



**CITY OF BLUE MOUNTAINS:
REPORT ON THE OUTCOMES OF
AREA COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS
Conducted in August 2016**

Prepared for Blue Mountains City Council

By IRIS Research

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the results of five Area Community Workshops facilitated by IRIS Research in association with Blue Mountains City Council, across the City of Blue Mountains in August 2016. The goal of the workshop was to inform the update of the Blue Mountains Community Strategic Plan by obtaining public input on the key values, aspirations and priorities of residents regarding the future of the Local Government Area.

Across the Local Government Area (LGA), residents participating in the workshops indicated that they highly value the Blue Mountains' natural environment, the wildlife, the bushland and the waterways of the surrounding World Heritage National Park. Of additional importance was having a strong community, which included personal connections, mutual support and community spirit. Residents also highly valued the clean fresh air, proximity to Sydney and Penrith (for shopping and infrastructure) along with the more affordable housing available in the Blue Mountains, which is rated as a great place to raise a family.

Participants were asked to assess the relative importance of the existing Objectives within the Community Strategic Plan. A total of 19 of the 22 Objectives in the existing Community Strategic Plan received High Importance ratings of 80% or more, with the following Objectives receiving an importance rating of 90% or more:

- › The health of waterways and water catchments is maintained (**95%** High Importance)
- › The health and diversity of native flora, fauna, habitat and ecosystems are maintained (**93%** High Importance)
- › Integrated, accessible and sustainable choices are provided for moving around (**92%** High Importance)
- › The community and all levels of government work together to protect the Blue Mountains World Heritage environment (**92%** High Importance)
- › The community is informed, consulted and engaged (**91%** High Importance)
- › Community health and well-being is maintained and improved (**91%** High Importance)
- › The Council provides value for money services (**90%** High Importance)
- › Resources are used and managed in an environmentally responsible way (**90%** High Importance)
- › Blue Mountains communities are safe, caring and inclusive (**90%** High Importance)

Key themes from group discussions included:

- › Protection of the World Heritage Environment
- › Improved public transport with particular focus on improving frequency and capacity of train services and better integration of rail and bus timetables and connections
- › Improving access to more diverse and affordable housing options; particularly to meet the needs of older and younger people
- › Attracting and retaining a diversity of age-groups, given the ageing of the community and the loss of younger people to other areas
- › Retaining the village feel in the Blue Mountains
- › Bushfire preparedness, emergency vehicle and evacuation access
- › Increasing community connectivity and connectedness
- › Improved Council relationship with local business
- › Better managing and planning for the impact of high tourist visitation on local amenity, facilities (e.g. toilets) and the environment

- › Gaining an increased share of tourism expenditure for the benefit of the local economy, environment and community
- › Increasing local employment and economic development
- › Better meeting the needs of an increasingly ageing population.

Towards the end of each workshop, and after consideration of each of the six Key Directions of the current Community Strategic Plan, participants were asked to identify their top priorities for the future. The top five priorities identified overall were:

1. Improving housing diversity
2. Protecting the environment and our World Heritage Area
3. Improving public transport & access to it
4. Improving roads & traffic management
5. Maintaining the character of our towns and villages

In each of the workshops, participants were also asked to consider future housing needs for the City to inform the development of a housing strategy in 2017-2018. Participants identified the following areas of need:

- › Well-planned and designed medium-density housing options
- › Options for downsizing e.g. smaller housing options
- › Aged care availability
- › Housing affordability
- › Maintaining the 'village' character through good design
- › Embracing and supporting use of sustainable materials and sustainable housing design.

A quarter of participants saw themselves downsizing in the next 10-20 years and a further quarter believed they would be living outside of the LGA. This was reinforced in participant importance ratings relative to different types of housing that needs to be available, with 'High Importance' being assigned to 'housing for elderly', 'ageing-in-place', 'townhouses or villas' and 'dual occupancies'.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

In June 2016, IRIS Research was commissioned by Blue Mountains City Council to facilitate implementation of five Area Community Workshops to obtain community input into an update of the Blue Mountains Community Strategic Plan (CSP) – ‘*Sustainable Blue Mountains 2025*’. This Plan outlines the community’s vision, priorities and aspirations for the future of the Local Government Area (LGA).

All councils in NSW are required to have Community Strategic Plans and to engage comprehensively with their communities in shaping their development, review, and update every four years. The Area Community Workshops outlined in this report formed part of a broader multi-pronged community engagement process informing the update of the Blue Mountains Community Strategic Plan.

This specific consultation and engagement with residents of the Blue Mountains took the form of a program of Area Community Workshops, run across the five Planning Areas of the Blue Mountains LGA. A wide cross section of residents was invited to participate in a 3½ hour weekend workshop during the period 13 - 21 August, 2016.

2.2 Workshop Objectives

The Area Community Workshops are a major component of the Council’s community consultation, providing input into the update of the Community Strategic Plan. The specific objectives of the workshops were to:

1. Obtain community feedback and input into the review and update of the Community Strategic Plan.
2. Understand the priorities and aspirations of the community for the future of the Blue Mountains.
3. Identify major issues of importance and gaps by Key Direction and by Planning Area.
4. Obtain community views on housing choices to build a successful future for the Blue Mountains.

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 Data Collection

The Council routinely undertakes community consultation to evaluate the performance of the delivery of services and facilities to residents. Following the most recent resident community survey, a large random representative sample of residents was invited to register interest for participation in consultation activities with BMCC. IRIS Research aimed to recruit a representative sample of residents selected from the community register and the general population from of each of the five planning areas.

Age and gender quotas were established for the recruitment within each of the five Planning Areas, to mirror the population characteristics. Section 2.3.4 provides an overview of the Planning Areas by township. In total 45 participants per planning area were invited to attend a 3½ hour workshop at a community facility within their local vicinity.

During each of the five workshops, participants undertook a range of group activities; discussing and sharing their thoughts, identifying priorities and aspirations following presentations about Key Directions of the CSP. At the conclusion of each session, participants were asked to individually record their input and feedback within a workbook. Participants provided comment on each Key Direction via a range of rating, ranking and free text activities. This was supplemented with frequent group discussions where feedback was captured on ‘butcher’s paper’. Each of these components of data was gathered at the conclusion of each workshop and analysed to compile this report.

2.3.2 Recruitment and Group Composition

Table 1 below summarises the recruitment and ultimate attendance of participants by planning area, age and gender.

Table 1: Recruitment composition by planning area, age and sex.

		Actual Attendees as per Questionnaire							Actual Attendees as per Invitation				Potential Attendees				Prior Notified Withdrawals				Total Number Recruited			
		18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Total	NR [#]	18-34	35-49	50+	Total	18-34	35-49	50+	Total	18-34	35-49	50+	Total	18-34	35-49	50+	Total
Blackheath	F	-	-	2	6	6	14	2	-	2	14	16	1	4	20	25	-	1	2	3	1	5	22	28
Saturday, August 13, 2016	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	10	-	1	14	15	-	-	2	2	-	1	16	17
13:00-16:30	Totals	-	-	3	9	12	24	26	-	3	23	26	1	5	34	40	-	1	4	5	1	6	38	45
Lawson	F	-	-	2	6	4	12	-	-	3	8	11	1	6	13	20	-	3	1	4	1	9	14	24
Sunday, August 14, 2016	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	10	2	7	13	22	-	1	1	2	2	8	14	24
13:00-16:30	Totals	-	-	4	12	6	22	22	-	5	16	21	3	13	26	42	-	4	2	6	3	17	28	48
Blaxland	F	-	-	4	7	4	15	1	-	4	11	15	1	10	13	24	-	1	2	3	1	11	15	27
Sunday, August 21, 2016	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	11	16	1	6	15	22	-	1	3	4	1	7	18	26
09:00-12:30	Totals	1	-	7	10	12	30	31	1	8	22	31	2	16	28	46	-	2	5	7	2	18	33	53
Katoomba	F	-	1	3	4	3	11	1	1	4	7	12	5	8	11	24	-	2	4	6	5	10	15	30
Saturday, August 20, 2016	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7	10	-	7	12	19	-	-	4	4	-	7	16	23
13:00-16:30	Totals	-	1	6	8	6	21	22	1	7	14	22	5	15	23	43	-	2	8	10	5	17	31	53
Springwood	F	1	-	5	5	5	16	-	1	5	10	16	2	6	11	19	-	3	1	4	2	9	12	23
Sunday, August 21, 2016	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	10	13	1	9	16	26	-	3	1	4	1	12	17	30
13:30-17:00	Totals	1	-	8	-	-	29	29	1	8	20	29	3	15	27	45	-	6	2	8	3	21	29	53
Overall	F	1	1	16	28	22	68	4	2	18	50	70	10	34	68	112	-	10	10	20	10	44	78	132
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	13	45	59	4	30	70	104	-	5	11	16	4	35	81	120
	Totals	2	1	28	48	47	126	130	3	31	95	129	14	64	138	216	-	15	21	36	14	79	159	252
Average per session		26					26				26				43				7				50	
Attendance Rate		60%																						
Recruitment Hit Rate		52%																						

[#] (No Response)

A total of 130 residents attended the Area Community Workshop program. Table 2 summarises the workshop composition by planning area, age and gender, based on data provided in the workbook. Four (4) participants did not provide their demographic details in the workbook.

Table 2: Workshop Composition by Planning Area, Age and Gender

		Female	Male	Total
Blackheath	18-24	-	-	-
	25-34	-	-	-
	35-49	2	1	3
	50-64	6	3	9
	65+	6	6	12
	Total	14	10	24
Lawson	18-24	-	-	-
	25-34	-	-	-
	35-49	2	2	4
	50-64	6	6	12
	65+	4	2	6
	Total	12	10	22
Katoomba	18-24	-	-	-
	25-34	1	0	1
	35-49	3	3	6
	50-64	4	4	8
	65+	3	3	6
	Total	11	10	21
Blaxland	18-24	0	1	1
	25-34	-	-	-
	35-49	4	3	7
	50-64	7	3	10
	65+	4	8	12
	Total	15	15	30
Springwood	18-24	1	0	1
	25-34	-	-	-
	35-49	5	3	8
	50-64	5	4	9
	65+	5	6	11
	Total	16	13	29
Combined	18-24	1	1	2
	25-34	1	0	1
	35-49	16	12	28
	50-64	28	20	48
	65+	22	25	47
	Total	68	58	126

2.3.3 Overview of the Workshop Program

Each workshop ran for 3½ hours and followed a standardised format using the agenda outlined below.

Workshop Agenda

Component	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration 	Respondent details checked and registered. Information pack provided including workshop Workbook for participants to provide their responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome 	Welcoming address, importance of community input to the update of the CSP, Housekeeping, Workshop purpose and agenda
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue Mountains Community Strategic Plan 	Presentation providing strategic context for the City of Blue Mountains and the focus of the Workshop
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ice Breaker 	Engage and relax participants – information sharing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Directions of the Community Strategic Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civic Leadership Looking After Environment Using Land Looking After People
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Needs 	Background on the Blue Mountains population profile, housing cycles, types of housing and potential needs Discussion of housing options
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Break 	Refreshments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Directions of the Community Strategic Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moving Around Sustainable Economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident Priorities 	Top 3 priorities for making the Blue Mountains a better place
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close 	Concluding comments and thanks to participants

2.3.4 Workshop Areas

The five Planning Areas referred to throughout this report and the towns and villages within each Area, are shown in the table below along with the location of each of the workshops:

Table 3: Workshop Location by Planning Area

Workshop Location	Planning Area	Towns & Villages within Area
Blackheath	1	Blackheath, Mount Victoria, Megalong, Mount Irvine, Mount Wilson, Bell Mount Tomah
Katoomba	2	Katoomba, Leura, Medlow Bath, Wentworth Falls
Lawson	3	Lawson, Hazelbrook, Linden, Bullaburra
Springwood	4	Springwood, Winmalee, Yellow Rock, Hawkesbury heights, Valley Heights, Faulconbridge
Warrimoo	5	Blaxland, Warrimoo, Mount Riverview, Glenbrook, Lapstone



2.3.5 Measurement and Analysis of Results

Within each workshop participants were asked to assess the importance of each Objective within the current CSP by using a five-point scale where one (1) was ‘Not At All Important’ through to five (5) being ‘Very Important’. Respondents were also provided with an ‘Unsure’ option if they believed they were unable to rate an objective. Each Objective within a Key Direction was also ranked by participants in order of priority to them (with A being ‘High Priority’ through to E being ‘Low Priority’).

Quantitative data including ‘Importance Rating’ and ‘Ranking’ have been treated in a standardised method for analysis and reporting throughout this report. Importance data is presented in a frequency distribution according to the following schema:

Rating Scale Value	Collapsed Category
1 and 2	Low Importance
3	Medium Importance
4 and 5	High Importance
Unsure	Unsure

The comments raised by participants in open discussions and provided individually within workbooks have also been analysed and presented in this report.

2.3.6 Participant Evaluation of Workshops

Table 4: Participant Evaluation of Workshops

	Level of Agreement			
	Strongly Disagree (1)	(2)	(3)	Strongly Agree (4)
The Workshop Venue:				
<i>The timing was appropriate</i>	2%	5%	30%	63%
<i>The agenda was appropriate</i>	2%	5%	27%	66%
<i>The venue was appropriate</i>	4%	9%	16%	71%
The Workshop Activities:				
<i>Were relevant</i>	2%	6%	25%	68%
<i>Were easy to understand</i>	2%	6%	32%	60%
<i>Provided a good level of participant involvement</i>	2%	7%	30%	61%
<i>Provided opportunity to listen to each other</i>	2%	7%	25%	66%
The Facilitation:				
<i>Was appropriate</i>	4%	1%	29%	66%
The Workshop Materials:				
<i>Were appropriate for the event</i>	2%	4%	29%	66%

3.0 WHOLE OF CITY RESULTS

3.1 What Residents Value about Living in the Blue Mountains

Participants were asked what they valued most about where they live and why, and were asked to record responses in their workbooks. The diagram below shows the most frequent words used in describing values. Many participants raised more than one value, resulting in a total of 301 different value items.



Overall, the top five items of value for participants about living in the Blue Mountains were:

1. The surrounding natural environment and bush including the flora and fauna, clean air and water, beautiful scenery and good climate.
2. The strong sense of community, including caring and connected community.
3. The peace and quiet.
4. A great place to raise a family.
5. Good access to local amenities and facilities such as libraries, schools, pools and parks.

The table below provides a more detailed assessment of the values by Planning Area and overall.

Table 5: What Workshop Participants Value Most about where they live - by Area

What participants valued most about where they live and why	Area 1 <i>Blackheath & Surrounds</i>	Area 2 <i>Katoomba & Surrounds</i>	Area 3 <i>Lawson & Surrounds</i>	Area 4 <i>Springwood & Surrounds</i>	Area 5 <i>Blaxland & Surrounds</i>	TOTAL
Natural environment, beauty of mountains, scenic views, bush, flora & fauna, clean air / water	18	13	14	21	24	90
Strong sense of community / caring & connected, friendly community	10	8	10	19	13	60
Peace & quiet	10	4	4	4	10	32
Great place to raise a family/ good for kids	1	1	3	14	6	25

What participants valued most about where they live and why	Area 1 <i>Blackheath & Surrounds</i>	Area 2 <i>Katoomba & Surrounds</i>	Area 3 <i>Lawson & Surrounds</i>	Area 4 <i>Springwood & Surrounds</i>	Area 5 <i>Blaxland & Surrounds</i>	TOTAL
Good access to local amenities & facilities such as libraries, community centres, pools, schools, train stations, shops, open space	1	6	2	8	2	19
Good or reasonable transport / accessibility to Sydney / Penrith	1	1	2	3	6	13
World Heritage National Park	3	3	1		5	12
Low population density, less development than Sydney	2	3	1	2	3	11
Safe community/ low crime		2		4	4	10
Affordability of living in Mountains	1		3	4	2	10
Arts & culture, festivals & events	2	4	2	1		9
Quality of life/ good health	1	2	2	2	1	8
Vibrant towns with economic opportunities for small business/ employment opportunities		1	1	2		4
Proactive council showing leadership e.g. with fire and airport			1		2	3
Connection with Aboriginal culture			2	1		3
Clean surrounds / free of graffiti				1	1	2
Built heritage/ buildings			1			1
Not much valued		1				1
TOTAL	47	46	48	86	74	301

3.2 Top Priorities for the Next 10 Years

At the end of each workshop, and after considering each of the six key direction areas of the Community Strategic Plan, participants were asked “*When thinking about making the Blue Mountains a better place, what do you see as the top priorities for action over the next 10 years?*”

Analysis of the responses from all workshops identified the following top five priorities:

1. Improving Housing Diversity
2. Protecting The Environment And Our World Heritage Area
3. Improving Public Transport
4. Improving Roads & Traffic Management
5. Maintaining Character Of Villages

The table below provides the detailed analysis of all the priorities identified by participants:

Table 6: Overall Priorities for Action – Next 10 Years

PRIORITY	No. of RESPONSES
<i>Improve housing diversity</i>	51
<i>Protect Environment and World Heritage Area</i>	45
<i>Improve public transport</i>	41
<i>Improve roads and traffic management</i>	35
<i>Maintain character of villages</i>	27
<i>No airport</i>	20
<i>Increase employment opportunities</i>	17
<i>Continue Council focus on financial management</i>	17
<i>Increase recreational opportunities</i>	16
<i>Encourage diversity in community</i>	11
<i>Support local business</i>	11
<i>Manage impact of tourism</i>	10
<i>Improve health care</i>	8
<i>Improve accessibility</i>	6
<i>Increase arts/culture opportunities</i>	4
<i>Improve community engagement</i>	4
<i>Promote Blue Mountains as learning region</i>	4
<i>Care for the aged</i>	2
<i>Maintaining town & village centres</i>	2
<i>Building/ supporting community</i>	2
<i>Continue Emergency Management</i>	2
<i>Maintain Council accountability & transparency</i>	2
<i>Improve management of development</i>	2
<i>Support advocacy</i>	1
<i>Support balanced population – address loss of young people</i>	1
<i>Encourage Regional Partnerships</i>	1

3.3 Current Community Strategic Plan Objectives

The Community Strategic Plan is structured around the following six Key Directions:

- ❖ **Civic Leadership** (e.g. Council lives responsibly within its means, community is consulted)
- ❖ **Looking After Environment** (e.g. flora & fauna, protecting World Heritage environment)
- ❖ **Using Land** (e.g. livability of towns, impact of development)
- ❖ **Moving Around** (e.g. sustainable choices, network of roads)
- ❖ **Looking After People** (e.g. community well-being, communities are safe, healthy balance of ages)
- ❖ **Sustainable Economy** (e.g. local economy is vibrant and strong, sustainable local business)

For each of these Key Directions a number of Objectives and associated Strategies were presented.

Workshop participants were provided with an overview of each Key Direction and were then asked to consider the current Objectives within each Key Direction. Group discussions were facilitated and then participants were asked to assess the importance and priority ranking of each Objective within their workbooks.

Key findings

Top Rated 'High Importance' Objectives

A total of 19 of the 22 current Objectives received High Importance ratings of 80% or more as follows:

Looking After Environment

- › The health of waterways and water catchment is maintained (95% High Importance)
- › The health and diversity of native flora, fauna, habitat and ecosystems are maintained (93% High Importance)
- › The community and all levels of government work together to protect the Blue Mountains World Heritage environment (92% High Importance)
- › Resources are used and managed in an environmentally responsible way (90% High Importance)
- › City activities contribute to a healthy atmosphere and resilience and adaptation to climate change (83% High Importance)

Moving Around

- › Integrated, accessible and sustainable choices are provided for moving around (92% High Importance)
- › The City has a safe, well designed and maintained network of roads (82% High Importance)

Civic Leadership

- › The community is informed, consulted and engaged (91% High Importance)
- › The Council provides value for money services (90% High Importance)
- › Sustainable services, assets and infrastructure are provided in the City (89% High Importance)
- › The Council provides transparent, fair and accountable civic leadership (89% High Importance)
- › The Council lives responsibly within its means and strengthens its financial sustainability (85% High Importance)
- › The Council, other levels of government and the community work together to implement Sustainable Blue Mountains 2025 (85% High Importance)

Looking After People

- › Community health and well-being is maintained and improved (91% High Importance)
- › Blue Mountains communities are safe, caring and inclusive (90% High Importance)
- › The population has a healthy balance of people of different ages and life stages (82% High Importance)

Using Land

- › The livability, vibrancy and safety of towns and villages are strengthened (89% High Importance)
- › The impact of development on the natural and built environment is managed, and the City's unique character retained (88% High Importance)

Sustainable Economy

- › The Blue Mountains Economy is vibrant and strong with increased local employment (85% High Importance)

Lower Rated 'High Importance' Objectives

Only three of the existing 22 Objectives in the Community Strategic Plan received High Importance scores of less than 80%. These are listed below:

Sustainable Economy

- › The City of Blue Mountains is a model for sustainable local business and tourism (79% High Importance)
- › The City is recognised nationally as an innovative learning region within a World Heritage Area (67% High Importance)

Looking After People

- › The City is recognised as a centre of culture, creativity and life-long learning (72% High Importance)

The tables below detail these results in terms of importance (on a 1 to 5 scale) and priority level (on an A to E scale) for each Objective within each Key Direction.

Table 7: CIVIC LEADERSHIP - Importance and Priority Assessment of Objectives

CURRENT OBJECTIVES:	Level of Importance										
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure		Missing		Rank
The Council lives responsibly within its means and strengthens its financial sustainability	1	1%	18	14%	110	85%	0	0%	1	1%	A
The Council provides transparent, fair and accountable civic leadership	1	1%	12	9%	116	89%	0	0%	1	1%	C
The community is informed, consulted and engaged	3	2%	6	5%	118	91%	1	1%	2	2%	B
The Council provides value for money services	2	2%	10	8%	117	90%	0	0%	1	1%	E
The Council, other levels of government and the community work together to implement Sustainable Blue Mountains 2025	3	2%	12	9%	111	85%	1	1%	3	2%	F
Sustainable services, assets and infrastructure are provided in the City	3	2%	12	9%	115	89%	1	1%	0	0%	D

Table 8: LOOKING AFTER ENVIRONMENT - Importance and Priority Assessment of Objectives

CURRENT OBJECTIVES:	Level of Importance										
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure		Missing		Rank
The health and diversity of native flora, fauna, habitat and ecosystems are maintained	3	2%	5	4%	121	93%	0	0%	1	1%	A
The health of waterways and water catchment is maintained	3	2%	1	1%	124	95%	0	0%	2	2%	B
City activities contribute to a healthy atmosphere and resilience and adaptation to climate change	6	5%	12	9%	108	83%	0	0%	4	3%	E
Resources are used and managed in an environmentally responsible way	3	2%	8	6%	117	90%	1	1%	1	1%	D
The community and all levels of government work together to protect the Blue Mountains World Heritage environment	3	2%	5	4%	120	92%	1	1%	1	1%	C

Table 9: USING LAND - Importance and Priority Assessment of Objectives

CURRENT OBJECTIVES:	Level of Importance										
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure		Missing		Rank
The liveability, vibrancy and safety of towns and villages are strengthened	3	2%	7	5%	116	89%	1	1%	3	2%	B
The impact of development on the natural and built environment is managed, and the City's unique character retained	5	4%	8	6%	114	88%	0	0%	3	2%	A

Table 10: MOVING AROUND - Importance and Priority Assessment of Objectives

CURRENT OBJECTIVES:	Level of Importance										
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure		Missing		Rank
Integrated, accessible and sustainable choices are provided for moving around	3	2%	4	3%	119	92%	0	0%	4	3%	A
The City has a safe, well designed and maintained network of roads	8	6%	11	9%	107	82%	0	0%	4	3%	B

Table 11: LOOKING AFTER PEOPLE - Importance and Priority Assessment of Objectives

CURRENT OBJECTIVES:	Level of Importance										
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure		Missing		Rank
Community health and well-being is maintained and improved	3	2%	6	5%	118	91%	1	1%	2	2%	B
Blue Mountains communities are safe, caring and inclusive	3	2%	8	6%	117	90%	0	0%	2	2%	A
The City is recognised as a centre of culture, creativity and life-long learning	12	9%	23	18%	93	72%	0	0%	2	2%	D
The population has a healthy balance of people of different ages and life stages	6	5%	17	13%	106	82%	0	0%	1	1%	C

Table 12: SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY - Importance and Priority Assessment of Objectives

CURRENT OBJECTIVES:	Level of Importance										Rank
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure		Missing		
The Blue Mountains Economy is vibrant and strong with increased local employment	5	4%	5	4%	110	85%	0	0%	10	8%	A
The City is recognised nationally as an innovative learning region within a World Heritage Area	11	9%	22	17%	87	67%	1	1%	9	7%	C
The City of Blue Mountains is a model for sustainable local business and tourism	6	5%	10	8%	103	79%	1	1%	10	8%	B

3.4 Feedback on Existing Community Strategic Plan Objectives

Participants also had the opportunity to provide additional comments within their workbooks on the current Objectives of the Blue Mountains Community Strategic Plan. In particular, they were asked to identify any additional objectives or priorities they felt were missing and to provide any other comments. The additional comments provided have been analysed below by Key Direction and by thematic areas raised, with the detailed comments in **Appendix 1**.

Key themes

Civic Leadership

- > Community engagement, consultation and communication (26 responses)
- > Council financial management, governance, accountability and transparency (23 responses)
- > Leadership advocacy on Western Sydney Airport (19 responses)
- > Leadership around built infrastructure & facilities (7 responses)
- > Innovative leadership for the City (4 responses)
- > Balance between different Objectives (3 responses)
- > Levels of Government working together (2 responses)
- > Indigenous respect (2 responses)
- > Regional partnerships (1 response).

Looking After Environment

- > Waste resource management (27 responses)
- > Renewable energy & resources & greenhouse gas reduction (19 responses)
- > Tree protection & management (14 responses)
- > Environmentally sustainable options for moving around (14 responses)
- > Protect environment, protect biodiversity (11 responses)
- > Environmental impact of Western Sydney Airport (8 responses)
- > Animal management (5 responses)
- > Bushfire management and environment (5 responses)
- > Water quality (4 responses)
- > Population (3 responses)
- > Tourism environmental impact (3 responses)
- > Separate reporting on Environmental Programs (1 response).

Using Land

- > Sustainable land use/ living/ housing design (27 responses)
- > Improving Town and Village Centres (24 responses)
- > Land use development & management (22 responses)
- > Housing diversity (19 responses)
- > Village character & heritage (15 responses)
- > Managing impact of tourism on Land Use and amenity (11 responses)
- > Land use and recreation (5 responses)
- > Population (3 responses)
- > Crime and safety (3 responses)
- > Comments on Using Land Objectives (1 response).

Looking After People

- > Access to health services and facilities (21 responses)
- > Public toilets (15 responses)
- > Services and facilities for young people/ young families (17 responses)
- > Aged services and facilities (13 responses)
- > People with disabilities (12 responses)
- > Community/ cultural development, services and facilities (12 responses)
- > Emergency and resilience focus (11 responses)
- > Sustainable living/ Community Gardens (10 responses)
- > Services and facilities for children and families (6 responses)
- > Recreation (6 responses)
- > Services for disadvantaged (4 responses)
- > Community diversity (4 responses)
- > Looking after tourists (2 responses).

Moving Around

- > Improved public transport (89 responses)
- > Pedestrian access/ footpaths/ pedestrian safety (34 responses)
- > Roads & traffic management (21 responses)
- > Emergency access/ secondary roads (16 responses)
- > Parking (8 responses)
- > Cycle-ways/ cycling (8 responses)
- > Trucks off highway (7 responses)
- > Accessibility Issues (6 responses)
- > Walking tracks (6 responses)

Sustainable Economy

- > Local employment and economic development (36 responses)
- > Managing impact of tourism (28 responses)
- > Sustainable economic development/ creative arts (14 responses)
- > Tourism development & promotion (7 responses)
- > Council's role in economic development (6 responses)
- > Small business/ home based business (3 responses)

3.5 Themes from Open Discussions

Ahead of filling in each individual workbook, workshop participants joined in an open discussion on the priorities and issues of concern for each Key Direction. Overall themes raised are identified by Key Direction below.

Civic Leadership

- › Continue advocacy to stop Badgery's Creek Airport
 - Focus on ensuring flight paths minimise environmental and community impact
 - Advocate for considerations of alternatives to air travel such as very fast train
 - Consider effect on water quality
- › More and improved communication between Council, community and business sector
- › Council to continue its focus on improving finances
- › Importance of maintaining City's built infrastructure
- › More leadership in addressing and planning for impact of tourists
- › Concentrate on needs of residents not tourists
- › Increased Council transparency and leadership is needed.

Looking After Environment

- › Protect natural environment; maintain World Heritage Area
- › Concern over water quality
- › Improve the protection and management of trees
- › Address the impact of tourism on environment and amenity
- › Address the amount of litter and rubbish including fast food packaging and plastic
- › Improve recycling and renewables behavior in the community
- › Improved public transport frequency, reach and connections to reduce the impact of cars
- › Maintenance of firebreaks
- › Address single access roads to isolated villages
- › The possible impact of fuel dumping and noise pollution from airplane flight paths
- › Increase community participation and education of mulching and composting.

Using Land

- › Better meet the housing needs of old and young people
- › Encourage and maintain the village character and atmosphere
- › Improve towns and villages
- › Provision and improved amenity of toilets
- › Council to better support sustainable, energy-efficient housing solutions
- › Improve parking around key recreational parks and facilities
- › Increase the amount of walking tracks and cycle paths
- › Increase community livable spaces, to encourage people to engage socially.

Moving Around

- › Need more frequent rail services and rail connections for residents
- › There are limited bus routes and poor bus frequency
- › Better integration of bus and rail timetables for improved connections
- › More carriages on trains at peak times
- › Improve the provision and maintenance of footpaths
- › Too great a reliance on cars for transport
- › Poor emergency service access – especially in the case of bushfire
- › Council to advocate for greater use of rail freight rather than road for improved safety & sustainability

- › *Need for secondary road access through the Blue Mountains*
- › *More cycle ways needed*
- › *Improve disability access*
- › *Introduce small shuttle bus service at a greater frequency than large buses*
- › *Improve parking in key town centres and at railway stations.*

Looking After People

- › *Better support and planning for ageing community with increased facilities, services and housing options and improved accessibility*
- › *Attracting and retaining a diversity of age groups in LGA - Council to take action to ensure better balance of age groups in population – address loss of young people*
- › *More educational and recreational facilities for youth and young people*
- › *Poor bush fire evacuation routes*
- › *Need to prepare for possible future bushfires/ natural disasters*
- › *Improved and better resourced hospital service*
- › *Increase transport options to help residents access medical services*
- › *More activities and facilities for youth*
- › *Improved support, services and facilities for people with disabilities*
- › *Increase activities for strengthened community spirit and connection*
- › *Increase the recreational facilities for young people.*

Sustainable Economy

- › *Council to advocate for increased employment opportunities*
- › *Improve the relationship between small business and Council*
- › *Support for small business*
- › *Leverage off key strengths to develop economy and jobs – World Heritage environment and creative arts*
- › *Encourage business hub with technology emphasis for low environmental impact*
- › *Council to advocate on flight path debate to protect World Heritage area*
- › *Council to advocate on NBN rollout to assist small business*
- › *Develop creative ways to get more income from tourists*
- › *Council to advocate for relocation of government services to Blue Mountains including University campus*
- › *Address negative effects of tourism including traffic congestion, rubbish & litter and toilet facilities.*

4.0 BLUE MOUNTAINS HOUSING STRATEGY

4.1 Housing Needs Assessment

A key component of the Area Workshops included a 30-minute session to obtain input on housing needs in the Blue Mountains. Workshop participants were provided with background information on the current housing and demographic characteristics of the population as well as forecast changes. Input was sought on how best to meet the diverse housing needs of the community into the future.

4.2 Important Housing Considerations

Participants were asked what they felt was the “most important consideration for housing”. Key themes identified included:

Key Themes:

- › *Provide a mix of affordable housing options*
- › *Increase diversity of housing options for the various life stages of Blue Mountains residents*
- › *More housing options for the elderly, including downsizing and aged care facilities*
- › *More affordable housing options for young people so they can stay in the Mountains*
- › *Sympathetic design to the Blue Mountains village character and natural environment.*

4.3 Likely Housing Outcomes in 10-20 years

Participants were asked to identify where they saw themselves in 10-20 years relative to their current housing situation. Across the LGA a majority of participants saw themselves in the same house for the long term. This response was also observed across each of the Planning Areas.

Other Key Findings:

- › *Downsizing, living outside of the Blue Mountains and moving into a more compact housing form were the next most popular options across the LGA*
- › *Residents of Planning Area 1 (35%) indicated that they are likely to be living outside of the Blue Mountains*
- › *Planning Areas 3 and 5 residents were equally likely to downsize or move into more compact forms of housing*
- › *As with Planning Area 1, many residents in Planning Area 2 indicated they are likely to be living outside of the Blue Mountains*
- › *Residents from Planning Area 4 indicated an almost equal likelihood to downsize, move into alternate housing forms and live outside of the Blue Mountains*
- › *A higher proportion of residents in Planning Areas 1 and 2 (27%) indicated that living in a secondary dwelling on their current property was an option compared to the overall LGA (15%). Participants from the same Planning Areas also mentioned an option of aged care being attractive to them.*

The table below summarises the responses overall and by Planning Area.

Table 13: Perceptions on Housing Situation in 10 - 20 years – Overall LGA & Planning Area

	Blackheath	Katoomba	Lawson	Springwood	Blaxland	Overall
Same House	58%	50%	59%	48%	55%	54%
Downsizing to a smaller house or dual occupancy	12%	18%	23%	38%	29%	25%
Living outside of the Blue Mountains	35%	32%	9%	31%	19%	25%
Moving into a more compact alternate housing form	23%	9%	23%	31%	26%	23%
Living in a Granny Flat	27%	27%	5%	3%	13%	15%
Upsizing to a larger family home	4%	5%	5%	10%	0%	5%
Aged Care	12%	9%	0%	3%	3%	5%
Other	15%	14%	9%	7%	0%	8%

4.4 Improving Housing diversity to meet the needs of the community

Workshop participants were asked to identify ways that housing diversity could be improved to meet the needs of the whole community.

Key Themes:

- › Encourage more medium density options available
- › Increase the amount of smaller dwelling options for the young and the elderly
- › Provide greater diversity of housing stock
- › Encourage share or group housing options using existing large dwellings
- › Increase well located higher density housing, but not high rise.

4.5 Importance of Housing Types for Housing Diversity

Participants of each workshop were asked to rate the level of importance with a range of housing types.

Key Findings:

- › Aged care facilities (89%) and retirement villages (79%) were rated the highest importance housing options across the LGA
- › A majority of participants also gave a High Importance rating to town houses and villas (65%), dual occupancies (64%) and secondary dwellings (58%)
- › The importance ratings reflect the findings in the previous sections where the emphasis was identified as greater options for the elderly and the need for an increase in the amount of smaller dwelling options for both the elderly and young.

The results are summarised in the table below.

Table 14: Housing types to improve housing diversity – Importance – LGA

Housing Type	Level of Importance							
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure	
Aged care facilities	2	2%	10	8%	110	89%	1	1%
Retirement villages (over 55s)	6	5%	20	16%	99	79%	1	1%
Town houses & villas	10	8%	31	25%	79	65%	2	2%
Dual Occupancies	9	8%	32	27%	76	64%	1	1%
Granny Flat (secondary dwelling)	16	13%	33	27%	70	58%	2	2%
Subdivision & housing on smaller lots in established areas	36	31%	24	21%	55	47%	2	2%
Shop top housing	36	30%	32	26%	51	42%	3	3%
Apartments	45	38%	30	25%	41	34%	4	3%

4.6 Important Considerations for Improving Housing Diversity

Participants of each workshop were asked to rate the level of importance with a range of considerations for improving housing diversity.

Key Findings:

- › Very high importance was assigned to a number of considerations including
 - The design quality of new housing (91%)
 - Housing considerations for elderly and disabled (87%)
 - Affordability (86%)
 - Minimising environmental impacts (86%).
- › Whilst being important overall, it was seen that the importance of proximity to shops, employment and transport and family and friends are less of a consideration.

The results are summarised in the table below.

Table 15: Considerations for improving housing diversity; Importance - LGA

Housing Diversity	Level of Importance							
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure	
Design quality of new housing	4	3%	7	6%	111	91%	0	0%
Housing that is accessible & adaptable for elderly & disabled	3	2%	13	10%	110	87%	0	0%
Affordability	5	4%	11	9%	108	86%	1	1%
Minimising adverse environmental impacts	5	4%	13	10%	108	86%	0	0%
Maintain character & appearance of streets & towns	8	7%	14	11%	102	82%	0	0%
New buildings that are a similar height & size to surrounding buildings	13	10%	19	15%	93	74%	1	1%
Close & accessible to shops & services	7	6%	26	21%	91	73%	0	0%
Proximity to employment & public transport	5	4%	29	23%	90	73%	0	0%
Housing opportunities close to family & friends	20	16%	39	32%	64	52%	1	1%

5.0 PLANNING AREA 1 (Blackheath and Surrounds) – Workshop Outcomes

5.1 Top Priorities

The table below outlines the views of Area 1 (Blackheath and Surrounds) participants on the top priorities for action over the next 10 years.

Table 16: Priorities for Action – Next 10 Years

PRIORITIES	Number of RESPONSES
<i>Improve Public Transport</i>	12
<i>Protect Environment: World Heritage Area</i>	11
<i>Increase Employment Opportunities</i>	8
<i>Improve Housing Diversity</i>	7
<i>Focus on Financial Management</i>	5
<i>Improve Traffic Management & Roads</i>	4
<i>Manage Impact of Tourism</i>	4
<i>Improve Community Engagement</i>	3
<i>Improve Accessibility</i>	2
<i>Improve Health Care</i>	2
<i>Maintaining Character of Village</i>	2
<i>No Airport</i>	2
<i>Increase Art/Culture Opportunities</i>	1
<i>Continue Emergency Management</i>	1
<i>Support Local Business</i>	1
<i>Increase Recreational Opportunities</i>	1

5.2 Current CSP Objectives

Key Findings:

Participants from Planning Area 1: Blackheath and Surrounds assigned highest priority ranking (greater than 90% importance rating) to the following existing Objectives in the Community Strategic Plan:

- › *The Council provides transparent, fair and accountable civic leadership (100% High Importance rating)*
- › *The health of waterways and water catchment is maintained (96% High Importance rating)*
- › *The community and all levels of government work together to protect the Blue Mountains World Heritage environment (96% High Importance rating)*
- › *The Council lives responsibly within its means and strengthens its financial sustainability (96% High Importance rating)*
- › *The Blue Mountains Economy is vibrant and strong with increased local employment (96% High Importance rating)*
- › *Community health and well-being is maintained and improved (92% High Importance rating)*
- › *Blue Mountains communities are safe, caring and inclusive (92% High Importance rating)*
- › *Resources are used and managed in an environmentally responsible way (92% High Importance rating)*
- › *The community is informed, consulted and engaged (92% High Importance rating)*
- › *The Council, other levels of government and the community work together to implement Sustainable Blue Mountains 2025 (92% High Importance rating)*
- › *Sustainable services, assets and infrastructure are provided in the City (92% High Importance rating).*

Table 17: Summary of Importance and Priority Level by Key Direction – Planning Area 1

Looking After Environment – Planning Area 1	Level of Importance					Rank
	Low (1-2)	Medium (3)	High (4-5)	Unsure	Rank	
The health and diversity of native flora, fauna, habitat and ecosystems are maintained	2	8%	1	4%	23 89%	0 0% B
The health of waterways and water catchment is maintained	1	4%	0	0%	25 96%	0 0% A
City activities contribute to a healthy atmosphere and resilience and adaptation to climate change	3	12%	1	4%	22 85%	0 0% D
Resources are used and managed in an environmentally responsible way	1	4%	1	4%	24 92%	0 0% E
The community and all levels of government work together to protect the Blue Mountains World Heritage environment	1	4%	0	0%	25 96%	0 0% C

Using Land – Planning Area 1	Level of Importance					Rank
	Low (1-2)	Medium (3)	High (4-5)	Unsure	Rank	
The liveability, vibrancy and safety of towns and villages are strengthened	2	8%	1	4%	22 88%	0 0% B
The impact of development on the natural and built environment is managed, and the City's unique character retained	2	8%	1	4%	22 88%	0 0% A

Moving Around – Planning Area 1	Level of Importance					Rank
	Low (1-2)	Medium (3)	High (4-5)	Unsure	Rank	
Integrated, accessible and sustainable choices are provided for moving around	1	4%	2	8%	22 88%	0 0% A
The City has a safe, well designed and maintained network of roads	3	12%	2	8%	20 80%	0 0% B

Looking After People – Planning Area 1	Level of Importance					Rank
	Low (1-2)	Medium (3)	High (4-5)	Unsure	Rank	
Community health and well-being is maintained and improved	1	4%	1	4%	24 92%	0 0% B
Blue Mountains communities are safe, caring and inclusive	1	4%	1	4%	24 92%	0 0% A
The City is recognised as a centre of culture, creativity and life-long learning	2	8%	1	4%	23 89%	0 0% D
The population has a healthy balance of people of different ages and life stages	3	12%	1	4%	22 85%	0 0% C

Sustainable Economy – Planning Area 1	Level of Importance					Rank
	Low (1-2)	Medium (3)	High (4-5)	Unsure	Rank	
The Blue Mountains Economy is vibrant and strong with increased local employment	1	4%	0	0%	22 96%	0 0% A
The City is recognised nationally as an innovative learning region within a World Heritage Area	2	9%	5	22%	15 65%	1 4% C
The City of Blue Mountains is a model for sustainable local business and tourism	2	9%	2	9%	18 78%	1 4% B

Civic Leadership – Planning Area 1	Level of Importance					Rank
	Low (1-2)	Medium (3)	High (4-5)	Unsure	Rank	
The Council lives responsibly within its means and strengthens its financial sustainability	0	0%	1	4%	24 96%	0 0% C

Civic Leadership – Planning Area 1	Level of Importance								
The Council provides transparent, fair and accountable civic leadership	0	0%	0	0%	25	100%	0	0%	B
The community is informed, consulted and engaged	0	0%	1	4%	23	92%	1	4%	A
The Council provides value for money services	0	0%	3	12%	22	88%	0	0%	E
The Council, other levels of government and the community work together to implement Sustainable Blue Mountains 2025	1	4%	1	4%	23	92%	0	0%	F
Sustainable services, assets and infrastructure are provided in the City	1	4%	2	8%	23	92%	0	0%	D

5.3 Comments on CSP Objectives

Participants in each workshop provided additional comments on each Key Direction in their workbooks. The tables below reflect the comments from Planning Area 1: Blackheath and Surrounds:

Civic Leadership

- > Improved consultation – communication needs to be two way between Council and community
- > The upper mountains seems to be less important than the lower mountains
- > Transparency in Council finances including investments
- > Council staff need to be more customer focused
- > Trees being cleared affecting habitat of native animals
- > Council should communicate much better with local groups on planning matters
- > Excessive cost for building infrastructure by Council compared to private sector
- > Amount of money spent by local organisations on professional reports for building projects that will end up being Council Assets
- > Would like to be able to sub-divide property on fringe of Mt Victoria; would lessen bushfire risk
- > Developers work for their own profit, a lot of them have no regard for what matters to the community
- > There should be more community consultation in regards to developers
- > The Council spends money in a sustainable and balanced way
- > Need business leadership and community leadership
- > Potential for greater borrowings by the Council to address infrastructure needs
- > Focus on jobs, creative industries
- > As part of Objective 6.3 – Consultation with peak bodies e.g. invite input from the arts sector
- > That it's also the responsibility of those in public office to support new ideas and solutions, to educate the community to identify threats such as inappropriate development
- > Approvals – DA's should be cheaper
- > Rates should reflect need to reduce size of Local Government, not justify it
- > Public amenities need to be maintained and available
- > Risk management e.g. insurance is one of the key impediments of keeping costs down.

Looking After Environment

- > Make Blackheath plastic free as tourist attraction and for environmental health
- > Less trucks, more public transport, less reliance on cars (4)
- > Renewable energy used to power Council facilities
- > Protect mature trees from development, tree management for native animals and birds (4)
- > Instead of investing in property on town precinct, invest in wind generation, water recycling
- > Sustainable Tourism planning required in conjunction with locals
- > Weeds especially lands department and railways
- > Bushfire management – hazard reductions to prevent wildfire (2)
- > Bulky waste pick up in outlying areas, better to organise a set day for a small community rather than multiple visits to single properties
- > Clean air and reduced noise pollution
- > Make people clean roofs and gutters to reduce fire problems

- > Approve back burn, the last fires were stopped at Ridgewell Rd
- > Better, cheaper recycling to avoid illegal dumping in the bush, recycling can be creative especially in this artistic community. Public bins offering recycling options
- > Business and not only residents should be given the opportunity to participate in recycling to reduce rubbish sent to landfill/ Businesses and tourists have the option to recycle their waste
- > Trucks on highway, build a new bypass/truck route Goulburn-to-Bathurst so trucks go around the mountains
- > Environment should protect the native birds and animals
- > Airplanes over our World Heritage area, not sustainable or ecological
- > Dog poo bags need to be made available
- > Most of these issues are equally important and feed off each other so rating doesn't really assist
- > Greenhouse gas reduction and renewable energy plans should be implemented as high priorities
- > Grateful that as a senior citizen the ACAT team have given me assistance in getting rid of noxious weeds in my large garden
- > Concerned about how the trees in Wentworth St. have been badly cut by power companies for power lines
- > Underground power lines, saves trees and houses in bushfires, wind, snow – safer living here
- > Protecting big trees, assess the tree damage done my introduced species, protecting old trees, however I support the new ruling to take down trees close to houses than 10/50m. Melbourne has a good tree management program
- > Education programs, reduce, reuse, and recycle. Partner with other cities for waste destruction
- > Cleaning up dams, rubbish on highway between Medlow and Blackheath
- > Too much waffle on environment, climate change is waffle.

Using Land

- > Better meeting housing needs of aging population
- > Medium density aged care facility needed for Blackheath/Mt Victoria
- > Land for building only when the environment and nature's habitat are not affected
- > Protect town character (3)
- > More diverse housing, granny flats for oldies who can rent the family home for income without moving out of familiar neighborhood
- > Public toilets in tourist areas need extra cleaning during busy times, bins for rubbish and recycling
- > Provide sustainable tourism through proper land use - rail trails, trails, bushwalks cycle ways
- > No coordinated plans for all agencies providing tourism infrastructure, cycle way - adventure and commuting, walking – long distance bushwalking, horse riding
- > The possibility of road easements being bought privately then being able to be subdivided
- > Maintaining crown land and fire trails
- > Mt Victoria needs more land for residential development and more permissible subdivision
- > Foot paths required at Mt Victoria and more 50KPH signs along York Rd
- > Need to clean toilets at Leura and Katoomba more often because of tourists (4)
- > New ideas for creative, alternative development
- > Proactive effort to think creatively about using land
- > Let's have a conference re; creative ideas for using land, housing types etc.
- > Council must address the issue of parking in Blackheath
- > Sustainable energy efficient innovative/new designs to be encouraged as environment unique (e.g. earth roofs)/ designs to suit the local environment encouraged (3)
- > Disagree that population should be limited, need more people due to aging population, justify money spent on infrastructure
- > Disabled toilets at station usually locked
- > Land fill could contribute to polluted streams and therefore polluted dams if not managed correctly
- > Govett's Leap lookouts need improved toilet facilities
- > Road intersections need more turning lanes and especially traffic lights need right turning arrows on major roads
- > Toilet block at Rhododendron Gardens needs to be built asap before next summer bringing lots of tourists
- > Repair parking areas in Blackheath village
- > Does Council have a sporting fields policy
- > Maintain heritage towns – preserve character. Lawson/Blaxland don't suit the area

- › Find balance between new alternatives in sustainable housing types and the active protection of the unique character of villages. Hat Hill development out of character
- › One reason people live and visit is to have experiences of solitude – balancing population/visitor increase against that need
- › Promoting the Community Fire Units to high-school aged kids (all of members are practically geriatric)
- › Cap the gambling & alcohol licenses no more approval for liquor retail outlets. Many accidents/injuries are alcohol related.

Looking After People

- › Bike trails, footpaths, safe pedestrian crossings, local employment, aged care facilities, access to GP services
- › Lack of access to health care services in Blackheath/Mt Victoria
- › Local Employment – nothing apart from hospitality
- › Loss of hospital facilities /Katoomba Hospital Services – under resourced
- › Key owners of business premises/ housing - rent to high, maintenance not up to standard
- › Increase facilities and services for the elderly and disabled (3)
- › Tourist amenities – toilets
- › Services for disadvantaged groups – people caring for others, lonely and lost people
- › Small communities don't have libraries, pools, cultural centres, skate parks. We just want the basics done, especially emergency access from Mt Wilson to Bilpin
- › Maintenance of emergency infrastructure – designated emergency centre generators serviced
- › Support for older, single people on limited income with no other support
- › Great need for improvement in disabled access and facilities
- › Old facilities in Blackheath need refurbishment - the toilets at Blackheath Community Centre
- › Tourists needs are important also, not just residents
- › Neighborhood Centres are great
- › People with disability should have more prominence in this section
- › Increase employment opportunities (2)
- › Footpaths along the Great Western Highway
- › Affordable retail premises essential to reduce sale of products and services
- › Disabled parking at the community centre is too far away from the library
- › Council should give greater emphasis to job creation especially in tourism and the creative industries
- › Expand the roles of neighborhood centres
- › Use area at end of Hat Hill Road – space for meeting people
- › Employment – there is none. Commute 2 hours per day
- › BM Cultural Centre could be utilised more effectively. There was no provision for a performance space or rehearsal studio.

Moving Around

- › Get trucks off the road, get freight on trains (3)
- › Not enough parking at shopping centres, doctors and other services at Blackheath and neighboring towns
- › Good secondary tracks to allow emergency use if main road closed
- › Better cycling, walking tracks. Locals to have input with Council Planners and all others groups RMS, FRS etc. (3)
- › Roadside maintenance on smaller roads
- › Maintenance of fire trails
- › Emergency vehicle access from Mt Wilson via Mt Irvine to Bilpin. Access between Medlow Bath, Blackheath and Mt Victoria for when the highway is closed
- › Alternative road - Blackheath to Katoomba
- › More consultation with locals for integrated movement e.g. crossing roads, footpaths (2)
- › Intersection Govetts Leap Road and Wentworth Street, no crossing – impossible to see pedestrians (2)
- › Slow the traffic through Blackheath
- › No airport
- › Better footpaths and lighting for pedestrians (2)
- › Consideration and planning for people to get to hospitals
- › Need for safe lighting at railway crossing, Blackheath

- › *More public transport collaborations between local government, state and private transport / An option for integrated bus and train services/More public transport options (5)*
- › *The main shopping area of Blackheath should be more pedestrian friendly*
- › *Practical access made for bike and people movement around areas and between villages*
- › *Coordinating other external organisations to achieve goals*
- › *More train services. Electrify trains to Bathurst and beyond*
- › *Roundabout Katoomba Street very dangerous crossing for pedestrians*
- › *Mend parking areas in Blackheath behind fish shop and fire brigade*
- › *Council should be involved in design of new outer urban train services which are being tendered for at the moment. Should be looking at fast rail services*
- › *Pedestrian crossing to the station is designed so it floods on the station side*
- › *No airport at Badgerys Creek (2)*
- › *Free cycles for visitors as per Adelaide.*

Sustainable Economy

- › *We need to focus on our individual towns and preserve the unique character of these. This is what the tourists come to see.*
- › *Develop more local sustainable tourism – Blue Mountains Economic Entity not readily accessible to locals*
- › *Tap into getting tourists to pay for the maintenance of facilities (4)*
- › *Regulations can restrict home/work business – need to be rationalised to support creative work options*
- › *Tourism is our major industry we need funding to promote visitation (3)*
- › *That visitors to the area appreciate the area for its natural environment and unique settlement character including less Wi-Fi access*
- › *The City is a model for new and innovative environment specific development which creates a more sustainable economy*
- › *Recognise that providing affordable and lower cost energy wise housing creates further spending into local economy*
- › *Frequent train services – hourly to Bathurst and beyond for work commuting*
- › *Why don't large tourist destinations fly the Australian flag e.g. Hydro*
- › *Resources need to be directed to job plans for young people*
- › *No Airport*
- › *Small internet based businesses*
- › *Increase provision of free Wi-Fi*
- › *Manage Tourism facilities, multi-lingual signs.*
- › *Rental costs too high for businesses –many business have relocated or ceased operations.*

5.4 Housing Strategy Results for Planning Area 1

For Planning Area 1: Blackheath and Surrounds the most important considerations for housing included:

Key Findings:

- › *Aged care facilities, dual occupancies and secondary dwellings were rated highest planning priority*
- › *Most important considerations for improving housing diversity are design quality of new housing, housing adaptable for elderly and disabled, affordable and minimising environmental impacts.*

Key Themes from General Discussion

- › *Mixed Development (e.g. home/home business)*
- › *Internet businesses are limited to no visitors or deliveries per day*
- › *Re-use of old, large houses for different purpose (aged care, nothing here for people over 65)*
- › *Small house movement – move to smaller home (more affordable)*
- › *More town house and villas – encouragement to build, allow pets*
- › *Council to facilitate share/use of larger houses, either as a share, later allow sub-divide. (communal living based on wages)*
- › *Accessible homes to encourage ageing in place (no stairs)*

- > Self-contained unit delivered as relocatable home option on a block
- > 'Kids Under Cover' program
- > More affordable medium density options in character with local area (single/aged)
- > More well designed, medium density housing (majority card support)
- > Cluster housing option
- > Bushfire zone restricts what can be built if RFS involved in approval.

Table 18: Housing types to improve housing diversity – Importance – Planning Area 1

Housing Types to Improve Housing Diversity	Level of Importance							
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure	
Aged care facilities	0	0%	3	12%	21	88%	0	0%
Dual Occupancies	1	4%	4	17%	19	79%	0	0%
Granny Flat (secondary dwelling)	1	4%	5	20%	19	76%	0	0%
Retirement villages (over 55s)	1	4%	5	19%	19	73%	1	4%
Town houses & villas	2	8%	6	24%	17	68%	0	0%
Subdivision & housing on smaller lots in established areas	6	26%	2	9%	15	65%	0	0%
Shop top housing	6	23%	6	23%	13	50%	1	4%
Apartments	7	27%	9	35%	9	35%	1	4%

Table 19: Considerations for improving housing diversity; Importance – Planning Area 1

Considerations for Improving Housing Diversity	Level of Importance							
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure	
Design quality of new housing	2	8%	0	0%	23	92%	0	0%
Housing that is accessible & adaptable for elderly & disabled	1	4%	1	4%	23	92%	0	0%
Affordability	2	8%	1	4%	22	88%	0	0%
Minimising adverse environmental impacts	1	4%	3	12%	22	85%	0	0%
Maintain character & appearance of streets & towns	2	7%	4	15%	20	77%	0	0%
New buildings that are a similar height & size to surrounding buildings	3	12%	5	19%	18	69%	0	0%
Close & accessible to shops & services	2	8%	7	27%	17	65%	0	0%
Proximity to employment & public transport	1	4%	10	39%	15	58%	0	0%
Housing opportunities close to family & friends	4	16%	9	36%	12	48%	0	0%

6.0 PLANNING AREA 2 (Katoomba and Surrounds) - Workshop Outcomes

6.1 Top Priorities

The table below outlines the views of Area 2 participants on the top priorities for action over the next 10 years.

Table 20: Priorities for Action – Next 10 Years

PRIORITIES	Number of RESPONSES
<i>Protect Environment: World Heritage Area</i>	8
<i>Focus on Financial Management.</i>	8
<i>Improve Traffic Management & Roads</i>	7
<i>Improve Housing Diversity</i>	6
<i>Improve Public Transport</i>	5
<i>Maintain Character Of Villages</i>	6
<i>Support Local Business</i>	3
<i>Increase Recreational Opportunities</i>	3
<i>Manage Impact of Tourism</i>	3
<i>Community</i>	2
<i>Increase Employment Opportunities</i>	2
<i>Improve Health Care</i>	2
<i>Improve Advocacy</i>	1
<i>Improve Community Engagement</i>	1
<i>Increase Arts/Culture Opportunities</i>	1
<i>Governance</i>	1
<i>Continue Hazard Reduction</i>	1
<i>Land Usage</i>	1

6.2 Current CSP Objectives

Key Findings:

Participants from Planning Area 2: Katoomba and Surrounds assigned highest priority ranking (greater than 90% importance rating) to the following existing Objectives in the Community Strategic Plan:

- › *The health of waterways and water catchment is maintained (100% High Importance rating)*
- › *Integrated, accessible and sustainable choices are provided for moving around (100% High Importance rating)*
- › *The Council provides transparent, fair and accountable civic leadership (100% High Importance rating)*
- › *The community is informed, consulted and engaged (100% High Importance rating)*
- › *Community health and well-being is maintained and improved (96% High Importance rating)*
- › *The Council, other levels of government and the community work together to implement Sustainable Blue Mountains 2025 (96% High Importance rating)*
- › *Resources are used and managed in an environmentally responsible way (95% High Importance rating)*
- › *Sustainable services, assets and infrastructure are provided in the City (91% High Importance rating)*
- › *The health and diversity of native flora, fauna, habitat and ecosystems are maintained (91% High Importance rating)*
- › *The community and all levels of government work together to protect the Blue Mountains World Heritage environment (91% High Importance rating)*
- › *The liveability, vibrancy and safety of towns and villages are strengthened (91% High Importance rating)*
- › *The impact of development on the natural and built environment is managed, and the City's unique character retained (91% High Importance rating)*
- › *The City has a safe, well designed and maintained network of roads (91% High Importance rating)*
- › *The Council provides value for money services (91% High Importance rating)*

Table 21: Summary of Importance and Priority Level by Key Direction – Planning Area 2

Looking After Environment – Planning Area 2	Level of Importance								Rank
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure		
The health and diversity of native flora, fauna, habitat and ecosystems are maintained	0	0%	2	10%	19	91%	0	0%	A
The health of waterways and water catchment is maintained	0	0%	0	0%	20	100%	0	0%	A
City activities contribute to a healthy atmosphere and resilience and adaptation to climate change	1	5%	1	5%	18	90%	0	0%	C
Resources are used and managed in an environmentally responsible way	1	5%	0	0%	20	95%	0	0%	B
The community and all levels of government work together to protect the Blue Mountains World Heritage environment	1	5%	1	5%	19	91%	0	0%	D

Using Land – Planning Area 2	Level of Importance								Rank
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure		
The liveability, vibrancy and safety of towns and villages are strengthened	0	0%	1	5%	20	91%	1	5%	B
The impact of development on the natural and built environment is managed, and the City's unique character retained	1	5%	1	5%	20	91%	0	0%	A

Moving Around – Planning Area 2	Level of Importance								Rank
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure		
Integrated, accessible and sustainable choices are provided for moving around	0	0%	0	0%	21	100%	0	0%	A
The City has a safe, well designed and maintained network of roads	0	0%	2	10%	19	91%	0	0%	B

Looking After People – Planning Area 2	Level of Importance								Rank
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure		
Community health and well-being is maintained and improved	1	5%	0	0%	21	96%	0	0%	C
Blue Mountains communities are safe, caring and inclusive	0	0%	3	14%	19	86%	0	0%	A
The City is recognised as a centre of culture, creativity and life-long learning	2	9%	4	18%	16	73%	0	0%	D
The population has a healthy balance of people of different ages and life stages	1	5%	2	9%	19	86%	0	0%	B

Sustainable Economy – Planning Area 2	Level of Importance								Rank
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure		
The Blue Mountains Economy is vibrant and strong with increased local employment	1	5%	2	10%	18	86%	0	0%	A
The City is recognised nationally as an innovative learning region within a World Heritage Area	2	10%	4	19%	15	71%	0	0%	C
The City of Blue Mountains is a model for sustainable local business and tourism	2	10%	2	10%	16	80%	0	0%	B

Civic Leadership – Planning Area 2	Level of Importance								Rank
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure		
The Council lives responsibly within its means and strengthens its financial sustainability	0	0%	6	27%	16	73%	0	0%	C
The Council provides transparent, fair and accountable civic leadership	0	0%	0	0%	22	100%	0	0%	A

Civic Leadership – Planning Area 2	Level of Importance								
The community is informed, consulted and engaged	0	0%	0	0%	22	100%	0	0%	B
The Council provides value for money services	0	0%	2	9%	20	91%	0	0%	E
The Council, other levels of government and the community work together to implement Sustainable Blue Mountains 2025	0	0%	0	0%	21	96%	1	5%	F
Sustainable services, assets and infrastructure are provided in the City	0	0%	2	9%	20	91%	0	0%	D

6.3 Comments on CSP Objectives

Participants in each workshop provided additional comments on each Key Direction in their individual workbooks. The tables below reflect the comments from Planning Area 2: Katoomba and Surrounds:

Civic Leadership

- › *More consultation on major township developments*
- › *Would like to see an improvement in the relationship between Councillors and paid council staff*
- › *That the council listens to and acts upon community input*
- › *Look at Council rates – not sustainable to increase*
- › *Need more transparency from Council on key development matters (3)*
- › *Who decides what value for money is? The Council or Community*
- › *Provide for and plan sound infrastructure to cope with ongoing demands of residents and tourists*
- › *Council to promote and maintain tourist areas and not just the main areas such as Echo Point*
- › *That no developers or real estate agents to be Councillors.*

Looking After Environment

- › *Reducing the impact of household pets*
- › *Impact of road improvements on the natural environment*
- › *Sustainable management of the high volume of tourists (6)*
- › *Seek grants/funding for feral animal management*
- › *Signage on waterways signifying E.coli/pollution levels*
- › *Commitment to offer Sustainable Waste Management – e.g. recycling and compostable bins in towns and at festivals, water (grey water) (5)*
- › *Encourage residents to be self-sufficient in fire protection whilst looking after the environment*
- › *The construction of illegal mountain bike tracks is causing considerable environmental decline*
- › *North and South cut by Highway and rail line – How do animals negotiate this*
- › *Transport modes for tourist – light rail*
- › *Subsidise asbestos to tip in order to stop people dumping in the bush*
- › *Public awareness program on effective household recycling.*

Using Land

- › *More low cost housing for low income people*
- › *The disconnect between what is acceptable in terms of maintaining unique character e.g. the Spires at Leura and the new structure at the entrance to Leura*
- › *Need to ensure we use the land in a healthy manner with minimal impact on the National Park*
- › *Responding to congestion issues due to increased tourist traffic*
- › *Accessibility - safety issues*
- › *Allow the subdivision of larger blocks of land*
- › *Council to limit its dictatorial policy on how people use private property*
- › *Need to ensure recreational spaces for our youth*
- › *Strengthening community consultation on proposed development (2)*
- › *Managing the impact on neighbours from short term rental/Airbnb*
- › *More sensitive approach to development applications*
- › *Population strategy required*

- > Maintenance of trees in parks e.g. in Gordon Falls Reserve
- > Tourist buses in Leura – need to be parked in Gross Street, not near the nursing home
- > Commuter parking at Leura trains station inadequate
- > Pedestrian crossing Leura railway station needs to be better lit at night
- > Access to the towns needs to be improved
- > Emergency evacuation of areas (Wentworth Falls lights, Katoomba)
- > Safe areas made
- > No further multi-storey development
- > A university campus to be developed
- > Infrastructure is necessary before more development takes place
- > Careful planning of development and management of the natural environment will maintain the liveability and vibrancy
- > To examine buildings or land owned by council not being utilised
- > Council – Challenge, control or demand land and properties. E.g. the Renaissance Centre
- > Better management of Railway station parking, tourist in Katoomba
- > I have never seen a town or village anywhere in the world that does not aspire to be liveable, vibrant and safe
- > Road access in and out of Katoomba required attention
- > Community gardens - need more
- > Artist centre is required.

Looking After People

- > Maintaining clean public toilets
- > Gym areas for parklands
- > Maybe convert Renaissance Centre into a campus for one of the Universities, keeping young people staying here and providing jobs for residents as well
- > Encourage all residents to have a bush fire plan and be more self-reliant in terms of property protection (6)
- > Need good schools
- > Fairness in treatment by council – no bias
- > Co-ordinate with charities and support groups to assist less fortunate. More visible in involvement
- > Address social isolation
- > Highway accessibility in times of emergencies
- > Support and keep our hospital
- > Need to encourage cultural diversity.

Moving Around

- > Park St, Katoomba is now at gridlock point
- > Cycleway between Katoomba and Blackheath needs to be fixed
- > Improve cycle ways between towns
- > More frequent trains (6)
- > More frequent Bus services (5)
- > Smaller buses and more frequent (3)
- > Integration of Tourist and Local buses
- > Maintenance of gravel roads is very important – upper mountains (2)
- > Yeaman Bridge is inadequate for access to Katoomba (4)
- > Katoomba Street needs beautification
- > Roads have numerous pot holes – safety issue
- > Car parking is a serious problem in Katoomba.
- > Traffic on local roads has increased
- > Better coordination of bus and train timetable (3)
- > Lack of emergency services access in upper mountains
- > RTA and Council need better harmony on entry and exit from highway
- > Faster train (less stops) to Sydney needed for commuters (2)
- > Bus seat broken at Leura station and no shelter
- > More traffic, increase demand of parking is putting pressure on our village – needs greater management

- › *Forward plan to build another transport road through/over the Blue Mountains (Penrith/Richmond – Lithgow).*

Sustainable Economy

- › *Contact between Katoomba and Leura is chalk and cheese – needs attention*
- › *More promotion of arts, unique environment (2)*
- › *Council to lead by example – solar panels, water tanks, community garden*
- › *Examine tourist impact on local environment*
- › *Improve frequency of cleaning tourist areas*
- › *Educate the tourist bus companies about rubbish/littering in our national park (2)*
- › *How to harness the tourist dollars - that the money is coming back into the community (2)*
- › *Council to make it easier for local businesses to operate – require more variety so we give back to our community opposed to shopping in Penrith (2)*
- › *Better integration of world heritage and tourism*
- › *Most young people need to leave or commute to Sydney for work – need to increase local employment*
- › *More community gardens and farmer markets*
- › *Levies on operators who gain free capital from our environment*
- › *Development of local business promoted with respect for the natural environment*
- › *Develop an upper mountains creative arts centre*
- › *Need to establish how much the tourist dollar is providing to our economy – is it sustainable*
- › *We need to provide clean amenities, better signage, as well as aboriginal history and culture for our tourists*
- › *Adequate cheaper commercial leasing/ rents would allow increased services/supply.*

6.4 Housing Strategy Results

For Area 2: Katoomba and Surrounds the most important considerations for housing included:

Key Findings:

- › *Workshop participants from Planning Area 2 gave highest importance to aged care (90%). This was followed by the importance of retirement villages (75%) and secondary dwellings (71%).*
- › *Very high importance was rated to the considerations of design quality (95%) and affordability (91%). Also of equal high importance were the considerations of maintaining character and appearance, minimising adverse environmental impacts and building height and size all rated at 86% high importance.*

Key Themes from General Discussion

- › *Need more affordable housing for lower incomes*
- › *Increase of investment homes and impact on rentals and supply of homes (slow down investment)*
- › *Zoning issues to control some development (RFS/slope etc.)*
- › *Granny flat development to be opened up*
- › *B&B/Airbnb impact. Investment decrease for local ownership*
- › *Many homes are left empty, Council control over how homes are used?*
- › *Potential for high density housing around transport nodes (Goldsmith/Leura on-ramp) that are detrimental to village character*
- › *Granny flats – investment (secondary dwelling)*
- › *Height limits on business vs residential (3 story for businesses)*
- › *Family housing – more needed*
- › *More medium density to attract younger people*
- › *More housing options will attract and retain younger people*
- › *More retirement accommodation for ageing population current lack of supply causes people to move out of the area*
- › *More well designed medium density housing as a strategic objective.*

Table 22: Housing types to improve housing diversity – Importance – Planning Area 2

Housing Types to Improve Housing Diversity	Level of Importance							
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure	
Aged care facilities	0	0%	2	10%	18	90%	0	0%
Retirement villages (over 55s)	0	0%	5	25%	15	75%	0	0%
Granny Flat (secondary dwelling)	2	10%	3	14%	15	71%	1	5%
Town houses & villas	1	5%	5	26%	13	68%	0	0%
Apartments	5	24%	3	14%	13	62%	0	0%
Shop top housing	5	25%	2	10%	12	60%	1	5%
Dual Occupancies	3	15%	8	40%	9	45%	0	0%
Subdivision & housing on smaller lots in established areas	4	20%	7	35%	9	45%	0	0%

Table 23: Considerations for improving housing diversity – Importance - Planning Area 2

Considerations for Improving Housing Diversity	Level of Importance							
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure	
Design quality of new housing	0	0%	1	5%	20	95%	0	0%
Housing that is accessible & adaptable for elderly & disabled	2	9%	0	0%	20	91%	0	0%
Affordability	2	10%	1	5%	18	86%	0	0%
Minimising adverse environmental impacts	1	5%	2	9%	19	86%	0	0%
Maintain character & appearance of streets & towns	3	14%	0	0%	19	86%	0	0%
New buildings that are a similar height & size to surrounding buildings	1	5%	4	18%	17	77%	0	0%
Close & accessible to shops & services	1	5%	8	38%	12	57%	0	0%
Proximity to employment & public transport	1	5%	8	40%	11	55%	0	0%
Housing opportunities close to family & friends	4	18%	12	55%	6	27%	0	0%

7.0 PLANNING AREA 3 (Lawson and Surrounds) – Workshop Outcomes

7.1 Top Priorities

The table below outlines the views of Area 3 participants on the top priorities for action over the next 10 years.

Table 24: Priorities for Action – Next 10 Years

PRIORITIES	Number of RESPONSES
<i>Protect Environment: World Heritage Area</i>	13
<i>Increase Employment Opportunities</i>	8
<i>Improve Housing Diversity</i>	7
<i>Improve Public Transport</i>	7
<i>Encourage Diversity</i>	5
<i>Support Local Business</i>	3
<i>Learning Region</i>	2
<i>Maintain Character Of Villages</i>	2
<i>No Airport</i>	2
<i>Manage Impact of Tourism</i>	2
<i>Improve Healthcare</i>	1
<i>Focus on Financial Management</i>	1
<i>Improve Sustainability</i>	1

7.2 Current CSP Objectives

Key Findings:

Participants from Planning Area 3: Lawson & Surrounds assigned highest priority ranking (greater than 90% importance rating) to the following existing Objectives in the Community Strategic Plan:

- › *The community and all levels of government work together to protect the Blue Mountains World Heritage environment (100% High Importance rating)*
- › *Integrated, accessible and sustainable choices are provided for moving around (100% High Importance rating)*
- › *The Blue Mountains Economy is vibrant and strong with increased local employment (100% High Importance rating)*
- › *The City of Blue Mountains is a model for sustainable local business and tourism (100% High Importance rating)*
- › *The health and diversity of native flora, fauna, habitat and ecosystems are maintained (96% High Importance rating)*
- › *The health of waterways and water catchment is maintained (96% High Importance rating)*
- › *The impact of development on the natural and built environment is managed and the City's unique character retained (91% High Importance rating)*
- › *Community health and well-being is maintained and improved (91% High Importance rating)*
- › *Resources are used and managed in an environmentally responsible way (91% High Importance rating).*

Table 25: Summary of Importance and Priority Level by Key Direction – Planning Area 3

Looking After Environment – Planning Area 3	Level of Importance					Rank			
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure		
The health and diversity of native flora, fauna, habitat and ecosystems are maintained	0	0%	1	5%	21	96%	0	0%	B
The health of waterways and water catchment is maintained	1	5%	0	0%	21	96%	0	0%	A
City activities contribute to a healthy atmosphere and resilience and adaptation to climate change	2	9%	3	14%	17	77%	0	0%	E
Resources are used and managed in an environmentally responsible way	0	0%	2	9%	20	91%	0	0%	D
The community and all levels of government work together to protect the Blue Mountains World Heritage environment	0	0%	0	0%	22	100%	0	0%	C

Using Land – Planning Area 3	Level of Importance					Rank			
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure		
The liveability, vibrancy and safety of towns and villages are strengthened	0	0%	3	14%	18	86%	0	0%	A
The impact of development on the natural and built environment is managed, and the City's unique character retained	0	0%	2	10%	19	91%	0	0%	B

Moving Around – Planning Area 3	Level of Importance					Rank			
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure		
Integrated, accessible and sustainable choices are provided for moving around	0	0%	0	0%	21	100%	0	0%	A
The City has a safe, well designed and maintained network of roads	1	5%	6	8%	14	67%	0	0%	B

Looking After People – Planning Area 3	Level of Importance					Rank			
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure		
Community health and well-being is maintained and improved	0	0%	2	9%	20	91%	0	0%	B
Blue Mountains communities are safe, caring and inclusive	1	5%	3	14%	18	82%	0	0%	A
The City is recognised as a centre of culture, creativity and life-long learning	1	5%	8	36%	13	59%	0	0%	D
The population has a healthy balance of people of different ages and life stages	1	5%	6	27%	15	68%	0	0%	C

Sustainable Economy – Planning Area 3	Level of Importance					Rank			
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure		
The Blue Mountains Economy is vibrant and strong with increased local employment	0	0%	0	0%	20	100%	0	0%	A
The City is recognised nationally as an innovative learning region within a World Heritage Area	2	10%	3	15%	15	75%	0	0%	C
The City of Blue Mountains is a model for sustainable local business and tourism	0	0%	0	0%	20	100%	0	0%	B

Civic Leadership – Planning Area 3	Level of Importance					Rank			
	Low (1-2)	Medium (3)	High (4-5)	Unsure					
The Council lives responsibly within its means and strengthens its financial sustainability	0	0%	5	23%	17	77%	0	0%	C
The Council provides transparent, fair and accountable civic leadership	0	0%	4	18%	18	82%	0	0%	B
The community is informed, consulted and engaged	1	5%	2	9%	19	86%	1	4%	D
The Council provides value for money services	0	0%	4	18%	18	82%	0	0%	F
The Council, other levels of government and the community work together to implement Sustainable Blue Mountains 2025	0	0%	3	14%	19	86%	0	0%	E
Sustainable services, assets and infrastructure are provided in the City	1	5%	2	9%	19	86%	0	0%	A

7.3 Comments on CSP Objectives

Participants in each workshop provided additional comments on each Key Direction in their workbooks. The tables below reflect the comments from Planning Area 3: Lawson and Surrounds:

Civic Leadership

- > *Is there sufficient sense of the need for innovation in these statements (Objectives)?*
- > *Residents don't have the opportunity to say if consultation has been adequate*
- > *Encourage participation through programs that will encourage greater involvement*
- > *Need leaders (non-political) from each village to represent village community*
- > *An overarching theme of Indigenous respect and support for all aspects of culture*
- > *Sustainable ecological relationships between humans and the land*
- > *Equal representation (as a percentage) on decision making with the exception of Aboriginal people having more say – not be swayed by business, politics.*
- > *Ethical purchases and expenditure*
- > *Transparency and less political spin is required to inform community of actual progress*
- > *Citizens being informed, allow leadership to be bottom up as well*
- > *Agreement between levels of Government be improved*
- > *Sometimes there can be over-consulting with the community.*

Looking After Environment

- > *Lessening the volume of recycling bins is sending the wrong message.*
- > *Reducing the consumption of plastic bags*
- > *More ideas groups for managing problems*
- > *More workshops for community providing practical ways we can manage waste*
- > *More encouragement and facility for residents to get involved is upkeep of walking tracks*
- > *Increasing household recycling services to weekly*
- > *Educational programs to increase awareness and involvement*
- > *No airport (3)*
- > *Maintain population levels (2)*
- > *No expansion of urban living*
- > *Utilise volunteers to maintain/build walking tracks*
- > *The separation of rates from Environmental Levy so each can be reported and collected*
- > *Storm water management*
- > *Trail management*
- > *Consider local electricity generation to contribute to the grid e.g. Solar, wind and from treatment of waste*
- > *Management of feral animals*
- > *Management by council of illegal dumped garbage (2)*

- > *Better organisation of public transport to encourage more people to utilise rather than personal travel*
- > *Low environment impact tourist attractions and growth opportunities*
- > *Deter the dumping of rubbish in the bush.*

Using Land

- > *Educate Council on ecological building practices (1)*
- > *Adjust council requirements to reflect new innovation in sustainable buildings (8)*
- > *Lawson development is a major disappointment, not in character of village, not practical, no space to congregate (2)*
- > *Need greater emphasis on public transport, opposed to emphasis on roads and private transport*
- > *Nothing here for the youth, they need direction for their future, careers, training, emotional support, activity etc.*
- > *Need to keep development in line with the village character*
- > *Need employment opportunities*
- > *The impact on natural environment is decreased or maintained – not just managed*
- > *Housing opportunities over shops*
- > *Villages need to be walkable*
- > *Hazelbrook; old childcare centre would make lovely housing in heart of the village*
- > *Council needs to be more proactive regarding nature of businesses/mix. In redevelopments (e.g. Lawson)*
- > *Town planning to provide human-centred space e.g. village square as a community hub (3).*

Looking After People

- > *Services for youth*
- > *Maintain playground facilities better*
- > *Advocate for better health services (2)*
- > *Springwood Hub – waste of money*
- > *Footpaths in Lawson are dangerous and unfinished (2)*
- > *Disparity in what Lawson gets and what more popular villages get*
- > *Better lighting*
- > *Cost of facilities e.g. swimming pools, need to be supportive of families*
- > *Rather than outsourcing care and services to private sector, use existing and new NFP and volunteer groups to support people and communities*
- > *Keep both TAFE's*
- > *No new religious buildings*
- > *Access to railway – ramps not stairs*
- > *No airport*
- > *Support for refugee resettlement*
- > *Increased access to public transport*
- > *Gas/Electricity blocking footpaths – Outside Hazelbrook Health Services need to be managed better (safety issue for pedestrians)*
- > *Co-housing developments can help people look after each other*
- > *Need to attract businesses in appropriate areas to provide employment*
- > *Need higher education facilities to keep young people here.*

Moving Around

- > *Better infrastructure/advocacy into*
 - o *Footpaths (5)*
 - o *Lighting*
- > *More frequent train timetable (3)*
- > *More frequent bus timetable*
- > *Better coordination of bus and train timetable (8)*
- > *Smaller more frequent buses/shuttle buses (2)*
- > *Later trains*
- > *Walking tracks between villages*
- > *Better cycle way between villages*
- > *Secondary road through the Mountains (4)*

- › No Access across the Highway to train station at Springwood
- › No access to station for disabled.

Sustainable Economy

- › With an aging population it seems to be very important to encourage young people to stay and work here. Attracting innovative businesses that fit in with the values of our villages and world heritage (9)
- › Increased scope of educational/training services delivered by TAFE (3)
- › Learning opportunities to be affordable for the young and low income people
- › NBN – coverage needs to be fixed
- › Low impact tourism initiatives to maintain our environment
- › Council needs to engage with local businesses – lack of engagement is causing lack of growth (2)
- › Katoomba TAFE to be developed into the Sydney College of Arts
- › The stable role of the ‘government dollar’ in the mountains economy (pensions/benefits) should be recognised and appreciated
- › Encourage young families to the area, via culture, lifestyle, housing affordability, employment to balance the aging population
- › Blue Mountains Bike Park – massive opportunity to attract tourists, sustainable local employment opportunities e.g. ACT Stromlo Park, Thredbo.

7.4 Housing Strategy Results

For Planning Area 3: Lawson and Surrounds the importance of housing types and considerations for diversity are set out below.

Key Findings:

- › Workshop participants from Planning Area 3 gave high importance to aged care (86%), retirement villages (82%) and dual occupancies (75%).
- › The most important considerations for improved housing diversity are rated as being design quality, proximity to employment and public transport and minimising adverse environmental impacts.

Key Themes from General Discussion

- › Co-Housing (collective of dwellings each owned by separate family and key facilities (dining etc.) are common and shared) increase mutual support and social interactions. Less car focus. But council likes cars at each dwelling
- › Need to look at better use of residential land
- › Seniors nursing homes are very de-personalising and co-housing overcomes this
- › Need for more affordable housing. First home in an estate have increased cost due to fire rating. Later built homes don't have this cost imposed (RFS issue)
- › Quarter acre blocks; sub-divide into smaller blocks. Care needed regarding policies on this and impact on character of the Blue Mountains
- › More flexibility in council options for housing, especially if not fit in with council criteria
- › Group housing for younger people not available, youth leaving the area, what can Council do about this
- › More well-designed medium housing needed (19 for, 2 don't know, 1 against in group vote)

Table 26: Housing types to improve housing diversity – Importance – Planning Area 3

Housing Types to Improve Housing Diversity	Level of Importance							
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure	
Aged care facilities	0	0%	2	9%	19	86%	1	5%
Retirement villages (over 55s)	1	5%	3	14%	18	82%	0	0%
Dual Occupancies	1	5%	4	20%	15	75%	0	0%
Granny Flat (secondary dwelling)	2	11%	5	26%	12	63%	0	0%
Shop top housing	4	19%	4	19%	12	57%	1	5%
Town houses & villas	1	5%	8	38%	10	48%	2	10%
Subdivision & housing on smaller lots in established areas	7	33%	5	24%	7	33%	2	10%
Apartments	5	25%	7	35%	6	30%	2	10%

Table 27: Considerations for improving housing diversity – Importance – Planning Area 3

Considerations for Improving Housing Diversity	Level of Importance							
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure	
Design quality of new housing	1	5%	2	9%	19	86%	0	0%
Housing that is accessible & adaptable for elderly & disabled	0	0%	3	14%	19	86%	0	0%
Affordability	0	0%	3	14%	19	86%	0	0%
Minimising adverse environmental impacts	1	5%	3	14%	18	82%	0	0%
Maintain character & appearance of streets & towns	0	0%	5	23%	16	73%	1	5%
New buildings that are a similar height & size to surrounding buildings	0	0%	7	32%	15	68%	0	0%
Close & accessible to shops & services	3	14%	6	27%	14	64%	0	0%
Proximity to employment & public transport	1	5%	6	27%	12	55%	1	5%
Housing opportunities close to family & friends	5	23%	5	23%	11	50%	1	5%

8.0 PLANNING AREA 4 (Springwood and Surrounds) – Workshop Outcomes

8.1 Top Priorities

The table below outlines the views of Area 4 participants on the top priorities for action over the next 10 years.

Table 28: Priorities for Action – Next 10 Years

PRIORITIES	Number of RESPONSES
<i>Improve Traffic Management & Roads</i>	21
<i>Improve Housing Diversity</i>	16
<i>Increase Employment Opportunities</i>	8
<i>Improve Public Transport</i>	6
<i>Protect Environment: World Heritage Area</i>	6
<i>Maintain Character Of Villages</i>	4
<i>Maintain Town & Village Centres</i>	4
<i>Increase Recreational Opportunities</i>	4
<i>Improve Health Care</i>	3
<i>Support Local Business</i>	2
<i>Encouraging Diversity</i>	2
<i>Focus on Financial Management</i>	2
<i>Improve Accessibility</i>	1
<i>Improve Accountability & Transparency</i>	1
<i>Learning Region</i>	1
<i>No Airport</i>	1

8.2 Current CSP Objectives

Key Findings:

Participants from Planning Area 4: Springwood and Surrounds assigned highest priority ranking (greater than 90% importance rating) to the following existing Objectives in the Community Strategic Plan:

- › *The health and diversity of native flora, fauna, habitat and ecosystems are maintained (97% High Importance rating)*
- › *The health of waterways and water catchments is maintained (97% High Importance rating)*
- › *The Council provides value for money services (97% High Importance rating)*
- › *Integrated, accessible and sustainable choices are provided for moving around (96% High Importance rating)*
- › *The livability, vibrancy and safety of towns and villages are strengthened (93% High Importance rating)*
- › *Blue Mountains communities are safe, caring and inclusive (93% High Importance rating)*
- › *The Blue Mountains economy is vibrant and strong with increased local employment (93% High Importance rating)*

Table 29: Summary of Importance and Priority Level by Key Direction – Planning Area 4

Looking After Environment – Planning Area 4	Level of Importance					Rank
	Low (1-2)	Medium (3)	High (4-5)	Unsure		
The health and diversity of native flora, fauna, habitat and ecosystems are maintained	1	3%	0	0%	28 97%	0 0% A
The health of waterways and water catchment is maintained	1	3%	0	0%	28 97%	0 0% B
City activities contribute to a healthy atmosphere and resilience and adaptation to climate change	0	0%	5	19%	22 82%	0 0% E
Resources are used and managed in an environmentally responsible way	1	3%	4	14%	23 79%	1 3% C
The community and all levels of government work together to protect the Blue Mountains World Heritage environment	1	3%	2	7%	26 90%	0 0% D

Using Land – Planning Area 4	Level of Importance					Rank
	Low (1-2)	Medium (3)	High (4-5)	Unsure		
The liveability, vibrancy and safety of towns and villages are strengthened	1	3%	1	3%	27 93%	0 0% B
The impact of development on the natural and built environment is managed, and the City's unique character retained	1	3%	4	14%	24 83%	0 0% A

Moving Around – Planning Area 4	Level of Importance					Rank
	Low (1-2)	Medium (3)	High (4-5)	Unsure		
Integrated, accessible and sustainable choices are provided for moving around	1	4%	0	0%	27 96%	0 0% A
The City has a safe, well designed and maintained network of roads	3	11%	0	0%	25 89%	0 0% B

Looking After People – Planning Area 4	Level of Importance					Rank
	Low (1-2)	Medium (3)	High (4-5)	Unsure		
Community health and well-being is maintained and improved	1	4%	2	7%	24 86%	1 4% A
Blue Mountains communities are safe, caring and inclusive	1	4%	1	4%	26 93%	0 0% B
The City is recognised as a centre of culture, creativity and life-long learning	5	18%	7	25%	16 57%	0 0% D
The population has a healthy balance of people of different ages and life stages	1	4%	4	14%	23 82%	0 0% C

Sustainable Economy – Planning Area 4	Level of Importance					Rank
	Low (1-2)	Medium (3)	High (4-5)	Unsure		
The Blue Mountains Economy is vibrant and strong with increased local employment	1	4%	1	4%	25 93%	0 0% A
The City is recognised nationally as an innovative learning region within a World Heritage Area	4	15%	5	19%	18 67%	0 0% C
The City of Blue Mountains is a model for sustainable local business and tourism	2	7%	4	15%	21 78%	0 0% B

Civic Leadership – Planning Area 4	Level of Importance					Rank
	Low (1-2)	Medium (3)	High (4-5)	Unsure		
The Council lives responsibly within its means and strengthens its financial sustainability	1	3%	4	14%	24 83%	0 0% A
The Council provides transparent, fair and accountable civic leadership	1	3%	5	17%	23 79%	0 0% E

Civic Leadership – Planning Area 4			Level of Importance						
The community is informed, consulted and engaged	1	3%	2	7%	26	90%	0	0%	C
The Council provides value for money services	1	3%	0	0%	28	97%	0	0%	B
The Council, other levels of government and the community work together to implement Sustainable Blue Mountains 2025	1	4%	4	14%	23	82%	0	0%	F
Sustainable services, assets and infrastructure are provided in the City	1	3%	5	17%	23	79%	0	0%	D

8.3 Comments on CSP Objectives

Participants in each workshop provided additional comments on each Key Direction in their workbooks. The tables below reflect the comments from Planning Area 4: Springwood and Surrounds:

Civic Leadership

- > Encourage - Local Jobs and opportunity
- > Advocate for no airport (2)
- > Advocate for community services – childcare/men's shed etc. (need a men's shed in the lower mountains)
- > Community consultation policy when spending a certain amount of money
- > Simplified communication by council to the community
- > More visibility of Councilors – access to our representatives
- > Allowing the Community to vote on things that affect them
- > Council not to succumb to pressure of developers
- > Council Provide innovative leadership.

Looking After Environment

- > Increased composting
- > Maintained walking tracks
- > Management of council land on the outskirts of towns to mitigate fire risk to residents
- > Minimise development
- > Ensure any development in less bushfire prone areas (2)
- > Bushfire management – interaction with other levels of government
- > Encourage residents to lessen their carbon footprint
- > Household Pet management
- > Purpose built structure for fire protection in Yellow Rock (2)
- > Seek funding to improve/build walking tracks, cycle-ways
- > Increase community gardens
- > Access road for Winmalee/Hawkesbury/Lower Mountains in emergency events (6)
- > An annual event to show appreciation to the indigenous ancestors e.g. Australia Day
- > Advocate for no airport
- > Education on
 - o Bush Fire safety (2)
 - o Neighborhood safe places in times of emergencies
 - o Waste management.

Using Land

- > Variety of housing types needed to suit different age groups (5)
- > Clean facilities more recreational facilities, e.g. toilets/parks (7)
- > More picnic tables in Buttenshaw Park for cultural events/concerts similar to stage at Kiama Park, Kiama
- > More scope for redevelopment allowing diversity of housing; too much land is locked up in R6 or other restrictive forms
- > Our 150 acres of Glenbrook locked up as R6 rather than R2
- > Minimise development – keep in character with village
- > Develop Housing in Macquarie Street, Springwood – above shops

- › Clarify guidelines regarding trees/vegetation – there is conflict between RFS and conservation
- › Toilet upgrade required in Springwood and larger park
- › No high-rise housing
- › Men's Shed required in Lower Mountains
- › Parking improvements
- › Access roads between villages and better traffic flow required on main roads (pedestrian crossings in Springwood).

Looking After People

- › Local scheme required to support disabled people living in their homes – modifications required to their dwellings
- › Adequate, accessible public transport (3)
- › Council to encourage/assist small business who will in turn provide local employment/supply services (2)
- › Springwood childcare centre – improve facilities for young families with new babies
- › Improve breastfeeding facilities throughout the Mountains
- › Springwood community hub is too expensive to promote a sense of community for non-profit groups (2)
- › Upgrade of health care centres
- › More available, frequent and accessible public transport
- › More facilities to retain and attract young people
- › Zebra crossing from Post Office Springwood needs to be re-implemented
- › TAFE courses have been axed and impacting youth retention
- › Loneliness of residents is a concern. A program for an elderly person to be matched with a new mother. 'Neighborhood Friendship' program – Happy to help design it
- › Community Programs to provide a range of services that meet the community needs
- › Needs/access met for people with disability (2)
- › Monthly Communication, detailing local meetings, groups advertising times and dates to promote community
- › Mental health needs addressing, awareness and assistance programs (2)
- › More parking required at Springwood.

Moving Around

- › Advocate for/lead as a priority
- › Small frequent buses (6)
- › Coordinated bus and train timetable
- › Additional train and bus services (8)
- › Improved bus shelters
- › Additional Station Parking required
- › Possibility of a light rail system along Hawkesbury Rd Linking Springwood and Winmalee Shopping centre
- › More realistic options and access for public transport e.g. foot/cycle ways (4)
- › Traffic Flow from Macquarie Road/Hawkesbury road requires development (5)
- › The bus routes do not cover all areas
- › Slippery surfaces on walkway in lower Bednal Rd due to poor drainage after heavy rain
- › Implement Bus Lanes
- › Single Ridge Road, towards Yellow Rock is in poor condition and needs maintenance
- › Manage Electric Scooter use
- › Hawkesbury Rd needs another exit
- › The airport is a great idea providing employment and tourist access
- › Additional lower mountains exit required (2)
- › Additional parking for Springwood (3)
- › Too many pedestrian crossing in Springwood
- › Maintain lighting in public places, transport hubs etc.
- › Bus stop should be moved to north side of station.

Sustainable Economy

- › TAFE to offer appropriate courses to save some of the students having to travel (2)
- › Utilise our water supply to generate power
- › Council needs to encourage small business in the area (3)
- › An innovative approach to job creation and need for community which will reduce pressure on transport and environment (2)
- › Additional employment opportunities to retain youth in the area
- › Need for more resident professional staff to overcome waiting lists and increase spending power in BMCC
- › Health Funding into community centres and hospitals.

8.4 Housing Strategy Results

For Planning Area 4: Springwood and Surrounds the importance of housing types and considerations for diversity are set out below.

Key Findings:

- › Aged care facilities (86%), townhouses & villas (82%) and retirement villages (79%) were rated as high importance by participants of Planning Area 4.
- › Affordability was the most important (96%) consideration for Planning Area 4 participants. This was followed with equal importance for the considerations of design quality and housing that is accessible and adaptable for elderly & disabled (93%).

Key Themes from General Discussion

- › Sub-division potential on Blue Mountains area
- › Glenbrook – 150 homes are heritage protected (R6) which is stopping appropriate development. Huge areas in towns are zoned to protect 1960's & 1970's home – but these are not heritage buildings
- › Long waiting times for public housing
- › Use Council owned land to provide housing stock for youth, families (affordable)
- › Ageing population needs more retirement homes (retirement living options)
- › Need more smaller houses for younger and ageing people (smaller, more affordable)
- › Support for more diverse housing options
- › Shop top housing, should be more of this developed over existing shops/commercial e.g. Springwood
- › Don't have adequate housing mix, but hurdle is bushfire and fire regulations that increase cost of development and building
- › Home owners need more ability (empowerment) to remove trees to make homes safe from bushfires
- › Rental prices have increase and now people moving away because of price pressures.

Table 30: Housing types to improve housing diversity – Importance – Planning Area 4

Housing Types to Improve Housing Diversity	Level of Importance							
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure	
Aged care facilities	1	4%	3	11%	24	86%	0	0%
Town houses & villas	0	0%	5	18%	23	82%	0	0%
Retirement villages (over 55s)	1	3%	5	17%	23	79%	0	0%
Dual Occupancies	2	7%	6	22%	19	70%	0	0%
Subdivision & housing on smaller lots in established areas	7	27%	5	19%	14	54%	0	0%
Apartments	11	42%	5	19%	10	39%	0	0%
Granny Flat (secondary dwelling)	7	27%	10	39%	9	35%	0	0%
Shop top housing	6	22%	12	44%	9	33%	0	0%

Table 31: Considerations for improving housing diversity– Importance – Planning Area 4

Considerations for Improving Housing Diversity	Level of Importance							
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure	
Design quality of new housing	1	4%	1	4%	25	93%	0	0%
Housing that is accessible & adaptable for elderly & disabled	1	4%	1	4%	26	93%	0	0%
Affordability	1	4%	0	0%	26	96%	0	0%
Minimising adverse environmental impacts	2	7%	4	14%	22	79%	0	0%
Maintain character & appearance of streets & towns	3	12%	14	15%	19	73%	0	0%
New buildings that are a similar height & size to surrounding buildings	2	7%	8	29%	18	64%	0	0%
Close & accessible to shops & services	1	4%	4	15%	22	82%	0	0%
Proximity to employment & public transport	1	4%	4	14%	23	82%	0	0%
Housing opportunities close to family & friends	5	18%	5	18%	18	64%	0	0%

9.0 PLANNING AREA 5 (Blaxland & Surrounds) – Workshop Outcomes

9.1 Top Priorities

The table below outlines the views of Area 5 participants on the top priorities for action over the next 10 years.

Table 32: Priorities for Action – Next 10 Years

PRIORITIES	Number of RESPONSES
<i>No Airport</i>	15
<i>Improve Housing Diversity</i>	15
<i>Improve Public Transport</i>	11
<i>Maintain Character Of Villages</i>	9
<i>Protect Environment: World Heritage Area</i>	7
<i>Increase Recreational Opportunities</i>	7
<i>Encourage Diversity</i>	4
<i>Improve Accessibility</i>	3
<i>Increase Employment Opportunities</i>	3
<i>Improve Traffic Management & Roads</i>	3
<i>Improve Care For The Aged</i>	2
<i>Increase Arts/Cultural Opportunities</i>	2
<i>Support Local Business</i>	2
<i>Balanced Population</i>	1
<i>Improved Development</i>	1
<i>Focus on Financial Management</i>	1
<i>Learning Region</i>	1
<i>Encourage Regional Partnerships</i>	1
<i>Manage Impact on Tourism</i>	1

9.2 Current CSP Objectives

Key Findings:

Participants from Planning Area 5: Blaxland and Surrounds assigned highest priority ranking (greater than 90% importance rating) to the following existing Objectives in the Community Strategic Plan:

- › *Blue Mountains communities are safe, caring and inclusive (100% High Importance rating)*
- › *The health and diversity of native flora, fauna, habitat and ecosystems are maintained (97% High Importance rating)*
- › *The health of waterways and water catchments is maintained (97% High Importance rating)*
- › *Resources are used and managed in an environmentally responsible way (97% High Importance rating)*
- › *The livability, vibrancy and safety of towns and villages are strengthened (97% High Importance rating)*

- › *The impact of development on the natural and built environment is managed, and the City's unique character retained (97% High Importance rating)*
- › *Community health and well-being is maintained and improved (97% High Importance rating)*
- › *Sustainable services, assets and infrastructure are provided in the City (97% High Importance rating)*
- › *City activities contribute to a healthy atmosphere and resilience and adaptation to climate change (94% High Importance rating)*
- › *The city has a safe, well-designed and maintained network of roads (94% High Importance rating)*
- › *The Council lives responsibly within its means and strengthens its financial sustainability (94% High Importance rating)*
- › *The Council provides value for money services (94% High Importance rating)*
- › *The City of Blue Mountains is a model for sustainable local business and tourism (93% High Importance rating)*
- › *The Community is informed, consulted and engaged (93% High Importance rating)*

Table 33: Summary of Importance and Priority Level by Key Direction – Planning Area 5

Looking After Environment – Planning Area 5	Level of Importance								Rank
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure		
The health and diversity of native flora, fauna, habitat and ecosystems are maintained	0	0%	1	3%	30	97%	0	0%	A
The health of waterways and water catchment is maintained	0	0%	1	3%	30	97%	0	0%	C
City activities contribute to a healthy atmosphere and resilience and adaptation to climate change	0	0%	2	7%	29	94%	0	0%	E
Resources are used and managed in an environmentally responsible way	0	0%	1	3%	30	97%	0	0%	D
The community and all levels of government work together to protect the Blue Mountains World Heritage environment	0	0%	2	7%	28	90%	1	3%	B

Using Land – Planning Area 5	Level of Importance								Rank
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure		
The liveability, vibrancy and safety of towns and villages are strengthened	0	0%	1	3%	29	97%	0	0%	B
The impact of development on the natural and built environment is managed, and the City's unique character retained	1	3%	0	0%	29	97%	0	0%	A

Moving Around – Planning Area 5	Level of Importance								Rank
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure		
Integrated, accessible and sustainable choices are provided for moving around	1	3%	2	7%	28	90%	0	0%	A
The City has a safe, well designed and maintained network of roads	1	3%	1	3%	29	94%	0	0%	B

Looking After People – Planning Area 5	Level of Importance								Rank
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure		
Community health and well-being is maintained and improved	0	0%	1	3%	29	97%	0	0%	A
Blue Mountains communities are safe, caring and inclusive	0	0%	0	0%	30	100%	0	0%	B
The City is recognised as a centre of culture, creativity and life-long learning	2	7%	3	10%	25	83%	0	0%	D
The population has a healthy balance of people of different ages and life stages	0	0%	4	13%	27	87%	0	0%	C

Sustainable Economy – Planning Area 5	Level of Importance								Rank
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure		
The Blue Mountains Economy is vibrant and strong with increased local employment	2	7%	2	7%	25	86%	0	0%	A
The City is recognised nationally as an innovative learning region within a World Heritage Area	1	3%	5	17%	24	80%	0	0%	C
The City of Blue Mountains is a model for sustainable local business and tourism	0	0%	2	7%	28	93%	0	0%	B

Civic Leadership – Planning Area 5	Level of Importance								Rank
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure		
The Council lives responsibly within its means and strengthens its financial sustainability	0	0%	2	7%	29	94%	0	0%	A
The Council provides transparent, fair and accountable civic leadership	0	0%	3	10%	28	90%	0	0%	D
The community is informed, consulted and engaged	1	3%	1	3%	28	93%	0	0%	B
The Council provides value for money services	1	3%	1	3%	29	94%	0	0%	F
The Council, other levels of government and the community work together to implement Sustainable Blue Mountains 2025	1	3%	4	13%	25	83%	0	0%	E
Sustainable services, assets and infrastructure are provided in the City	0	0%	1	3%	30	97%	0	0%	C

9.3 Workbook Comments by Key Direction

Participants in each workshop provided additional comments on each Key Direction in their workbooks. The tables below reflect the comments from Planning Area 5: Blaxland and Surrounds:

Civic Leadership

- › *Unfair airport is definitely going to create and already is a huge threat to our future as environmentally responsible and caring custodians of our World Heritage status*
- › *Leaders that look responsibly to the future to preserve the uniqueness of this wonderful environment – not just for profit*
- › *I have not seen the business component of the leadership mentioned under this key direction*
- › *Maintain balance between attracting tourism and supporting the local community*
- › *State and Federal Government must pay attention to our local Councillors concerns about the airport*
- › *Balance your objectives; community/tourism/environment*
- › *Contribute to sense of community - helping the community be a cohesive village looking after each other*
- › *Council works with Penrith and Hawkesbury Councils to advocate and deliver services and infrastructure in the region*
- › *Work together for providing jobs*
- › *Promoting community spirit – living here by choice not by default*
- › *Short term debt for revenue-creating assets is good when interest rates are low*
- › *Needs more engagement with community*
- › *Where are the under 25's in this forum?*

Looking After Environment

- › *Developers need to consider heritage*
- › *Rubbish removal from roadsides especially takeaway containers and rubbish coming up Old Bathurst Road. Rubbish on Old Bathurst Road, difficult to clean up (2)*
- › *Strive for a zero footprint*
- › *Using as much infrastructure to reduce or maintain clean environment*
- › *Protecting the environment of the village and not destroying it to cater for tourists*
- › *Educate people about weed management and native plants*

- › *More volunteers to assist with maintaining and improving waterways*
- › *Fast food places should pay fees to assist/reduce the litter issues*
- › *Balance should be between resident safety and managing the environment.*
- › *Burn offs are more important for the safety of residents and properties. Balance between bushfire risk and living in the bush (2)*
- › *Stop the airplanes flying over our houses*
- › *Education for people on tree removal and replacement. Public education on species and impact of non-native species and needs on the environment (3)*
- › *Get the balance right on the cost of tourism to the environment versus income for the community*
- › *Indian Mynah Birds; control or eradicate. Council supports residents action method or Council takes it on themselves (3)*
- › *Banning plastic shopping bags, setting up more landscape groups, encouraging alternatives to short car trips*
- › *Renewable energy and waste minimisation is encouraged*
- › *Education of community*
- › *Response to emergency situations*
- › *Leadership to be more committed to offering proper funding from State and Federal Governments*
- › *Reducing the number of trucks on the road*
- › *Remove fluoride from water supply*
- › *Stop forced vaccinations*
- › *Make Blue Mountains no-fly zone.*

Using Land

- › *Streets are becoming too narrow*
- › *Important not to have dense population i.e. not unit blocks. The look and feel is continued in new development (3)*
- › *Parking at Glenbrook is a big issue*
- › *The land returned to parks near the station could have been used for parking*
- › *Poor land use and design around Lapstone netball courts, A well designed solution will reduce land degradation while being safe for motorist and children (5)*
- › *Parking an issue at Glenbrook shops – section with time limit parking*
- › *High rise development is not appropriate in the Blue Mountains*
- › *Keep development looking good and green*
- › *Graffiti control and vandalism in public parks and amenities*
- › *Parking is a sensitive issue; too much parking can destroy the village feel*
- › *With increased parking at Glenbrook station now, are out of area people parking there?*
- › *Village life should be prioritised over development*
- › *Open areas for people to relax should be away from the highway*
- › *Bike tracks as an alternative to driving*
- › *There is a bit of an overlap of this direction with other directions. Question if objectives and intent could be out under other objectives*
- › *Paying rates to have our village destroyed*
- › *Using land should not be based on economics; short term gains vs. long term gains*
- › *Dual occupancy housing*
- › *Anything profit based is not wanted*
- › *Needs to be housing that is affordable and livable. But also have the problem of people living in 4 bedroom houses when more suitable village accommodation can be planned for*
- › *Use the land for community engagement e.g. parks, trails, sporting fields*
- › *Reduce development and needless housing*
- › *Parking at sporting grounds, tourist attractions and railway station is an issue requiring Councils attention*
- › *Most councils would kill for the land we have but we don't use it – park modelled like Fairfield City has.*

Looking After People

- › *Impossible to park at stations; full by 6.30am*
- › *Not enough activity centres*
- › *Need to enforce speed limits, more signage*
- › *Parking in Glenbrook an issue especially on weekends due to tourism*

- › *Assisting people with disabilities not just physical but mental issues also, with job opportunities (3)*
- › *Concerts for young and older generations*
- › *Mental Health for men*
- › *Better housing and infrastructure for the older generation allowing downsizing*
- › *Better access to things organised for the young people (3)*
- › *More retirement village and community living*
- › *Healthy balance of diversity and ethnicities and genders*
- › *Access to health, services and shops*
- › *Access to parks, activities, education and events for health and well being*
- › *Focus on locally grown produce and services for the community*
- › *Establishment of community gardens to promote community activity, healthy food and connections*
- › *Disabled access to the station platforms – Glenbrook no access*
- › *Access to public toilets later in the evening especially in summer*
- › *The correct health and wellbeing issues are being address*
- › *No disabled toilet at Springwood*
- › *Nothing in values statement about ethnicities*

Moving Around

- › *Street parking; roads are narrow, very dangerous – Governors Drive, Lapstone*
- › *Trucks are a menace on the roads, remove trucks off the highway to rail (2)*
- › *Accessibility at train stations for elderly or disabled – Glenbrook*
- › *Focus on cycle-ways for children and commuters*
- › *Improve train timetable - bus and train timetable needs better linkage (4)*
- › *Alternative roads linking mountain villages to avoid using highway (3)*
- › *Have roads to assist areas that cannot be used during bushfires*
- › *More bike, pram, wheel chair tracks around parks; network of bike tracks (4)*
- › *Small buses (2)*
- › *Look at one-road access to areas; dangerous especially in an emergency*
- › *Better lighting*
- › *Larger baggage area on trains*
- › *Using the land next to the train lines as connecting bike tracks instead of being fenced off*
- › *Underpass/overhead crossing at Glenbrook for crossing the highway*
- › *Shorter trains for shorter platforms*
- › *Community buses to complement commercial buses*
- › *Kerbs and gutters; reduce the cost of maintenance and improve mobility [access]*
- › *Better parking at train stations and easy access to platform*
- › *Footpaths not to have trees overhanging*
- › *Better maintained roads*
- › *Trains to run later [at night]*
- › *Better access for school children to get to school safely*
- › *The lack of public transport forces people to shop in Penrith instead of locally*

Sustainable Economy

- › *Shops in the area need to be local flavor and not too many the same*
- › *Encourage new business to the area*
- › *World Heritage needs greater tourism to continue to provide the area with greater economy*
- › *Get things right the first time e.g. McDonalds now in and cannot get rid of it*
- › *Economy largely based on tourism and with the 24/7 airport this will impact on our World Heritage site (3)*
- › *Emphasis on culture and arts*
- › *What will be the impact of the NBN?*
- › *Attract people to live in the area*
- › *Look at other cities, countries and what they are achieving and how*
- › *Promote art, music, festivals*
- › *Promote clean industry e.g. Lawson, Blaxland, Katoomba industrial area*
- › *Work with surrounding councils to promote education and career/jobs*

9.4 Housing Strategy Results

For Planning Area 5: Blaxland and Surrounds the importance of housing types and considerations for diversity are set out below.

Key Findings:

- › Planning Area 5 residents assigned very high importance to aged care facilities (97%), followed by retirement villages (83%).
- › Very high importance was assigned to the five consideration items of
 - Accessible & adaptable housing for the elderly & disabled (100%)
- › The following all rated 93% High Importance:
 - Proximity to shops and services
 - Maintaining the character & appearance of streets & towns
 - Minimising adverse environmental impacts
 - Building height and size.

Key Themes from General Discussion

- › Not enough over 55's housing available – older people are moving away due to lack of housing options
- › Need more well designed medium density housing
- › Need improved services to support older people staying in their homes
- › Many homes not suitable for older people, especially if they are living on their own and can't drive
- › Not enough nursing home places
- › Need increased housing options for independent living
- › Need to ensure housing options for over 55's are in character with local area – not high density
- › Increase options for multiple occupancy / subdivision
- › New housing needs to be close to transport
- › Provision and support for homeless people

Table 34: Housing types to improve housing diversity – Importance – Planning Area 5

Housing Types to Improve Housing Diversity	Level of Importance							
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure	
Aged care facilities	1	3%	0	0%	28	97%	0	0%
Retirement villages (over 55s)	3	10%	2	7%	24	83%	0	0%
Town houses & villas	6	21%	7	24%	16	55%	0	0%
Dual Occupancies	2	7%	10	37%	14	52%	1	4%
Granny Flat (secondary dwelling)	4	13%	10	33%	15	50%	1	3%
Subdivision & housing on smaller lots in established areas	12	44%	5	19%	10	37%	0	0%
Shop top housing	15	54%	8	29%	5	18%	0	0%
Apartments	17	63%	6	22%	3	11%	1	4%

Table 35: Considerations for improving housing diversity – Importance – Planning Area 5

Considerations for Improving Housing Diversity	Level of Importance							
	Low (1-2)		Medium (3)		High (4-5)		Unsure	
Design quality of new housing	0	0%	3	11%	24	89%	0	0%
Housing that is accessible & adaptable for elderly & disabled	0	0%	0	0%	29	100%	0	0%
Affordability	0	0%	5	17%	24	83%	0	0%
Minimising adverse environmental impacts	1	4%	1	4%	26	93%	0	0%

Considerations for Improving Housing	Level of Importance							
	0	0%	2	7%	27	93%	0	0%
Maintain character & appearance of streets & towns	0	0%	2	7%	27	93%	0	0%
New buildings that are a similar height & size to surrounding buildings	2	7%	0	0%	26	93%	0	0%
Close & accessible to shops & services	1	4%	1	4%	26	93%	0	0%
Proximity to employment & public transport	2	7%	4	14%	22	79%	0	0%
Housing opportunities close to family & friends	2	7%	8	30%	17	63%	0	0%

APPENDIX 1: ADDITIONAL COMMENTS RAISED ON CURRENT COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

Table 36: CIVIC LEADERSHIP

COMMENT	No. Responses
Community engagement, consultation and communication	26
Improve community engagement, consultation, communication (two way)/ encourage greater community involvement, simplify communication by Council to community	9
Need business leadership and community leadership (bottom up) working with Council leadership	3
Community should be able to vote on things that affect them	1
Spending a certain amount of money should trigger implementing consultation	1
Sometimes community can be over consulted	1
Need leaders (non political) from each village to represent village community	1
Residents need to be given opportunity to say if consultation adequate	1
Civic leadership should not take community for granted	1
Improved customer focus by Council	1
Should be consultation by Council with peak bodies e.g. for the arts	1
Responsibility of those in public office to support new ideas but also educate community on inappropriate development	1
On major township redevelopments leadership needs to improve community information and engagement – Lawson redevelopment and current dispute in Leura PR not good	1
Improve relationship between councilors and staff	1
Promote community spirit – living here by choice	1
Where are the under 25s' in this forum?	1
More visibility of our Councillors – more access to our representatives	1
Council financial management, governance, accountability and transparency	23
Potential for Council to borrow more/ would support more borrowings to improve infrastructure	2
Short term debt can be good when interest rates are low	1
Money raised by rates in one town spent in another – upper mountains seems less important than lower/ disparity perceived in what Lawson gets and what more popular villages get	2
Improve transparency and accountability of finances	2
Improve transparency of actual progress – less spin	1
Council to spend money in sustainable and balanced way	1
Council to not hide how much lost from bad investments	1
Cost of DA approvals should be cheaper	1
Concern over rate increases / other rating concerns	3
Risk management is key impediment to keeping costs down	1
Wastage of paid time of service staff	1
Concern re decision of Council not to release reports e.g. Wayzgoose Cafe	3
Who decides what value for money is – Council or community?	1
That no developers or real estate agents be councillors	1
Ethical purchases and expenditure	1
Fairness for people in how they are treated by Council	1

Leadership Advocacy on Airport	19
Advocacy for no airport/ Airport threatens ability of City to be environmentally responsible and caring custodians of World Heritage status/ State & Federal Governments must pay attention to concerns of community over airport	19
Leadership around Built Infrastructure & Facilities	7
Provide for and plan for required infrastructure	1
Council should tender locally for public infrastructure works	1
Cost of building infrastructure / facilities seems excessive e.g. toilets	1
Public amenities need to be maintained and available	1
Examine buildings and land owned by the Council that is not being used	1
Better manage required facilities for tourists	2
Innovative leadership for the City	4
Not sufficient focus on innovation in existing Civic Leadership objectives/ council to provide innovative leadership	4
Balance between Different Objectives	3
Leadership needs to balance objectives between community, tourism and the environment	2
Contribute to sense of community – help community be cohesive villages looking after each other	1
Levels of Government working together	2
Improved agreement between all levels of government	1
Leaders working together to look to preserving unique BM environment	1
Indigenous respect	2
Have overarching theme in CSP of indigenous respect	1
Equal representation on decision making with exception of Aboriginal people having more say	1
Regional Partnerships	1
Council to work with Penrith and Hawkesbury to advocate for infrastructure and services	1

Table 37: LOOKING AFTER ENVIRONMENT

COMMENT	No of Responses
Waste resource management	27
Need more education programs – reduce, reuse, recycle, implement public awareness program on effective household recycling/ waste management workshops/ waste minimization	8
Manage/ deter illegal dumping of waste in bush/ littering along highway / Clean up rubbish on highway between Medlow and Blackheath/ remove rubbish from roadsides (e.g. along Old Bathurst Rd)/ fast food should pay fees to assist with litter reduction	6
Make Blue Mountains plastic free for environment & tourist attraction/ reduce or ban plastic bags	4
Businesses should be able to participate in council recycling service	3

COMMENT	No of Responses
Improve recycling - better & cheaper recycling to avoid illegal dumping in bush/ Recycling can be creatively done e.g. by artistic community/ Public bins offering recycling should be available/ increase composting/ increase recycling to weekly service	2
Bulky waste pick-up in outlying areas – better to organize a set day for a small community rather than multiple visits to single properties	1
Encourage tourists to recycle waste	1
Partner with other cities to combust waste	1
Subsidise asbestos to tip to stop people dumping it in the bush	1
Renewable energy & resources & greenhouse gas reduction	19
Renewable energy used to power Council facilities/ invest in water recycling/ wind generation/ consider local electricity generation – solar, wind & from waste treatment	8
Commitment to offer sustainable waste management e.g. recycling and compost bins in towns (more not less) and at festivals, recycle grey water	6
Encourage residents to lesson their carbon footprint/ strive for zero footprint	3
Too much waffle on environment, climate change is waffle	1
Greenhouse gas reduction and renewable energy plans should be implemented as priority	1
Tree Protection & Management	14
Protect trees from development, tree management for native animals/ maintain tree in parks – remove dangerous limbs	7
Educate people on tree removal and replacement/ tree species impact and impact of non native species on environment	1
Bushfire management – hazard reductions	2
Concerned about power companies cutting trees badly	1
Should have underground power lines – would save trees and houses - safer living	1
Melbourne has good tree management	1
Supports new 10/50 tree near house ruling but trees need to be protected	1
Environmentally sustainable options for moving around	14
Reduce reliance on cars /less trucks on HWY/ improve public transport / encourage alternatives to short car trips	7
Maintain walking tracks/ encourage community involvement in upkeep of tracks/ seek funding to improve/ build walking tracks, cycle ways	5
Clean air and less sound pollution	1
Light rail for tourists	1
Protect environment, protect biodiversity	11
Manage weeds – especially on public lands & railway lines/ grateful as older person for ACAT team assistance with noxious weed removal/ educate people about weed management and native plants	5
Our environment should be able to protect native birds and animals / protect environment more	2
Reduce impact of road improvements on environment	1
Construction of illegal mountain bike tracks is causing considerable environmental decline	1
Impact of Highway and rail line on movement of animals from north to south	1
Environmental education programs	1

COMMENT	No of Responses
<i>Environmental impact of Western Sydney Airport</i>	8
Airplanes over World Heritage Area not sustainable or ecological/ stop airport	7
Make Blue mountains a No Fly Zone	1
<i>Animal management</i>	5
Reduce impact of pets on environment & biodiversity/ household pet management	2
Seek grant funding for feral animal management	1
Manage feral animals	1
Control/ eradicate Indian Minor birds	1
<i>Bushfire management and environment</i>	5
Encourage residents to look after environment while being self-sufficient in fire protection	2
Hazard reductions to prevent wild fires	1
Make people clean their roofs and gutters to prevent fires	1
Approve back burning	1
<i>Water quality</i>	4
Signage on waterways signifying E.coli/ pollution levels	1
Manage storm water impacts	1
Landfill could pollute dams and streams	1
More volunteers to assist with managing waterways	1
<i>Population</i>	3
Maintain population levels/ no expansion of urban areas	3
<i>Tourism environmental impact</i>	3
Reduce impact of tourists on natural environment – sustainable management of high volumes of tourists	1
Encourage low environmental impact tourist attractions and growth opportunities	1
Get balance right on cost of tourism to the environment versus income to community	1
<i>Separate reporting on Environmental Programs</i>	1
Report separately on expenditure on environmental programs funded by rate variation (old levy)	1

Table 38: USING LAND

COMMENT	No of Responses
<i>Sustainable land use/ living/ housing design</i>	27
Need new ideas and more creative ideas for using land /sustainable land use / housing / have conference on this/ need to encourage innovative energy efficient and sustainable designs/housing (e.g. earth roofs)/ adjust Council requirements to reflect new innovation in sustainable buildings	16
Need more community gardens	4
Need more Council support for sustainable energy efficient housing/ sustainable living	4
Educate Council on ecological building practices and design	4
<i>Town and Village Centres</i>	24

<i>COMMENT</i>	No of Responses
Improve entry/ accessibility into larger town centres e.g. Katoomba and Springwood	4
Council to be more involved in what happens to key sites e.g. Renaissance Centre site	1
Lawson redevelopment not in character with village, not practical, no central space to congregate	1
Hazelwood old child care centre would make lovely housing in heart of village	1
Improve toilets and amenity in town centres	4
Villages need to be walkable	1
Need housing opportunities over shops e.g. Springwood shops	3
Council needs to be more proactive regarding mix of developments/ businesses allowed in town centre redevelopments e.g. Lawson	1
Need more village squares/ community hubs and spaces in town centre redevelopments – more human centred approach	1
Parking in many town centres is a big issue (including Glenbrook) / land returned to parks near the station could have been used for parking/ parking at Glenbrook shops is an issue	4
Parking is a sensitive issue/ too much parking can destroy village feel	1
Katoomba main street needs beautification	1
Rents too high for local businesses in town centres	1
<i>Land use development & management</i>	22
Land opened up for development /building when it does not impact natural environment and is of suitable style for mountains	4
Allow the subdivision of larger blocks / more allowance of land subdivision e.g. for large lots in Mt Victoria	3
Careful planning of development and management of natural environment will maintain liveability of Mountains / keep development looking good and green	2
Strengthen consultation on proposed development	2
Too much land locked up as R6 rather than R2 – over 150 acres of Glenbrook	1
Infrastructure is necessary before more development takes place	1
Clarify guidelines regarding trees and vegetation and landuse – there is conflict between RFS and Conservation	1
Council to limit dictatorial policy on how people use land	1
More sensitive approach to development applications	1
Reduce development	1
Possibility of road easements being bought privately then being able to be subdivided because there are two titles	1
Maintaining crown land	1
Maintaining fire trails	1
Cap gambling and alcohol licenses – no more liquor outlets – many accidents / injuries alcohol related	1
Need to ensure our land use does not adversely impact National Park	1
<i>Housing diversity</i>	19
More diverse and affordable housing including dual occupancy housing/ granny flats/ smaller more affordable houses for oldies so they don't have to move out of familiar area/ so young people can afford/ need variety of housing types needed to suit different age groups/ More medium density aged care facilities (e.g. in Blackheath/ Mt Victoria areas)	18

COMMENT	No of Responses
Housing not suited to cool climate	1
<i>Village character & heritage</i>	15
Maintain heritage towns – preserve character of towns and villages – minimise development	6
Disconnect between what is acceptable in terms of maintaining unique character e.g. The Spires at Leura not in keeping with character	2
Find balance between new alternatives in sustainable housing and protection of unique character of villages – both needed. Hat Hill road housing estate not in keeping with character	2
No high rise housing	2
Village life should be prioritized over development / paying rates to have village destroyed not good	2
No more multistory development	1
<i>Managing impact of Tourism on Land Use and amenity</i>	11
Public toilets in town centres and tourist areas need extra cleaning during busy times and more bins for rubbish and recycling	5
Govett's Leap lookout needs improved toilet facilities	1
Toilet block at Rhododendron Gardens needs to be built asap to manage impact of tourists	1
Manage impact on neighbours from short term rental/ Air bnb	1
Tourist buses in Leura need to be managed/ park them in Gross street not near nursing home and pedestrian crossing	1
Parking for tourists is a major issue in some areas and needs to be better planned for	2
<i>Land use and recreation</i>	5
Ensure recreational spaces for young people	1
Most councils want land like we have but we don't use it – consider doing park like Fairfield City has	1
Cleaner toilet facilities in parks and recreational areas	1
Toilet upgrade required in larger parks	1
Open areas for people to relax should be away from HWY	1
<i>Population</i>	3
Need population strategy	1
Need more population growth in mountains due to aging of community and to justify expenditure on infrastructure	1
One reason people live and visit here is for solitude experiences – balance population/ visitor increase against that need	1
<i>Crime and Safety</i>	3
Graffiti control and vandalism in public areas and parks/ impact on amenity	1
Better lighting needed in Lawson area	2
<i>Comments on Using Land Objectives</i>	1
Some overlap between Objectives under Using Land and other Key Directions. Questions whether objectives and intent of the other Key Directions needs to be reviewed.	1

Table 39: LOOKING AFTER PEOPLE

COMMENT	No of Responses
Access to Health Services and Facilities	21
Improved access to GP & health services needed / lack of access particularly in Blackheath and Mt Victoria	8
Loss of hospital facilities/ services/ Katoomba Hospital under resourced/ management needs to improved/ Support and keep our hospital	8
Rather than outsourcing care to private sector – use existing and new community services and volunteer groups	1
Upgrade of health care centres needed	1
Mental health needs addressing, awareness and assistance programs/ mental health for men	3
Public toilets	15
Improve public toilets in town centres and villages /public toilet facilities require regular maintenance / need to be clean	13
Old toilet facilities in Blackheath need refurbishment e.g. toilets at Blackheath Community Centre	2
Services and facilities for young people/ young families	17
Services for youth / better access to things organized for young people	5
More facilities to retain young people e.g. educational	3
Need good schools	1
Encourage young families into the area and to stay in area – to balance ageing population	3
Maybe convert Renaissance centre into University campus – would help keep young people here and provide jobs/ need higher education facilities to keep young people here	4
Keep both TAFE facilities	1
Aged Services and Facilities	13
More services and facilities for the aged / more aged care facilities	9
Support for older single people on limited income with no other support	1
Better housing and infrastructure for older generation – so they can downsize and stay in local area/ more retirement village and community living for older people	3
People with Disabilities	12
More and improved services and facilities for people with disabilities / great need for this	5
Need disabled toilets in new parking station in Wentworth Falls	1
People with Disabilities should have more prominence in this section of Community Strategic Plan	1
Disabled parking at the Blackheath Community Centre is too far away from Library	1
Local scheme required to support disabled people living in their homes – modifications to dwellings	1
More assistance for people with disabilities not just physical but also with mental issues and employment	3
Community/ cultural development, services and facilities	12
Access to toilet facilities later in evening especially in summer/ no disabled toilet in Springwood	2
Neighbourhood Centres are great/ their role should be expanded	2

COMMENT	No of Responses
Cultural Centre could be more effectively utilized/ no provision for performing arts	1
Springwood Hub too expensive to promote sense of community for non-profit groups	1
Springwood Hub waste of money	1
Use end of Hat Hill Rd area as community meeting / recreation space	1
Co-housing can help people look after each other	1
Loneliness of residents is significant issue – need programs that build community support e.g. match older person with new mother/ Neighbourhood Friendship Program needed	3
Improve community communications on meetings, events etc.	1
Not enough community activity centres/ improve access community services	2
More concerts for young and old	1
Emergency and Resilience	11
Maintenance of emergency infrastructure – generator at emergency centres need to be serviced	1
Promote Community Fire Units to high school aged kids – existing members geriatric	1
Encourage all residents to have a bushfire plan and be more self reliant in protecting their properties	6
Improve emergency access from Mt Wilson to Bilpin	1
Highway accessibility in times of emergency	1
Underground power lines for safer community - save trees, houses in bushfires	1
Sustainable living/ Community Gardens	10
Establish community gardens to promote community activity, healthy food and connections/ promote sustainable living/ educate on composting and reusing/ sustainable design of housing	10
Services and facilities for children and families	6
Better services for families with children	4
Improve facilities at child care centres for families with new babies e.g. Springwood	1
Improve breastfeeding facilities throughout the Mountains	1
Recreation	6
Council should have sporting field policy	1
Gym areas within parks needed	1
Maintain playground facilities better	1
Cost of swimming too high for families, need affordable access to community facilities	1
Dog poo bags need to be available in parks and other places	1
Govett Leap lookout needs improved toilet facilities	1
Services for disadvantaged	4
More services to support those in most need/ those isolated	3
Coordinate with charities and other support groups to assist less fortunate	1
Community diversity	4
Nothing in values statements of CSP about ethnicities	1
Need to support and encourage cultural diversity	1
Support for refugee resettlement	1
Healthy balance of diversity and ethnicities and genders	1

COMMENT	No of Responses
Looking after tourists	2
Improved toilet amenities	1
Meeting needs of tourists also important, not just residents	1
Smaller communities	1
Small communities don't have libraries, pools, cultural centres, skate parks	1

Table 40: MOVING AROUND

COMMENT	No of Responses
Improved Public Transport	89
Improved train services including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More frequent and higher capacity trains - Trains at later times - Larger baggage areas on trains - Smaller trains for smaller platforms - Council should be involved in design of new outer urban train services being tendered Improved bus services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More frequent buses - Consider use of smaller more frequent buses - Community buses to complement commercial buses - Consider integration of tourist and local buses/ extend bus services Springwood Winmalee areas - Provide bus stop on north side of Springwood station bus seat broken outside Leura station and no shelter Improved integration of bus and rail timetables More and improved foot and cycle ways connecting to train and bus/ slippery surface after rain on Bednal Rd More public transport options / Need to look at fast rail services especially for commuters/ consider light rail along Hawkesbury Rd linking Springwood and Winmalee/ electrify trains to Bathurst and beyond Lack of public transport forces people to shop in Penrith instead of locally	79
More integrated planning between local government, state government, bus and rail providers to improve accessibility and public transport/ more advocacy by Council to improve	7
More consultation with locals on accessibility and transport including roads, pedestrian crossings, bikeways and footpaths	3
Pedestrian Access/ Footpaths/ Pedestrian Safety	34
Better footpaths for pedestrians /Footpaths in Lawson unfinished /Need to improve pedestrian crossings (e.g. Katoomba round about crossing, Blackheath station need safe pedestrian crossing- floods) / Need pedestrian crossing at intersection of Govetts leap Rd and Wentworth St / no pedestrian access across highway at Springwood railway station/ need footpaths at Mt Victoria/ need footpaths along highway	21
Better lighting for pedestrians	4
Better access for school children to get to school safely	1
Need for safe lighting at Blackheath railway crossing	1

COMMENT	No of Responses
Make shopping centres more pedestrian friendly e.g. Blackheath	1
No disability access to Lawson railway station	1
Too many pedestrian crossings provided in Springwood	1
Improve maintenance of lighting in public places and at transport hubs	1
Improve access for pedestrians	1
Underpass/ overhead crossing at Glenbrook for crossing highway	1
Kerb and gutters – reduce cost of maintenance and improve mobility	1
Footpaths should not have trees overhanging	1
Roads & Traffic Management	21
Better transport infrastructure	1
Smaller roads need to be maintained/ roads in general need to be better maintained	2
Park St Katoomba now a gridlock traffic congestion area	1
Maintenance of gravel roads important particularly in Upper Mountains	1
Roads have numerous pot holes – safety issue/ improve condition of Single Ridge Rd towards Yellow Rock	3
Slow traffic through Blackheath/ 50KM signs along York Rd	2
Traffic on local roads has increased /Need to improve traffic management e.g. in Katoomba	1
Traffic flow Macquarie Rd / Hawkesbury Rd needs addressing	5
Implement bus lanes	1
Manage electric scooters	1
Hawkesbury Rd needs another exit	1
Major road intersections in Blackheath area need more turning lanes and traffic lights need turning arrows	1
Hub for trucks to unload	1
Emergency Access/ Secondary roads	16
Need good secondary roads through Blue Mountains to allow emergency access if main highway road closed/ Secondary roads to link villages and provide alternative to having to use highway	10
Fire trails need to be maintained	1
Emergency vehicle access from Mt Wilson via Mt Irvine to Bilpin / access between Medlow Bath, Blackheath and Mt Victoria for when highway is closed/ alternative road Blackheath to Katoomba	3
Need to improve road access into Katoomba	2
Parking	8
Not enough parking at shopping centres, doctors and other services at Blackheath and neighbouring towns	1
Mend parking areas in Blackheath behind fish shop and fire brigade/ repair parking Blackheath	2
Car parking is a problem in Katoomba	1
Better parking at railway stations/ Additional station parking required at Springwood/ additional parking in general required in Springwood/ parking issues need to be addressed in Blackheath	3
Street parking not easy as roads are too narrow e.g. Governors Drive Lapstone	1
Cycle ways/ Cycling	8

COMMENT	No of Responses
Better cycling tracks – locals to have input with council planners and all other groups e.g. RMS	1
Provide free bicycles for visitors as Adelaide does	1
Cycle way between Katoomba and Blackheath needs to be fixed	1
Improve cycle ways between towns and villages	2
Focus on cycle ways for children and commuters	1
Improve communication on cycling	1
Using land next to train lines as connecting bike tracks	1
Accessibility Issues	6
Consideration and planning for people to get to hospitals	1
Access to Katoomba via Yeamans Bridge is inadequate	1
Improve access to train stations for people with disabilities and the elderly/ need easy access/ Disabled toilet at Blackheath station and usually locked	4
Trucks off highway	7
More freight on trains and trucks off highway/ trucks are menace on roads/ highway congested by trucks	6
Build a new by-pass / truck route so trucks go around the Mountains	1
Walking tracks	6
Better walking tracks	1
Walking tracks between villages	1
More bike, pram, wheelchair tracks around parks –network of bike tracks	4

Table 41: SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

COMMENT	No of Responses
Local employment and economic development	36
Increase local jobs/ need greater options for employment not just tourism/ so young people don't have to leave/ with ageing population more important to retain young people./ attract people to area/ Focus on creating jobs in tourism	18
Resources need to be directed to job creation plans	1
Develop Blue Mountains Bike Park – massive opportunity to attract tourists and create sustainable local employment (e.g. ACT Stromlo Park, Thredbo)	1
Increase scope of educational/ training courses offered locally by TAFE / reduce need for students to commute or move out of Blue Mountains	2
More affordable local educational opportunities for young & low income people	1
Focus on creative industries for generating local jobs	3
NBN - coverage needs to be fixed/ Provide more free WiFi	2
High rent is forcing many local businesses out of the area	2
Less focus on Blue Mountains as model and more on “practical” approach to economic development	1
Develop local industry and business / encourage business and jobs to area	2
Stable role of government dollar in Mountains economy should be recognized (pensions/ benefits)	1
Use our water supply to generate power	1
Attract more health funding into community centres and local hospitals	1

COMMENT	No of Responses
<i>Managing impact of tourism</i>	28
Low impact tourism to maintain our environment/ 24/7 airport will adversely impact World Heritage	2
Improve management of impact of tourism on local amenity	7
More frequent cleaning of tourist areas	1
Public toilets in tourist areas need extra cleaning during busy times,	4
Need more bins for rubbish and recycling for tourists	1
Educate bus companies about rubbish/ littering in our National Park	1
Capture tourist dollars/ income – use it to maintain and pay for tourist facilities/ tourist money should come back to local community	4
Levy local operators who gain from our environment	1
Tourism planning required with locals	1
Provide sustainable tourism facilities/ activities through proper land use - rail trails, walking tracks, bush walks, cycle ways/ horse riding/ adventure activities	2
No coordinated plans for all agencies providing tourism infrastructure	1
Tourist needs important also – not just about residents	1
More multi-lingual signs	2
<i>Sustainable economic development/ Creative arts</i>	14
Make Blue Mountains a model for new and innovative sustainable economic development	3
More promotion of the arts & creative strengths/ upper Mountains creative arts centre/ promote arts and music festivals	6
Promote clean industry	1
More promotion of unique World Heritage environment	1
More community gardens and farmer markets	1
Develop Katoomba TAFE site into Sydney College of Arts campus	1
Get things right the first time – should not have allowed McDonalds in	1
<i>Tourism development & promotion</i>	7
Better promote tourism as it is major local industry	1
Focus tourism on appreciation of natural environment/ better integration of tourism and our World Heritage environment	3
Develop sustainable local tourism that benefits locals	1
Need to review how much tourism is actually adding to our economy – is it sustainable	1
Develop Aboriginal history and culture for tourists	1
<i>Council's role in economic development</i>	6
Lead by example - solar panels, water tanks, community gardens	1
Council needs to engage with local businesses – lack of engagement causing lack of growth	2
Council needs to encourage small business in the area	1
Work with surrounding councils to promote education and careers and local employment	1
Improve connections between Katoomba and Leura (chalk & cheese)	1
<i>Small business/ Home based business</i>	3
Council should make it easier for local business to operate – less red tape	1
Reduce regulations limiting home businesses	1
Support small internet based businesses	1



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