



Council engaged with and sought feedback from the Ku-ring-gai community from 15 April to 13 May to inform and support the development of the Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS). The community was invited to participate in an online and paper survey, and an online discussion forum. Social media comments and written submissions were also received as part of the process.

Community opinion received aligned closely with outputs of other recent consultation projects (including the Community Strategic Plan, community satisfaction survey), indicating that protecting the environment and providing public open space is a high priority. Concerns exist regarding high-rise development, traffic management/congestion and parking. A desire for Council to provide more and better quality community infrastructure is also evident.

Further consultation will occur when the draft LSPS is placed on public exhibition in July 2019. In addition, a rigorous process of community engagement will occur over the next 12-18 months with the development of strategies/studies identified in the LSPS (such as housing, employment lands).

Introduction

Council is undertaking a two phase process of community engagement for the Ku-ring-gai community to input into the development of the first LSPS:

- Phase 1 - Information gathering, community priorities and general comments
- Phase 2 - Public exhibition of the draft LSPS.

This report provides a summary of engagement outputs from Phase 1 that occurred between 15 April and 3 May 2019.

A further engagement report produced following Phase 2 will provide more detail about both phases of engagement.

Context of engagement

Council has used outcomes of engagement projects undertaken in the past few years to inform the first draft of the LSPS. These outcomes are being supplemented by community engagement outlined in this report.

It should be noted that this phase of engagement was an entirely opt-in process. The outputs therefore are not statistically representative of the Ku-ring-gai community. Results provide an indicative snapshot of community opinion and are being used to underpin and validate results of other recent community engagement.

When reading this document it is also important to note that future studies identified in the draft LSPS (e.g. housing, employment lands) will be subject to rigorous community consultation and engagement in the next 12-18 months.

Engagement and communications mechanisms employed

Phase 1 of this engagement provided two primary methods of participation:

- 1) **Survey (online and paper)** - Accessible via Council's online engagement portal (oursay.org) and available at libraries and Council's customer service centre
- 2) **Online discussion forum** – hosted on Council's online engagement portal

Secondary methods included social media and written submissions.

To promote the project and opportunities for involvement Council used the following:

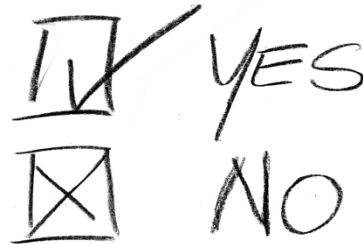
- Online community engagement platform (Oursay.org) – containing background information, frequently asked questions, links to relevant documents and a timetable for development of the LSPS and related documents.
- Council website (kmc.nsw.gov.au)
- E-newsletters (Ku-ring-gai e-news, Business Connections E-news)
- Local print media - North Shore Times (advertising and media release)
- Facebook
- FAQ document on display at libraries and Council's customer service centre

Communications and engagement snapshot



Communications reach

- **11K+** e-newsletter subscribers
- **66K +** reach via traditional media
- **4K+** reach via social media



Community participation

- **384** responses to prioritisation survey (online and print)
- **414** unique visitors to online engagement portal
- **41** online discussion forum participants
- **68** Facebook likes/comments/shares
- **3** written submissions



Priorities identified by the community

Most important

- Providing open space – 72% very important
- Protecting environment – 70% very important

Least important

- Providing a variety of housing types – 15.14% not important at all (35.68% not important/not important at all)
- Providing affordable housing - 15.9% not important at all (36.12% not important/not important at all)



Key messages from the community

- Strong focus on preserving local environment
- Support for improved and additional green open space
- Ensuring Council manages development with concern around high-rise
- Manage traffic and parking – congestion a significant issue
- Desire for improved footpaths and community infrastructure

Survey results

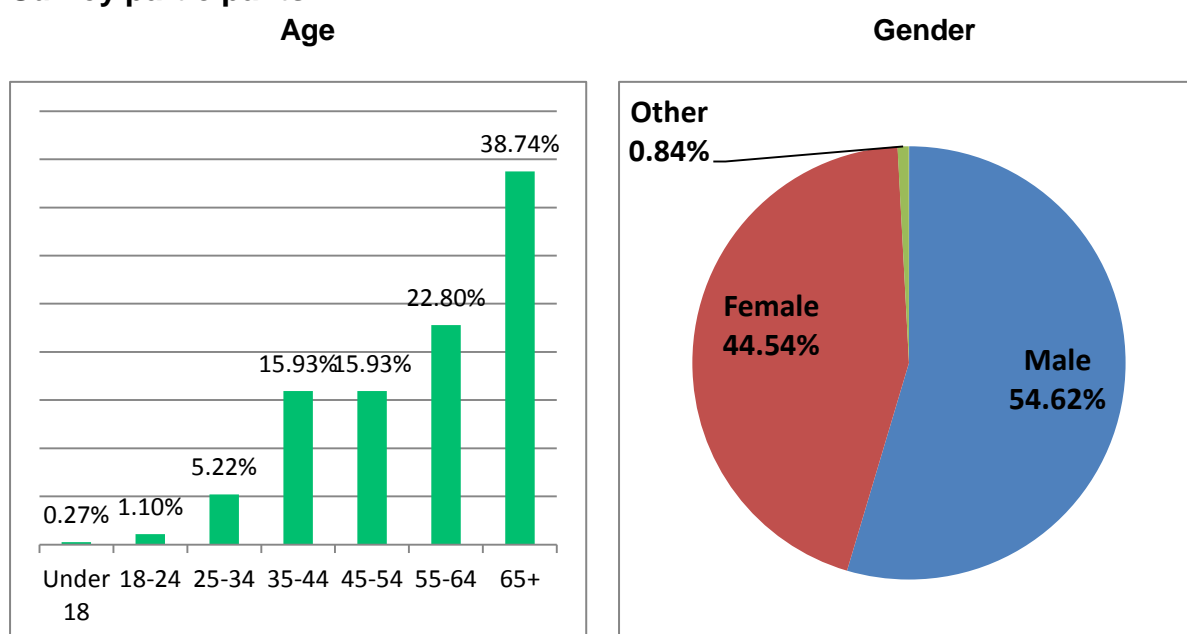
The community was asked to complete a survey which measured the importance of various matters under consideration in the first LSPS. Participants were also asked:

- 1) What Council should be providing more of or actively encouraging in Ku-ring-gai to improve the amenity and liveability of the area?
- 2) What Council should be conserving for the future/

The survey was offered online via Council's community engagement portal (oursay.org) as well as paper copy at Council's customer service centre and at Ku-ring-gai Libraries.

884 surveys were completed - 860 online and 24 on paper.

Survey participants



Older people dominated the responses with 62% of participants over 55. Slightly more men than women took part. Under 25s only represented 1.4% of the survey sample.

Responses

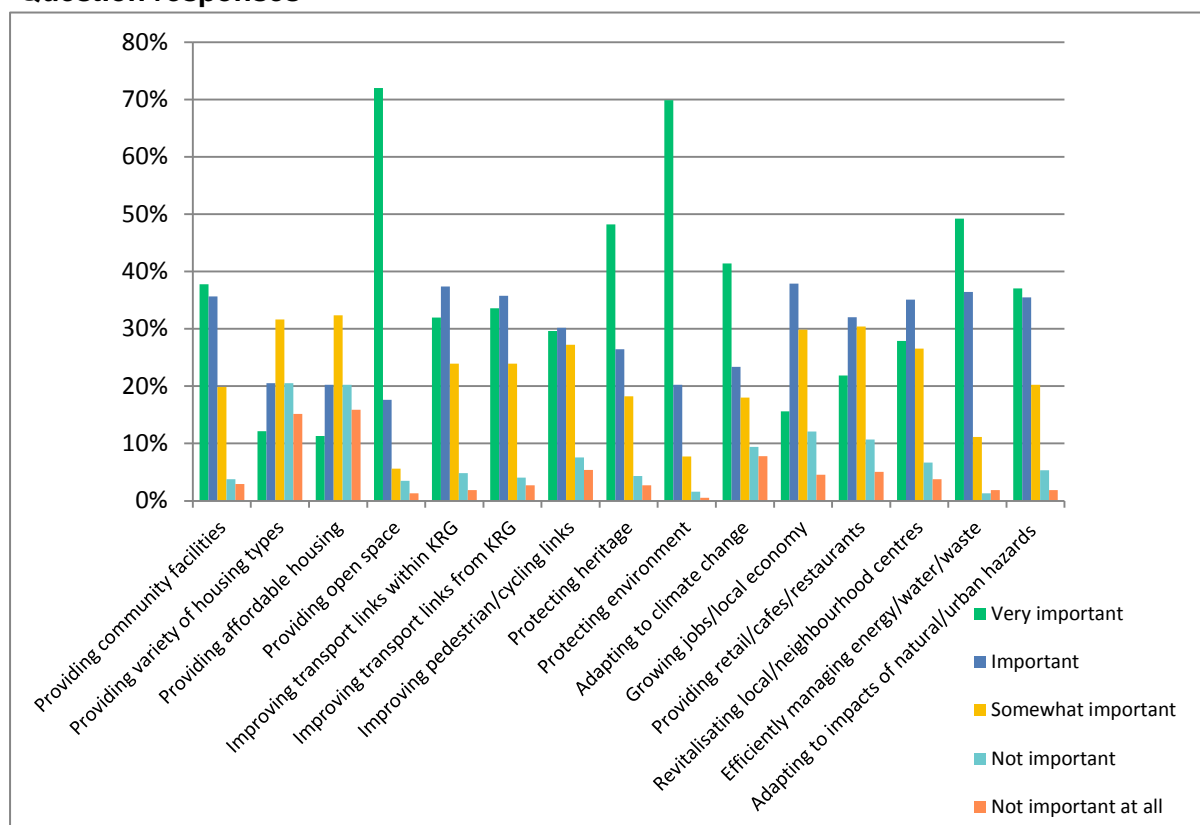
Q1) Below is a list of issues that will be addressed through the strategic planning statement. Please indicate the importance of each issue when planning for the future of Ku-ring-gai.

Rating scale - very important, important, somewhat important, not important or not important at all

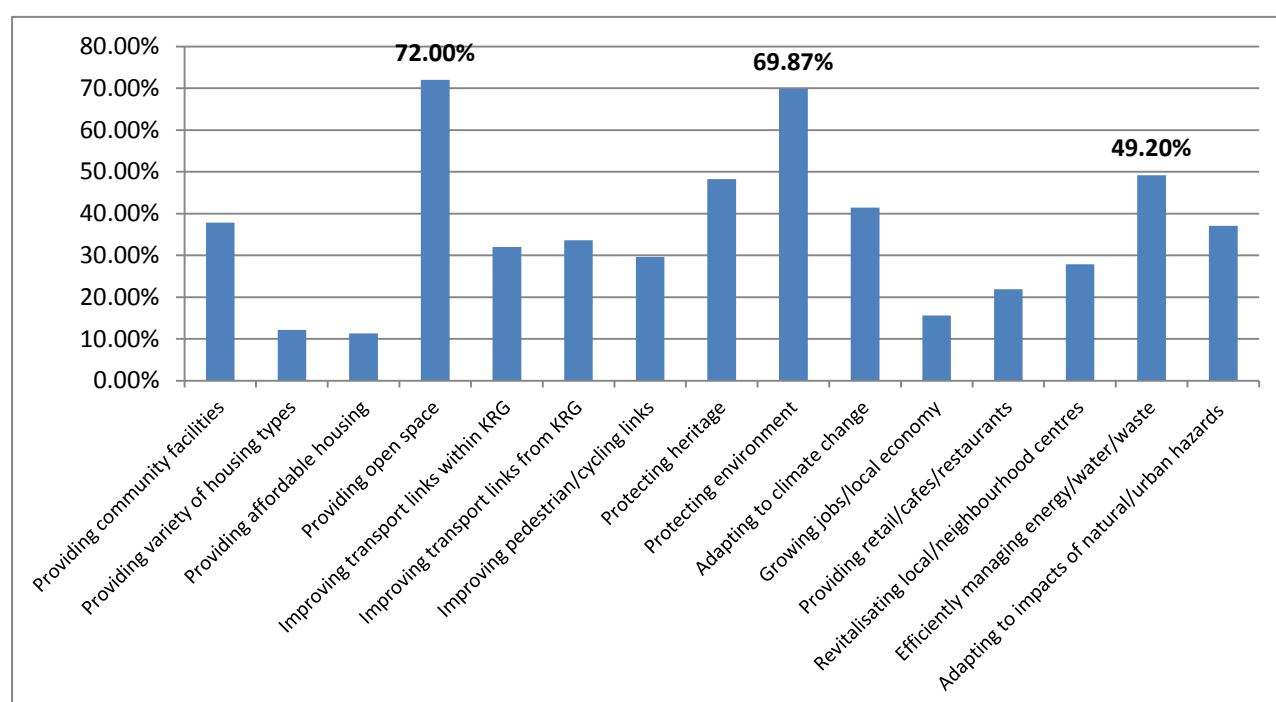
List of issues:

- Providing community facilities
- Providing variety of housing types
- Providing affordable housing
- Providing open space
- Improving transport links within Ku-ring-gai
- Improving transport links from KRG
- Improving pedestrian/cycling links
- Protecting heritage
- Protecting environment
- Adapting to climate change
- Growing jobs/local economy
- Providing retail/cafes/restaurants
- Revitalisation local/neighbourhood centres
- Efficiently managing energy/water/waste
- Adapting to impacts of natural/urban hazards

Question responses

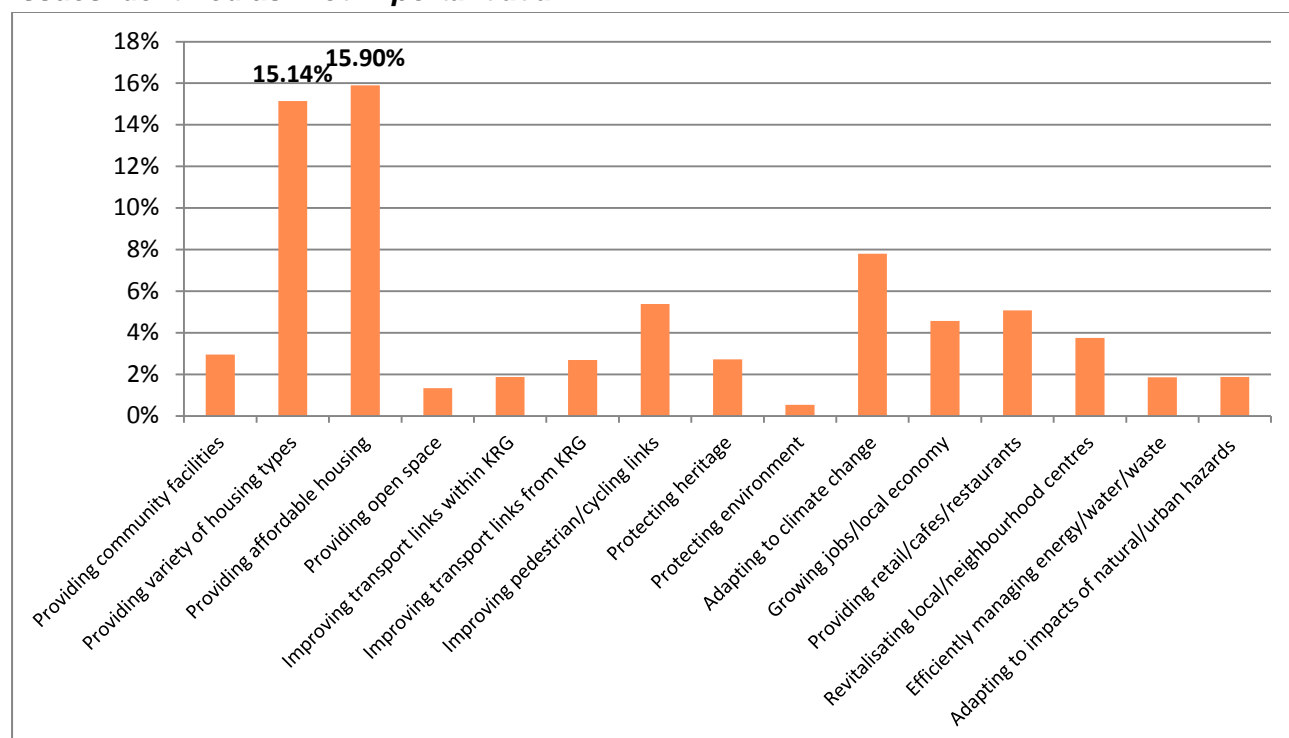


Issues identified as 'Very Important'



Top three (Very important): 1) Providing open space (72%), 2) Protecting environment (69.87%), 3) Efficiently managing energy, water and waste (49.2%)

Issues identified as 'Not important at all'



Top two (not important at all) – 1) Providing affordable housing 15.9% (36.12% indicated this issue is either 'not important' or 'not important at all'), 2) Providing variety of housing types 15.14% - (35.68% of response indicated this issue is either 'not important' or 'not important at all').

Q2) What do you believe we should be providing more of or actively encouraging in Ku-ring-gai to improve the amenity and liveability of the area?

346 responses were received. A wide range of issues was covered. Common themes arose:

- Providing green open space
- Managing development and the environment
- Provision of public transport and parking
- Managing traffic, encouraging cycling
- Improving community facilities

Q3) What do you believe we should be conserving for the future?

351 responses were received. Again, a wide range of issues were raised. The following areas were raised as important:

- Preserving trees, leafy street and bushland
- Heritage buildings
- Biodiversity (in bushland and public green spaces)
- Conserve and expand provision of public open space
- Protect local character and community values

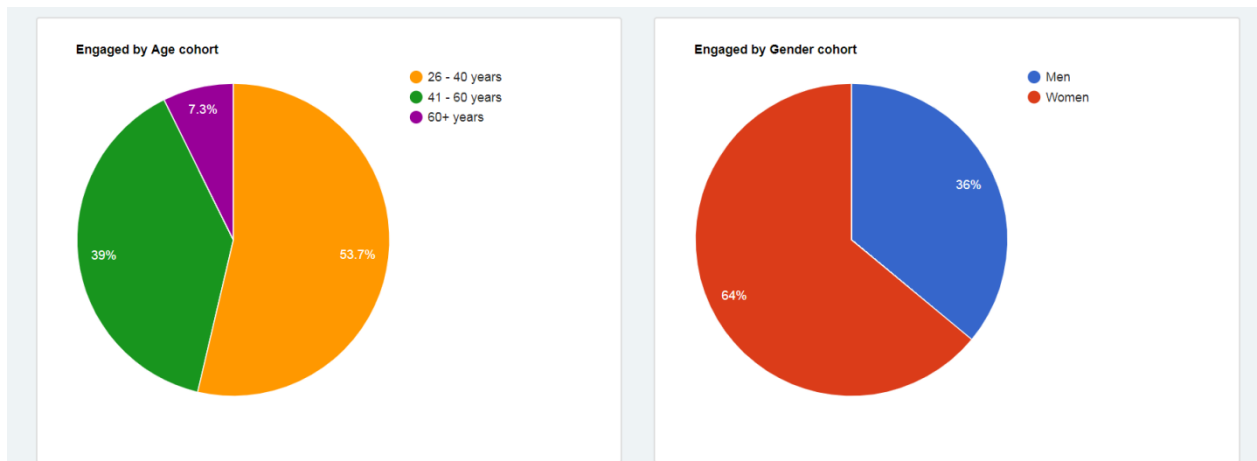
Online discussion forum results

An online discussion forum, hosted on Council's online community engagement platform (oursay.org) was set up to hear what the community believe is special about Ku-ring-gai. The forum question was:

'What is special about Ku-ring-gai?'

Forum participants

The forum had 409 visitors with 11 ideas provided by 9 people. The most popular ideas generated 18 comments in response.



- Higher number of younger people participated in the forum compared to the survey – 93% under 60 compared to 62% over 55 in survey
- More women than men, opposite to survey

The forum generated online discussion with a focus around local issues. The comment *'Protect & conserve 57 Merrivale Rd, Pymble as a community playgroup for future generations.'* generated 16 votes and 18 comments.

Overall response themes relating to what makes Ku-ring-gai Special included:

- Natural environment
- Leafy streets and greenery
- Proximity to city and access to train line
- Quality schools
- Community spirit

Other feedback

Facebook

During the period of engagement Council published two Facebook posts (26 April and 8 May) encouraging people to participate in the survey and online forum. The posts generated 68 likes/comments/shares. The comments related to:

- Footpaths
- Traffic and cycling
- Development and high-rise
- Accessibility

Written submissions

Three written submissions were received relating to high-rise development, provision of health services and the process used to develop the LSPS.

Next Steps

Phase 2 engagement will take place in July and August 2019. As planning priorities form a key part of the LSPS, the community will be requested to indicate their level of support for them and to provide comments online and via a paper survey. The community will also be invited to provide written submissions on the document as a whole.

Council will widely promote the public exhibition and staff will be made available to host drop-in information sessions to discuss the LSPS.