



Environmental Attitudes Engagement Results

Over the last ten months we've been chatting to you, our community, about your priorities on all things sustainability and the environment.



We collected approximately **1,000** responses via online surveys and over the phone.

We have taken all of this feedback on board and have incorporated it into our Draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

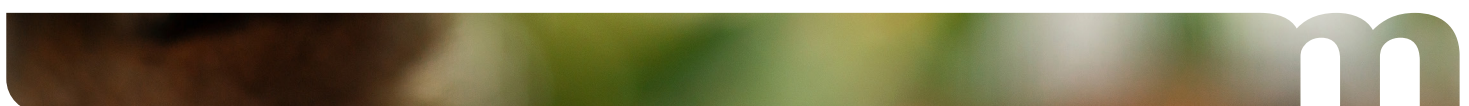
HOW THE COMMUNITY FEELS ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

There is concern about the long-term sustainability of the local natural environment and although the community were positive about their own actions, the community is less than certain that:

- Environmental issues are well handled in Maitland
- The natural environment is respected and protected
- Maitland is prepared to take advantage of economic opportunities of becoming more sustainable

ACTIONS THE COMMUNITY IS TAKING

- The majority of residents are taking a steps to minimise their impact
- With over 75% of people considering or have already taken action including ; reducing energy consumption; upgrading their lighting; installing solar; using services to reduce problem waste like chemicals, reusing old items, using water efficient devices and growing their own food



HOW RESILIENT AND PREPARED THE COMMUNITY FEELS

- 72% of people feel able to adapt to change well
- However only 63% of residents state they are prepared or very prepared to deal with natural hazards in the Maitland area, with 7% stating they are not very or not at all prepared.
- Younger residents and non-ratepayers are significantly less likely to feel prepared.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- The community took a high level of personal responsibility but ranked all levels of government above them with Council identified as the highest.

OUR COMMUNITY'S TOP ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES FOR COUNCIL INCLUDE:



Reducing illegal dumping



Improving access to resource recovery facilities



Preserving and increasing native bushland along the Hunter River and throughout the local area



Creating and preserving safe wildlife corridors



Stormwater collection and reuse



Planting trees in urban areas to make them cooler



Encouraging energy and water efficient homes and businesses



Encouraging solutions to reuse materials and reduce landfill



Use of renewable energy to power council facilities



Providing support for natural hazard preparedness

