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All care has been taken to prepare this
report for Hornsby Shire Council

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Contents

1	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	05	5	ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES	29
				Liveable	
				Sustainable	
				Productive	
				Collaborative	
2	MOTIVATION	09	6	STATEMENT FROM THE NEXT GENERATION	41
	Context				
	Purpose				
	About this report				
3	METHODOLOGY	12	7	OVERVIEW OF SUBMISSIONS	44
	Engagement objectives				
	Guiding principles				
	Engagement approach				
	Overview of engagement events				
	Marketing and communications				
	Data analysis approach				
4	QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS	20	8	IMPLICATIONS FOR THE LSPS	50
	Demographic profile				
	Issues and ideas				
	Concentrated housing model				
	Housing choice				
	Environmental sustainability				
	Feedback on draft LSPS				
				APPENDIX	
				LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHARTER	

SNAPSHOT OF EXTENSIVE ENGAGEMENT

1,905

PEOPLE ENGAGED

14

BOLD FACE TO FACE EVENTS,
INCLUDING A FUTURE LIVING
SUMMIT WITH DR KARL; A YOUTH
FUTURE FORUM IN A TIPI; AND A
COMMUNITY CRUISE WORKSHOP

86%

OF 515 SURVEY RESPONDENTS SAY
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
SHOULD BE A TOP COUNCIL
PRIORITY

66%

OF 515 SURVEY RESPONDENTS
SUPPORT A CONCENTRATED
HOUSING MODEL - 20% ARE
NEUTRAL, 14% AGAINST



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In times of significant change and complex challenges, residents have welcomed Hornsby Shire Council's most ambitious planning initiative in recent history – the Future Hornsby project.



More than 1,900 community members have contributed their time and insights on Council's draft Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) during the eight-week public exhibition during August to October 2019. This is in addition to thousands of contributions to Council's other key strategic land use and environmental projects that have been running consecutively to the LSPS. These insights will all help inform the finalisation of the LSPS as well as technical land-use studies.

All local councils in NSW must undertake this strategic land use planning work to respond to the NSW Government's directions for their region – and namely in order to meet specific targets for population growth, housing and employment and address complex issues such as environmental sustainability, transport and urban planning. However, it is not a requirement that councils undertake community engagement as part of this planning process.

Council's active and extensive engagement with the Shire's community reflects a genuine desire to understand what 'quality living' means to residents in land use planning terms and deliver an LSPS that is not only founded on the statutory scientific and technical studies, but also rooted in the community's aspirations for their future. It is also testimony to a community passionate about its future; a community that wants to be actively involved in decisions that have a profound impact on their quality of life.

JOC Consulting was commissioned by Council in March 2019 to deliver a bold engagement approach aimed at reaching 'the silent majority' – people who may not otherwise engage. The creative approach and unusual settings – such as a riverboat cruise, a tipi and a movie theatre - yielded an overwhelmingly positive response and set the foundation for future collaboration as the LSPS evolves in step with finalisation of technical land use studies.

PARTICIPATION OVERVIEW

- Future Living Summit featuring Dr Karl Kruszelnicki and a panel of renowned urban planning experts – 222 participants
- Youth Future Forum – 40 participants
- Community Cruise Workshop – 37 participants
- Four Pop-ups and six Community Conversations in local neighbourhoods across the Shire – 985 participants (approximate)
- Focus group workshop – 7 randomly selected community members
- Online survey – 515 participants
- Submissions – 99 written submissions

ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

The extensive engagement showed areas of strong agreement on what is important to people as well as highlighted controversial topics and differing opinions – mainly around housing. There was a general appreciation of Council's ambition to plan holistically for the future and to involve the community in this process and feedback on the LSPS document itself was overall positive with many commenting that it was *comprehensive* and *a good start*. The overarching themes for the engagement are described below:

1. Divisive views on housing density
2. Passionate calls for Council taking a strong leadership role on environmental sustainability and climate change
3. Strong desire for better freedom of movement and walkable neighbourhoods
4. Call for increased collaboration and advocacy

1. Divisive VIEWS ON HOUSING DIVERSITY (Liveable LSPS theme)

The concept of a concentrated housing model was generally supported throughout the engagement (e.g. 66% of online responses supported the model). However, the topic of housing *choice* (and density) was the most divisive topic throughout the engagement. This indicates a convergence to some degree of views on *where* housing is to be located in a general sense, but strong disagreement on what *type* of development should be accommodated.

- **Diverging views on concept of greater housing choice:** In terms of housing choice and density, the online survey showed an almost even split between those who support greater housing choice (37%) and those who are against greater housing diversity (38%). This stands in contrast to other engagement events – namely the focus group, Youth Future Forum, and Community Conversations - which showed a need for more affordable and environmentally sustainable housing. Older people (aged 65+) too called for mixed housing options (and especially medium housing such as town houses) to grant them opportunities for down-sizing and ageing in place.
- **Conditional views:** The large proportion of neutral responses (25%) in the online survey and the emphasis throughout the engagement on provision of infrastructure and transport (see below), suggests that support for greater housing density, to a large extent, is conditional on provision of appropriate infrastructure to support growth. Concerns about the quality of new developments and building aesthetics, as well as community facilities and public open space to support new housing were also raised as significant concerns.
- **Strong support for the LSPS Key Priority of protecting the character of low-density housing areas:** Regardless of views on housing choice and concentrated growth model, there was an expressed desire from the community to protect the character of the 'leafy suburbs' (low-density neighbourhoods) in the Shire and this Key Priority of the draft LSPS was strongly endorsed throughout the engagement, by all demographics.

2. PASSIONATE VIEWS ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE (Sustainable LSPS theme)

Environmental sustainability was a strong and underlying theme throughout the engagement, with passionate calls for action on climate change at all levels of government as well as motivating and enabling change on a grassroots level. These views came through especially strong at the Future Living Summit, the Youth Future Forum, and engagement events in rural areas. The online survey showed 86% of respondents in support of making environmental sustainability a top Council priority.

- **Diverging views on Rural Lands and subdivision:** The community at large (e.g. those living outside rural areas) generally wanted to see rural lands retained for agricultural purposes and opposed the concept of subdivision on the grounds that it would have a negative impact on food security. However, many people living in rural areas expressed a strong desire to see some areas rezoned to allow for subdivision which in turn would allow for a greater diversity in the local population, making it possible for young people to live in rural areas and for people to age in place. The issue of diversity and vibrancy of rural centres, while retaining the rural ambience and atmosphere, was voiced by local rural communities in a general sense (regardless of their stance on subdivision). (The complex issues regarding subdivision of rural lands is subject to in-depth investigation as part of the Rural Lands Study and will be dealt with in detail as part of that process rather than within this report. All data related to rural lands from the engagement for this project will form an important part of these investigations).
- **Strong support for the LSPS Key Priorities:** The community expressed strong support for the LSPS Key Priorities on expanding tree canopy cover; protecting, conserving and promoting natural, built and cultural heritage; and building and strengthening resilience (particularly in regards to extreme heat, water supply, and natural hazards such as bushfires).

3. STRONG DESIRE FOR BETTER FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND WALKABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS (Productive LSPS theme)

Transport and infrastructure were the top issues raised by the community. The community reported a desire for reducing car-related travel by providing better options for walking, cycling and improving access to public transport. Further the need to reduce the impacts of commuter travel on neighbourhoods close to main transport routes and train stations was also noted.

- **Shared frustration about infrastructure provision:** The engagement highlighted a strong and consistent dissatisfaction with the provision of infrastructure, especially as related to new developments. Community members were deeply concerned that any further development would put further strain on existing infrastructure which is currently seen as being stretched beyond capacity.
- **Strong emphasis on the importance of public transport and active travel to quality of life:** The community saw public and active transport as being essential to their wellbeing. Many commuters noted that parking considerations are affecting the rhythm and routines of daily living, as car parking near public transport hubs fill up early in the mornings. Young people and others who do not drive a car, reported the ease of getting around equals freedom and independence and is a crucial determinant of health and wellbeing as it dictates the terms by which interaction with other people is possible.

1. **Desire for strengthening social cohesion on a neighbourhood level:** The engagement showed a strong desire for walkable access to local shops, cafes, restaurants, community facilities and public open space. Similar to conversations around transport, being able to access shops, playgrounds and public spaces locally was not seen so much as a matter of convenience, but as an opportunity for social interaction and of critical importance to creating stronger social cohesion on a neighbourhood level.

4. CALL FOR INCREASED COLLABORATION AND ADVOCACY (Collaboration LSPS theme)

Community members showed a strong interest in collaborating with Council in making Hornsby Shire an even better place to live. Young people were especially motivated to be involved and with their Statement from the Next Generation, offered a positive and creative approach to addressing the 'wicked problems' facing the Shire over the next twenty years.

- **Call for advocacy and partnerships with NSW Government:** The community wanted to see Council collaborate with NSW Government and advocate on their behalf on issues that fall beyond the control of local government, namely in regards to public transport provision; improvements to roads and traffic infrastructure; climate change; education and provision of a public co-ed high school in the Shire; and local economy and opportunities for promoting Hornsby as a tourism and business destination (with many people specifically putting forward ideas for creating a medical precinct and creative hubs and co-working spaces).
- **Call for collaboration with local businesses:** Many community members recognised the importance of local businesses to creating vibrant neighbourhoods and wanted to see Council continue to work closely with commercial operators to revitalise town centres and establish a night-time economy.
- **Collaborating with the community, especially with local young people:** to improve decisions was strongly supported to enable a greater contribution in decision making, local knowledge / different perspectives

"Working together is progress. It helps us to see other perspectives and work together to utilise different people's skills."

Participant at Youth Future Forum



YOUR VISION

We believe in...
a sustainable + efficient future that will benefit us + the future
generations to come, by using our common sense and best
ideas.

Because...

The future must have...

MOTIVATION

Hornsby Shire Council is motivated to deliver a Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) that goes beyond statutory requirements in seeking broad community input on future land use planning directions.

It is a NSW Government requirement that all councils prepare an LSPS to guide long-term decision-making over the next two decades. The LSPS is to address regional planning priorities and specifically show how Council will meet Government targets for population growth over the next 20 years through strategic land use planning. However, there are no specific requirements to conduct community engagement as part of the development of the LSPS.

Hornsby Shire Council has a genuine desire to gain community perspectives on what ‘quality living’ means in a Hornsby context: how does the community feel about housing, transport, environmental sustainability, rural lands, employment and education? What are their hopes and dreams for the future of the Shire?

These are big questions, made more complex by the increasing rate of change in today’s world. And so it is perhaps more important than ever that planning is guided not only by science and reason, but by values and vision.

In March 2019, Hornsby Shire Council commissioned JOC Consulting to deliver a bold and highly unusual engagement program, aimed at sparking meaningful public debate about what ‘quality living’ means to the community.

This report is the result of an exciting journey where 1,900 people have contributed their time and insights to provide comment on Council’s draft LSPS and share their views and values on the future of the Bushland Shire.



CONTEXT

The LSPS is a holistic land use planning document that sets strategic direction for managing assets and natural resources for the whole of the Shire, for the next twenty years and beyond.

It will direct the review of both the Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and the Development Control Plan (DCP). It will also inform other Council strategic planning documents.

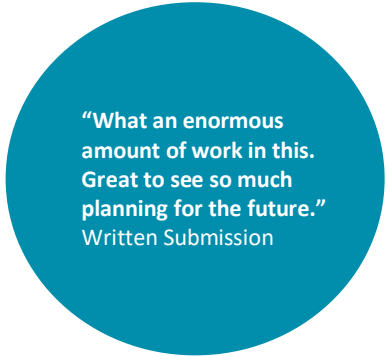
The LSPS provides the current background, local policy context and proposed policy updates. There are nine comprehensive technical studies and strategies being reviewed by Council under the State Government's Accelerated LEP Review Program, which will inform future amendments to the LSPS once finalised.

The draft LSPS identifies a range of priorities under the themes of Liveable, Sustainable, Productive and Collaborative (as per the District Plan North). Aspirations of particular importance have been identified as Key Priorities. These are:

1. Expanding our **tree canopy cover** to enhance the environmental qualities and character of the bushland shire
2. Protecting the **character of our low-density neighbourhoods**
3. Improving the **quality of architectural design** of new development
4. Protecting, conserving and promoting our natural, built and cultural **heritage**
5. Revitalising the **Hornsby Town Centre**
6. Protecting and enhancing the environmental value and economic productivity of the Metropolitan **Rural Lands** in the Shire
7. Supporting **sustainable economic growth** based on the Shire's built and natural assets, infrastructure and locational advantages
8. Building our **resilience** to natural hazards, including bushfire risk, flooding and **climate change**

The LSPS and related technical studies, known collectively as "Future Hornsby", is the most ambitious planning project Hornsby Shire Council has undertaken and will have a profound impact on the daily lives of Hornsby Shire residents, workers and visitors.

The LSPS will be reviewed and updated when the key technical studies are finalised and reviewed on a regular basis (minimum every seven years), it will be a living document that responds to the changes and trends affecting the Shire over time.



"What an enormous amount of work in this. Great to see so much planning for the future."
Written Submission

PURPOSE

The draft LSPS was placed on public exhibition from 19th August 2019 to 16th October 2019. At that time, the technical studies had not yet been finalised and the document was therefore high level and strategic; further detail and specific actions will be identified in step with finalising the technical studies.

The purpose of the engagement was to create broad awareness about the LSPS and related studies – the Future Hornsby project – and seek feedback on the overall direction and Key Priorities identified in the draft LSPS.

The unusual and creative engagement approach generated overwhelming interest in the Future Hornsby project and established a solid foundation for future engagement and collaboration as the Future Hornsby project evolves.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This Community Engagement Outcomes Report is primarily written for the purposes of informing Council's continued land use planning and has been written with the community in mind; as a way to close the feedback loop and create a reference point for further conversations and collaboration.

This report presents the findings from the extensive engagement program in two main parts:

1. **Analysis of quantitative data** from the online survey (based on 515 responses) as well as the voting activity at the Future Living Summit (based on 170 responses)
2. **Key themes** from the 14 face to face engagement events. This part is structured into the LSPS themes of Liveable, Sustainable, Productive and Collaborative.
3. **Statement from the Next Generation** – a strong aspirational statement from young local residents which is the outcome from a high-energy Future Forum
4. **Submissions summary** briefly summarising key issues from 99 written submissions from community members, government agencies, not-for-profit organisations and commercial enterprises
5. **Implications for the LSPS** is a concluding chapter which draws on the findings from all engagement to suggest adjustments to the draft LSPS so that it may better reflect the aspirations of the community



METHODOLOGY

The engagement with 1,900 community members has been made possible through strong leadership, clear guiding principles, innovative activities, wide reaching marketing program, and a rigorous approach to data analysis.



JOC Consulting has worked closely with Council staff, Councillors and consultants involved with the Future Hornsby project, to deliver a comprehensive engagement program that effectively broke through the barriers of 'engagement fatigue' and reached people who normally would not engage.

ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The community engagement program set out to deliver meaningful, diverse and bold solutions informed by the community's desires for the future of Hornsby Shire. The ultimate aim was to set a foundation for future collaboration.

The specific objectives of the engagement were to:

- ✓ Enable opportunities to engage with a cross-section of the community.
- ✓ Create excitement about the opportunity to contribute ideas and aspirations for the future of Hornsby.
- ✓ Enlist experts and futurists to spark informed discussions about Hornsby's big issues.
- ✓ Receive feedback on trends, trade-offs and LSPS key concepts and priorities.
- ✓ Identify 'community champions' to promote the LSPS and increase participation and community enthusiasm for building a better future.
- ✓ Gain specific feedback on the LSPS document.
- ✓ Test and further investigate initial engagement findings.
- ✓ Close the loop on the engagement and ensure transparency by informing participants of outcomes from the engagement.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following guiding principles were co-designed with Council staff and Councillors. They have set the direction for the development of the engagement program and helped keep the program on track to deliver “best practice”.

- Be bold, transparent, neighbourhood-based, positive and push past cynicism within the community.
- Think outside the box.
- Do things once, do them well and ensure there is good coordination across concurrent technical studies.
- Ensure the community is put first and they know their views matter.
- Ensure conversations are well-informed and evidence-based.
- Facilitate internal collaboration and coordination across Council departments and consultants.
- Close the feedback loop with community and stakeholders.
- Educate the public about the benefits of the LSPS process with a focus on quality outcomes.

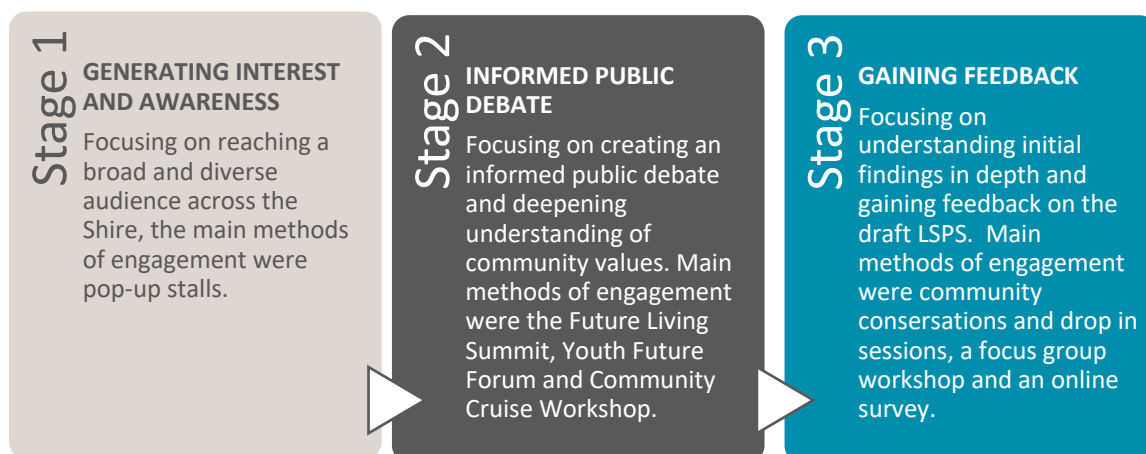
ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

The engagement approach was developed on the basis of extensive internal engagement, including two workshops with Councillors, a series of stakeholder meetings, and roundtable workshops with consultants involved in the Future Hornsby project (e.g. technical land use studies).

Recognising that the breadth and technical nature of the LSPS can often be a barrier to meaningful community engagement, the engagement objectives were addressed across three stages to ensure the captured insights were considered and informed:

An overview of the engagement approach is provided in Figure 1 below. While all engagement objectives were addressed, the findings of this report are most strongly derived from the activities and talking points of Stage 3 – ‘Gaining Feedback’.

Figure 1: Engagement approach overview



OVERVIEW OF ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

A Future Living Summit, featuring Dr Karl Kruszelnicki and a panel of renowned planning specialists and community builders, a Youth Future Forum, and a Community Cruise Workshop on a journey down the Hawkesbury River – the bold engagement achieved its goal of reaching far and sparking an informed public debate.

The engagement sought to increase visibility and accessibility across the Shire and took place in a variety of locations.

STAGE 1: GENERATING INTEREST AND AWARENESS

Pop Ups – 810 participants

A series of fun and engaging pop-ups, over multiple dates and locations, to promote the Future Hornsby project and draft LSPS, encourage participation in various engagement opportunities and invite initial input.

Data collected: bold Ideas.



STAGE 2: INFORMED PUBLIC DEBATE

Future Living Summit – 222 participants

A high energy and thought-provoking evening to officially launch the draft LSPS and start the conversation about Hornsby's quest for quality living. Guest speakers Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, Rukshan de Silva, Katherine O'Regan and Issy Phillips inspired attendees to think big about the future of the Shire and engage in the LSPS process.

73% of 151 responses were happy or very happy with the event.
"Very stimulating and provocative" - Summit participant

Data Collected: bold ideas, attitudes to change, insights on Key Priorities.



Youth Future Forum – 40 participants

Forty young people from across Hornsby Shire came together to think creatively about the future and work collaboratively with fellow participants to create a bold vision for the future, encapsulated in the Statement From The Next Generation.

"I found it very interesting and the activities engaging. Please keep holding these." - Forum participant

Data collected: aspirations around key themes, attitudes to change, direction for future planning.



Community Cruise – 37 participants

Representatives from various Hornsby Shire community groups came together to cruise the Hawkesbury River and explore the yesterday, today and tomorrow of the Shire and provide feedback on Key Priorities of the draft LSPS.

89% of 19 responses reported being satisfied or very satisfied with the event. "Great opportunity to network with other community members and give feedback directly to decision-makers and policymakers" - Workshop participant

Data Collected: bold ideas, attitudes to change, insights on key priorities, reflections on the past.



STAGE 3: GAINING FEEDBACK

Community Conversations – 175 participants

Six sessions, across various locations, to promote the project and gain deeper insight from the community on their bold ideas for the future of Hornsby Shire and the Key Priorities of the draft LSPS.

Data Collected: bold ideas, insights on LSPS Key Priorities.



Focus Group – 7 representative residents

Diving deep with a randomly selected representative sample of the community, the focus group elicited nuanced findings on key themes of the LSPS.

"It was so informative. I enjoyed hearing other voices and ideas." - Workshop participant

Data Collected: attitudes to change, insights on Key Priorities.



Online Survey – 515 participants

Promoted widely throughout the engagement, the online survey sought to gather in-depth insight from a wide cross-section of the community on key components of the draft LSPS, as well as understand attitudes to the underlying principle of a concentrated housing growth model (e.g. locating any new developments along existing transport lines and in urban centres).

Data Collected: bold ideas, attitudes to change, insights on Key Priorities.



Submissions – 99 written contributions

The community and stakeholders were also provided the opportunity to submit their written feedback and comments through Council's 'Have Your Say' web page or directly by email to the general manager.

Data Collected: general feedback, attitudes to change, insights on Key Priorities.



"Council is to be commended for its efforts to involve the community with a large range of very accessible contact points for people to be able to air their views."

Written submission

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

The engagement program was supported by significant marketing and communications activities, as shown in the table below.

Table 1: Overview of marketing and communications

MARKETING	
Advertisement and Communication	
Government agencies	Emails to Sydney Water, Roads and Maritime Services, NSW Health, NSW Rural Fire Service, Greater Sydney Commission, NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, NSW Sydney Local Health District and Hornsby Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee (HATSICC).
Adjoining councils	Hills Shire, Kuring-gai, Central Coast, and Parramatta Council's were notified, and the communities were informed via advertisement in local newspapers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hills Shire Times 27.8.19 Northern District Times 28.8.19 Hornsby Advocate 29.8.19 Bush Telegraph 5.9.19 Emails sent to adjoining Councils seeking regional, district and cross boundary matters.
Community database	Hornsby Shire Council 'e-news' distributed to 33,000 people – newsletter to general community March, September and October issues.
Key community stakeholders	4 dedicated emails for LSPS engagement distributed in September.
Youth organisations and groups (scouts, sporting groups, church groups)	Email and follow up phone calls to 56 groups.
High Schools	Email and follow up calls to 20 high schools.
Promotion	
Material	Description
Flyers and postcards handed out during engagement events	1000 (approximately)
Signage, brochures, postcards, one-pager information documents, and Youth Future Forum Flyer made available via Council at various locations	Customer Service Area, Council lifts, Hornsby Shire Libraries, Hornsby Footbridge – digital screen, Hornsby Aquatic and Leisure Centre, Thornleigh Brickpit Stadium, Train Station, local Shops, and What's On Guide. Youth Future Forum had targeted promotion at train stations: Asquith, Normanhurst, Hornsby and Waitara,

ADVERTISING

Media advertising

Digital media	Description
Hornsby Shire Council website and dedicated microsite	Public exhibition of the draft LSPS from 19/8/19 – 16/10/19.
Hornsby Shire Council Facebook Page	21 posts – total reach 8,816 people
JOC Consulting Facebook Page	2 posts – total reach 415 and engagement 78
Hornsby Shire Council Instagram	4 posts – total engagement 84
JOC Consulting Instagram	2 posts – total engagement 54 (not including Instagram-story posts)
Hornsby Shire Council LinkedIn	3 posts - total engagement 21
JOC Consulting LinkedIn	7,980 views

Print advertising

Date - Publication, Mention

21-Mar – Advocate, Your Vision, Your Future
 01-Apr - Galston Glenorie News, Your Vision, Your Future
 March Monthly Chronicle, Your Vision, Your Future
 18-Apr, Hornsby Advocate, Your Vision, Your Future
 24-Apr, Monthly Chronicle, Your Vision, Your Future
 01-May, Galston Glenorie News, Your Vision, Your Future
 02-May, Hornsby Advocate, Your Vision, Your Future
 02-May, Bush Telegraph, Your Vision, Your Future
 Aug, Monthly Chronicle, Future Hornsby Community Conversations
 15-Aug, Hornsby Advocate, Pop-ups + Community Conversations
 Sep Galston Glenorie News, Community Conversations
 29-Aug, Hornsby Advocate, Community Conversations
 05-Sep, Bush Telegraph, Community Conversations
 12-Sep, Hornsby Advocate, Community Conversations + Youth Forum
 Oct, Monthly Chronicle, Let's Shape the future of HBY Shire
 Oct, Galston Glenorie News, Community Conversations
 03-Oct, Bush Telegraph, Community Conversations -new dates added.



“Future Hornsby” materials

DATA ANALYSIS APPROACH

All conversations with the community, throughout the engagement, are considered within this report; they form the backdrop for gaining a nuanced picture and understanding of general community sentiments, hopes and concerns about the future of Hornsby. These conversations have also directly informed Council staff; each and every one of the 12 face to face events was attended by Councillors as well as executive and senior Council staff.

The understanding of core issues has helped shape a consistent framework for analysis of the comprehensive data collected throughout all engagement events.

This section provides an overview of the rigorous approach to data analysis of the extensive quantitative information gathered throughout the engagement.

SOLID BASIS FOR QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

- **515 responses to the online survey** – this dataset is a comprehensive source of quantitative information as well as qualitative comments.
- **170 (minimum) responses to a voting activity at the Future Living Summit** – this dataset checks the pulse on some of the key strategic balances facing all local councils in their endeavours to manage growth in a sustainable way.
- **998 bold ideas collected from all engagement activities** (including bold ideas submitted through the online survey) – this activity was consistent across all engagement and has been coded as per the LSPS themes.
- **99 written submissions** – this dataset is a source of rich local knowledge and technical expertise from government, non-government and community stakeholders. Coded in a consistent way to the analysis of the four themes, this is included in the overall analysis of quantitative data. A summary of the submissions is also provided in a separate chapter of this report.

CONSISTENT CODING

The coding and analysis of all data aimed to ensure alignment with the LSPS by adopting the same structure, themes, and categorisation as the LSPS – which in turn is themed as per the Northern District Plan. The basis for the coding and theming follows the definitions at the beginning of each of the themed sections in the LSPS document, where the scope of what is included in each theme is provided.

It is important to note that while cafés, restaurants, local shops and nightlife are considered under the Productive theme, the general sentiment throughout all responses is that these are essential elements of Liveable communities. Though commercial in their operation, these places provide significant community benefit and add to the vibrancy of local neighbourhoods.

The only slight departure from the LSPS in terms of coding and analysis is in regard to open space. While this is generally considered to be an aspect of the Sustainable theme, the analysis considers a distinction between general green open space (e.g. public reserves) and public open space as part of new developments (e.g. communal space as part of private developments) and/or which performs a primary social function in the public realm. Most of the comments referring to 'open space' fall in the latter category and have therefore been considered as part of the Liveable theme.

NOTES ON CATEGORISATION AND CODING OF ISSUES

The categories are not mutually exclusive – e.g. one bold idea that touches on several issues would be counted in all relevant categories. There are natural overlaps and grey areas between the themes and sub-themes. The following notes clarify some of the areas that may cause confusion:

- **Liveable:** in this section a distinction is made between town planning, which focusses on general and in-principle considerations (e.g. set-backs, architectural design), and housing (which incorporates comments on density).
- **Sustainable:** climate change and resource management are grouped together as reduction of carbon emissions is a central tenant in climate change mitigation.
- **Productive:** cafés, restaurants, shops and night-time economy are included in the revitalised town centres sub-theme.
- **Collaboration:** Council seeking input with stakeholders for land use planning purposes.

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

Based on extensive quantitative information, this section provides a big picture view of key conceptual aspects of the LSPS as well as initial feedback from the community on the draft Key Priorities.

In keeping with the guiding principles for the engagement, every effort has been made to represent all views of the community in a fair and transparent way, using a rigorous methodology to ensure consistency and relevance.

The analysis in this section is structured into six main parts:

- Demographic profile
- Issues and ideas from across the engagement ('Bold Ideas')
- Concentrated housing model
- Housing choice
- Environmental sustainability and climate change
- Feedback on the draft LSPS and Key Priorities

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

All key demographic groups (in terms of age, gender and place of residence) were well-represented throughout the engagement.

The online survey had fairly equal gender distribution.

As shown below, young people (15 – 24 years) were not well represented in the online survey, and the Youth Future Forum outcomes have therefore been highlighted in the sections that follow (under each of the four themes).

Figure 2: Gender distribution (n=515 online survey)

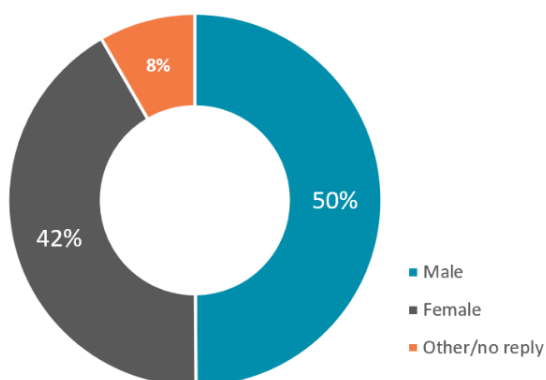
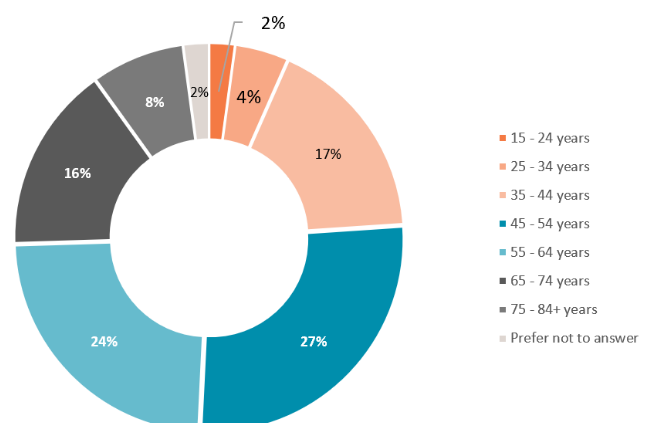


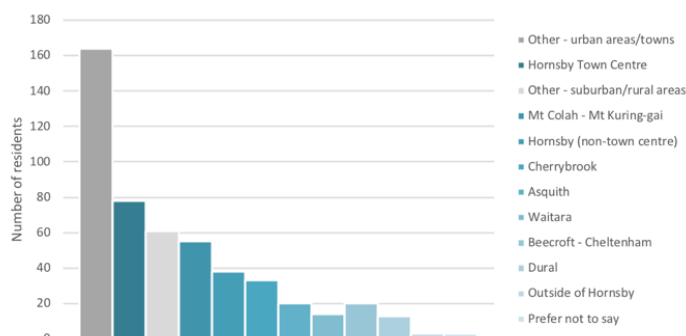
Figure 3: Age distribution (n=515 online survey)



As shown in Figure 4, the vast majority of survey participants (99%) were from within Hornsby Local Government Area; only three people stated they lived outside of the LGA (and a further three people preferred not to say).

Residents were predominantly from urban areas (84%) and 15% were from suburban or rural areas.

Figure 4: Place of residence (n=515 online survey)¹



“Infrastructure to go with development and increased population.”
Community Conv. Participant

“We need to live in balance if we are to have any future at all”
Future Living Summit Participant

ISSUES AND IDEAS

Figure 5 on the following page shows the distribution of ideas and issues raised throughout the engagement, where participants submitted their ‘Bold Idea’ for the future of Hornsby (many of which were worded as issues, and hence have been coded consistently in the analysis).

The graph also highlights the distribution of issues raised through the 99 submissions submitted to Council – see separate submissions summary of this report for further detail. (They are shown separately to assist Council with their overall submissions management and response).

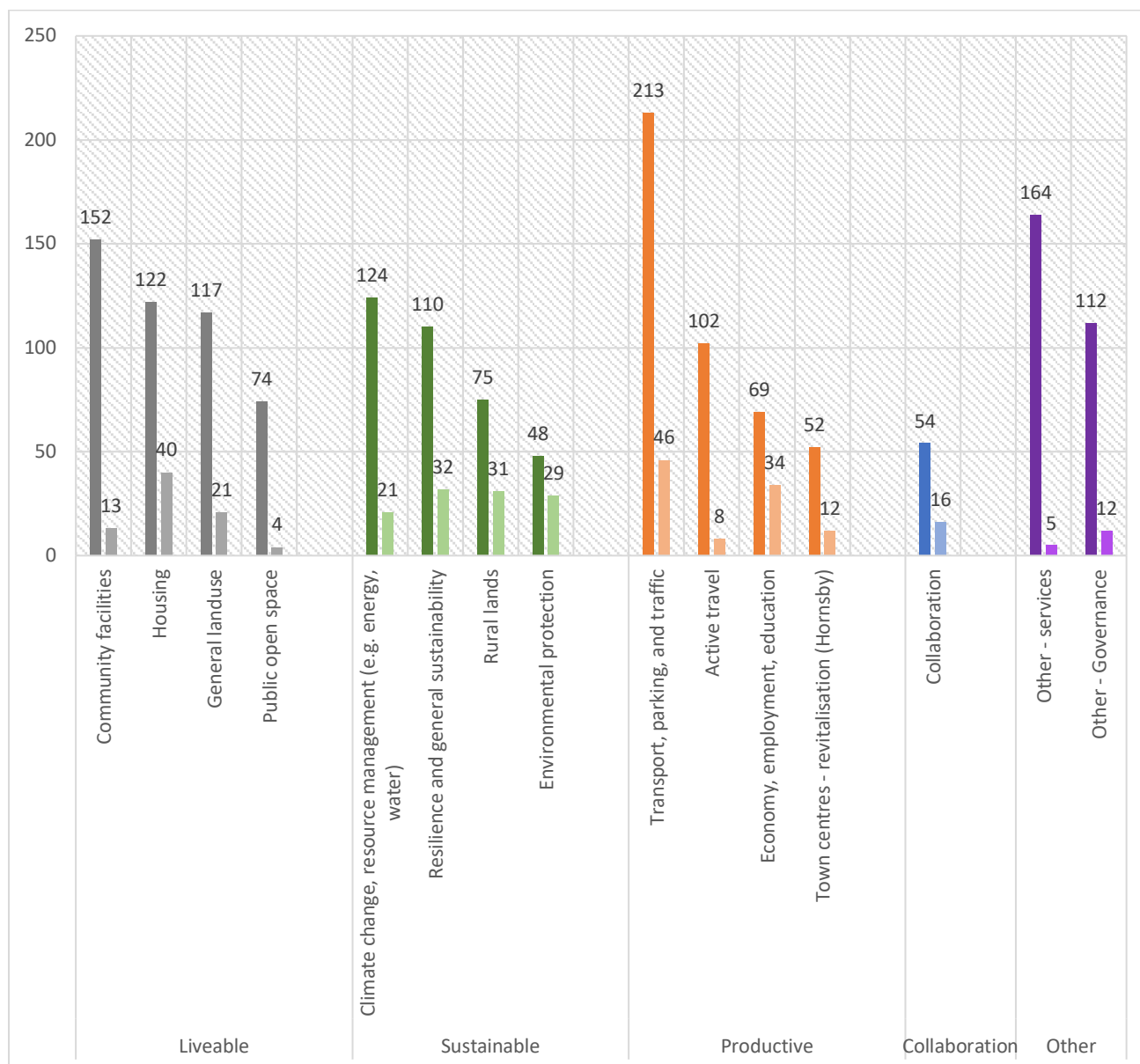
Consistent with the conversations throughout the engagement – which highlighted an underlying concern with growth and development – the analysis of issues and ideas found:

- Transport, traffic, parking and infrastructure provision are core community concerns
- Most of the transport related comments expressed a desire for better access to public and active transport options; they did not call for better provision of car travel as an end in itself
- The community is passionate about building stronger neighbourhoods – they want to see better facilities for socialising in the public realm and similarly want to see more cafes, restaurants and shops within walkable distances of where they live
- Climate change and environmental sustainability were strongly expressed as fundamental premises for planning throughout the engagement; this is not clear in Figure 6 below as these concerns were not necessarily stated as bold ideas

¹ Note that the location groupings are based on the LSPS categories and ‘other areas’ are grouped for ease of reference as Hornsby Shire has 41 suburbs.

Figure 5: Issues and ideas raised throughout engagement

NOTE: Series 1 represents general engagement (n=1,420) and Series 2 represents submissions (n=99)



These issues are explored in more detail in the theme sections of this report as well as in the submissions summary.

CONCENTRATED HOUSING MODEL

As shown in Figures 7 and 8, below, both the online survey and the voting results from the Future Living Summit indicated strong support for the principles of a concentrated housing model (with the Summit results specifically responding to growth in Hornsby Town Centre):

- 66% of 509 online respondents indicated support for the concentrated housing model
- 73% of 172 respondents in the voting activity at the Future Living Summit (which took place in Hornsby) indicated support for concentrating growth in Hornsby Town Centre in the long-term
- There was a relatively large (20%) group of participants who were neutral in their opinions in the online survey; and this group was larger than for the Summit voting results (10%)

Overall, these findings, regarding attitudes to the concentrated housing model, are consistent with the qualitative data and conversations with community members throughout the majority of the engagement events, though some slight nuances appeared across the events.

At the Youth Future Forum and the focus group workshops, the support for the concentrated housing model was more pronounced, with young people particularly keen to see more housing in existing urban centres. This was seen as a desirable way not only to manage growth (e.g. minimise environmental impact), but also a way to provide more affordable housing, improve vibrancy in existing centres, and enable better opportunities for public transport.

Figure 6: Concentrated housing model (online survey)

To what extent do you agree that Hornsby Shire's growth should be concentrated in the main centres and close to transport? (n=508)

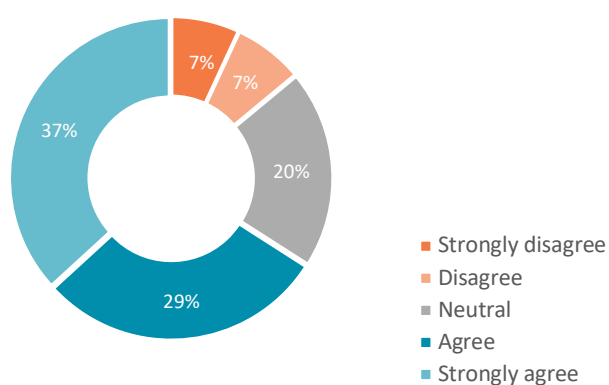


Figure 7: Concentrated housing in Hornsby Town Centre (Summit)

To what extent do you agree with the statement: "In 2040 Hornsby Town Centre embraces quality, high-density housing to protect the environment from urban sprawl"? (n=172)

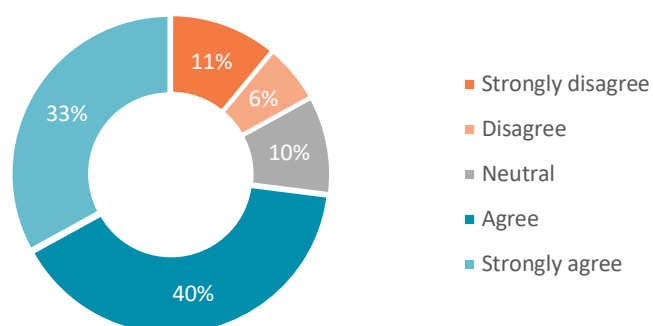
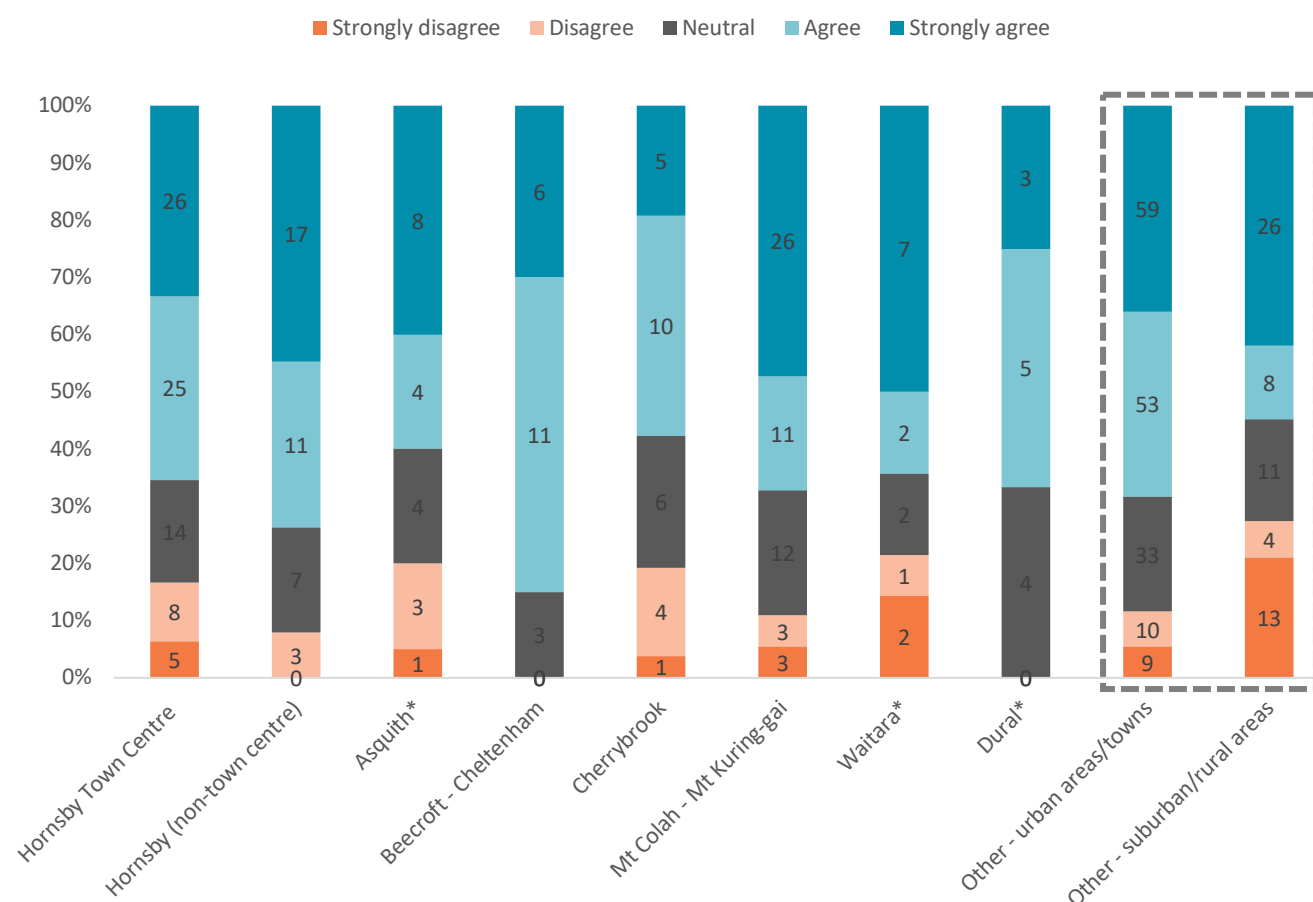


Figure 8 below indicates that support for the concept of a concentrated housing model is not significantly affected by place of residence; i.e. it is broadly supported throughout the Shire irrespective of whether or not residents are from town centres or suburban/rural areas. The graph also indicates a relatively large number of people who are neutral as to their support for the concentrated housing model. This is consistent with the overall engagement findings. Judging from the qualitative comments to the survey, it appears the neutral stance reflects a conditional support for the concentrated housing model (i.e. under proviso that appropriate infrastructure will support housing).

Figure 8 – Concentrated housing model by location (online survey)

To what extent do you agree that Hornsby Shire's growth should be concentrated in the main centres and close to transport?
- by location (n=489; excludes out of area)



NOTES

* small sample size and that the last two columns are groupings of suburbs and hence have higher participation rates.

'Other – urban/towns' and 'Other – suburban/rural areas' indicate suburbs that have been grouped together for ease of reference (as there are 22 suburbs in the Local Government Area).

HOUSING CHOICE

The question of housing choice reflected attitudes to higher and mixed density. This subject appeared to be more divisive than the question of concentrated housing model (though there are obvious overlaps between the two lines of questioning).

The analysis of the online survey and Summit voting found:

- The online survey showed a near equal split with 37% supporting greater housing choice in Hornsby Shire; 38% being against; and 25% being neutral or undecided. (Figure 9)
- The Summit voting activity showed an overwhelming positive attitude to greater housing choice, with 80% indicating overall support and only 5% being neutral or undecided. (Figure 10)

These results, and the reasons behind them, are discussed in further detail in the themed sections of this report as well as in the section on Implications for the LSPS (pages 52 and 53)

Discussed in more detail in the Liveable section, the mixed views on housing density were consistent throughout the engagement; the voting results from the Summit appear inconsistent with overall – and strong – engagement findings and conversations with the community.

The responses could indicate that the Summit voting results were influenced by the overall debate around environmental sustainability.

Figure 9: Housing choice (online survey)

To what extent do you agree that Hornsby Shire needs more housing choice? (n=508)

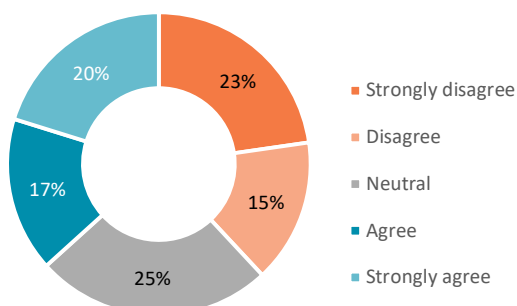


Figure 10: Housing choice (Summit)

To what extent do you agree with the statement: "In 2040, Hornsby Shire has a mix of housing choice for all ages and abilities"? (n=181)

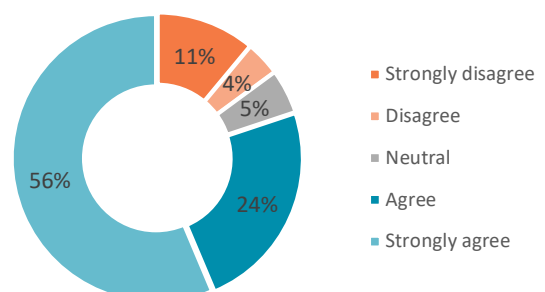
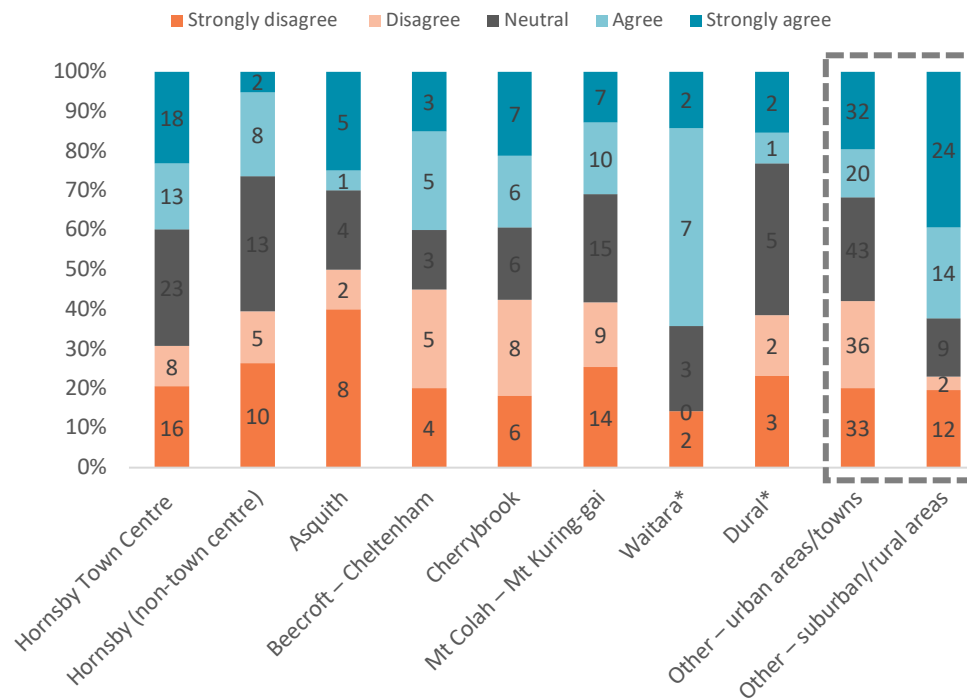


Figure 11 below indicates that participants who live suburban or rural areas are generally more supportive (and less neutral) of greater housing choice than their urban counterparts.

Figure 11: Housing choice by location (online survey)

To what extent do you agree that Hornsby Shire needs more housing choice? – by location (n=496; excludes out of area)



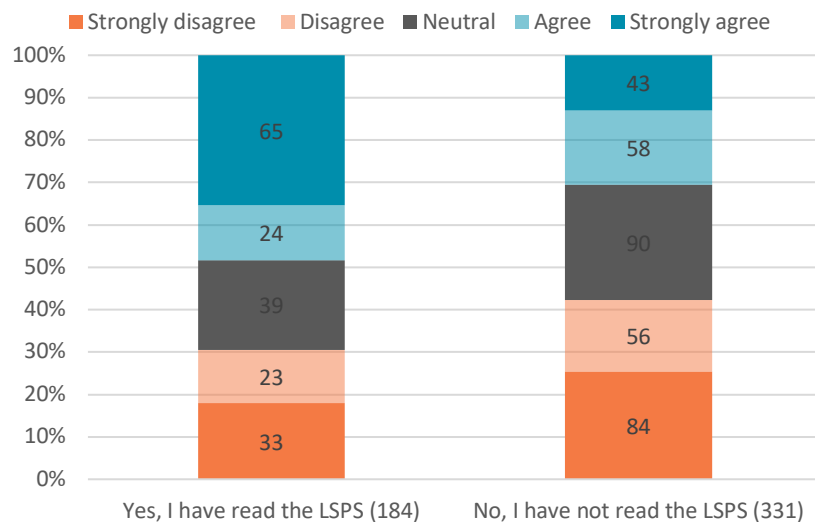
NOTES

* small sample size and that the last two columns are groupings of suburbs and hence have higher participation rates.

'Other – urban/towns' and 'Other – suburban/rural areas' indicate suburbs that have been grouped together for ease of reference (as there are 22 suburbs in the Local Government Area).

Figure 12 below indicates a stronger support for greater housing choice amongst the 184 survey respondents who had read the LSPS compared to those (331) who had not read the document.

Figure 12: Housing choice by familiarity with the LSPS housing model (online survey)



To what extent do you agree that Hornsby Shire's growth should be concentrated in the main centres and close to transport? - by location (n=515; excludes out of area)

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Environmental sustainability was an underlying theme throughout the engagement. With the exception of the Youth Future Forum, there was a strong sentiment that the growth (in population and housing) should be contained in order to protect the environment.

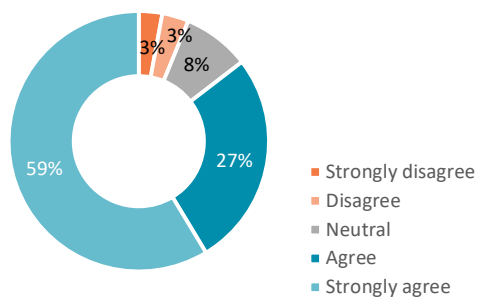
The vast majority of community members are deeply concerned about climate change and associated issues such as food security and impacts of extreme weather events.

These concerns are expressed in the results from the online survey, which found that the community overwhelmingly (86%) supports the notion that sustainability and intergenerational equity should be a top priority for Hornsby Shire Council in planning (see Figure 13).

At the Youth Future Forum, there was general agreement that this was not always a win or lose situation: that it is possible to live more sustainably and still make room for more people (if planned for appropriately). For young people at the Forum, environmental sustainability was seen not just as a high priority, but as a premise for all future planning (refer to the end of this report for the Statement from the Next Generation).

Figure 13: Environmental sustainability

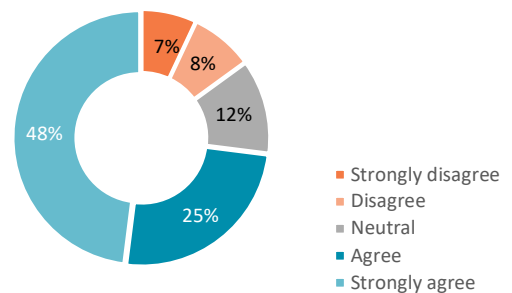
To what extent do you agree that a sustainable Shire for future generations needs to be a Hornsby Shire Council priority?
(n=515)



Similar attitudes were expressed during the Summit voting exercise, with 73% agreeing or strongly agreeing that street trees should be prioritised over car-parking.

Figure 14: Balancing trees and parking (Summit)

To what extent do you agree with the statement: "In 2040 Hornsby Shire should have more street trees than car parking"?
(n=172)



FEEDBACK ON DRAFT LSPS AND KEY PRIORITIES

The feedback on the draft LSPS document and eight Key Priorities was generally positive; throughout the engagement the general sentiment expressed was that it was a comprehensive document and a good basis for further planning. It was also appreciated as a reference for collaboration and advocacy.

The main points of critique about the LSPS document was a perception that it was somewhat ambiguous, with many of the qualitative comments in the survey noting that *“the devil is in the detail”*. There were also some concerns that the document did not go far enough; several community members commented that significant and profound change is needed. These views were mainly expressed in relation to climate change.

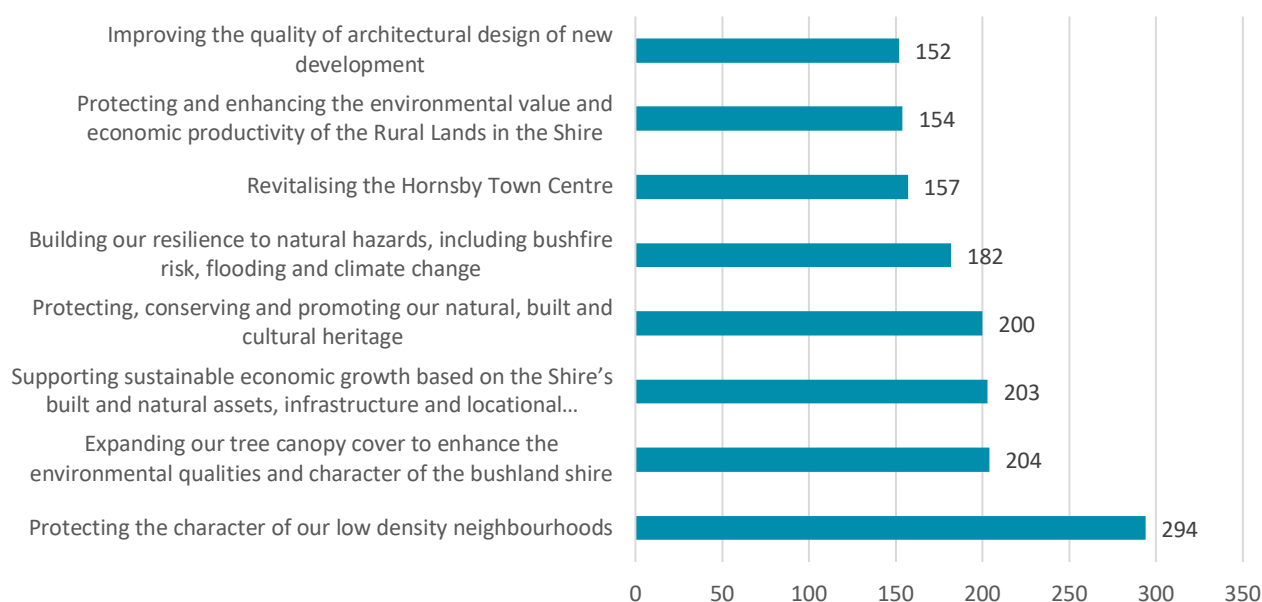
Similarly, many community members commented that while the document is a good starting point, they would like to see real action rather than words.

In terms of feedback on the eight draft Key Priorities identified in the draft LSPS, the priority on protecting the character of low-density neighbourhoods was identified as being particularly important to the community. This is illustrated in Figure 16 below. However, it should be noted that by and large, there was a fairly even spread across the eight Key Priorities and judging from the qualitative comments to the survey, there was a general sentiment that *“they are all important”*.

As shown in Figure 15 below, the fairly even spread across the Key Priorities was consistent throughout the Shire, with survey respondents rating the priorities in a similar way irrespective of where they live (but, not surprisingly, with Dural residents rating the Key Priority on Rural Lands relatively higher than other areas did).

Figure 15: Feedback on draft LSPS – Key Priorities (n=1,546 online survey)

Select your top three Key Priorities



As shown in the graph, 294 residents nominated “Protecting the character of our low-density neighbourhoods” as the Key Priority they were most supportive of. However there were differing views on what this means. For example, some participants indicated there should be no change at all to existing suburbs; and others wanted to see better opportunities for social interaction in their neighbourhoods. Some community members also commented that certain developments (namely “manor houses”) and childcare centres should be considered in keeping with the character of low-density suburbs for planning purposes.





QandA Panel at Future Living Summit.

LIVEABLE

Housing was the most divisive topic of conversations throughout the engagement, with strong and differing views on housing diversity, but shared views on the importance of the provision of infrastructure to support development, as well as agreement that the character of low-density areas should be protected.

The question of housing and density was closely linked to discussions around **transport** with many people commenting that recent developments in the Shire were not supported by adequate infrastructure. It was also felt that the new developments did not fit well with the character of the Bushland Shire identity.

Similarly, community members throughout the engagement also raised concerns with the **quality of new developments** as well as local access to shops, cafés, open spaces and community facilities that could facilitate stronger neighbourhoods and social cohesion. Linked to the question of quality was a strong desire to protect local **heritage and leafy local character of low-density housing areas**.

Some community members wanted to see a complete stop to new developments; where others expressed a need for a **greater mix of housing choice** to accommodate a need for more affordable housing. Most people of this view recognised that Council has no control over population growth. The concentrated housing model – whereby new developments are concentrated in existing urban centres and close to transport hubs – was widely supported as a way to accommodate population growth.

ENGAGEMENT THEMES

A strong sense of community spirit and belonging is essential to the wellbeing of Hornsby residents and was a core theme in all discussions about liveability – as indicated in the Wordcloud in Figure 16.

The community's aspirations to make this happen are summarised below. This summary is based on the outcomes from all engagement events.

The engagement showed **strong alignment** around the following key themes:

- Protection of low-density housing areas and leafy suburbs.
- More welcoming, green public open spaces.
- Multi-purpose community facilities, play and recreation areas.
- Better quality urban design and buildings (including set-backs, appropriate building heights).
- Walkable neighbourhoods with local shops, cafes and restaurants; though commercial enterprises, local shops play an important community building function.
- Preference for medium-density over high-density housing.
- Protection of local heritage.

Specific issues frequently raised included:

- Provision of a public high school and tertiary education in the Shire.
- Better libraries and better use of libraries.
- Improved access to transport, public spaces and housing for people with disabilities.
- Pedestrian access to the west side of Hornsby.
- Provision of facilities for young people.
- Seating and amenity throughout urban and local centres for people with impaired mobility.

"We need more housing, but we shouldn't destroy the character of the area to achieve it."
Online Survey Respondent

Figure 16: Wordcloud on bold ideas (n=998)



Diverging viewpoints included:

- Some community members strongly voiced their objection to any new developments and wanted to see Council push back on population growth. The outcomes from all engagement events suggests these sentiments are particularly strong amongst residents who live in lower density areas and/or who are early retirees.
- The majority of residents recognised that Council cannot stop population growth and were supportive of a balanced approach to managing change. They supported greater housing diversity in urban centres throughout the Shire. Some participants also wanted to see more housing diversity e.g. Dural, to give people options of ageing in place and retaining young people in the area. Many community members who were of this 'balanced view' were living in medium or high-density housing themselves.
- Some residents were passionate about seeing seismic change and paradigm shifts in planning for the future. Climate change was a strong driver in this, where young people were especially vocal on wanting to see environmental considerations being on the forefront of *all* planning.

FOCUS GROUP – OPPORTUNITIES

The focus group identified the following opportunities for liveable communities:

- Medium-density is the generally preferred housing option to accommodate population growth in a way that doesn't impact too much on the look and feel of neighbourhoods or impact on the environment.
- Well-planned density can make use of infrastructure, empty space (above train stations) and support local economy (local shops/retail).
- High quality, well-managed high-density above the Hornsby Train Station and medium-density around other suburban stations.
- Medium-density at Waitara and want it used as a precedent/local case study of good practice.
- Multi-purpose recreational space that can be used at different times of day.
- More and better use of neglected and underutilised recreation and community spaces (like pocket parks or community halls).

“Waitara is a great example of medium-density – it feels nice and I can imagine that people want to live there because of it”
Focus Group Participant



Youth Future Forum and Community Cruise Participants.

YOUTH FUTURE FORUM – OPPORTUNITIES

- Prioritise mixed-density living that encourages community building and has a smaller environmental footprint.
- Promote community diversity by providing more, and democratised use of, open public spaces.
- Incorporate community-building into residential design requirements.
- Provide welcoming and social facilities and public spaces for young people to get together.
- Preserve the current uses of Hornsby's semi-rural lands to provide lifestyle choice.



Participants at the Youth Future Forum.

SUSTAINABLE

The vast majority of community members regard environmental sustainability as fundamental to the future of the Bushland Shire and the wellbeing of its people.

It was clear throughout the engagement that the beautiful bushland, pristine waterways and rich flora and fauna of the Shire plays a defining role in the community's sense of **identity and belonging**.

Community members deeply value the natural environment and want to see it protected. They feel strongly about **protecting and enhancing tree canopy** in urban spaces and creating green grids and green spaces in the urban landscapes. This was seen not only to improve amenity and aesthetics, but also as an important aspect of **adapting to climate change and reducing heat island effects**.

Residents expressed deep concern with the effects of climate change. This concern was especially pronounced in rural areas where water shortage and extreme weather events are felt more intensely. Similarly, there was a strong desire amongst many people throughout the Shire to ensure **food security**. This was reflected in a general attitude in the community broadly to protect agricultural lands.

This intent to protect agricultural lands was also reflected in the conversations with residents in Dural and Galston; however here the issue of whether or not **subdivision** should be allowed was a divisive topic, with people calling for subdivision wanting to age in place or provide opportunities for young people to live in the area. The issue of subdivision is complex and subject to a separate engagement process for the Rural Lands Study, the insights and data from this engagement process will help inform.

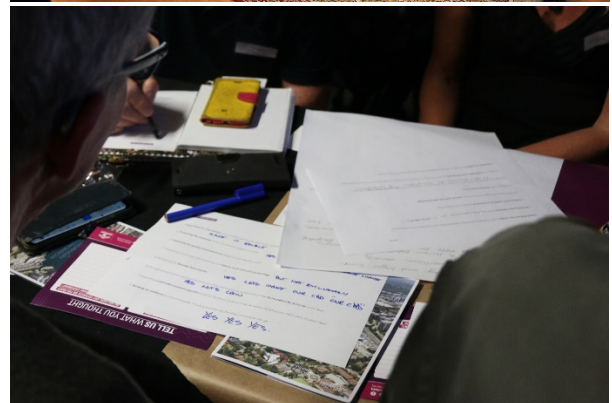
FOCUS GROUP - OPPORTUNITIES

The focus group identified the following opportunities for sustainability:

- Better protection, promotion and accessibility of green spaces, parks and reserves.
- Improve collaboration with National Parks for sustainable recreational access.
- Improve tree cover and green grid in urban centres.
- Provide vertical gardens as part of new developments.
- Lobby for incentives for renewable energy investments in private dwellings.
- Advocate for LED replacement of street lighting.
- Promote and enable composting and worm farms for community members.
- Work with local schools to create environmental awareness in the community.

"There is no Planet B"
Online Survey
Respondent

"I would challenge Council to be proactive on sustainability and climate change and excel beyond state and national objectives."
Future Living Summit
Participant



Dr Karl speaking at the Living Future Summit, a participant at the Youth Future Forum and notes at the Community Cruise.

YOUTH FUTURE FORUM – OPPORTUNITIES

- Establish stricter sustainability and resource management requirements in housing construction.
- Promote existing sustainability measures that Council have implemented.
- Create strong sustainability requirements for all new open space works.
- Facilitate greater sustainability with local environmental education and subsidies for climate initiatives.



Community Conversations.

PRODUCTIVE

Transport and infrastructure were top issues throughout the engagement. This is driven by a desire to *reduce* reliance on car travel; residents want more options for active travel and improved transport infrastructure and commuter parking so they can better access public transport.

The issue of transport is closely linked to liveability and walkable, compact communities. People want to be able to access their jobs or schools locally, get to places via public transport, and **connect with their neighbours at a local coffee shop or supermarket**.

Most Sydney-siders share the same traffic and transport woes and so it is perhaps no surprise that this came up as a top concern throughout the engagement – especially as it links to the question of population growth and development. But there are some surprising insights: for most Hornsby residents, this is not so much a matter of wanting the convenience of travelling in a car. Quite the opposite: for most, it is related to a strong desire to **get out of the car** through easy access to public transport.

Many community members cited difficulties in finding a carpark near a train station “without having to get up at 5am” – and local residents in these areas were not happy with lack of parking and traffic congestion in their street.

Access to public transport, jobs, education and social life, whether via commuter parking or feeder transport options such as active travel, has a profound impact on the rhythms and routines of peoples’ lives and, hence, significantly **impacts well-being**. This is particularly true for those people who do not – or cannot – drive a car, such as **young people and people with disabilities**.

FOCUS GROUP – OPPORTUNITIES

The focus group highlighted the following opportunities for a productive community:

- Hornsby Shire has a strong skills base of educated and trained residents. This is a good basis for developing a more diverse local economy.
- With its location between the Central Coast, CBD and proximity to the Western Sydney growth areas, Hornsby could be a hub for a lot of different types of jobs; it isn't at the moment.
- With two big hospitals located within the Shire, there is potential to enable a medical and health focussed economy, which also could provide local teaching and training opportunities.
- Focus more on public transport; *"you can never provide enough car related infrastructure and roads – the more you provide, the more cars you'll get".*
- Ensure that new developments and apartments have dedicated car share – *"it's useful and good".*

"Hornsby CBD doesn't have anything that makes it a destination. It's not an employment centre, it's not an education centre, it's not an entertainment centre."

Online Survey Respondent



Focus group discussion, a participant at the Community Cruise and attendees at the Future Living Summit.

YOUTH FUTURE FORUM – OPPORTUNITIES

- Support independence and freedom of movement through a better, more connected, diverse transport network.
- Establish Hornsby as Northern Sydney's creative industries hub.
- Provide study/work spaces that encourage collaboration and innovation.



Acknowledgment of Country at the Community Cruise.

COLLABORATIVE

Community members wanted to see greater collaboration between government, community, and private sectors on all levels.

Though collaboration was not a strong theme in the engagement, which purposefully focussed on urgent land use planning perspectives, it was nevertheless identified throughout the engagement as a **central aspect in terms of implementing the LSPS**.

The vast majority of **community members recognised the limitations of local government** to tackle entrenched and global challenges – and especially as related to climate change. The ownership of more localised government areas related to population growth, such as traffic, transport and infrastructure, were less clear to some people. There was a strong sense amongst some community members that it would be possible for Council to put a halt to any new development and population growth and an associated expectation that Council should ‘fix the roads’.

However, it was generally appreciated by most community members throughout the engagement that Council must respond to the NSW Government’s targets for housing and employment (as well as other directions of the North District Plan) and that roads, transport and infrastructure provision is a NSW Government responsibility. Here, there was a strong call for Hornsby Shire Council to **advocate on their behalf for appropriate infrastructure to support growth** and to collaborate with the Government on other issues of importance to the community.

(Note that collaboration was not a theme in the focus group workshop and has therefore not been pulled out in this section as it has for the other LSPS themes).

ENGAGEMENT THEMES

Residents want to see greater collaboration and coordination across all levels of government and across private, government and non-government sectors.

The community want to be part of this collaboration and call for ways in which they can be enabled to play a bigger role in tackling some of the key strategic challenges facing the Shire.

The engagement showed **strong alignment** around the following key themes:

- Stronger advocacy on transport and infrastructure related issues – the NSW Government should provide appropriate infrastructure to support growth before new developments are commenced.
- Partnerships with local businesses to create vibrant neighbourhoods.
- Facilitation of greater cross-cultural understanding and inclusion through collaboration with multicultural groups.
- Greater recognition of Indigenous heritage and culture through partnerships with local Aboriginal stakeholders.
- Collaboration with NSW Department of Education for better provision of education and training opportunities as well as better use of school infrastructure for after-hours community use.
- Collaboration with NSW Department of Health on enabling healthy communities through built design and infrastructure provision, as well as potentially establishing Hornsby Shire as a destination for medical and health training and industry.
- Engaging young people in decision making.

Figure 19: Wordcloud on bold ideas (n=998)



YOUTH FUTURE FORUM – OPPORTUNITIES

- Support youth culture through the establishment of a Shire Youth Centre.
- Establish a Youth Advisory Committee.
- Create spaces and events as part of a Youth Ideas Incubator initiative.
- Engage with young people on a regular basis in a similar way to the Youth Future Forum.

“There are all these people who are expressing “our views” but we don’t feel like we are listened to.”

Youth Future Forum participant

STATEMENT FROM THE NEXT GENERATION

Hornsby Shire Council invited young people (under 18s) to participate in the LSPS engagement process. They turned out in force and after two hours, summarised their values and aspirations for the future of the Shire into a statement from the next generation.

The following pages present the statement and detail values shared by the young people of Hornsby Shire Council area.



Participants at Youth Future Forum.

WE BELIEVE IN:

A culturally diverse and inclusive Shire; with a global approach to sustainability, and a local sense of community. Where the values of the people are reflected in the actions of our leaders.

Youth Future Forum Participants

WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS BY BEING...

> ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS

We will act and engage from our environmental subconsciousness; an assumed, shared understanding that any good idea has sustainability and environmental protection at its core. We recognise that change is not only inevitable, but essential to achieving greater sustainability, but refuse to consider these changes to be compromises – caring for our environment is caring for ourselves.

▷ GLOBAL THINKING

We envisage a globally connected Hornsby; a place that harnesses the power of technology, and diversity of thought, to generate and implement world class solutions. We embrace the trends of a future global green city, over the reverence for the 1/4 acre block and white picket fence. We believe living in Hornsby Shire shouldn't limit access to global economies, housing solutions, work prospects or world thought leaders.

= SOLUTIONS FOCUSED

We're prepared to be the change we want to see; and positive change requires positive solution-focussed mindsets. Access to global solutions fuels our optimism to generate changes that are a win-win for the environment; finite land and resources present an opportunity for us to rethink how we create welcoming and social spaces. We crave community spaces, and future employment prospects that allow us to collaborate and implement our ideas.

+ COMPASSIONATE

We acknowledge that diversity of thought is the road to generating better solutions, and compassion is the essential vehicle to getting there. We must utilise the power of diversity and collaboration to create better, healthier communities. Our exposure to new ideas has been broad since day one, and we believe compassion should be a guiding principle in planning for everyone's future.

Δ MOBILE & FLEXIBLE

We believe quality living is directly related to choice and access; and an inclusive community requires a mix of housing, transport, employment and entertainment options that cater to all, regardless of age, ability or mobility. Freedom of movement and options for a meaningful life are fundamental aspects of individual independence and well-being. Future Hornsby will provide for every member of its diverse community, today and into the future.

OVERVIEW OF SUBMISSIONS

Hornsby Shire Council received 99 written submissions on the draft LSPS offering in-depth local knowledge, technical expertise, and specific suggestions for future land use planning.

This section provides an overview of the key themes raised in the submissions; a snapshot of topics raised across the Shire; and an overview of particular issues and opportunities identified by different stakeholder groups. Key stakeholder groups included community members; Government agencies; not-for profit organisations; and commercial interests (property owners and business).

The 99 submissions provided approximately 500 pages of detailed feedback. This is testimony to the level of insight provided by local knowledge-holders and technical experts and will help inform Council land use planning beyond the finalisation of the LSPS.

OVERVIEW OF SUBMISSIONS THEMES

The following themes have been identified through an analysis of the submissions. These themes are consistent with other engagement activities detailed within this report. Some themes (such as affordable housing, Hornsby Town Centre and rural lands) figure more prominently in the submissions than in the rest of the engagement. have emerged as stronger in relative terms though the submissions.

40 Housing

- Housing was a strong theme in the submissions with particular focus on density, affordability, accessibility and inclusion.
- Overall, the majority of submissions (except some commercial interests) expressed opposition to high-density living across the Shire, and indicated a general preference for medium density living
- All submissions on housing agreed that successful delivery of greater housing mix was dependent upon provision of appropriate infrastructure such as public transport, parking and road/traffic management measures.
- There was strong support for the concept of a '30 minute city'
- Affordable housing to address issues such as housing stress and homelessness was proposed by non-government organisations as well as government agencies as one of the most important housing issues to be addressed by Council, citing research to show that this is an area that requires strong planning intervention as the market will not regulate itself to this end and it leaves the most vulnerable demographic groups exposed to significant health and wellbeing risks).

34 Economy

- Submissions provided detailed comment regarding opportunities for growing, diversifying and improving the local economy
- There was strong agreement across all submissions that a thriving local economy significantly contributes to vibrancy and social cohesion
- Tourism opportunities across rural and river areas was identified as an opportunity for improvement and expansion
- Many submissions emphasised opportunities for expanding and leveraging the medical and professional sectors
- Some submissions wanted to see specific measures to enable and support self-employed enterprises
- Government agency submissions were especially concerned about ensuring better social and educational infrastructure to support the needs of the whole community into the future
- Issues related to economic growth and town centre development broadly came out stronger in the submissions relative to other engagement activities

32 Resilience

- Many submissions detailed a shared concern for the micro and macro impacts resulting from climate change.
- Submissions from government agencies and community members called for strategies to improve resilience – particularly in terms of reducing urban heat, providing shade and trees, and mitigating against natural hazards
- These concerns were consistent with those raised in the engagement overall, and particularly from participants living in rural areas.

31 Rural lands

- The mixed views expressed through the submissions are consistent with other engagement activities.
- The main issues relate subdivision, with some submissions calling for better opportunities for subdivision to allow greater population diversity in rural areas (e.g. ageing in place) as well as economic potential in face of a decline in the agricultural sector. Other submissions voiced strong concerns about subdivision, citing the need to preserve local food production.
- Approximately one third of all submissions expressed concern about the future of rural lands. Proportionately, this theme figured more prominently in the written submissions than in other engagement activities.

29 Environmental preservation

- Overall, submissions expressed a fundamental need to protect the unique bushland and waterways of the Shire
- Greater environmental protection was mentioned as a top planning priority for the future.
- These findings are consistent with other engagement activities.

SNAPSHOT OF LOCALITY BASED THEMES

A snapshot of how these themes were expressed across the Shire is provided in Figure 20 below. This map is intended as a high-level overview for easy comparison of how submissions differed based on their geographic reference and location; these headlines aim to highlight differences in emphasis in various locations rather than represent a summary of residents' views in each area.

In general terms, rural areas (such as Galston and Dural) called for greater diversity in housing and economy – but not at the expense of local character or the environment. Galston residents in particular were interested in a vibrant village centre and 'family vibe'. All residents of rural areas

expressed strong concerns about climate change, water shortage, and natural hazards (especially bushfires).

Similarly, residents in urban centres expressed a need for revitalised town centres and emphasised the need for better infrastructure (especially commuter parking, public transport connections and active travel options). Public open spaces and also local retail were highlighted as being essential to social cohesion.

Residents and visitors to Hornsby Town Centre emphasised the need for greater vibrancy and night-time economy and also expressed concern with concentrating all new developments within the town centre (particularly in regard to high rise development).

Figure 20: Snapshot of submission themes as related to specific places within the Shire



COMMUNITY SUBMISSIONS

It was clear from the level of detail in the community submissions that residents are passionate about their community and want to be involved in planning for their future – especially in regard to environmental protection as well as creating great neighbourhoods.

Overview of community submissions:

- 65 individual submissions
- 6 submissions from local resident groups
- 3 submissions from community associations

“The need for outdoor open spaces is obvious to all. We know that at least 25% of the apartments constructed will be occupied by families with children”
Community submission

“We strongly support maintaining and enhancing a clean, leafy, diverse environment that actively seeks ways to improve environmental sustainability.” Community group submission

Key issues frequently raised include:

- Strong aspiration for **protecting the natural environment and biodiversity** of the Shire; this is a core, shared value of the community
- Strong support for enhancement of **tree canopy cover** (including protection of mature trees), and greening of urban landscapes
- Concern about impacts of development on **character and amenity** of low-density areas
- Concern about the **effects of climate change** and calls for better resource management and measures to improve resilience – particularly in response to risks of bushfires
- Interest in **tourism** opportunities, especially in rural areas
- Support for **walkable, connected communities** with local fresh food shops and cafes
- Desire to protect **local heritage and Aboriginal heritage** of the Shire
- Support for intention to support small **businesses and enable self-employed enterprises**
- Expressed need to support the **wellbeing** of vulnerable demographic groups and namely young people, seniors and people from multicultural backgrounds
- Some support for **greater (appropriate) housing choice** within the Shire to accommodate diverse community needs (but not at the expense of existing amenity and environment and under provision of adequate infrastructure, parking and transport options)
- Concern about **seniors housing** in rural areas

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS SUBMISSIONS

Government agencies and not-for-profit organisations offered detailed technical advice, research and specific recommendations to guide the finalisation of the LSPS.

Overview:

- 5 submissions from government agencies
- 8 submissions from not-for-profit organisations

Key issues frequently raised include:

- Strong support for the concept of **walkable, connected** centres ('30 minute city') to support social cohesion and active lifestyles
- Strong support for **greater housing diversity (and adaptable housing)** to accommodate diverse and evolving needs of the community; and particularly in regards to accommodating the ageing population, young people, and young families
- Support for **spread of housing** choice outside of Hornsby Town Centre, and around existing transport and infrastructure
- Strong support for **stronger planning intervention to support affordable housing** for low-income earners
- Concern about effects of climate change on health and wellbeing and identified need for **shaded, safe and green** public open spaces and play areas
- Support for a **diverse local economy**
- Support for stronger measures to encourage **greater resource efficiency** (namely water and energy)
- Offer of advice and collaboration to develop **inclusive and sustainable** guidelines for the built environment
- Call for Council to collaborate with the local **Aboriginal community** and Metropolitan Land Council on strategic land use planning

COMMERCIAL SUBMISSIONS (INCLUDING LANDOWNERS AND BUSINESSES)

Substantial and detailed submissions mainly regarding Hornsby Town Centre were made by landowners and businesses, which all will be considered on their merits as part of Council's due process as well as the Hornsby Town Centre Review.

Overview

- 12 submissions from property owners (or their representative), developers and the business community

Key issues frequently raised include:

- Strong support for better and **appropriate infrastructure** provision as a prerequisite for growth (namely in regards to transport options and commuter parking)
- Support for **revitalised town centres** (with particular reference to Hornsby Town Centre and Cherrybrook)
- Support for the concept of '30 minute city'
- Support for **rezoning to allow higher density**
- Concern about **lack of certainty** – in the short term as related to uncertainties around timelines for the completion of the Hornsby Town Centre Review
- Interest in collaborating with Council in enabling a **vibrant local economy** (including night-time economy)



IMPLICATIONS FOR THE LSPS

Hornsby Shire Council is grateful for the time and insights 1,900 people have contributed throughout the eight week long exhibition of the draft LSPS. Along with the scientific studies, the engagement forms a solid evidence base for future planning.

This section provides a brief summary of community conversations and stakeholder input in relation to key aspects of the LSPS, and on this basis offers suggestions for further consideration when finalising the LSPS. The suggestions also take into account best available science, good land use planning principles, regional planning direction, and legislative requirements².

The suggestions keep in with Council's overall intention with the LSPS: providing for the evolving needs and aspirations of the community in the long term; and addressing the challenges and opportunities identified in the community's plan for their future – in *the Your Vision, Your Future - Community Strategic Plan 2018 - 2028*.

The section is structured into the LSPS themes and provides further detail on the key topics raised by the community as related to:

- Overall views on the LSPS
- Liveable (housing; general land use; public open space, recreation, play and community facilities)
- Sustainable (climate change and resource management; resilience; rural lands; and environmental protection)
- Productive (transport, traffic, parking; active travel; economy, employment, education; and town centres)
- Collaboration

² The Local Government Charter (S9, Local Government Act 1993) prescribes that all councils plan for inclusive, sustainable communities that have particular regard to the needs of children and promotes the principles of multiculturalism. The Charter seeks to ensure that the needs of the whole community - and especially vulnerable groups - are considered in long term planning for the future. See Appendix 1

While there were strong unifying themes throughout the engagement, there were also areas of great diversity in views and attitudes within the community.

At its core, it appeared that the main source of differing views related to attitudes to change (namely in regards to population growth). Most community members and stakeholders were of the view that change is inevitable and called on the Council to plan ahead proactively, holistically and collaboratively. On the other hand, some community members strongly expressed they did not want to see Hornsby Shire change any further and called on Council to put a complete stop to all new development or increases in population.

Feedback on the LSPS document overall is outlined below:

-

LIVEABLE

Housing

The topic of housing was complex, detailed and quite divisive. Discussions are described at some length below to reflect the diversity of views.

The community expressed diverse opinions regarding housing provision across Hornsby Shire falling into three main groups; some people wanted to see a complete stop to all new development (for example 38% of online survey respondents were against greater housing choice - see page 25). Some wanted to see some diversity in housing to accommodate a growing community contained within Hornsby Town Centre in order to protect the character of lower density areas (e.g. 73% of Summit respondents in the voting activity supported the concentrated housing model, see page 23). Others again encouraged Council to proactively plan for greater housing diversity (including affordable housing) throughout the Shire and not just in Hornsby Town Centre (as indicated in the online survey where 37% of respondents supported greater housing choice, see page 25). This latter view was strongly supported by some local residents in urban centres such as Cherrybrook and Beecroft (as per comments from the online survey) as well as key agencies such as NSW Health, Shelter NSW, and benevolent organisations (highlighted in the submissions).

Discussion

Arguments in support of greater housing diversity included the need to accommodate key workers and a sustainable local economy; attract and retain young people and skilled migrants to the area; provide for people with disabilities and seniors (and not just in the context of Rural Lands); reduce the dependency on cars (through better local economy and public transport); enable walkable, vibrant local neighbourhoods; and reduce the overall environmental footprint of housing. Young people and seniors who were planning on downsizing were especially passionate about providing greater housing diversity.

Community members and stakeholders who were in favour of greater housing diversity outside of Hornsby Town Centre cited the need to ensure the liveability of the town centre itself by minimising high rise developments, as well as a desire for more housing choice in other areas outside of Hornsby Town Centre to accommodate a variety of housing needs across all demographics and preferences (as indicated in the online survey with 66% of respondents being in support - see page 23. This was also shown in comments from the Community Conversations/Pop-Ups, Community Cruise Workshop and Focus Group).

People who were against greater housing diversity cited the need to protect both the natural and built environment from the impacts of an increased population (comments from the Community Conversations/Pop-Ups, Online Survey and Summit). Recent developments in areas such as Mt Colah were frequently used as examples of poor-quality building design and loss of local character. People also frequently raised concerns about urban heat island effect in newly developed areas (comments from the online survey and submissions analysis).

Agreement on need for better infrastructure

Regardless of whether or not greater housing diversity was supported, there was strong consensus across the whole engagement that any new housing should be delivered with adequate infrastructure and built to high standards in terms of quality, longevity and sustainability (as highlighted in comments from the Focus Group, Community Conversations/Pop-Ups and Community Cruise Workshop). In particular, there were concerns that 'station centres' such as Cherrybrook, Beecroft and Cheltenham have insufficient infrastructure in place to support commuting traffic and a growing population in those places.

It was also generally agreed the character of low-density areas should be protected (but there were differing views on what that would mean), and medium-density housing should be favoured over high-density developments in providing greater housing choice (this came across all comments throughout the engagement events, with few exceptions).

Feedback on LSPS document regarding housing

Some community members and submissions from government agencies expressed confusion about what was seen as inconsistencies within the LSPS in the relations between the Key Priority to protect the character of low-density neighbourhoods, the intention to concentrate growth in Hornsby Town Centre, and the intention to better provide for ‘the missing middle’ and ‘30 min city’ in urban centres throughout the Shire.

Key stakeholders raised concerns regarding what they saw as the lack of specific measures or stronger commitment to address affordable housing, as zoning is regarded as an insufficient mechanism to provide affordable housing. These stakeholders argued urgent action is needed to better accommodate the needs of the whole community, especially low-income earners, key workers, seniors and young people. These agencies recommended the LSPS include commitments to changes to planning mechanisms and controls that can enable affordable housing (comments from the submissions).

Similarly, feedback from key agencies suggested the LSPS should include specific reference to accommodate the growing demand for housing to meet the needs of an ageing population. They pointed to a preference for medium-density and adaptable housing in central and accessible locations over aged care facilities in rural areas and urged Council to include planning commitments to this effect (as per comments from the Community Conversations/Pop-Ups and submissions).

There was strong support for Council’s initiatives and support within the LSPS to protect the region’s heritage.

Implications for the LSPS:

- Consider strengthening the LSPS to more explicitly and consistently encourage greater housing diversity to meet the needs of the whole community across the Shire (and not just in Hornsby Town Centre).
- Consider strengthening the LSPS to prioritise social and affordable housing in appropriate locations throughout the Shire. Key considerations could include seeking exemption from SEPP70 to allow Council to adopt an Affordable Housing Contribution Scheme, establish guidelines for Voluntary Planning Agreements and Section 7.11 contributions in regards to affordable housing, and setting targets for provision of affordable housing.
- Review wording of Liveable Priority 2 to clarify design guidelines are to have regard to the principles of ecologically sustainable development (including fire protection), as well as universal design principles to increase dwelling versatility. The latter encourages the adaptability of housing to meet the needs of an ageing population, and people with disability throughout the Shire.
- Consider the development of an action within Liveable Priority 6 to investigate planning mechanisms that encourage seniors and aged care housing in safe, accessible and socially connected locations throughout the Shire.



General land use

There was strong consensus that neighbourhoods should be welcoming, walkable, well-connected via active travel infrastructure, green, and enable social interaction and play (as emphasised in comments from all the engagements events). Many highlighted the need for local shops (namely fresh food shops and cafes) in urban centres. This was regarded as important not only to reduce dependency on car related travel, but as an aspect of strengthening social cohesion. This point came out particularly strongly in conversations with people from non-English speaking backgrounds, and in newly developed areas such as Mt Colah (shown in comments from the Community Conversations/Pop-Ups).

Community members generally shared concerns about the quality of the built environment (and lacking incentives and controls in the industry). They felt that recent developments were poorly designed and constructed and would like to see improvements to set-backs (as per comments from the Community Conversations/Pop-Ups); improved opportunities and incentives for sustainable building design; and greening of buildings and urban landscapes (reported by 102 bold ideas).

Greening of urban centres were seen to have utmost importance in future planning in the context of climate change and urban heat island effects. This was regarded as a broader issue than improving urban tree canopy (as shown in comments from the online survey and submissions).

The prospect of value sharing was identified in the submissions as an urgent and important opportunity for Council to pursue through a range of avenues (e.g. Voluntary Planning Agreements) and not just Development Contributions. This was seen as a key aspect in ensuring the financial viability of social infrastructure provision, as well as a matter of principle of equity (suggested in comments from the submissions).

Implications for the LSPS:

- Consider strengthening the concept of the '30-minute city' (e.g. walkable neighbourhoods) within the LSPS by including this as a priority or Key Priority.
- Review the Liveable Priority 4 and Liveable Action 9 to include other means of value sharing (e.g. Voluntary Planning Agreements).

Public open space, recreation, play and community facilities

The community agreed on the importance of greater access to diverse and multi-functional public spaces across the Shire to enhance wellbeing and social cohesion. Many recognised that existing public space is fairly limited and that there are competing interests for its use. They suggested prioritising versatile and multi-purpose use of public spaces to encourage greater community participation and interaction (as shown in comments from the Focus Group, Community Conversations/Pop-Ups and 136 bold ideas).

Specific suggestions were put forward to provide for dedicated space for youth (this was suggested by all age-groups and demographics); arts and creative places; community gardens; sports and recreation; and communal open spaces for residents of medium/high-density living (shown in comments from the Community Conversations/Pop-Ups). The community and stakeholders also expressed a need for improved amenity of public spaces, especially in regards to seating, shading, and cooling (e.g. water features and water play) (reported by 63 bold ideas).

There was also strong agreement on the importance of welcoming, shaded and creative play facilities. This point was seen as especially important in the context of increasing influence of digital play amongst children.

Overall, public spaces were regarded as being essential to wellbeing and of increasing importance in times of greater scarcity of land. There was a call on developers to provide more and better public space (see above regarding value sharing). There was also a call for Council to work with other landowners (e.g. schools) to increase access to open space (as emphasised in comments from the Focus Group).

It was generally felt that the LSPS covers these aspects.

Implications for the LSPS:

- Consider including an action under Liveable Priority 3 to identify opportunities for co-location of facilities, joint use agreements of social infrastructure and community facilities with schools.

SUSTAINABLE

Climate change and resource management (e.g. energy, water, waste)

A majority of community members and stakeholders throughout the engagement expressed the view that climate change should be an overarching priority for future planning. They called for strong Council leadership and collaboration with the community and all levels of government (neighbouring councils, state and federal) on the issue and wanted to see stronger commitments within the LSPS (86% of online survey respondents, and comments during the focus group).

However, some of community members disagreed and questioned the existence of climate change and/or felt this area was not a local government responsibility.

Regardless of views on climate change, there was broad support for the Key Priorities of expanding the tree canopy cover (Key Priority 1), protecting and conserving natural and cultural heritage (Key Priority 4), and building resilience to natural hazards (Key Priority 8) (see Figure 15 on page 28).

However, many community members expressed the view that these priorities did not go far enough in terms of explicitly addressing climate change. In particular, many commented that climate change should not be expressed as a subset of building resilience to natural hazards. A majority of community members felt climate change should figure more prominently - and earlier - in the body of the LSPS (as per comments from the Community Conversations/Pop-Ups, online survey and submissions). For young people in particular, climate change was seen as being an issue of higher order and one that should be considered in *all* aspects of planning, not as a separate issue on par with other issues (emphasised in comments from the Youth Future Forum).

Community members generally agreed on the importance of ensuring better water and waste recycling measures (reported by 114 bold ideas). This strong emphasis on the importance of water management and recycling (e.g. enabling and promoting water tanks on private properties) was especially prominent in the rural areas.

Implications for the LSPS:

- Consider identifying climate change and carbon emissions reduction as a separate Key Priority and ensure better visibility of its prominence within the LSPS.
- Review Sustainable Priority 9 to potentially incorporate an action to investigate planning controls that enable individual recycling and resource management (particularly onsite water management and renewable energy).

Resilience and sustainability

Community members were deeply concerned about the effects of climate change, and the exposure this entails to shocks such as natural hazards (namely bushfires) and stresses (such as water shortages, high energy costs and reliability).

Natural hazard risks - especially bushfires - was of deep concern to the community with many describing these risks as 'scary'. Some community members wanted to see a stronger reference to disaster preparedness and resilience within the LSPS where 17% of online survey respondents selected this a top priority for improving quality living. Some community members observed a link between provision of affordable housing and resilience; that if key workers such as nurses and firefighters cannot afford to live in Hornsby Shire, this leaves the Shire especially vulnerable to natural hazards (as per comments from the submissions).

Community members also expressed strong concerns about urban heat island effects and the impacts of these on health and wellbeing (with particular concerns raised in regard to vulnerable groups such as seniors). They were strongly supportive of the LSPS priority to mitigate the effects of urban heat (reported by 99 bold ideas).

Some community members and stakeholders wanted to see the LSPS incorporate a map of key evacuation points within the Shire; or a commitment to publish such a map.

Implications for the LSPS:

- Include a map of key evacuation points and heat refuges (e.g. places where people can seek shelter in the face of extreme weather events) within the Shire in the LSPS. Consideration could be given to using libraries or other air-conditioned community hubs.
- Consider clarifying in the body of the LSPS that when considering 'the right trees for the right locations (page 8), consideration will also be given to identifying trees that will not be fire accelerants.

Rural lands

There is a strong consensus amongst community members that Hornsby Shire maintains its rural character, though the meaning of 'rural character' was not expressed clearly in the engagement. There is a strong, underlying sense of uncertainty regarding the future of rural lands within the community (emphasised in comments from the Community Conversations/Pop-Ups and submissions). The status of the Rural Lands Study as a study rather than a strategy was questioned by some rural residents who wanted to see clearer – and more urgent – direction in terms of land use in rural lands.

The issue of subdivision of the rural lands was divisive; some rural residents strongly supported subdivision, citing the need to accommodate population diversity, and opportunities to age in place as their main reasons. Other community members (from rural areas as well as broader community) expressed equally strong views against subdivision mainly on the grounds of needing to protect agricultural land and local food production (shown in comments from the Community Conversations/Pop-Ups and 67 bold ideas).

Many rural residents also expressed the view that the rural areas are in decline with lack of infrastructure especially through the gorge. Most rural residents wanted to revitalise the area and support local food producers, as well as encourage tourism and outreach into the area (highlighted in comments from the Community Conversations/Pop-Ups and submissions).

Community members and stakeholders were generally wary of seniors housing in rural areas. They preferred to see the need for seniors housing accommodated through greater housing choice throughout the Shire rather than as separate enclaves in rural areas (shown in the submissions). There was strong support for Council's consideration of seniors housing within the Housing Strategy and related technical studies.

Implications for the LSPS:

- Continue the communication and engagement with the community regarding the Rural Lands Study.

Environmental Protection

There was strong consensus amongst community members across the Shire that the natural environment is a unique asset that should be protected for generations to come (comments from the Youth Future Forum, online survey and Summit). There is wide support for the LSPS priorities of protecting Hornsby's waterways, as well as sustainable access to national parks (highlighted in comments from the Focus Group).

As mentioned above, there is broad support for the Key Priority of expanding the tree canopy cover (Key Priority 1) (204 votes the online survey, see Figure 15 page 28). Some community members suggested this Key Priority should not just be about the quantity of cover (expansion), but also about the quality of cover. Some community members were worried that mature trees might still be at risk if the Key Priority is not explicit enough about the quality of cover (shown in comments from the Focus Group, Community Conversations/Pop-Ups and submissions).

Similarly, there was strong support for the Key Priority to protect and conserve natural and cultural heritage (Key Priority 4) (200 votes on the online survey see Figure 15 page 28). However, it was felt that this priority could go further in enhancing rather than just protecting and conserving what is already there.

There was a general understanding that transport was not a Council responsibility and many expressed appreciation of Council's resolve to collaborate with the NSW Government to resolve the issues.

Implications for the LSPS:

- Consider strengthening Key Priority 1 to protect mature trees while expanding tree canopy cover.
- Review Key Priority 4 with a view to achieve outcomes beyond maintaining the status quo (e.g. *enhancing, protecting and conserving and promoting our natural, built and cultural heritage*).



PRODUCTIVE

Transport, parking and traffic

There was strong agreement amongst community members that appropriate infrastructure provision is essential to any future planning and development and wanted to see Council take a strong lead on this in advocating on their behalf (this came through strongly in all engagement activities and from all stakeholders). This sentiment was particularly strong in Cherrybrook, where local residents expressed frustrations with the lack of infrastructure to support the new metro station (as per comments from the Community Conversations/Pop-Ups as well as online comments from Cherrybrook residents).

There was a strong sentiment in the community conversations that more commuter car parking is required, particularly around stations. Feeder traffic (e.g. buses) to train stations was also seen as vital in planning for the future. Some community members raised concerns about the lack of public transport options to the South West Growth Area (e.g. Parramatta) (shown in comments from the Community Cruise Workshop, Community Cruise Workshop and online survey).

The community also believes that NorthConnex provides Council with the opportunity to develop a place plan in Pennant Hills focusing on the revitalisation of the town centre and the Pennant Hills Road Corridor between Pennant Hills and Thornleigh (as per comments from the submissions).

Implications for the LSPS:

- Consider including confirmation of advocacy and collaboration on infrastructure provision and commuter parking as a Key Priority in the LSPS.

Active travel

The community has voiced broad support for the concept of a '30-minute city' (walkable and connected urban centres) as expressed in the main body of the LSPS. The community reported this as an effective approach to reducing Hornsby's dependency on private vehicles while also strengthening social cohesion at a neighbourhood level (comments from the Community Cruise Workshop and 92 bold ideas). This concept is also strongly supported by key agencies (comments from the submissions).

Many community members commented that active travel in the form of recreation or commuting contributes to both individual and environmental health (highlighted in comments from the Youth Future Forum and Community Conversations/Pop-Ups). Some community members specifically reported the necessity of more cycle paths that connect town centres and surrounding areas together in order to promote residents commuting as well as tourism in the Shire (shown in comments from the Community Conversations/Pop-Ups).

Implications for the LSPS:

- Consider promoting the '30-minute city' aspiration in the LSPS by including walkable, connected communities as a Key Priority.



Economy, employment, education

The community generally expressed strong support for the intention of stimulating the local economy and jobs growth with many identified opportunities in education, health and tourism (as per comments from the Youth Future Forum, Community Conversations/Pop-Ups and Summit). Young people in particular were supportive of establishing Hornsby Shire as an employment and education destination and were especially keen to see creative hubs and co-working spaces in the area (highlighted in comments from the Youth Future Forum and submissions).

Many community members also called for more local shops in neighbourhood centres. They felt that local fresh food shops and cafes not only are convenient and reduce the need for car travel but serve a significant social function in providing spaces for chance connections (shown in comments from the Community Cruise Workshop).

Community interest in tourism was mainly expressed by Brooklyn and Galston residents who were eager to diversifying their local economy and promote the natural landscapes and recreation opportunities more broadly (comments from the Community Cruise Workshop).

The LSPS intention of strengthening and diversifying the local economy was generally supported throughout the engagement (as per comments from the Focus Group and Community Cruise Workshop). In particular, many highlighted the need to better provide for self-employed business.

Implications for the LSPS:

- Consider amending Productive Priority 5 to also support co-working and working from home options through appropriate digital infrastructure to meet the needs of self-employed residents.

Town centres

The majority of community members and stakeholders expressed strong support for the Hornsby Town Centre revitalisation project, but some were apprehensive about the prospect of too much high-rise development concentrated in one place (as discussed in the Liveable section above, see page 30). Many community members also expressed support for the night-time economy, public art, as well as youth activities in town centres across the Shire, not only in Hornsby Town Centre (comments from the Community Conversations/Pop-Ups, Youth Future Forum and 42 bold ideas).

Key stakeholders with commercial interests in the Hornsby Town Centre appreciated the intentions of the project in that it would create greater certainty (as per comments from the submissions). However, there was some confusion about the exact location of the study area for the Hornsby Town Centre Review, as well as timing on the project.

Implications for the LSPS:

- Consider including a map of the Hornsby Town Centre study area in the LSPS.



COLLABORATION

The community expressed strong views that they would like to collaborate with Council on an ongoing basis as the LSPS is progressively updated (this came across in the comments from all engagements events). Young people were especially keen to be involved in planning for their own future.

Community members and stakeholders also supported Council's commitment to collaborate with local businesses, neighbouring Councils, NSW Government, Federal Government, and government agencies on complex issues including housing, transport, infrastructure, resilience and climate change (as highlighted in the submissions and 57 bold ideas).

The community also reported support for Council to work with Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on planning and infrastructure provision, especially in regard to climate change mitigation and adaption.

Community members also endorsed Council's resolve to work with Department of Education regarding potential use of school facilities (highlighted in comments from the Summit and online comments).

Many government agencies, including non-government organisations extended their support to Council and offered their technical assistance in future planning – particularly around healthy environments, resource management (water management and recycling) and housing (emphasised in the submissions).

Implications for the LSPS:

- Consider including a priority to engage with local young people in a meaningful way and on a regular basis.
- Consider including a priority to implement Community Participation Plans to continue engagement with the community on planning matters.



APPENDIX

Local Government Act (1993) S8 - The council's charter

(1) A council has the following charter:

- to provide directly or on behalf of other levels of government, after due consultation, adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities for the community and to ensure that those services and facilities are managed efficiently and effectively
- to exercise community leadership
- to exercise its functions in a manner that is consistent with and actively promotes the principles of multiculturalism
- to promote and to provide and plan for the needs of children
- to properly manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment of the area for which it is responsible, in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the principles of ecologically sustainable development
- to have regard to the long term and cumulative effects of its decisions
- to bear in mind that it is the custodian and trustee of public assets and to effectively plan for, account for and manage the assets for which it is responsible
- to engage in long-term strategic planning on behalf of the local community
- to exercise its functions in a manner that is consistent with and promotes social justice principles of equity, access, participation and rights
- to facilitate the involvement of councillors, members of the public, users of facilities and services and council staff in the development, improvement and co-ordination of local government
- to raise funds for local purposes by the fair imposition of rates, charges and fees, by income earned from investments and, when appropriate, by borrowings and grants
- to keep the local community and the State government (and through it, the wider community) informed about its activities
- to ensure that, in the exercise of its regulatory functions, it acts consistently and without bias, particularly where an activity of the council is affected
- to be a responsible employer.