

SUSTAINABLE BLUE MOUNTAINS together



SBM Together Consultation Report

BMCC Youth Council Consultation
May 2016



Acknowledgements

Blue Mountains City Council acknowledges that the City of the Blue Mountains is located on the traditional lands of the Darug and Gundungurra peoples.

In addition, Blue Mountains City Council recognises the unique position Aboriginal people have in the history and culture of the Blue Mountains. It is acknowledged that Aboriginal peoples in the Blue Mountains have strong and ongoing connections to their traditional lands, cultures, heritage and history. Aboriginal people are recognised as the “Traditional Owners of the land” and it is important that this unique position is incorporated into Council’s community protocols, official ceremonies and events.



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Introduction

Every four years the Blue Mountains City Council focusses on talking with the community about what's changed in the Blue Mountains, what kind of future we want for our community, and how we can create this future by working together.

The best outcomes for our community are achieved when we work together including all people living, working, studying or playing in the Blue Mountains. The NSW Integrated Planning & Reporting Guidelines for local government in NSW place specific focus on social justice principles and essential community engagement with relevant stakeholder groups including 'target groups'.

Young People are one of the eight identified target groups. Youth are defined as those aged 15 to 24 years. (Source: United Nations, www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/youth/youth-definition/).

In the 2011 Census, there were **8,735 young people in the Blue Mountains**, which is **11.5% of the area's population**. (Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2011).

This report refers to the community consultation with members of the Blue Mountains City Council Youth Council held on 25 May 2016.



Background

State legislation (Local Government Act 1993, s402), requires that each local government area has a community strategic plan that identifies the main priorities and aspirations for the future for a period of at least 10 years. In addition, the legislation requires that the plan:

- (a) Addresses civic leadership, social, environmental and economic issues in an integrated manner;
- (b) Is based on social justice principles of equity, access, participation and rights;
- (c) Is adequately informed by relevant information relating to civic leadership, social, environmental and economic issues; and
- (d) Is developed having due regard to the State government's State Plan and other relevant State and regional plans of the State government.

The Community Strategic plan is a plan for the whole community. It is a plan that needs the participation of all stakeholders to realise its objectives. Reporting back also needs to reflect the success of the whole community, including agencies, in implementing the plan.

The Community Strategic Plan for the City of the Blue Mountains aims to support and enhance quality of life by focusing on the following 6 key directions:

1. Civic Leadership – Inspiring leadership
2. Looking After Environment – An environmentally responsible city
3. Using Land – A liveable city
4. Moving Around – An accessible city
5. Looking After People – An inclusive, healthy and vibrant city
6. Sustainable Economy – An economically sustainable city



Aims of the Workshop

The Blue Mountains City Council Youth Council consultation was held on 25 May 2016 at the BMCC Chambers in Katoomba.

The key aims of the Youth Council Consultation were to:

- Gain an understanding of key issues of importance to Young People;
- Better **understand Young people's** priority focus;
- Obtain Young People's **input** into the update of the Community Strategic Plan.



Consultation Methodology

The methodology used was designed to ensure all participants had an opportunity to input their ideas, share their perspectives and name their issues. Traditionally with consultations involving a dozen or more people, the pattern has been that only one or two people get to talk while others listen. The methodology for this consultation provided ample opportunities for all participants to work individually or in small groups of two, three, or four people to discuss each of the six Key Directions at their own pace. The process reduced the possibility of a small number of people dominating a large group because of their confidence in speaking in large groups.

Pre-consultation:

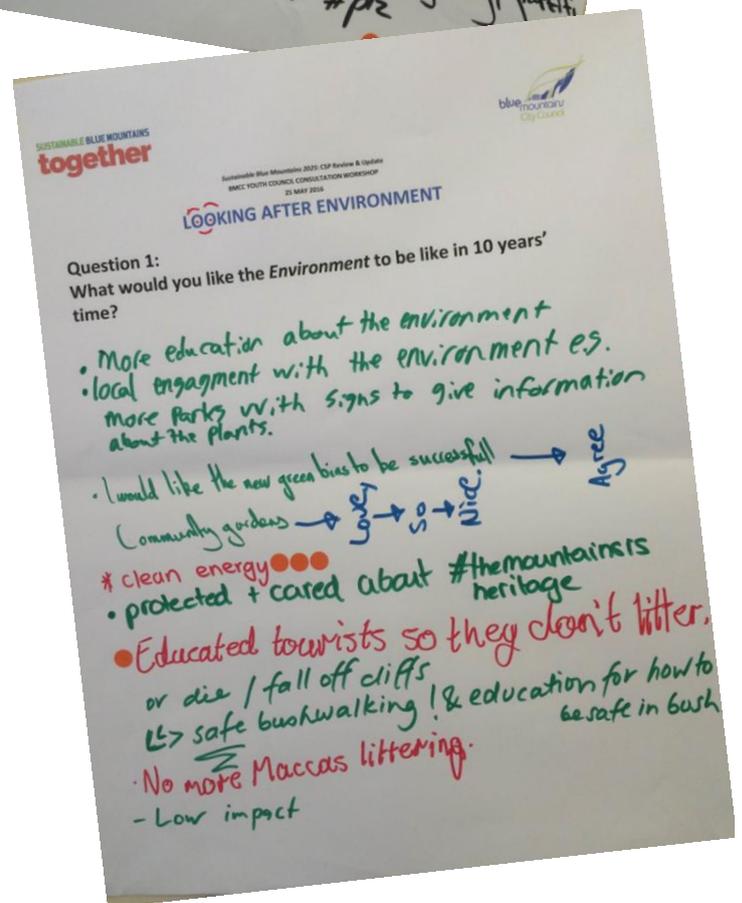
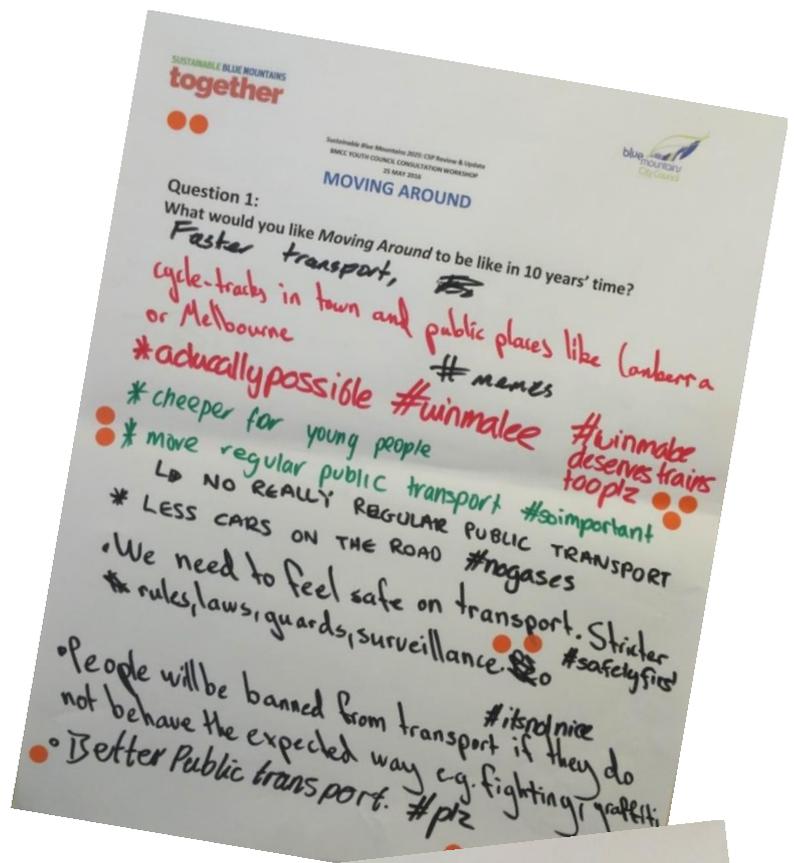
Participants were provided with information relevant to the consultation including a pre-consultation presentation on the review and update of the Community Strategic Plan as well as written information such as the *Sustainable Blue Mountains 2025 Summary Booklet*.

The overall design of the workshop:

Working individually or in small groups, participants were asked to respond to three questions relating separately to the six Key Directions, as set out in the Community Strategic Plan, *Sustainable Blue Mountains 2025*.

1. What would you like each Key Direction to be like in 10 years' time?

(e.g. What would you like *Civic Leadership* to be like in 10 years' time?)



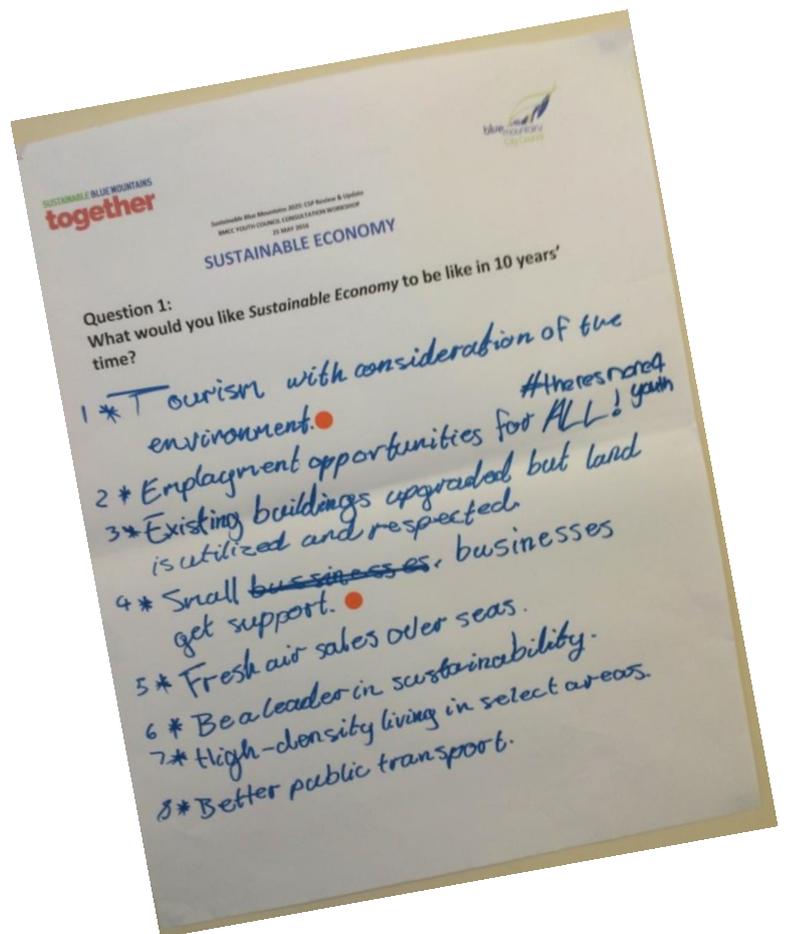
2. How is that different from how things are now?
3. What do we need to do together to get there?

There were six sets of posters, (one for each Key Direction), which were blue tacked on walls and tables around the room, and writing paper with each of the three questions with each key direction. Coloured markers were provided for writing answers on the paper, and participants could move around the room at their own pace and write their own thoughts and ideas down.

Participant writings were later recorded verbatim and collated as raw data.

Post-consultation:

The participants were informed about the *Sustainable Blue Mountains Together* on-line survey and encouraged to invite other young people, students, family members and friends living, working or studying in the Blue Mountains LGA to complete the survey. This afforded the opportunity to provide additional input into the review of the Community Strategic Plan.



Participants at the BMCC Youth Council Workshop

Adam Tjoelker

Aleksandrs (Sasha) Titovs

Benjamin McGrory

Brodie Wylde

Grace Faulder

Jasper Tobin

Joey Jones-Romeo

Kiralee Roscoe-Bynon

Lemuel Appel

Paul Mukhin

Ruby Moira

Samara McCabe

Sam Wilson

Zoe Mikulandia

Key Findings

Salient Messages

The BMCC Youth Council members want an inclusive community with more options for work, study and recreation, as well as easier ways of getting to those options. A sustainable city was also of high importance to them.

Top Priorities

Participating members of the BMCC Youth Council ranked the following areas as top priority for action the Blue Mountains:

1. **TRANSPORT:** Improved access to, frequency and timeliness of trains & buses; improved safety on public transport - (9 votes).
2. **TERTIARY EDUCATION FACILITY:** a Blue Mountains' University - (8 votes).
3. **PROMOTING DIVERSITY:** religious, racial political, sexual and economic diversity (3 votes).
4. **CLEAN ENERGY** (3 votes)
5. **ENVIRONMENT:** Ensure that biodiversity is conserved; bushland and such are healthy and even expanding; educate tourist so that they don't litter - (2 votes).
6. **TOURISM:** look after tourists as they are part of the community; tourism with consideration for the environment – (2 votes).
7. **RECREATION:** Purpose built (or opening fire trails) for 4x4 and trail bikes (registered). Scenic tracks/trails for many different levels of drivers/riders (this would keep people out of sensitive areas while encouraging people to explore and encourage tourism); Upgrade bush trails, for all people - (2 votes).
8. **ECONOMY:** ensure small businesses get support; less financial strain through higher densities and light rail – (2 votes)



Consistent Themes by Key Direction

Key Direction Summary

1. **Civic Leadership** – opportunities for youth, specifically for employment and involvement/engagement with council and community; supporting diversity.

2. **Looking After Environment** – want people to be educated so they respect the environment; are concerned with the behaviour of tourists re littering; want sustainable energy; want community to be involved in conservation.



3. **Using Land** – increase public spaces, sympathetic infill/density housing although the drive seems to be around the benefits of higher density, not out of a desire to live in a highly dense environment.
4. **Moving Around** - ‘better’ public transport- regular, accessible and safe transport that is connected with multiple forms of transport; improved bike paths, encourage active travel.
5. **Looking After People** - diverse and accepting community; activities and services for young people including a university.
6. **Sustainable Economy** - employment and education opportunities for youth, housing configuration to support a ‘modern’ city (i.e. density to facilitate cheaper transport and affordable housing); balancing behaviour of tourists with the acknowledged benefits they bring.

Quotes

#winmaleedeservestrainstooplz

We don't feel safe on transport.

Stricter rules, laws, guards, surveillance #safetyfirst.

The only way to get out of the Winmalee is the bus and it's a private company and the busses don't even line up with the trains #abandonedtown

More regular public transport #soimportant

I would like the new green bins to be successful

There is nothing for young people to do besides sport.

Engagement between generations (so many people hate the youth #solvethe segregation)

Employment opportunities for all! #theresnone4youth

People are judgemental #notcool

Tourists are fools/unsafe around cliffs especially in bad weather

Helpful Suggestions

- Capitalise on events - winter magic is so successful #lettherebemore
- Purpose built (or opening fire trails) for 4x4 and trail bikes (registered). Scenic tracks/trails for many different levels of drivers/riders (this would keep people out of sensitive areas while encouraging people to explore and encourage tourism).
- Fresh air sales overseas
- Shopping Centres could be bigger.
- More diverse places of worship.
- Increase public spaces (preferably for youth) #youth4lyfe
- Increase opportunities for big community gatherings –theatre (outdoor- stuff for big groups of people to get together), music, festivals (attraction for all age groups), food.

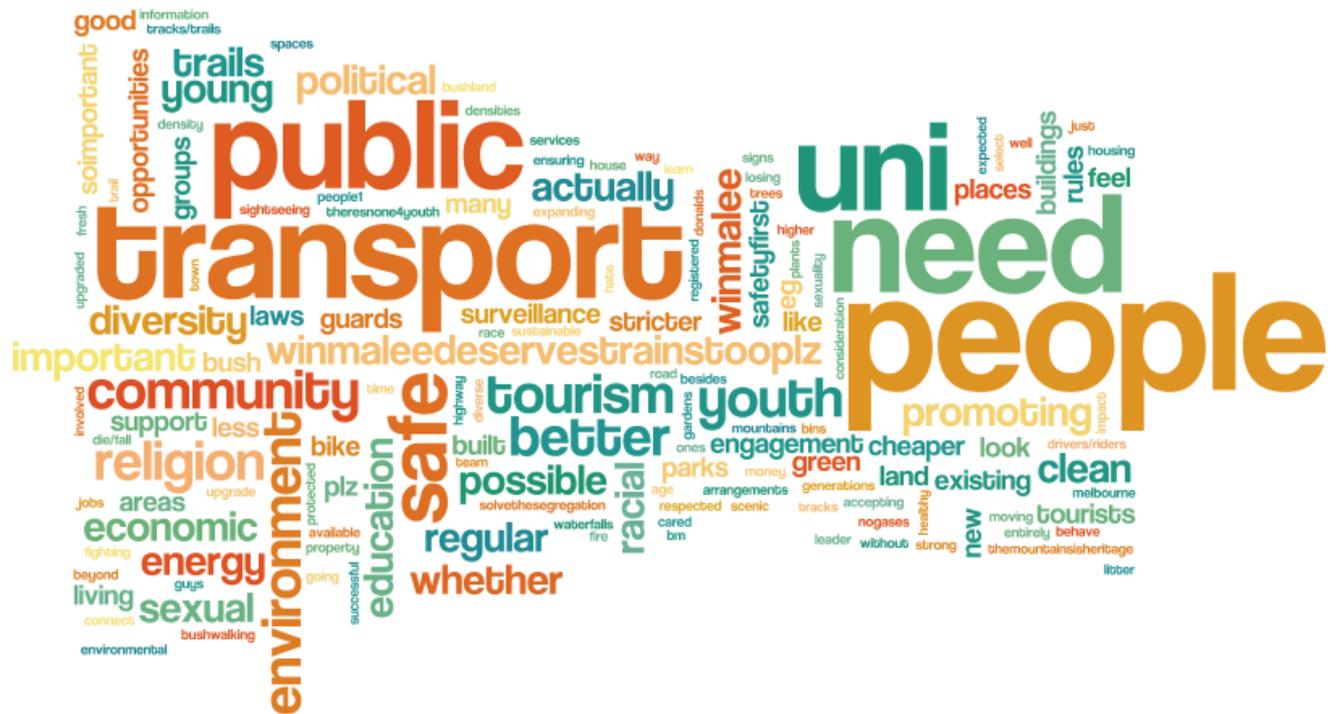


Recurring Issue

- Money /funding for different issues was a prevalent aspect of the discussion; there was a strong awareness that many desirable projects require a certain scale of funding.

Key Words

Key Words from responses to the question: *“What would you like each Key Direction to be like in 10 years’ time?”* are depicted in the Word Clouds below (top 15 words & top 150 words):



Concluding Remarks

The community consultation workshop with members of the BMCC Youth Council was undertaken as part of the process for reviewing and updating the Blue Mountains Community Strategic Plan: *Sustainable Blue Mountains 2025*.

The findings from this consultation will form part of the findings of many consultations with other community groups, government agencies, businesses, residents/ratepayers who live, work, play and study in the Blue Mountains, as outlined in the Community Engagement Strategy.

As *Sustainable Blue Mountains 2025* is reviewed and updated, there will be ongoing opportunities for community input. These include the availability of the online community engagement website, *Blue Mountains Have Your Say*, which enables all residents including young people to comment.

Assuming the Local Government elections in New South Wales keep to its current timetable, the final draft of the new Community Strategic Plan, *Sustainable Blue Mountains Together*, will be placed on public exhibition in April 2017.

The Blue Mountains City Council thanks the BMCC Youth Council for participating in this consultation process, and greatly values their input into shaping the future of the Blue Mountains.

Warm respects



Rosemary Dillon

Group Manager
Integrated Planning and Finance
Blue Mountains City Council

June 2016

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Participant Feedback



**BMCC Youth Consultation Workshop
Feedback Analysis, 25th May, 2016**

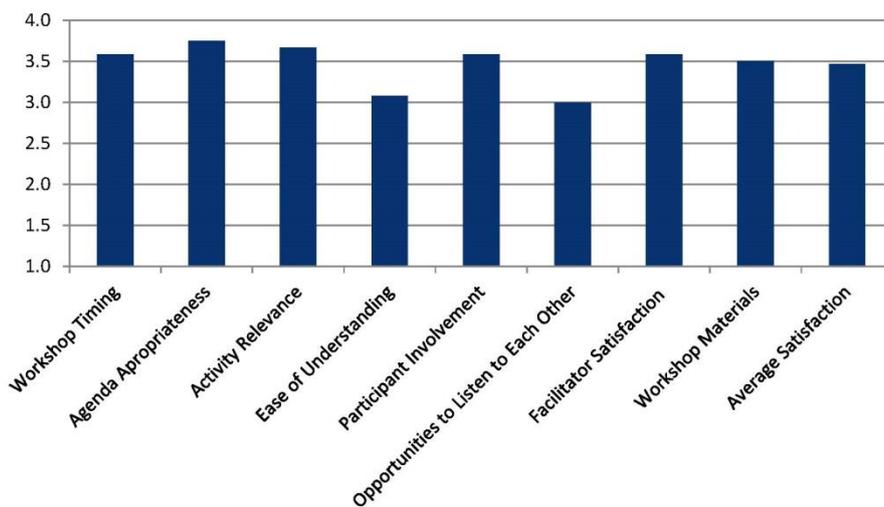


Of the **12 participants** in the consultation, there were a total of **12 written evaluations** returned post-consultation, or a **100 % response rate**.

Feedback

- General satisfaction with the consultation, however comments and ratings suggest there is room for improvement, especially in increased understanding through better explanation of workshop objectives, and by enabling opportunities for discussion. However some participants were happy with the level and content of discussion. For example: “Perhaps more discussion rather than instruction.” “Very good discussions. Diverse opinions and ideas. The general goals were communicated very effectively.”
- **100% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed** that there was a good level of **participant involvement** and **75% agreed or strongly agreed** that it provided **opportunities to listen** to each other.
- **Facilitator** feedback was very positive, with **100% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing** that the facilitation was appropriate. One respondent noted “Jo and Gabrielle [the facilitators] did super”.
- **Workshop materials** were generally received well, with **92% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing** that the materials were appropriate. One respondent suggested that the materials “could have been more visually engaging.”

Satisfaction Level



Average response to each category, on a scale of 1 to 4, where 1 is Strongly Disagree and 4 is Strongly Agree.



Respondent Comments

"Opportunity for healthy discussion"

"Very good agenda"

"Some of the objectives were unclear."

"Thankyou for letting us be involved in this!!!"

"Good areas of focus - nice connection between areas"

"It was easy to listen and communicate, understand, listen and participate."

"Perhaps more discussion rather than instruction"

"Not enough debate on issues and topics. Buzzwords were more powerful than actual spelt-out statements. Maybe focus on one more?"

"Very good discussions. Diverse opinions and ideas. The general goals were communicated very effectively."

Blue Mountains City Council values the feedback given by the participants in this youth workshop. This feedback will be incorporated into the final report.

Sincerely,



Rosemary Dillon

Group Manager, Integrated Planning and Finance

Blue Mountains City Council



Appendix 2 – Raw Data: Civic Leadership

KEY THEMES FOR KEY DIRECTION: CIVIC LEADERSHIP

All responses contained within these tables are verbatim statements written by the workshop participants. The orange dots reflect the prioritising of items by Youth Council members.

What would you like CIVIC LEADERSHIP to be like in 10 years' time?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Community and council working together- Jobs for youth- so people learn how to support themselves and lead a team of people- ●●● Promoting diversity (whether it be religion, racial, political, sexual or economic- v. important - 3 orange dots)- Strong community connections- Interactions between all age groups- Good parks (sustainable, green)- Youth to be more involved in BM leadership- more of a say.
How is that different from how things are now?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Youth are overlooked, not many opportunities for youth to be involved.- Leaders are adults and are concerned about issues adults face (#kidsmattertoo).- Hard for youth and/or elderly to engage in community things {(?)}- designed around working middle aged people.- Promoting diversity.- Things that [sic] people happy so that they are more willing to get involved.
What do we need to do together to get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Having more youth oriented community groups (youth council is great but there's more than 24 kids in the BM!).- Surveys- what do the locals want?- Have more activities like youth council to engage different groups within our community – provide more opportunities or leadership etc.- (Opportunities for) big community gatherings –theatre (outdoor- stuff for big groups of people to get together), music, festivals (attraction for all age groups), food.

Appendix 3 – Raw Data: Looking After Environment

KEY THEMES FOR KEY DIRECTION: LOOKING AFTER ENVIRONMENT

All responses contained within these tables are verbatim statements written by the workshop participants. The orange dots reflect the prioritising of items by Youth Council members.

What would you like LOOKING AFTER THE ENVIRONMENT to be like in 10 years' time?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- More education about the environment- Local engagement with the environment esp, more parks with signs to give information about the plants.- I would like the new green bins to be successful (-agree)- Community gardens –(love, so nice)- ●●● Clean energy - 3 orange dots- ● Educated tourists so they don't litter - 1 orange dot- (or die/fall off cliffs- safe bushwalking! & education for how to be safe in bush- No more maccas [<i>Mc Donalds</i>] littering- Protected & cared about #themountainsisheritage- Low impact
How is that different from how things are now?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- There aren't many signs to educate people about their local areas plants and animals- Tourists are fools/unsafe around cliffs especially in bad weather- Higher use of solar and wind- Smart electric grid- Incentive for world leaders in sustainable development to come to BM-development-energy, smart choices-alliances etc...
What do we need to do together to get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Promotion about things like educating bush walks with guides to explain what all the plants are.- Get the locals involved and encourage them to care- Tourists have to complete a course in how to be safe and smart and the environment (in their own language so that they don't just nod and smile whilst thinking about lunch)- Laws against littering and fines. People will be encouraged to 'dob others in'.- Anti-litter campaign- Money (free solar or incentive for solar)

Appendix 4 – Raw Data: Looking After People

KEY THEMES FOR KEY DIRECTION: LOOKING AFTER PEOPLE

All responses contained within these tables are verbatim statements written by the workshop participants. The orange dots reflect the prioritising of items by Youth Council members.

What would you like LOOKING AFTER PEOPLE to be like in 10 years' time?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusive and accepting- opportunities for everyone (race, gender, religion, sexuality etc.) - Services available to young people (eg, fun stuff that isn't environmental #itrainshereguys) - Engagement between generations (guys so many people hate the youth #solvethe segregation). - There is nothing for young people to do besides sport. Clubs and groups that are built on existing interests and hobbies as well as entirely new ones. - ●●●●●●●● We need a UNI! - 8 orange dots - ●Look after tourists, they are part of the community too (money)- 1 orange dot - Look after the environment so it looks after people.
How is that different from how things are now?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People are judgemental #notcool - Not a diverse community. - Nothing for young people to do. - No services for young people. - No events for minority groups.
What do we need to do together to get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Become more diverse (educational programs maybe?) - Target events at minority groups. - Invest in services #funones #theresonlysomanymoviesicansee, eg, not target country (bringing in more business). - Jobs for young people. - Invest in communal areas #notjusttourists.

Appendix 5 – Raw Data: Moving Around

KEY THEMES FOR KEY DIRECTION: MOVING AROUND

All responses contained within these tables are verbatim statements written by the workshop participants. The orange dots reflect the prioritising of items by Youth Council members.

What would you like MOVING AROUND to be like in 10 years' time?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Faster transport- Cycle tracks in town and public places like Canberra and Melbourne- ●●● Actually possible #Winmalee #winmaleedeservestrainstoo - 3 orange dots- Cheaper for young people- ●● More regular public transport #soimportant - 2 orange dots- ●● We need to feel safe on transport. Stricter rules, laws, guards, surveillance #safetyfirst - 2 orange dots- ●● better public transport #plz - 2 orange dots- No really regular public transport- Less cars on the road #nogases- People will be banned from transport if they do not behave in the expected way, eg, fighting, graffiti. #itsnotnice- Walking (safe)- Bike (safe)- bike trails- highway allowances- ● Upgrade bush trails, for all people1 - orange dot
How is that different from how things are now?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cyclists have to cycle on the road and drive the cars crazy.- The only way to get out of the Winmalee is the bus and it's a private company and the busses don't even line up with the trains #abandonedtown- Many are without footpaths- dangerous for the elderly, people with prams etc.- GWH isn't pretty, lots of blind spots and speeding- some people don't follow traffic lights and try to run over pedestrians.- We don't feel safe on transport.- No Shinkansen line [note: Japanese bullet train]
What do we need to do together to get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Higher density for feasibility of light rail.- Upgrade and improve rail so is faster.- Busses need to line up with trains.- Busses need to be more frequent #winmaleedeservestrainstoo- Encourage public transport to get less cars on road.- Make sure people understand road rules.- \$\$\$ to make GWH pretty ♥ (joke - improve road before aesthetics).- Encourage walking, promote walking even. Have motivational posters, days, anything, advertise walking. As an alternative to driving, not bushwalking- Trams!

Appendix 6 – Raw Data: Using Land

KEY THEMES FOR KEY DIRECTION: USING LAND

All responses contained within these tables are verbatim statements written by the workshop participants. The orange dots reflect the prioritising of items by Youth Council members.

What would you like USING LAND to be like in 10 years' time?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- ●Purpose built (or opening fire trails) for 4x4 and trail bikes (registered). Scenic tracks/trails for many different levels of drivers/riders(this would keep people out of sensitive areas while encouraging people to explore and encourage tourism) - 1 orange dot- Better housing arrangements.- Public spaces (preferably for youth) #youth4lyfe- <u>Public forests</u>/bushland.- More trees on property, not losing them over time.- World without people.- Connect land and buildings- sympathetic infill.- ●Ensuring that biodiversity is conserved; bushland and such are healthy and even expanding. - 1 orange dot- More waterfalls, which means more swamps.- More diverse places of worship.- Good. Smart.
How is that different from how things are now?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Insufficient 4x4 infrastructure rating.- Typically low density currently, hostility to higher densities.- Not many public youth spaces.- Property owners typically cut down more trees than plant or replace.- People tend to reproduce, love.- Pressures to the natural world from various sources.- Vast differences between land and environment.
What do we need to do together to get there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- ¥ Benjamin Franklin's- #Banana- Develop new spaces with focus on [...unfinished sentence]- Use innovative buildings, architecture and engineering.- We need a community area that is not taken over by smoking, swearing teens. Somewhere for families to have lunch and for students to study. Close to the shops.

Appendix 7 – Raw Data: Sustainable Economy

KEY THEMES FOR KEY DIRECTION: SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

All responses contained within these tables are verbatim statements written by the workshop participants. The orange dots reflect the prioritising of items by Youth Council members.

<p style="text-align: center;">What would you like SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY to be like in 10 years' time?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ● Tourism with consideration of the environment. - 1 orange dot - Employment opportunities for all! #theresnone4youth. - Existing buildings upgraded but land is utilised and respected. - ● Small businesses get support- 1 orange dot - Fresh air sales overseas. - Be a leader in sustainability. - High density living in select areas. - Better public transport. - Beyond just tourism – or sightseeing tourism— Education, UNI! - Cheaper living costs (house prices are going up because people are moving up to the mountains). - ● Less financial strain through higher densities, light rail - 1 orange dot
<p style="text-align: center;">How is that different from how things are now?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tourism is one of our main specialisations. - Tourists have no respect for nature (littering). - Youth unemployment too high. Better jobs needed. - Limited educational facilities. - Limited specialised job areas/opportunities. - Expensive housing \$\$\$ ¥ Ben Franklin's. - Too low density for feasible light rail, other such- high density stigmatised. - Tonnes of yard houses - Inefficient use of land. - Shopping Centres could be bigger. - Large companies are taking over. - Not enough money coming to the mountains. - We sort of are. Could be better. - Scorn of high density living. - Public transport is not brilliant.
<p style="text-align: center;">What do we need to do together to get there?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Money (currency symbols on original) - Attract new, higher ed. Job - University in the BM - Capitalise on events- winter magic is so successful #lettherebemore - Provide more services, education and more affordable housing - Higher densities and utopian cities and city planning

Appendix 8 – Raw Data: Lemuel’s Comments

The following responses were placed (in jest) by a participant: Lemuel Appel. He placed two of his orange dots (which signify a participant’s priority) on two of his statements.

Lemuel Appel comments:

- Instate lem AS THE GREAT DICTATOR of the mountains
- Make lem emperor of the mountains
- Lem isn’t minister for transport
- Make lem divine ruler of mountains
- Make lem king of the mountains
- Make lem emperor so he can rule
- Make lem lord of the mountains
- Put lem in charge of everything - 1 orange dot
- Lem has no control
- Lem just aint the boss yet
- Make lem divine ruler of mountains - 1 orange dot.

While it is recorded separately here as a raw data appendix, it has not been included in the combined data or summary.