Important		Very important		Total	
	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %
Protecting and improving the natural environment	0	0%	0	0%	7	6%	30	24%	90	71%	127	100%
Protecting against natural disasters	2	2%	6	5%	18	14%	35	28%	65	52%	126	100%
Preparing for climate change	15	12%	11	9%	34	27%	31	24%	37	29%	128	100%
Minimising health risks from the environment	2	2%	4	3%	27	21%	31	24%	64	50%	128	100%
Reducing greenhouse gas emissions	7	5%	11	9%	33	26%	38	30%	39	30%	128	100%
Reducing water consumption	2	2%	3	2%	36	28%	38	29%	50	39%	129	100%
Reducing waste	0	0%	2	2%	20	16%	40	31%	67	52%	129	100%
Reducing energy consumption	1	1%	3	2%	28	22%	46	37%	48	38%	126	100%
Growing fruit or vegetables	9	7%	16	13%	41	32%	25	20%	36	28%	127	100%
Improving opportunities for the community to be involved in environmental and sustainability projects	5	4%	10	8%	43	34%	37	29%	31	25%	126	100%
Strengthening connections between residents in the neighbourhood	2	2%	12	9%	42	33%	38	30%	34	27%	128	100%
Making the neighbourhood bike and pedestrian friendly	0	0%	2	2%	20	16%	41	32%	65	51%	128	100%
Improving communication and partnership with Council	2	2%	2	2%	34	27%	45	35%	44	35%	127	100%
Increased use of public transport	0	0%	13	10%	38	29%	35	27%	43	33%	129	100%
Improving streetscape and stormwater systems through environmental design	1	1%	2	2%	25	20%	41	32%	59	46%	128	100%

Nb: Some respondents did not answer

Level of agreement that climate change will have a direct impact on residents' lives over the next 20 years

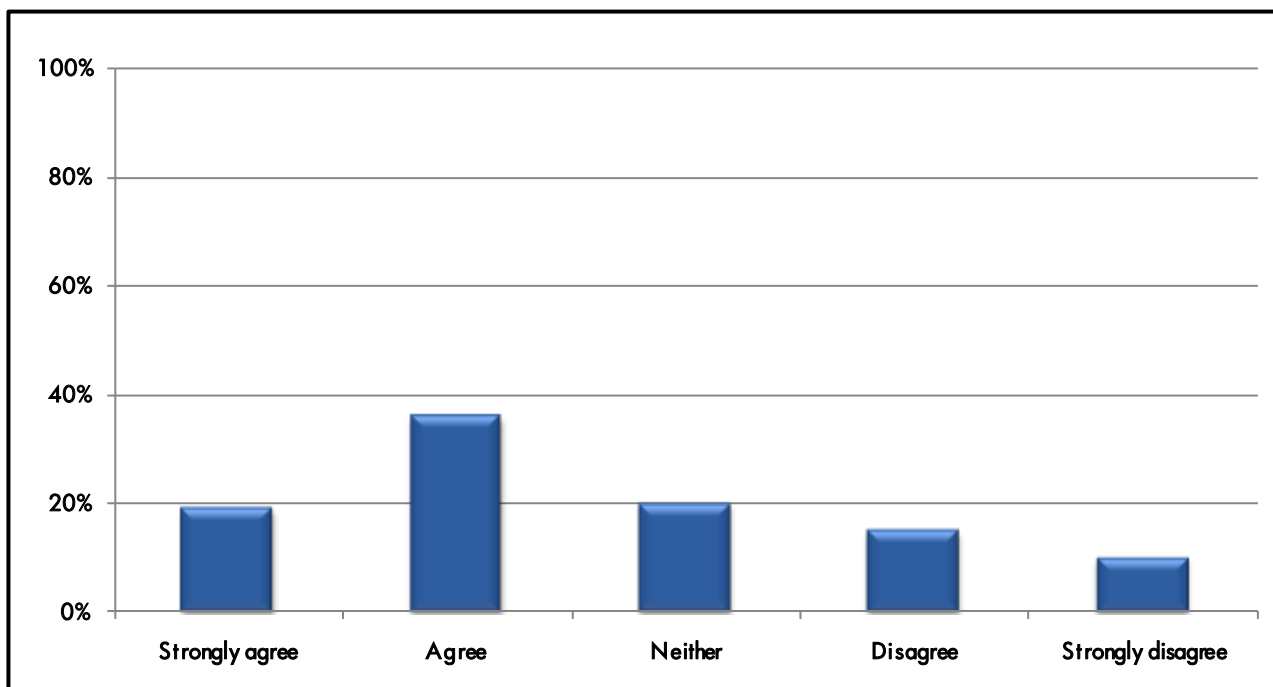
- There was a moderate level of agreement with climate change having a direct impact on the respondents' lives over the next 20 years, with the majority (55%) agreeing to strongly agreeing, 20% remained neutral and 25% disagreed to strongly disagreed

In a follow up question, respondents who agreed with the statement were asked what they thought would be the main impact of climate change.

- 28% of respondents chose 'unpredictable weather patterns', 15% 'rise in sea levels' and 13% 'temperature changes'

Mean ratings - 3.40

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



	Count	Column N %
Strongly agree	25	19%
Agree	46	36%
Neither	26	20%
Disagree	19	15%
Strongly disagree	13	10%
Total	129	100%

Main impact of climate change

	Count	Column %
Unpredictable weather patterns	20	28%
Rise in sea levels	11	15%
Temperature changes	9	13%
Water levels dropping	7	10%
More natural disasters	5	7%
Other	35	49%
Total	71	100%

Other

• Drought	2
• Higher energy prices	2
• Lower rainfall	2
• Effect on food and the production chain	1
• Effects on natural habitat and wildlife	1
• Air pollution	1
• An increase in migration	1
• Bushfires	1
• Change in shape of the lake	1
• CO2 emissions from the power stations	1
• Damage to homes and infrastructure due to extremes in the weather	1
• Detrimental to the health and well being of not only our families but the whole world	1
• Diminishing water supply and the impact on all facets of life, i.e. drinking water, water for watering fruit and vegetable gardens etc.	1
• Disastrous	1
• Energy costs and consumption	1
• Environmental impact in the area	1
• Expense to cover regulatory changes	1
• Fuel consumption	1
• Greater electricity use	1
• Heavier demands for energy	1
• Higher food prices	1
• Higher insurance premiums across the board and less liveable areas on the coast	1
• Inconsistent rainfall affecting flora and fauna	1
• Increased illness due to toxins in the air which is causing the climate to shift. We are slowly killing ourselves	1

Continued on the following page

Main impact of climate change (Cont'd)

• Increased regulations	1
• Land soils damaged	1
• More hot weather, everyone should have rain water tanks installed and more trees	1
• New tax increases, financial costs of emissions trading etc.	1
• Tsunami's	1

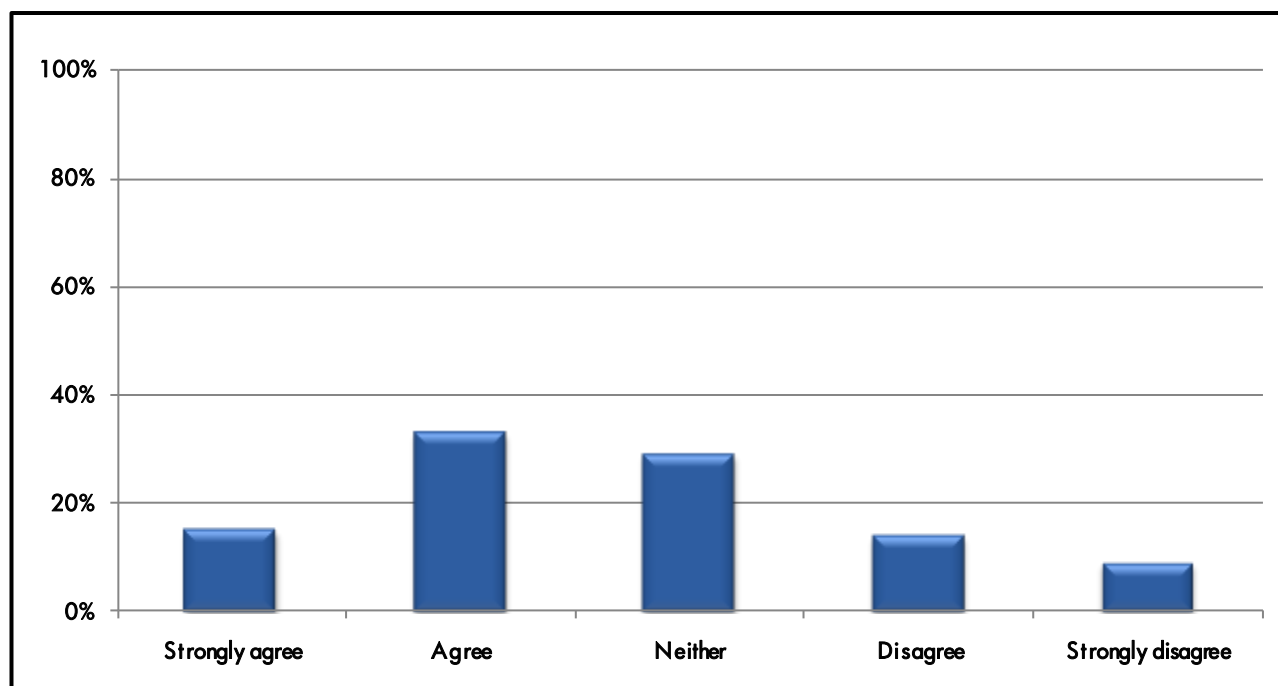
Nb: Some respondents gave more than one answer and some did not answer

Level of agreement that the average person has an impact on slowing climate change

- There was a moderate level of agreement with the statement that the actions of the average person have a large impact on slowing climate change, with 48% of respondents agreeing to strongly agreeing, 29% remaining neutral and 23% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing

Mean ratings - 3.32

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



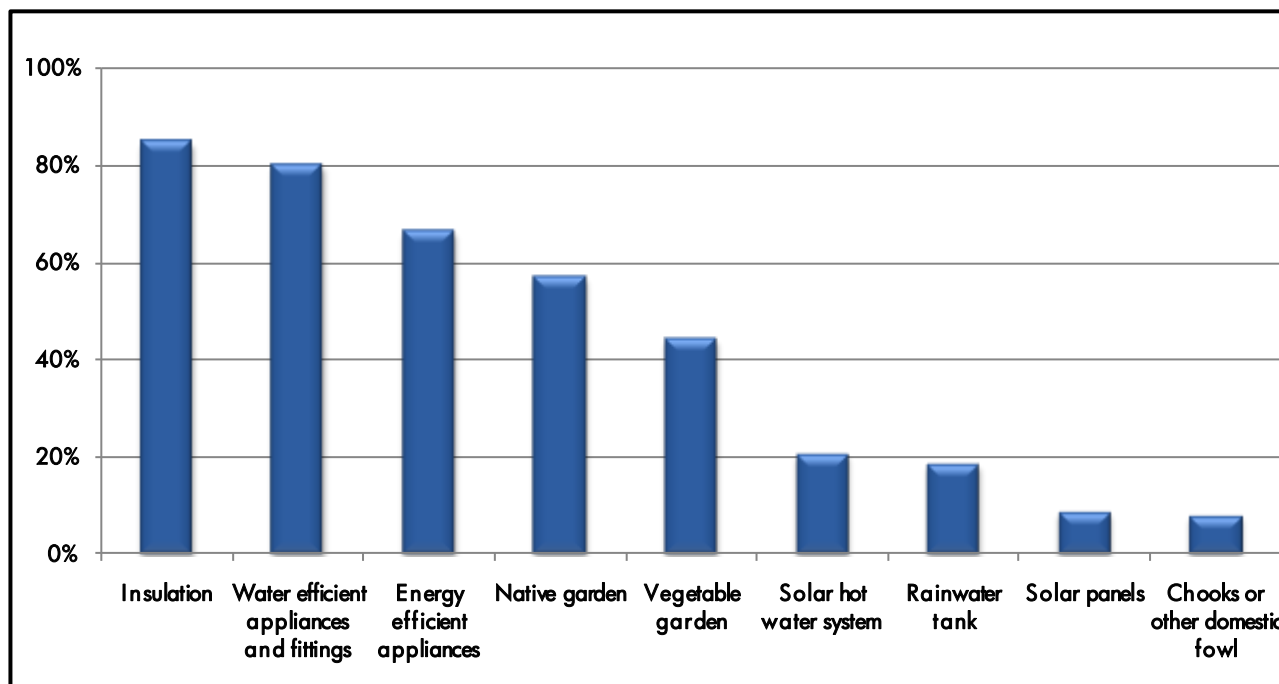
	Count	Column N %
Strongly agree	19	15%
Agree	42	33%
Neither	36	29%
Disagree	18	14%
Strongly disagree	11	9%
Total	126	100%

Nb: Some respondents did not answer

Sustainability items on your property

Respondents were prompted as to whether they had certain sustainable items on their properties, the most predominant responses were:

- Insulation 85%
- Water efficient appliances and fittings 80%
- Energy efficient appliances 67%
- Native garden 57%



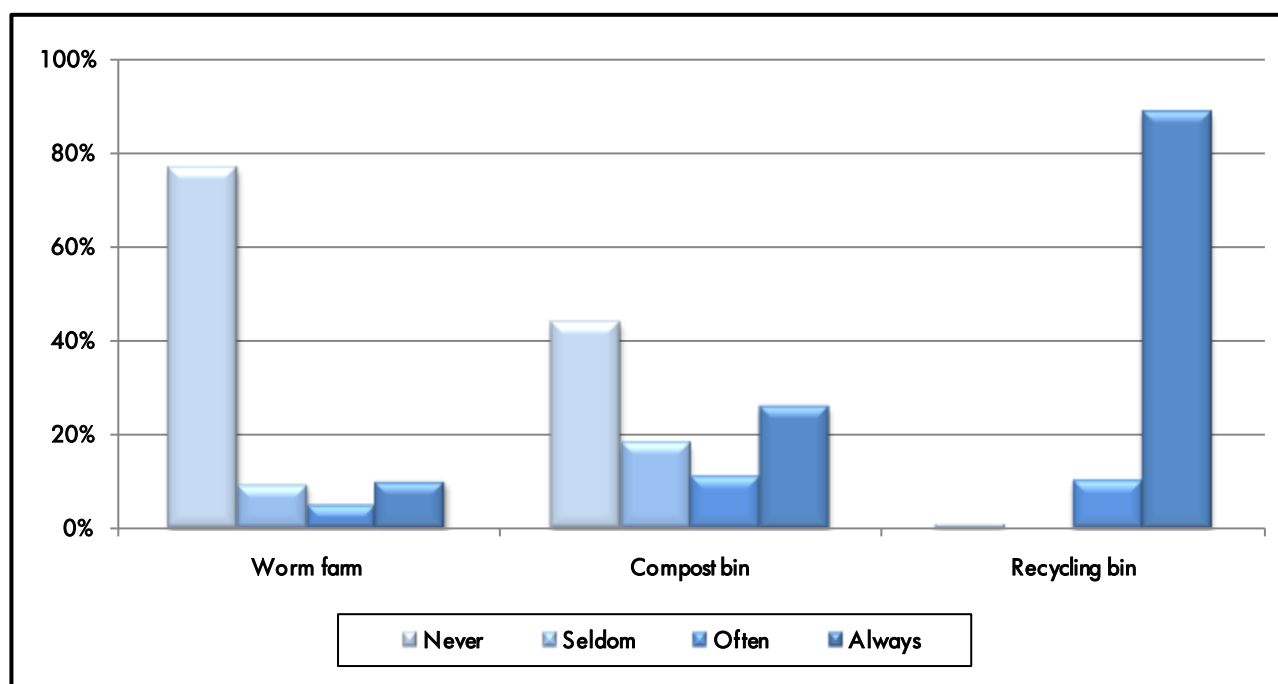
	Yes		No		Don't know		Total	
	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %
Insulation	108	85%	16	13%	3	2%	127	100%
Water efficient appliances and fittings	102	80%	18	14%	7	6%	127	100%
Energy efficient appliances	84	67%	27	21%	15	12%	126	100%
Native garden	71	57%	51	41%	2	2%	124	100%
Vegetable garden	56	44%	70	56%	0	0%	126	100%
Solar hot water system	26	21%	100	79%	0	0%	126	100%
Rainwater tank	23	19%	101	81%	0	0%	124	100%
Solar panels	11	9%	115	91%	0	0%	126	100%
Chooks or other domestic fowl	10	8%	116	92%	0	0%	126	100%

Nb: Some respondents did not answer

Frequency of household use of worm farm, compost bin and recycling bin

- 99% of respondents 'always' or 'often' use their 'recycling bin', 37% 'always' or 'often' use a 'compost bin' and 15% always or often use a 'worm farm'

In a follow up question, when asked why they 'never' or 'seldom' use any of these items, the most predominant responses were 'no need', 'no room', or 'don't have a worm farm/compost bin'.



	Never		Seldom		Often		Always		Total	
	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %
Worm farm	95	77%	11	9%	6	5%	12	10%	124	100%
Compost bin	55	44%	23	18%	14	11%	33	26%	125	100%
Recycling bin	1	1%	0	0%	13	10%	115	89%	129	100%

Nb: Some respondents did not answer

Continued on the following page

Indication of why there is no use of worm farms, compost bins and recycling bins (Cont'd)

Worm farm	71
• Do not have the need	8
• Don't have a worm farm	8
• No room	8
• Not enough waste	5
• Do not know enough about worm farms	4
• Had an unsuccessful attempt at a worm farm	4
• Lack of time	4
• Hadn't thought about it	3
• All the vegetable scraps go into the compost bin, which is full of worms	2
• Enough worms in the garden	2
• Have not bothered	2
• Recently moved into a new house	2
• Renting	2
• Benefits, if any, probably only on a miniscule scale and may be more inconvenient than beneficial	1
• Compost bin is sufficient	1
• Inconvenient and costly	1
• Lack of interest	1
• Landlords are not interested in retrofitting or rebate programs to allow this	1
• Never got around to getting one	1
• No time for maintenance, recycling service is easy and time effective	1
• Not suitable	1
• Our worms died due to hot weather	1
• Rats became a problem	1
• Recently moved to this house and am looking at all new opportunities for the future	1
• Very little gardening done	1
• We give our food scraps to a family member who has poultry	1
• We have a worm farm but have not yet set it up	1
• We have found placing food scraps in compost and for the chickens more productive than a worm farm	1
• We have little use for any worm farm products	1
• We use chicken manure to make a liquid fertiliser instead of the worm castings for this	1

Continued on the following page

Indication why there is no use of worm farms, compost bins and recycling bins (Cont'd)

Compost bin	51
• No need	6
• No room	6
• Don't have a compost bin	5
• No time	3
• Not enough waste	3
• Renting	3
• Don't have the know how to use a worm farm	2
• Have not bothered	2
• Recently moved to the area	2
• Benefits, if any, probably only on a miniscule scale and may be more inconvenient than beneficial	1
• Compost bins attract mice and rats	1
• Composting is labour intensive for little return	1
• Direct compost straight onto the garden beds	1
• Dogs were getting into it	1
• Don't have the shade to put a worm farm in	1
• Hadn't thought about it	1
• Haven't considered setting up compost bin as not sure what to do	1
• I recycle lawn clippings straight away so no need for a bin	1
• Lack of interest	1
• Landlords are not interested in retrofitting or rebate programs to allow this	1
• Little need for compost	1
• Never worked for me in the past	1
• No time for maintenance, recycling service is easy and time effective	1
• Not good at composting	1
• Not necessary I have a garden	1
• Only compost green waste as have no other option than the garbage bin	1
• Only recycle lawn clippings as it promotes worms and subsequent garden fill. Have tried several times to put food scraps in the compost bin but it has encouraged cockroaches	1
• Very little gardening done	1
Recycling bin	1
• Do not need to	1

Nb: Some respondents did not answer

Frequency of GreenPower use

- 8% of respondents use GreenPower

In a follow up question, respondents were asked how much of their total energy GreenPower was

- 78% of these respondents purchase 10% of their energy as GreenPower

In a further follow up question, respondents who don't use GreenPower were asked why.

- 40% of these respondents stated that it is 'too expensive'

	Count	Column N %
Yes	10	8%
No	116	92%
Total	126	100%

Nb: Some respondents did not answer

Amount of GreenPower used

	Count	Column N %
10%	7	78%
20%	1	11%
50%	1	11%
Total	9	100%

Nb: One respondent did not answer

Indication of why there is no use of GreenPower

	Count	Column %
Too expensive	51	40%
Do not understand it	13	10%
Haven't given it any consideration	5	4%
I do not have enough information on GreenPower	3	2%
Renting	3	2%
Cannot see evidence to support a decision to switch	2	2%
I don't think it makes a difference	2	2%
They cannot guarantee that it is 100% GreenPower	2	2%
Too old	2	2%
Other	20	17%
Total	129	100%

Other

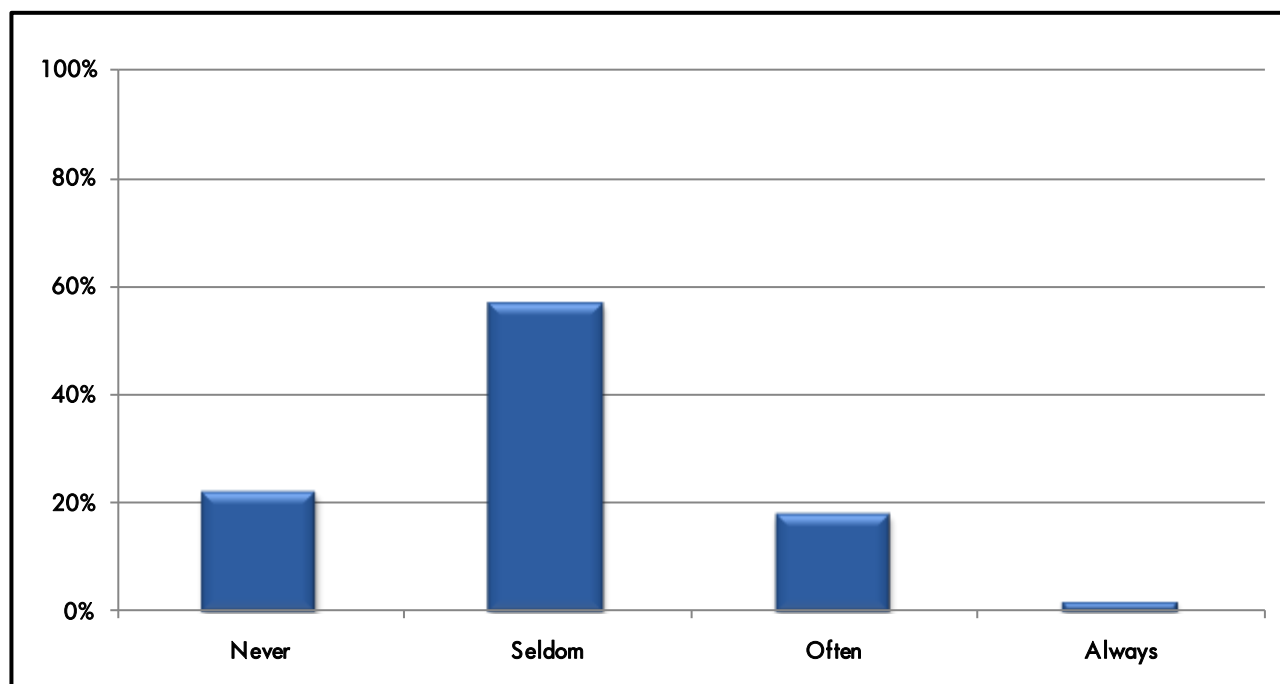
• Already have insulation and use gas for hot water and heating	1
• Benefits offset by higher costs	1
• Cost difference, I believe that consumption can be reduced by careful use of electrical appliances, e.g. restrict the use of air conditioning to extremely hot days	1
• Doubts about the effectiveness	1
• GreenPower is not connected to my home	1
• I am prepared to when circumstances arise	1
• It is just extra money that is just another tax. No effort has been made by energy companies to increase wind, wave or solar power production	1
• Most of the sales people arrive on your doorstep after working hours	1
• Not convinced that my connection to green power will have any effect in slowing down the consumption of coal at the local power station	1
• Not enough financial incentive	1
• Not equipped for it	1
• Not in a position to take advantage of the offer	1
• People being ripped off	1
• Still delivered in an inefficient and wasteful way	1
• Too much negative publicity	1
• Unjustifiable and uneconomical	1
• We are extremely vigilant with energy waste	1
• We did but it cost us more on our power bill. We have recently gone from a two income household to one with a new baby and so we need every cent	1
• Wind and solar power will never provide 100% of the power requirements	1
• Yet to review the information, can't make an informed decision if it's a genuine/worthwhile green opportunity	1

Frequency of public transport use

- 20% of respondents 'always' or 'often' use public transport, 57% 'seldom' use it and 22% 'never' use public transport

In a follow up question when those respondents who 'never' or 'seldom' use public transport were asked why:

- 32% stated that 'it doesn't go where I need to go, when I need to go', 17% that it was 'inconvenient' and 15% that it is 'more convenient to use my own car/cycle'



	Count	Column N %
Never	29	22%
Seldom	74	57%
Often	23	18%
Always	3	2%
Total	129	100%

Continued on the following page

Indication of why no public transport is used

	Count	Column %
Doesn't go where I need to go, when I need to go	33	32%
Inconvenient	17	17%
Convenient to use own car/cycle	15	15%
Needs to be more child/disable friendly	4	4%
Too expensive	3	3%
Don't go out very often	2	2%
Too difficult	2	2%
Other	28	27%
Total	103	100%

Other

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As we are both retired, appointments and other activities do not coincide with transport times or routes. Require a car to get to a railway station in order to use a train. Would be happy to use public transport if it was more convenient 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bus stop is too far away 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Busy 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comfort 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distance travelled 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I usually cycle and public transport is not a cycle friendly service 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is difficult to get to the bus stop and there is no bus shelter 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Much of my travel is to transport animals 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My workplace has no public transport links 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No suitable local transport 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not good enough so you have to have other means, you can't rely on the availability 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only if going to Sydney 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only public transport available is a train two suburbs away 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our area of Marmong Point is not well serviced by buses. There is no traffic so it's easier, cheaper and faster to drive 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public bus networks in Lake Macquarie/Newcastle are very poor, e.g. infrequent, no direct routes 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seldom travel 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The train is too risky after dark 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too old to walk to bus and train stations 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too slow 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trains are too far away and buses are too infrequent 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the train occasionally for leisure activities but not for shopping or business purposes as it's not time effective 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We do volunteer work and need our car to do this 	1

Continued on the following page

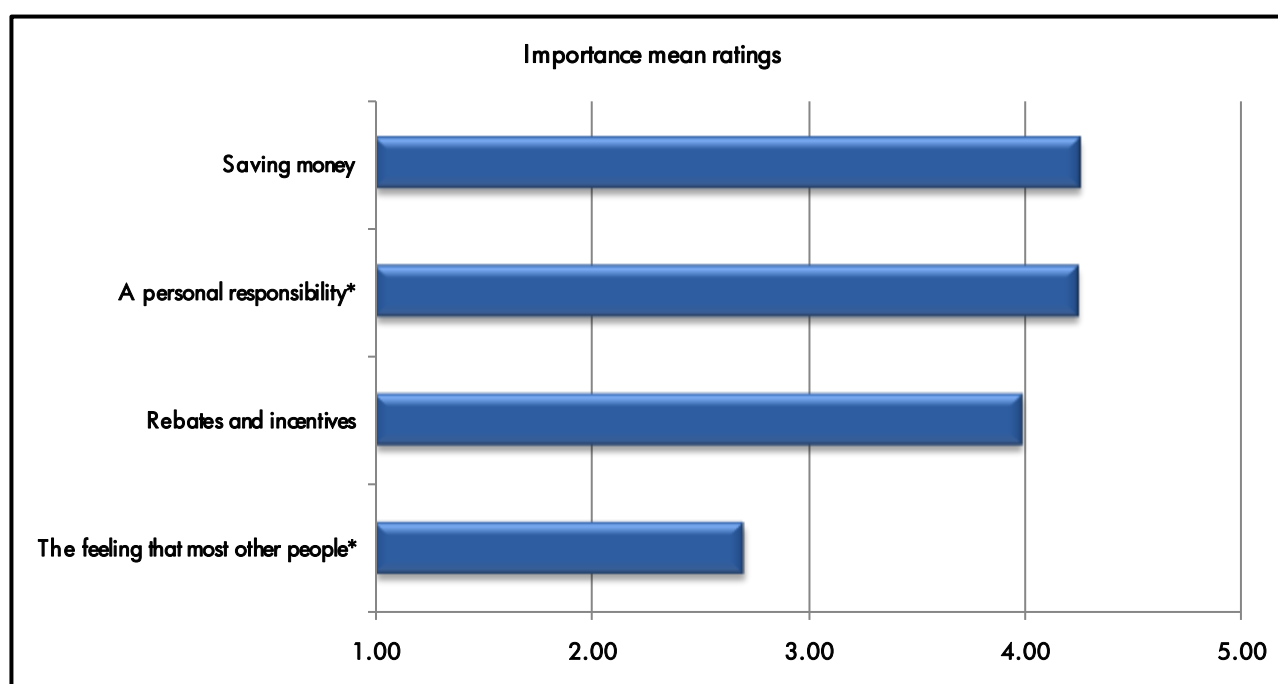
Indication why no public transport is used (Cont'd)

• We have a car but need better and more buses or a train station at the Glendale Super Centre and Booragul	1
• We live too far from the train and have too much to carry on the bus	1
• Weather	1
• Within walking distance of shopping and as such I have no need for regular use of public transport	1
• Work too far away	1

Motivations to improve environmental behaviour

When asked what motivated them to improve their environmental behaviour, the following responses were given:

	Not important to not at all important	Important to very important	Importance rating
Saving money	4%	79%	Very high
A personal responsibility to do the right thing for the environment	4%	80%	Very high
Rebates and incentives	11%	70%	High
The feeling that most other people are doing it and you should be doing it too	40%	27%	Moderately low



*Please see the table below for the full description

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

	Importance mean ratings
Saving money	4.25
A personal responsibility to do the right thing for the environment	4.24
Rebates and incentives	3.98
The feeling that most other people are doing it and you should be doing it too	2.70

Continued on the following page

Motivations to improve environmental behaviour (Cont'd)

	Not at all important		Not important		Neither		Important		Very important		Total	
	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %
Rebates and incentives	6	5%	7	6%	24	19%	35	28%	53	42%	125	100%
A personal responsibility to do the right thing for the environment	2	2%	2	2%	21	17%	41	32%	61	48%	127	100%
Saving money	3	2%	2	2%	21	17%	33	27%	65	52%	124	100%
The feeling that most other people are doing it and you should be doing it too	32	26%	18	14%	41	33%	23	18%	11	9%	125	100%

Nb: Some respondents did not answer

Visits to any natural environments in leisure and recreation time

- 86% of respondents had visited natural environments such as a beach, lake, river, creek, park or bushland in the past four weeks, during their leisure and recreation time

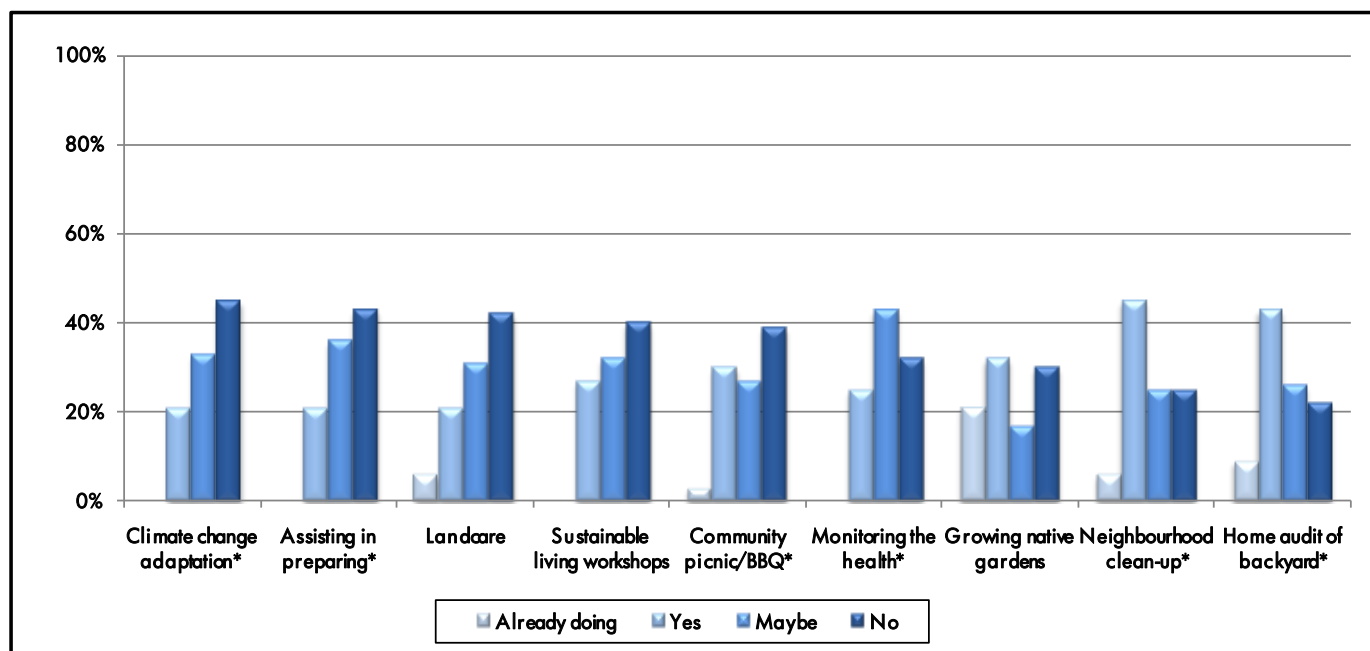
	Count	Column N %
Yes	108	86%
No	18	14%
Total	126	100%

Nb: Some respondents did not answer

Participation in activities/events

When asked to select from a list which activities/events they would consider participating in, respondents chose the following as their most preferred:

- Home audit of backyard, energy, waste and water use 78% (already doing/would consider)
- Neighbourhood clean-up 76%
- Growing native gardens 70%
- Monitoring the health of the local environment 68%



*Please see the table below for the full description

	Already doing		Yes		Maybe		No		Total	
	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %
Climate change adaptation workshops	0	0%	26	21%	40	33%	55	45%	121	100%
Assisting in preparing a sustainability action plan for my neighbourhood	0	0%	25	21%	44	36%	52	43%	121	100%
Landcare	7	6%	26	21%	38	31%	51	42%	122	100%
Sustainable living workshops	0	0%	33	27%	39	32%	49	40%	121	100%
Community picnic/BBQ with informative displays and children's activities	4	3%	37	30%	33	27%	48	39%	122	100%
Monitoring the health of the local environment	0	0%	30	25%	51	43%	38	32%	119	100%
Growing native gardens	25	21%	39	32%	21	17%	36	30%	121	100%
Neighbourhood clean-up (like a mini 'Clean-up Australia Day')	7	6%	56	45%	31	25%	31	25%	125	100%
Home audit of backyard, energy, waste and water use	11	9%	53	43%	32	26%	27	22%	123	100%

Nb: Some respondents did not answer

Heard of/or participated in Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program

- 19% of respondents had heard of the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program, of these 2% had participated in it
- Respondents were most likely to have heard of the Program from a local newspaper

In a follow up question, when asked if they would be interested in taking part, 64% of respondents stated that they would or may take part in the Program.

	Count	Column N %
Yes, heard of	22	17%
Yes, participate in	2	2%
No	104	81%
Total	128	100%

How the program was heard about

• Local newspaper	9
• Word of mouth	3
• Flyer in the mail	2
• Through the Woodrising Neighbourhood Centre	2
• Display at IGA Shopping Centre in Woodrising	1
• Media	1
• Quigley sustainability Landcare group	1
• Through the free local eco paper	1
• Through Woodrising Preschool	1

Nb: Some respondents did not answer

Interest in participating in Sustainable Neighbourhoods program

	Count	Column N %
Yes	19	15%
No	44	35%
Maybe	61	49%
Total	124	100%

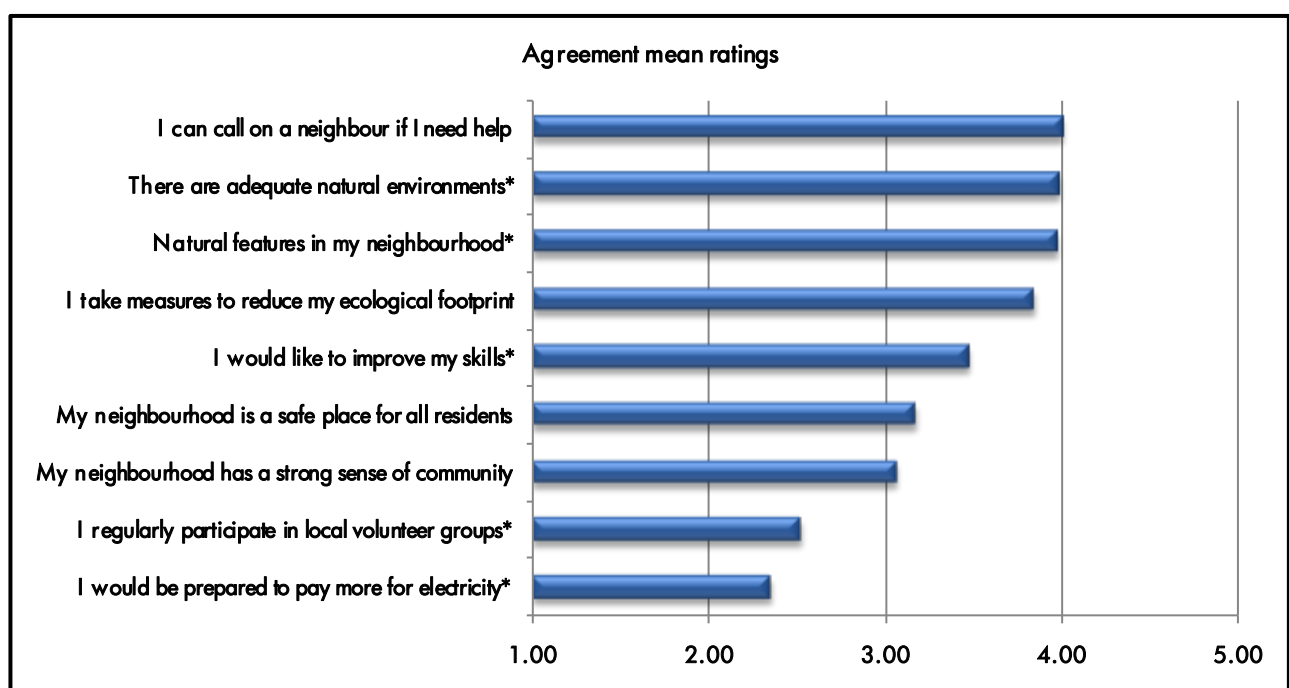
NB: All percentages are calculated to the nearest whole number and therefore the total may not exactly equal 100%.

Nb: Some respondents did not answer

Agreement with specific statements

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

- A high level of agreement was attributed to the statements, 'I can call on a neighbour if I need help', 'there are adequate natural environments in my neighbourhood for me to participate in leisure time activities' and 'natural features in my neighbourhood should be protected and improved by residents'
- There was a moderately high level of agreement with the statement, 'I take measures to reduce my ecological footprint' and moderate levels of agreement with the statements 'I would like to improve my skills, knowledge and behaviour in order to be more sustainable', 'my neighbourhood is a safe place for all residents' and 'my neighbourhood has a strong sense of community'
- The statement 'I regularly participate in local volunteer groups' also rated a moderate level of agreement, whilst 'I would be prepared to pay more for electricity if it was generated from renewable sources such as solar or wind' received only a low level of agreement



*Please see the table on the following page for the full description

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

Continued on the following page

Agreement with specific statements (Cont'd)

	Agreement mean ratings
I can call on a neighbour if I need help	4.00
There are adequate natural environments in my neighbourhood for me to participate in leisure time activities	3.98
Natural features in my neighbourhood should be protected and improved by residents	3.97
I take measures to reduce my ecological footprint	3.84
I would like to improve my skills, knowledge and behaviour in order to be more sustainable	3.47
My neighbourhood is a safe place for all residents	3.17
My neighbourhood has a strong sense of community	3.06
I regularly participate in local volunteer groups (e.g. volunteering for a sporting club, church, meals on wheels, Rotary, Landcare)	2.52
I would be prepared to pay more for electricity if it was generated from renewable sources such as solar or wind	2.35

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

	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Neither		Agree		Strongly agree		Total	
	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %
My neighbourhood has a strong sense of community	9	8%	17	15%	55	50%	18	16%	12	11%	111	100%
I regularly participate in local volunteer groups (e.g. volunteering for a sporting club, church, meals on wheels, Rotary, Landcare)	48	41%	17	15%	17	15%	11	9%	23	20%	116	100%
My neighbourhood is a safe place for all residents	11	9%	17	14%	46	38%	35	29%	12	10%	121	100%
I can call on a neighbour if I need help	9	8%	7	6%	17	14%	29	24%	58	48%	120	100%
There are adequate natural environments in my neighbourhood for me to participate in leisure time activities	5	4%	11	9%	20	17%	28	24%	55	46%	119	100%
Natural features in my neighbourhood should be protected and improved by residents	4	3%	13	11%	18	15%	30	26%	52	44%	117	100%
I take measures to reduce my ecological footprint	4	3%	5	4%	34	29%	37	32%	37	32%	117	100%
I would be prepared to pay more for electricity if it was generated from renewable sources such as solar or wind	45	40%	19	17%	24	21%	14	12%	11	10%	113	100%
I would like to improve my skills, knowledge and behaviour in order to be more sustainable	6	5%	11	10%	40	35%	37	32%	20	18%	114	100%

Nb: Some respondents did not answer

Most liked about your neighbourhood

Respondents were asked in an open ended question, what they most liked about living in their neighbourhood. Their responses were as follows:

	Count	Column %
Friendly neighbourhood	30	23%
Beautiful environment	29	22%
Quiet area	24	19%
Bushland	20	16%
Walkways and cycle paths around the lake	14	11%
Proximity to shopping facilities	13	10%
Proximity to parks and public spaces	11	9%
Peaceful environment	10	8%
Total	129	100%

Other

• Proximity to the lake	9
• Birds	7
• Safe area	7
• Wildlife	6
• Good public transport	5
• Low traffic area	4
• Proximity to work	4
• Clean area	3
• Climate	3
• Overlooking the natural landscape	3
• Proximity to leisure activities	3
• Proximity to schools	3
• The location	3
• Boating	2
• Feeling of space	2
• Fishing areas	2
• Good facilities and services	2
• Good lifestyle	2
• Good roads	2
• Low density housing	2
• Proximity to all amenities	2
• Proximity to medical facilities	2
• Proximity to Newcastle	2

Continued on the following page

Most liked about your neighbourhood (Cont'd)

• Proximity to the beaches	2
• Residents take pride in their homes and gardens	2
• Scenic environment	2
• Waterfront outlook	2
• 2.5 hours to Sydney by train	1
• Ability to walk on pathways safely	1
• Access to Lake Macquarie Art gallery and the wonderful Toronto Library	1
• Awaba Bay	1
• Bushwalks nearby	1
• Community centre	1
• Development of parks and foreshore	1
• Easy commute into town	1
• Good boat ramps	1
• Good location	1
• Having underground electricity	1
• I just like the area	1
• It has a lot of elderly people	1
• It is close to my parents	1
• It is relatively cheap	1
• It is surrounded by a natural environment	1
• It is the gateway to everything	1
• It's home	1
• Lakeside activities, e.g. windsurfing, cruise, sailing, exploring marine biology	1
• Low bushfire hazard	1
• Low density living	1
• Low traffic noise	1
• One of the best Councils in NSW	1
• Proximity to church	1
• Proximity to cycle paths	1
• Proximity to entertainment	1
• Proximity to lake and green surrounds	1
• Proximity to the art gallery and the Awaba House Restaurant	1
• Recreational opportunities for families	1
• Small lakeside community	1
• Sufficient leash-free areas for dogs	1
• The children enjoy cycling off road on dirt tracks	1
• The foreshore	1

Continued on the following page

Most liked about your neighbourhood (Cont'd)

• The history of living here	1
• The landscape	1
• Trouble free area	1
• Visual evidence that the Council cares about protecting our environment, i.e. Landcare	1
• We are close to the valley	1
• We have a large block of land	1
• Well maintained parks	1

Nb: Some respondents gave more than one answer

Suggestions to improve the environment or community of your neighbourhood

• Better patrolling of people littering	5
• Better patrolling of hoon drivers	4
• Quicker removal of graffiti	4
• Better patrolling of vandalism	3
• Council to provide a green waste bin	3
• Encourage residents to take more pride their homes and gardens	3
• Improved road safety, e.g. more speed humps, street signs fixed	3
• More information on how to help the environment	3
• More shared pedestrian/bicycle paths	3
• Neighbourhood gardens, community owned and shared	3
• Better maintenance of roads	2
• Keep streets and waterways clean	2
• More people should catch public transport	2
• More regular maintenance of parks and footpaths	2
• Remove the housing commission houses	2
• Advertise West Lake Macquarie as being a great place to live	1
• All streets on a bus route should have footpaths	1
• Ask rowing teams and their coaches to consider residents and reduce their coaching screams each morning	1
• Better bus services	1
• Better care of the lakefront	1
• Better education for people in public housing	1
• Better maintenance of Council gardens	1
• Better patrol of those breaking the law	1
• Better policing of drug dealers and users	1
• Better policing of rubbish being dumped	1
• Better security at local shops	1
• Better sporting facilities	1
• Build a public path between Defender Close and Marmong Street to allow for easier access for pedestrians, especially children walking to school	1
• Catch the trail bike riders who ride illegally up and down Enterprise Way	1
• Clean up Cockle Creek	1
• Clean up the rubbish and graffiti	1
• Clean up the track between Marmong Marina and the Art Gallery, it would be a good walking and cycling track but it is overgrown with Lantana	1
• Commercial boats should contribute to repairs if they are damaging public boat ramps	1
• Council and business could better maintain and improve their assets	1
• Council could improve the entrance into Woodrising by planting native plants. This would make it more aesthetically pleasing and help the natural environment	1

Continued on the following page

Suggestions to improve the environment or community of your neighbourhood (Cont'd)

• Council could maintain Marmong Point wetlands. The land around it is a disgrace and it is supposed to be public land	1
• Council should employ a team of people whose sole purpose is to keep the lake clean and maintain public areas, at the moment it's not good enough	1
• Develop and protect existing natural areas, including more walkways	1
• Do an audit of the lake, boat ramps, parks and pathways	1
• Do not allow the marina to become more industrial	1
• Dog dropping patrols	1
• Don't hold all community activities during work hours	1
• Don't overdevelop the lake, let the environment thrive and be enjoyed by the community	1
• Don't rezone the old Marmong sewerage plant	1
• Education programs for school children about graffiti and vandalism	1
• Encourage residents to keep the suburbs clean and tidy	1
• Ensure dogs are kept in yards	1
• Establish a 'who needs help network', e.g. lawn mowing, odd jobs done etc.	1
• Expansion will create more noise, dust and paint fumes from building more sheds or structures	1
• Extend the cycleway from Booragul to Marmong Point	1
• Form 'adopt a foreshore park' groups to help maintain the area	1
• Get unregistered cars off the road	1
• Hold a regular farmers market	1
• Have an open day/expo demonstrating evidence based practices and allowing small businesses in the area to display their products and services	1
• Have cars removed that park on corners or obstruct views when driving	1
• Have the authority to challenge persons misusing the area	1
• Improve the number of recycling and rubbish bins at the lake and empty the bins more frequently	1
• Improve the toilets at the park end of Booragul	1
• Improved park equipment for children	1
• Improvement of bush tracks	1
• Introduce a community earth hour, once a month	1
• Keep promoting environmental initiatives with bulk buying programs such as the solar hot water system incentive last year	1
• Limit the size and height of new buildings along the waterfront	1
• Local schools should do more regular clean ups apart from 'Clean up Australia Day'	1
• Local sustainability workshops	1
• Maintain bushland areas	1
• More barbeque seating and tables	1
• More care taken in the disposal of litter	1
• More community markets	1
• More lighting on footpaths	1

Continued on the following page

Suggestions to improve the environment or community of your neighbourhood (Cont'd)

• More people should grow native plants, fruit and vegetables	1
• Move the Bolton Point housing commission out of the area and develop the land into a new estate for private housing and parks	1
• Neighbourhood watch	1
• One day a week people should walk their kids to school instead of driving, this would benefit everyone	1
• People should pick up after themselves	1
• People stop dumping green waste in reserves	1
• Place public housing around neighbourhoods individually so they feel like they belong	1
• Plant more trees and shrubs	1
• Preserve what is left of the natural bushland	1
• Provide incentives for recycling	1
• Put outdoor gyms and parks in public areas	1
• Put playground equipment in Hayden Brook Drive for the children as it's open land	1
• Put steel bins in public areas to stop vandalism	1
• Reclaim two hectares of sea bed for a park	1
• Reduce or eradicate single use items, e.g. plastic cups/plates, bottles etc.	1
• Regenerate eroded areas	1
• Regular clearing of firebreaks	1
• Remove the bad element that hang around in Woodrising Shopping Centre	1
• Replace existing trees with smaller native species	1
• Resurface First St, Booragul	1
• Stop the high density building	1
• The area was a clean recreational area, we need to get it that way again	1
• The community should get together at simple social events	1
• The rehabilitation of Marmong wetland by the removal of non-native flora and fauna	1
• There is so much unused public land being mown regularly, e.g. Hayden Brook Road. Why not turn this land into a community garden or lease it to a garden market who can sell to the locals	1
• There should be a local network for contacting neighbours who have specialised skills and knowledge of environmental strategies that have been proved effective and are prepared to pass them on for no or minimal cost	1
• There should be more encouragement of sporting activities	1
• There should be more lighting on the Warners Bay-Speers Point walkway	1
• There should be more netted swimming areas for the public use in Lake Macquarie	1
• There should be more warning signs about littering	1
• There should be worm farms or recycling systems provided at local shopping centres for the community	1
• Toronto town centre needs overall town planning. Engineers and architects need to make a plan with extensive public involvement for long term development	1
• Try to diminish non-native wildlife to help the growth of our native fauna and flora	1

Nb: Some respondents gave more than one answer and some did not answer

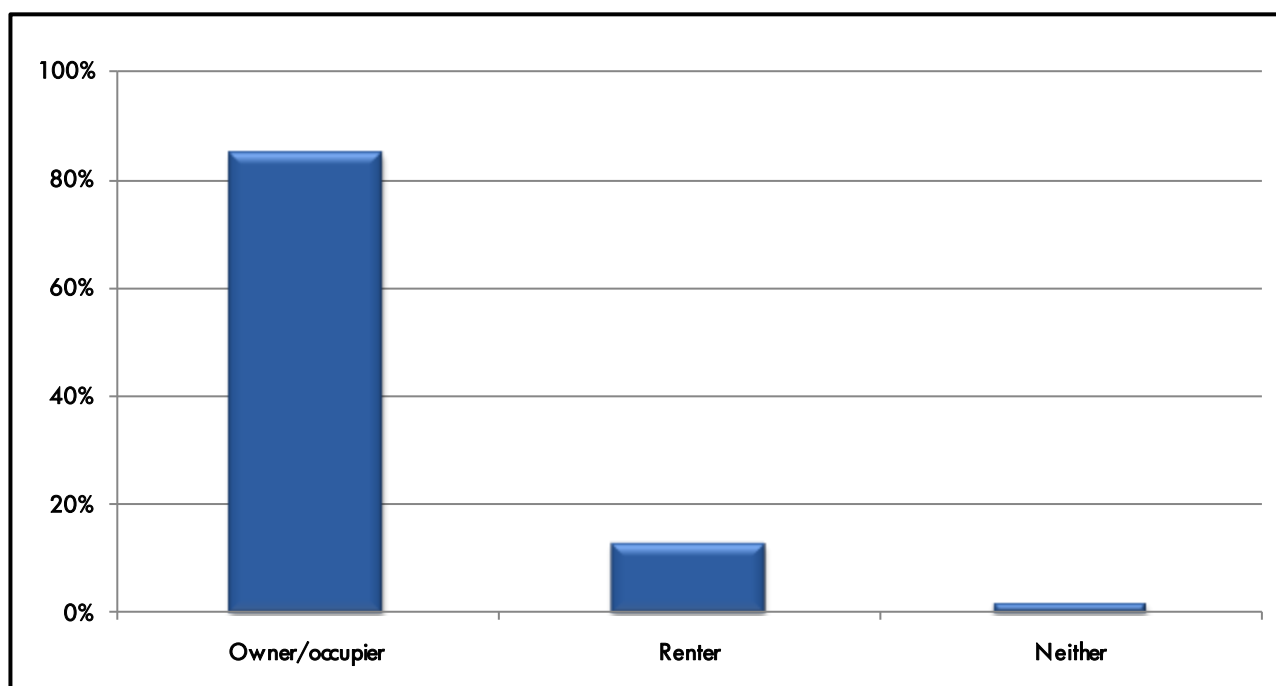
Demographics

Age

	Count	Column N %
18-24	5	4%
25-34	9	7%
35-49	33	26%
50-64	42	33%
65+	37	29%
Total	126	100%

Nb: Some respondents did not answer

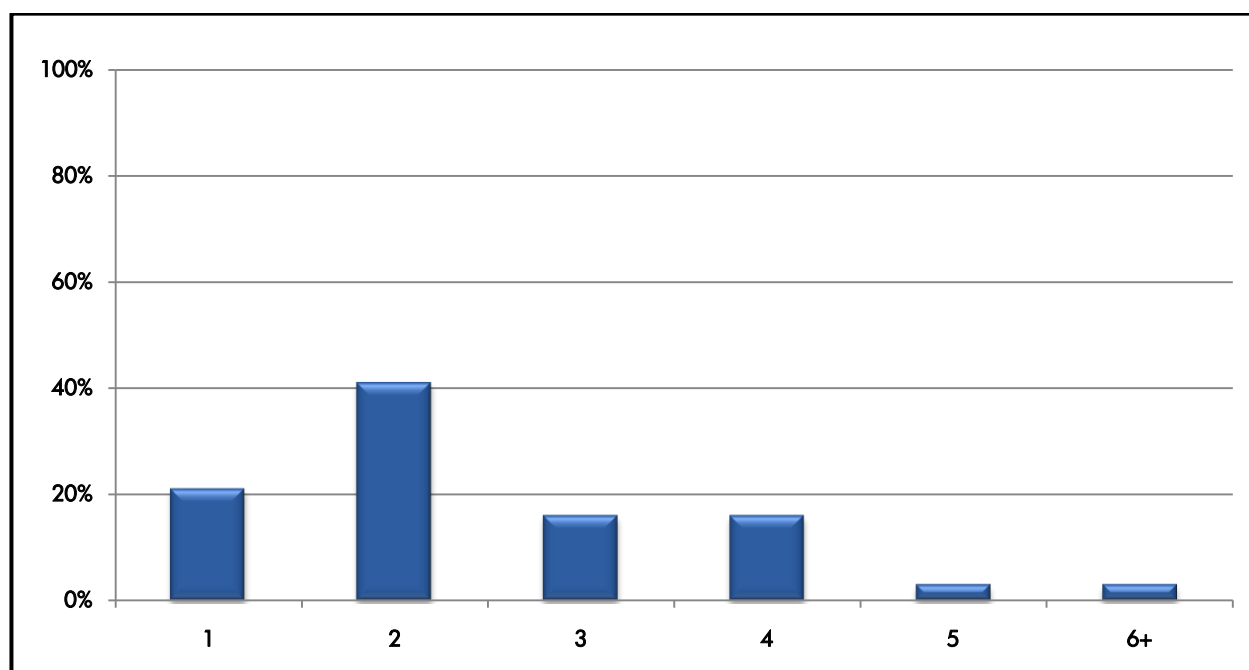
Tenancy type



	Count	Column N %
Owner/occupier	108	85%
Renter	17	13%
Neither	2	2%
Total	127	100%

Nb: Some respondents did not answer

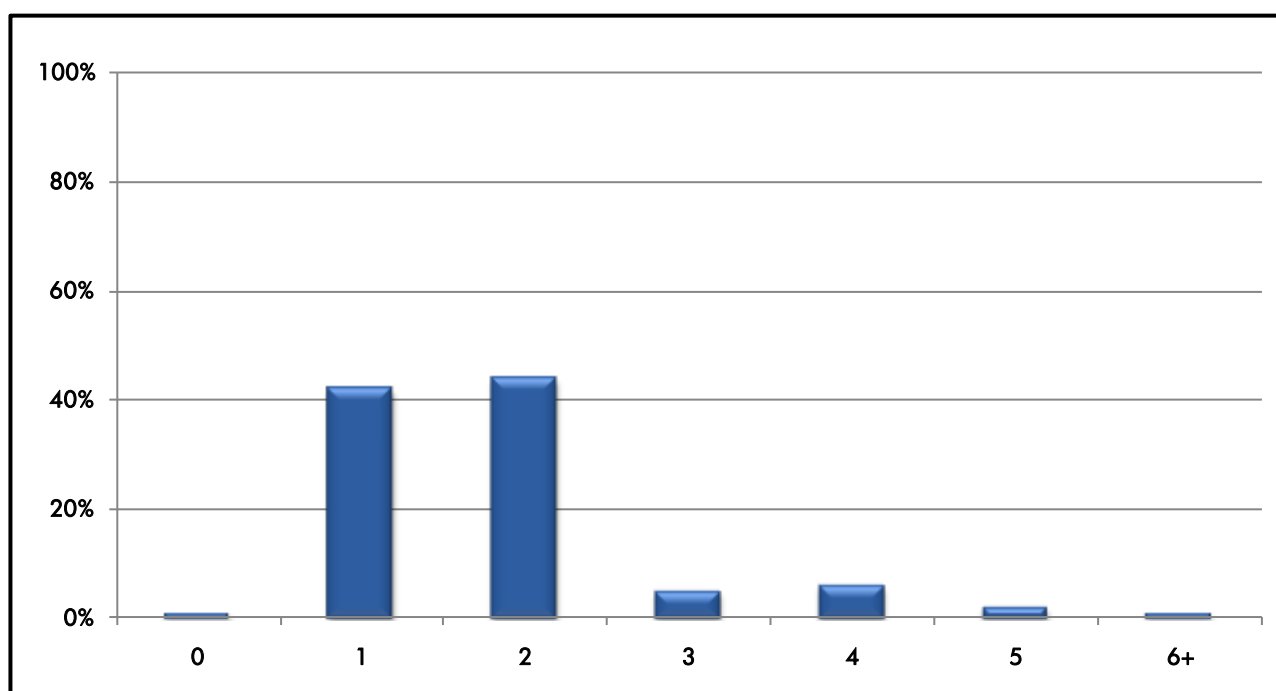
Number of people in your home



	Count	Column N %
1	27	21%
2	52	41%
3	20	16%
4	20	16%
5	4	3%
6+	4	3%
Total	127	100%

Nb: Some respondents did not answer

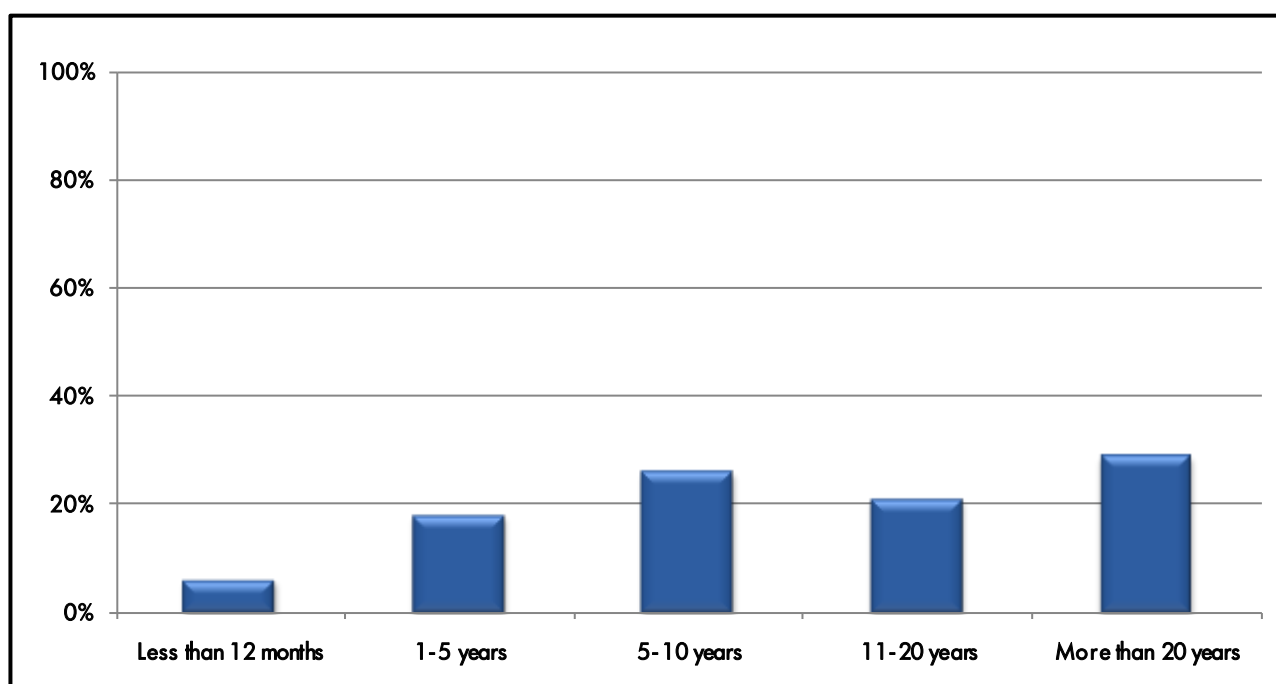
Number of motor vehicles in your home



	Count	Column N %
0	1	1%
1	53	42%
2	56	44%
3	6	5%
4	7	6%
5	2	2%
6+	1	1%
Total	126	100%

Nb: Some respondents did not answer

Length of time living in the neighbourhood



	Count	Column N %
Less than 12 months	7	6%
1-5 years	23	18%
5-10 years	33	26%
11-20 years	27	21%
More than 20 years	37	29%
Total	127	100%

Nb: Some respondents did not answer



Appendix

Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program

- Community Research 2010

Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point

Simply complete the survey and return with the entry form below. Place your entry form in the supplied Reply Paid envelope along with your completed survey and post it back to Council by **5pm Wednesday 17 March 2010** (NO postage stamp required), for your entry to go in the prize draw.

If you want to help protect and enhance the future of your local community please complete the attached survey to help identify strategies to improve the area in which you live.

We've already discovered that the residents of Lake Macquarie City value their local environment and lifestyle and want to protect it.

Council recognises that individuals have the knowledge to determine their own future, and in response, has agreed to work with local communities to assist them to develop Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plans containing actions that address the particular sustainability and amenity issues that are important to each neighbourhood.

This survey is being conducted with residents of Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point, to understand how you perceive your local environment and community, and to assist to identify sustainability actions for your neighbourhood.

If you:

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

could you please assist us by completing this survey on behalf of your household? It will take approximately 15 minutes.

We will use the results of this survey only for the purposes of understanding community needs, enhancing the local environment and project planning. Your response to this survey will remain anonymous.

Please also complete the contact details slip attached to this survey if you would like to enter the prize draw and/or find out more about the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program.

If you have any questions or require help completing this survey, please contact Kelly Wood, Lake Macquarie City Council, on **4921 0104**.



Competition Entry Form for Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program

Community Research 2010 Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point

Name

Phone number

Email

I would like to find out more about participating in the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program:

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please turn over for terms and conditions of the competition

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Entries open at 9am on Monday 8 March 2010 and close at 5pm on Wednesday 17 March 2010. Entries received after this date will not be accepted.
2. The Competition Entry Form **must** be posted to Council in the Reply Paid envelope enclosed along **with your completed Survey**. Your personal details will be detached from your Survey to protect your privacy. Your personal details will be used for competition prize draw purposes only, unless you also tick the box indicating you would like to be contacted with more information about the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program.
3. The Competition is open only to residents of Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point.
4. Only one entry per household will be accepted.
5. Lake Macquarie City Council Councillors, employees and their households are not eligible to enter.
6. Winning entrants will be selected on Thursday 18 March 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.

Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program

- Community Research 2010



LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

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

.....

.....

.....

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

	Not at all important			Very important	
	1	2	3	4	5
Protecting and improving the natural environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protecting against natural disasters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preparing for climate change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Minimising health risks from the environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing greenhouse gas emissions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing water consumption	<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"/>

CLIMATE CHANGE OVER THE NEXT 20 YEARS

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

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

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

.....

.....

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

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

YOUR SUSTAINABILITY CHOICES

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

	Yes	No	Don't know
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"/>
Chooks or other domestic fowl	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q3b. How often does your household make use of

	Never	Seldom	Often	Always
Worm farm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Compost bin	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recycling bin	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q3c. If never or seldom, could you please indicate why?

.....

.....

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

Yes No
O O
(If no, please go to Q3f)

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

..... %

Q3f. If no, could you please indicate why?

.....

.....

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

Never Seldom Often Always
O O O O

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

.....

.....

Q3i. What motivates you to improve your environmental behaviour?
Ratings are on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not at all important and 5 is very important.

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

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?

Yes	No	Don't know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

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

	Already Doing	Yes	No	Maybe
Landcare	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Growing native gardens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sustainable living workshops	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climate change adaptation workshops	<input type="radio"/>	<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"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community picnic/BBQ with informative displays and children's activities	<input type="radio"/>	<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"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Home audit of backyard, energy, waste and water use	<input type="radio"/>	<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"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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

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

(If no, go to Q4d)

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

.....

.....

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

Yes	No	Maybe
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(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?

If so, please write your contact details on the front page of this survey. All details are confidential and will be recorded separately to this survey.

ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

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

	Strongly disagree				Strongly agree	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	0
I can call on a neighbour if I need help	0	0	0	0	0	0
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 protected and improved by residents	0	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 wind	0	0	0	0	0	0
I would like to improve my skills, knowledge and behaviour in order to be more sustainable	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

.....

.....

.....

.....

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?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

DEMOGRAPHICS

Q7a. Please indicate your age bracket

☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-49 ☐ 50-64 ☐ 65+

Q7b. Please indicate your tenancy type

Owner/occupier Renter Neither

☐ ☐ ☐

Q7c. How many people currently reside in your home?

1	2	3	4	5	6+
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q7d. How many motor vehicles does your household have?

1	2	3	4	5	6+
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q7e. 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



Thank you for your participation

If you have any questions or require help completing this survey, please contact Kelly Wood, Lake Macquarie City Council, on 4921 0104.