Community-led processes to achieve local sustainability

Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program

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Overview

• About Sustainable Neighbourhoods
• Process and principles
• Sustainable Neighbourhood volunteers
• Projects and outcomes
• Future priorities
Snapshot of Lake Macquarie
About Sustainable Neighbourhoods

• Empower residents to act on local environmental sustainability issues

• Over 300 active volunteers in 15 local Sustainable Neighbourhood groups

• Local residents working together with Council support

• Local Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) identifies vision, values and actions
Program objectives

• Increase community responsibility and management for sustainable outcomes
• Protect and enhance the natural environment
• Reduce resource consumption
• Increase community resilience to natural disasters
• Build community connectedness and wellbeing
• Enable people to participate in community life
# IAP2’s Public Participation Spectrum

The IAP2 Federation has developed the Spectrum to help groups define the public’s role in any public participation process. The IAP2 Spectrum is quickly becoming an international standard.

## Increasing Impact on the Decision

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Participation Goal</th>
<th>Inform</th>
<th>Consult</th>
<th>Involve</th>
<th>Collaborate</th>
<th>Empower</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.</td>
<td>To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.</td>
<td>To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.</td>
<td>To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.</td>
<td>To place final decision making in the hands of the public.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promise to the Public</td>
<td>We will keep you informed.</td>
<td>We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.</td>
<td>We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.</td>
<td>We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.</td>
<td>We will implement what you decide.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Values

• Asset Based Community Development principles
• Shared responsibility
• Everything is possible
• Collaboration and inclusion
• Connections and relationships
Community Sustainability

Enough for everyone, forever
Sustainable Neighbourhoods Process

• Discover what we have, value, and enjoy
• Imagine what can be
• Identify opportunities for action
• Develop an action plan
• Deliver local sustainable neighbourhood vision

working well together
Sustainable Neighbourhoods Alliance

• Incorporated not-for-profit association
• Governance and legal standing
• Insurance and risk management
• Independence from Council
• Resources, capacity-building and mentoring
• Promotional support and networking
Council support

• Significant staff time and resources to establish new groups
• Direct support for projects that align with Council programs
• Staff assistance to liaise with Council processes
• Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance Secretariat
• Environmental Sustainability Grants
Reducing resource consumption
Litter and plastic pollution
Over 1400kg of litter collected since October 2014
Caring for our natural environment
Nature play projects
Impact on members

54% effective forum to raise and address local issues
44% increased community awareness of environmental issues and positive behaviours
41% local places are better cared for
33% more opportunities to get together
Impact on members

73%  genuine personal connections
70%  learn new skills
68%  feel more connected to community
65%  making a valuable contribution

“I believe strongly in community participation and in caring for the environment – both locally and globally.”

“It has been a very positive experience for me. I have learned a lot and gained new skills that I have never done before.”
Impact on Lake Macquarie City 2016-17

181 local events and activities
1,266 volunteer attendances
3,340 volunteer hours worth $100,185
7,641 participants at local events
2018-19 priorities

- Increase reach, visibility and impact in the wider community
- Continue to remove barriers to action
- More assistance with fundraising and financial management
- More coordination and collaboration among local groups
sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au
Sustainable Neighbourhoods

Neighbours working together for a sustainable future
What we value about the Rathmines Area

- the Lake and its accessibility
- our village atmosphere and sense of community
- the peace and quiet

Our vision for a sustainable Rathmines Area in 2025

A strong, connected and resilient neighbourhood where we care for our natural, historic and cultural assets and enjoy a safe, active and friendly lifestyle.

We want the Rathmines Area to be a place where:

- footpaths and shared pathways provide connectivity around our neighbourhood, and around the Lake;
- we enjoy a strong sense of community and we are connected, caring and neighbourly;
- our bushland thrives, and we understand our local ecology and resource use, and
- the former RAAF base is valued as a link to our past and an asset to our community.

Actions towards a Sustainable Rathmines Area 2015-2025

Sustainable transport

- Actively encourage use of footpaths and shared pathways to improve connectivity in, and around, the Rathmines Area.

Objective 1: Encourage a pedestrian and cycle friendly neighbourhood, and improve shared pathways.

Objective 2: Advocate to improve traffic management.

Objective 3: Investigate and advocate for electric car charge points.

Community values and unique village amenity

- We value and appreciate our neighbourhood including the place and all of the people in it.

Objective 4: Develop and encourage community activities for all ages.

Objective 5: Provide opportunities for people to connect and contribute to the neighbourhood, and create a sense of belonging and pride.

Objective 6: Investigate and develop support mechanisms for elderly or vulnerable people in the community.

Objective 7: Encourage and support community through food gardens.

Objective 8: Improve public areas for children to play safely.

Objective 9: Encourage recognition and celebration of the historical value of Rathmines.

Protecting our natural environment

- We actively care for and enjoy our bushland that supports native wildlife.

Objective 10: Maintain and enhance our bushland environment through education and encouragement of bushwalks.

Objective 11: Encourage participation in Landcare, bush regeneration, weed management and catchment management activities.

Objective 12: Manage pest animals.

Objective 13: Focus on waste management including waste education.

Objective 14: Inform and encourage residents to follow responsible pet care principles and advocate for improved off-lead areas.

Objective 15: Maintain the amenity and value of the Lake by reducing litter and organising clean-up days.