

Community summary - visioning engagement

This is a summary of the community engagement Straight Talk undertook on behalf of the Western Sydney Parklands Trust (the Trust), as part of a 'visioning' project for the Southern Parklands.

Introduction

Towards the end of 2016, Straight Talk undertook a series of community engagement events in order to understand community views about the Southern Parklands and how they could be developed. The Southern Parklands is the area south of Elizabeth Drive in Cecil Hills down to Bringelly Road in Leppington.

The Trust wanted to understand community views so that they could inform its draft 'vision' for the Southern Parklands - this is a high-level concept about how the Southern Parklands could be developed into the future.

What we did

In order to ensure we reached everyday community members and got to hear their feedback we:

- 👉 Visited homes in the local area near the Southern Parklands
- 👉 Attended two Carnes Hill Night Live events
- 👉 Spent time at the Wylde Mountain Bike Trail on a Saturday morning.

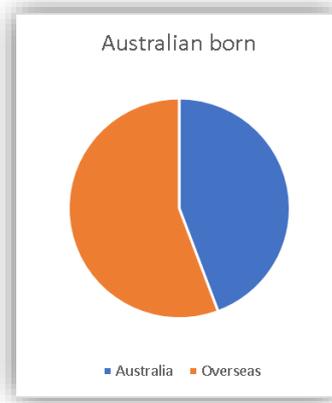
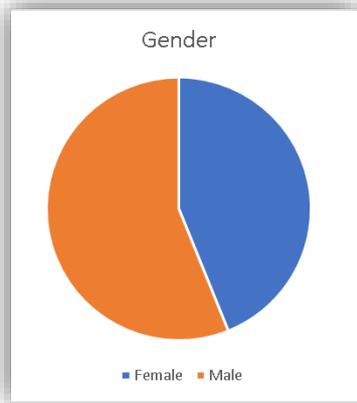
We invited the people we met to:

- 👉 Answer a few questions, then and there
- 👉 Participate in one of five community focus groups
- 👉 Jump online to complete a survey.

We also promoted the opportunity to complete the survey and participate in a community focus group via a Facebook campaign targetted towards community members in the local area.

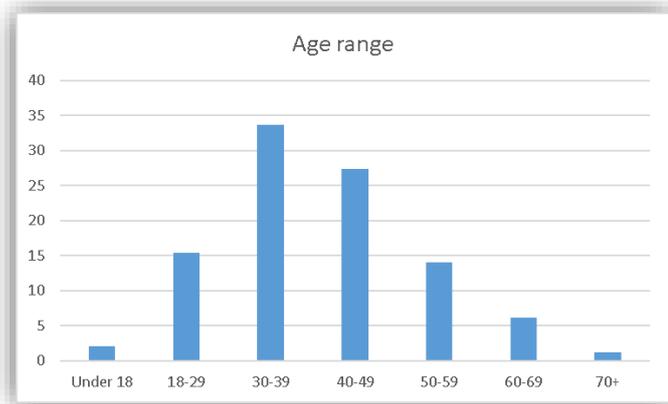
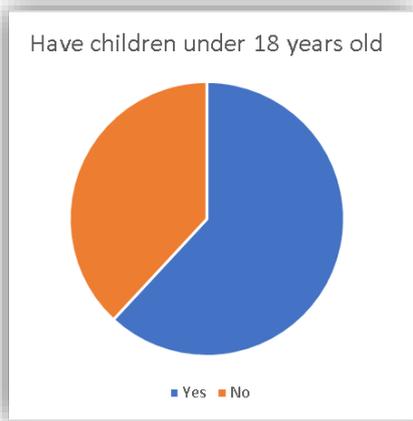
Who we heard from

In total, we heard from about 290 local people. Of those people:



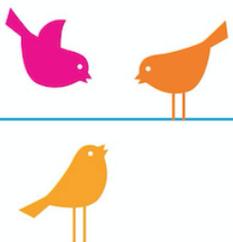
Slightly more were men than women

Slightly more were born overseas than in Australia but many more spoke English at home than another language



Many more had children under 18 years of age than did not

Most were aged between 30 and 49 years



What they told us

These community members told us they:

- 👉 Valued the Southern Parklands, even if they did not visit it, particularly the amount of tree coverage there is, the extent of the onsite water and its open spaces
- 👉 Want high quality, local facilities in Western Sydney that:
 - They can be proud of and which meet the needs of people of all ages and abilities
 - Are reasonably priced, convenient, safe and provide good services, such as toilets, cafes, and drinking water
- 👉 Like the natural environment but are concerned about native wildlife, such as snakes and spiders
- 👉 Are mostly not visiting the Southern Parklands because they are not aware it is a publicly accessible space that they can use or because of the lack of facilities.

Those community members who are currently visiting the Southern Parklands:

- 👉 Use the Wylde Mountain Bike Trail
- 👉 Use the walking tracks, particularly at Shale Hills
- 👉 Ride bikes through the Parklands.

When asked what changes they would like to see in the Southern Parklands, to encourage them to visit, these community members told us the Parklands need to have:

- 👉 Services, such as toilets, drinking water and food options
- 👉 Facilities to support a variety of different activities, including:
 - Adventure-based activities appropriate for all ages, and age appropriate playgrounds, that are accessible for all ability levels
 - Picnic and bbq areas, grassed open spaces and gardens, and lots of shady areas
 - Swimming and/or on-water activities
- 👉 Community events and educational activities, including opportunities to interact with nature and both native and farm animals
- 👉 As much tree coverage as there currently is, if not more – providing new facilities and services while maintaining the natural ambience is really important.

