



OUR WOLLONGONG JOIN THE CONVERSATION



Engagement Report

Talking Waste for 2024-2034

May 2024

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The information in this report is based on data collected from community members who chose to be involved in engagement activities and therefore should not be considered representative.

This report is intended to provide a high-level analysis of the most prominent themes and issues. While it’s not possible to include all the details of feedback we received, feedback that was relevant to the project has been provided to technical experts for review and consideration.

The analysis of engagement results was assisted by the use of AI technology using de-identified data. All data had been reviewed and de-identified by staff before being input into AI.

Executive Summary

Background

The upcoming Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2024-2034 aims to address the significant changes anticipated in the waste industry over the next decade. This strategy will focus on achieving long-term goals, incorporating advancements towards Net Zero, potential new technologies and markets, and maximising community value and use of Council assets amidst rising living costs.

Engagement with the community was held from 2 May – 20 May 2024. The engagement questions surrounding the following topics:

1. Reduce Waste to Landfill
2. Transition to a Circular Economy
3. Reduce Waste Related Emissions
4. Improve Waste Management
5. Education

Stakeholders and Methods

Stakeholders were identified before the engagement period, including community members, key stakeholders, and Council staff. Various communication and engagement methods were utilised:

Communication Methods:

- Project information on the Our Wollongong website.
- Emails, newsletters, media releases, social media posts, posters, and FAQs distributed widely.
- Background information and surveys available at Wollongong City Council Libraries.

Engagement Methods:

- Online surveys and Q&A forums on the Our Wollongong website.
- Community workshop at Dapto Ribbonwood Centre.
- Email submissions and hard copy surveys.
- An internal workshop with Council staff.

Engagement Participation

The engagement activities included:

- Online participation with 555 web page views, 450 individuals aware, 154 informed, and 87 engaged.
- Community workshop participation with 16 attendees.
- Minimal email and hard copy survey submissions.

Results

The themes that emerged from engagement with the community under each of the five focus areas have been summarised as:

Goal 1: Reduce Waste to Landfill

- Support for reuse initiatives like libraries of things and repair cafes.
- Improving recycling programs for various materials.
- Support for reuse initiatives like “libraries of things” that store repaired and reusable items, and repair cafes.
- Reducing single-use plastics through local regulations.

- Enhancing waste collection and segregation with incentives.
- Strong focus on community education and engagement.

Goal 2: Transition to a Circular Economy

- Encouraging mindful shopping and reducing waste.
- Promoting recycling, repair, and repurposing at individual and organisational levels.
- Legislative support for sustainable practices and circular economy policies.

Goal 3: Reduce Waste Related Emissions

- Collaboration with other councils and governments.
- Community education on waste management.
- Infrastructure improvements for sorting and recycling.
- Transitioning to electric or hybrid waste collection vehicles.

Goal 4: Improve Waste Management

- Continuous education and community engagement.
- Reducing and recycling soft plastics.
- Expanding waste reduction initiatives, especially FOGO in multi-dwelling units.
- Improving infrastructure at Whytes Gully.
- Advocating for plastic reduction legislation and ensuring accountability.

Improving Education and Communication

- Enhanced communication through real estate, strata, and revamped Council website.
- Interactive learning via sustainability festivals, community events, and workshops.
- School involvement in waste management education.
- Mobilising community volunteers and consistent messaging to reinforce recycling rules.
- Providing clear, accessible information and incentives to encourage proper waste management.

Aboriginal Engagement

Multiple conversations were had with members of the local Aboriginal Community on the topic of waste. Some of the topics discussed included caring for Country, considering impact, education, reuse of existing assets and partnering with other Councils on initiatives.

Next Steps

From this period of engagement, we will create the Waste Strategy 2024-2034 and place on public exhibition around June. This will provide another opportunity for you to have your say and also see where your feedback was considered in the strategy. We will keep you updated along the way.

Background

We are working on our new Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2024-2034. Our new Waste Strategy will serve us for the next 10 years. We know our community will change significantly between now and 2034, so we need to ensure our new strategy considers this. It means that we have goals that are far reaching and can deliver them in a magnitude of ways.

This new Waste Strategy will have a longer-term view for the next 10 years on what we need to achieve in waste. This will account for the changes we expect ahead in the waste industry. Some changes we are anticipating include:

- Moving towards Net Zero and what actions need to happen to achieve this.
- Possible new technologies and markets, which may be able to assist with waste sorting and energy.
- Maximising the community value and use of Council Assets in a period of high cost of living.

To target this, we have created four new goals:

1. Reduce Waste to Landfill - for example, avoiding waste, reusing, recycling and repurposing. Creating less waste in the first instance.
2. Transition to a Circular Economy
3. Reduce our Waste Related Emissions
4. Improve our Waste Management - for example, looking for innovations in the waste industry, improve disposal of unavoidable waste.

Education underpins all 4 goals. We also want to know how we can deliver better education programs and pieces that will suit our community best.


Stakeholders

Stakeholders identified prior to the start of the engagement period included:



Methods

Communication Methods

Methods	Details of Methods
Our Wollongong website	The project webpage hosted background information and supporting documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online survey Frequently Asked Questions
Email to key stakeholders	An email was sent to key stakeholders identified through an analysis.
Register of Interest	2 148 people registered on the Our Wollongong website with an interest in 'Environment' received an email newsletter on the project
Media release	A media release about the exhibition was distributed on 13 May 2024. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ideas sought for future of waste in Wollongong
Social media	A Facebook post promoting the exhibition was published on 7 May 2024. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We're making long-term plans about the city's... - City of Wollongong Facebook
Sustainability Newsletter	<p>2 700 people received the Sustainability Newsletter with information on the project on Monday 20 May.</p> <div>  <div> <p>LAST CALL: Ideas sought for future of waste in Wollongong</p> <p>Waste is an issue that impacts every member of the community. We need your help to chart a ten-year path to sustainable waste management in Wollongong. <i>Hurry, engagement for this project ends today (20 May).</i></p> <p>Read more</p> </div> </div>
Council e-Newsletter	3 379 people received the Council e-newsletter with information on the engagement project.
Wollongong City Council Libraries	Background information, an FAQ and hard copy survey were made available at all 7 libraries.
Posters	An A4 poster was stationed at all of our FOGO bin liner collection points to notify people of the project.

Engagement Methods

- Our Wollongong website
 - An online survey was used to capture participants' comments.
 - An online Q&A forum was provided for participants to ask questions about the draft plans.
- Targeted community workshop held Thursday 2 May 2024 at Dapto Ribbonwood Centre
- Email
- Hard Copy Surveys

Additionally, an internal workshop was hosted in February 2024 with approximately 16 staff. The workshop data was collated and handed to the project officer prior to the broader community engagement commencing.

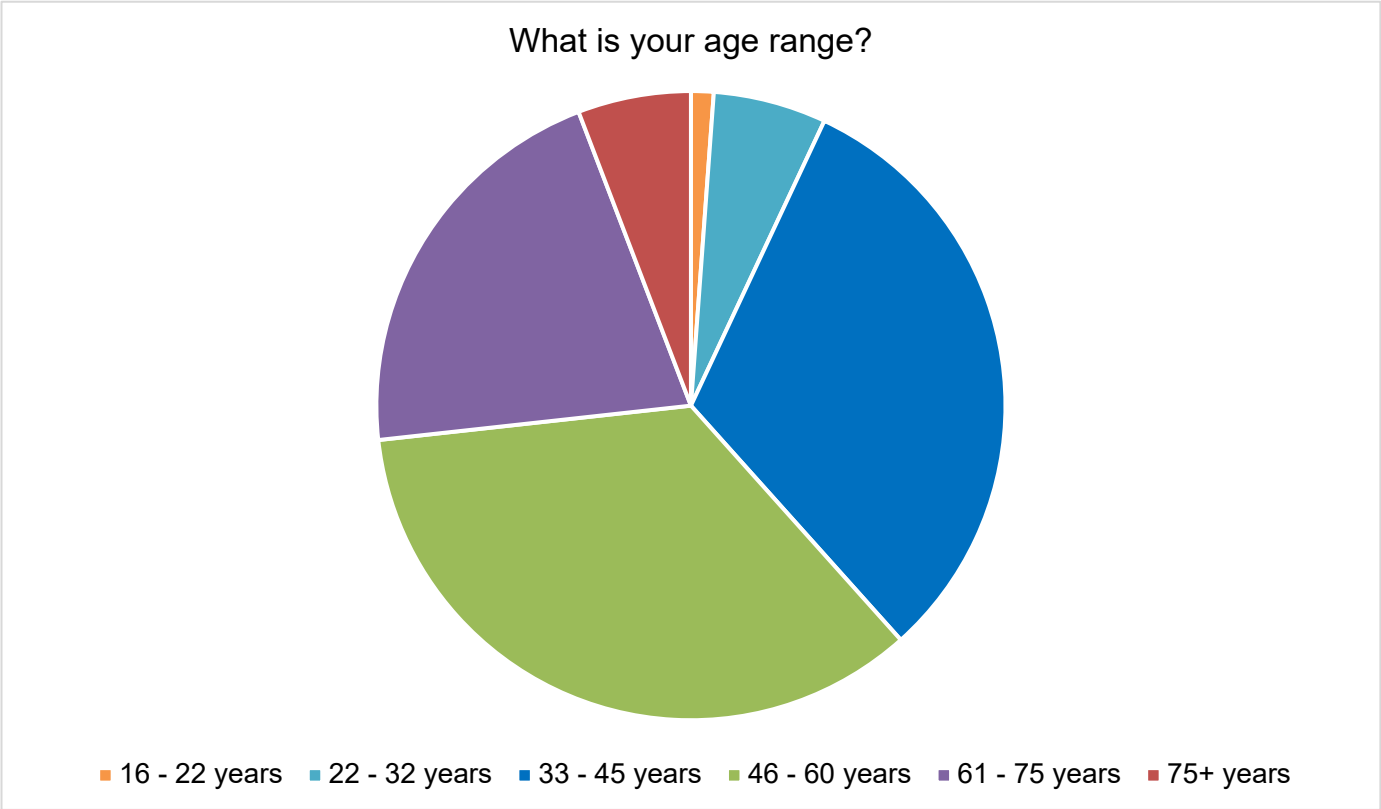
Engagement Participation

Engagement Activities	Participation
Online Participation	
• Web Page views	555
• Aware – Total number of people who viewed the project webpage.	450
• Informed – Total number of people who clicked a hyperlink, e.g., to download the draft plans.	154
• Engaged – Total number of people who actively contributed to the project, e.g., by submitting comments via the survey or posting a question to the Q&A.	87
Community Workshop at Ribbonwood Centre, Dapto	16
Emails	2
Hard Copy Survey	1

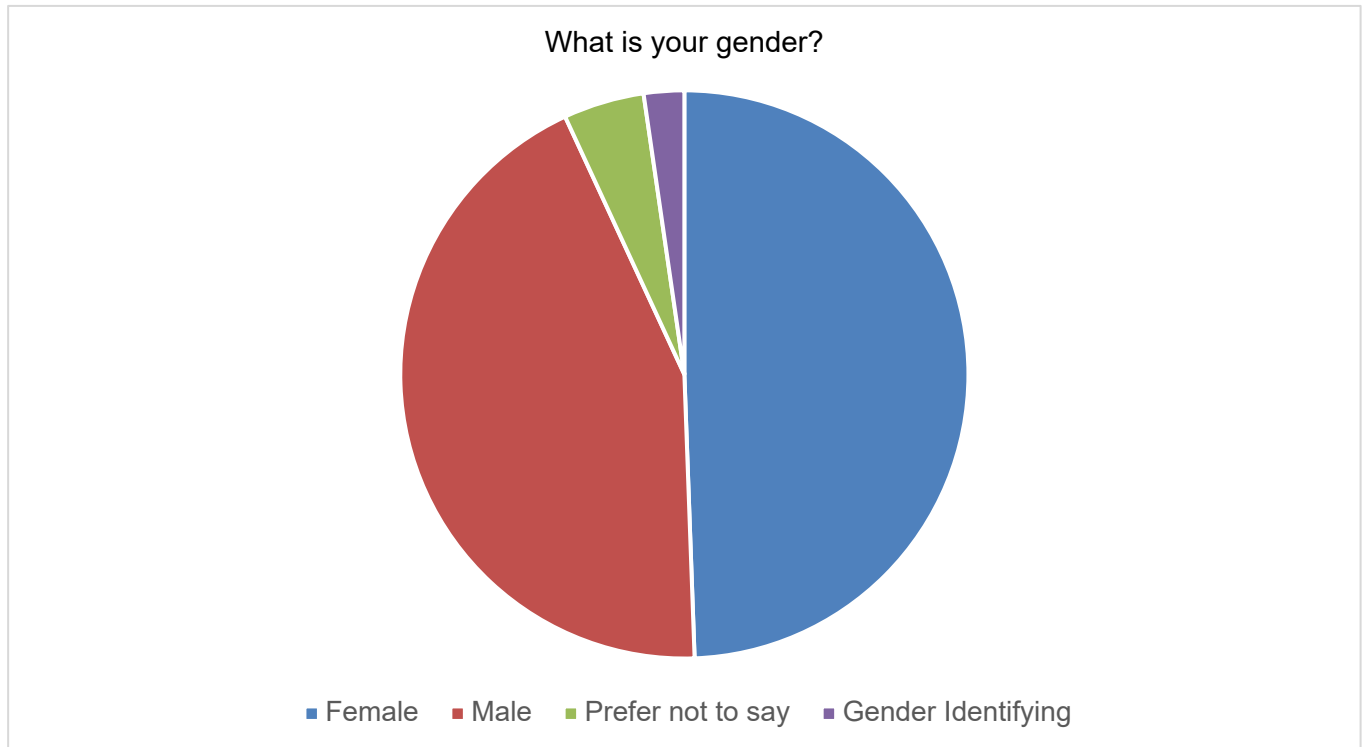
Demographics

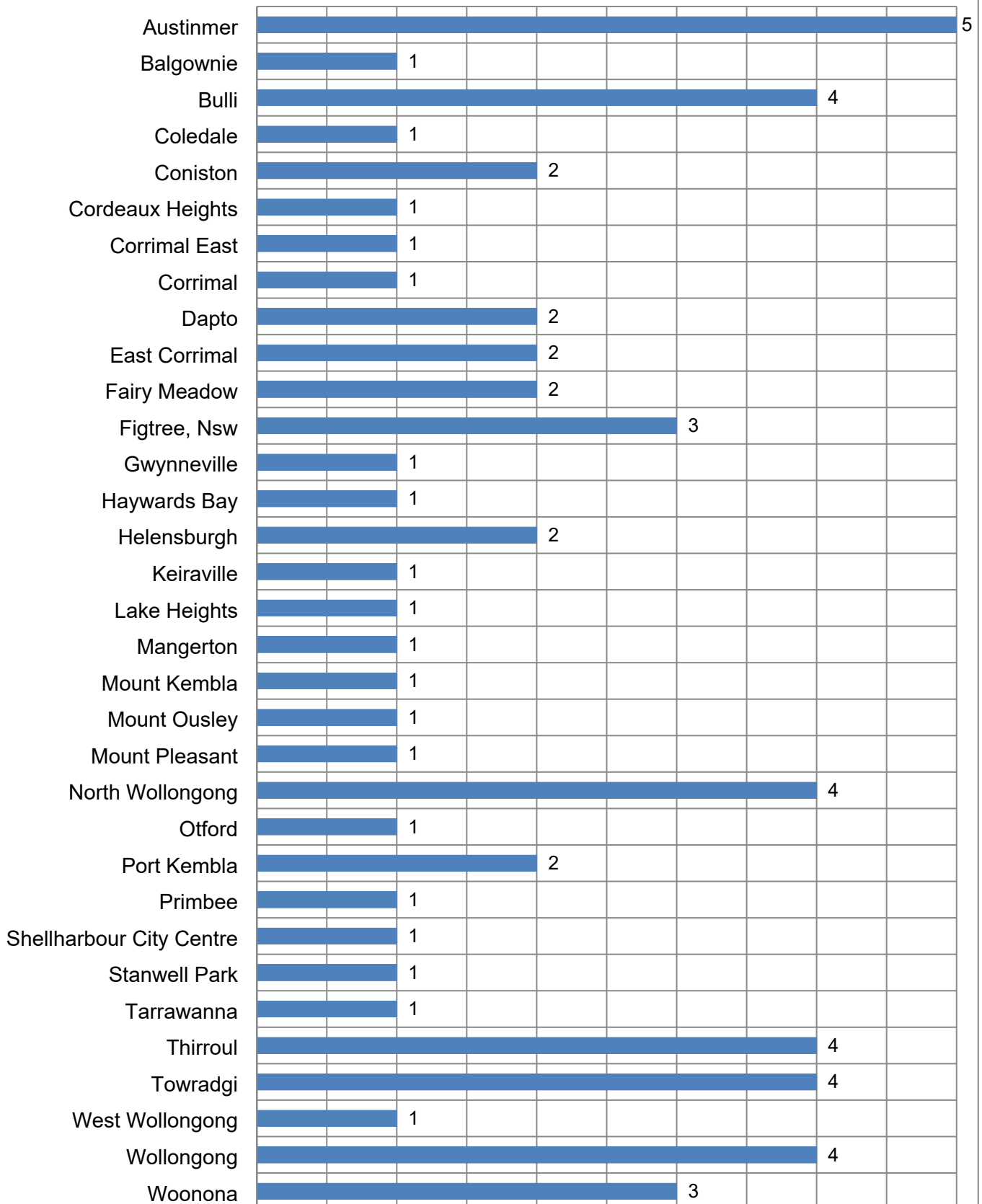
Via the online survey there were questions regarding the demographics of the respondent to give the project officer an understanding of the audience. The data included:

Age:

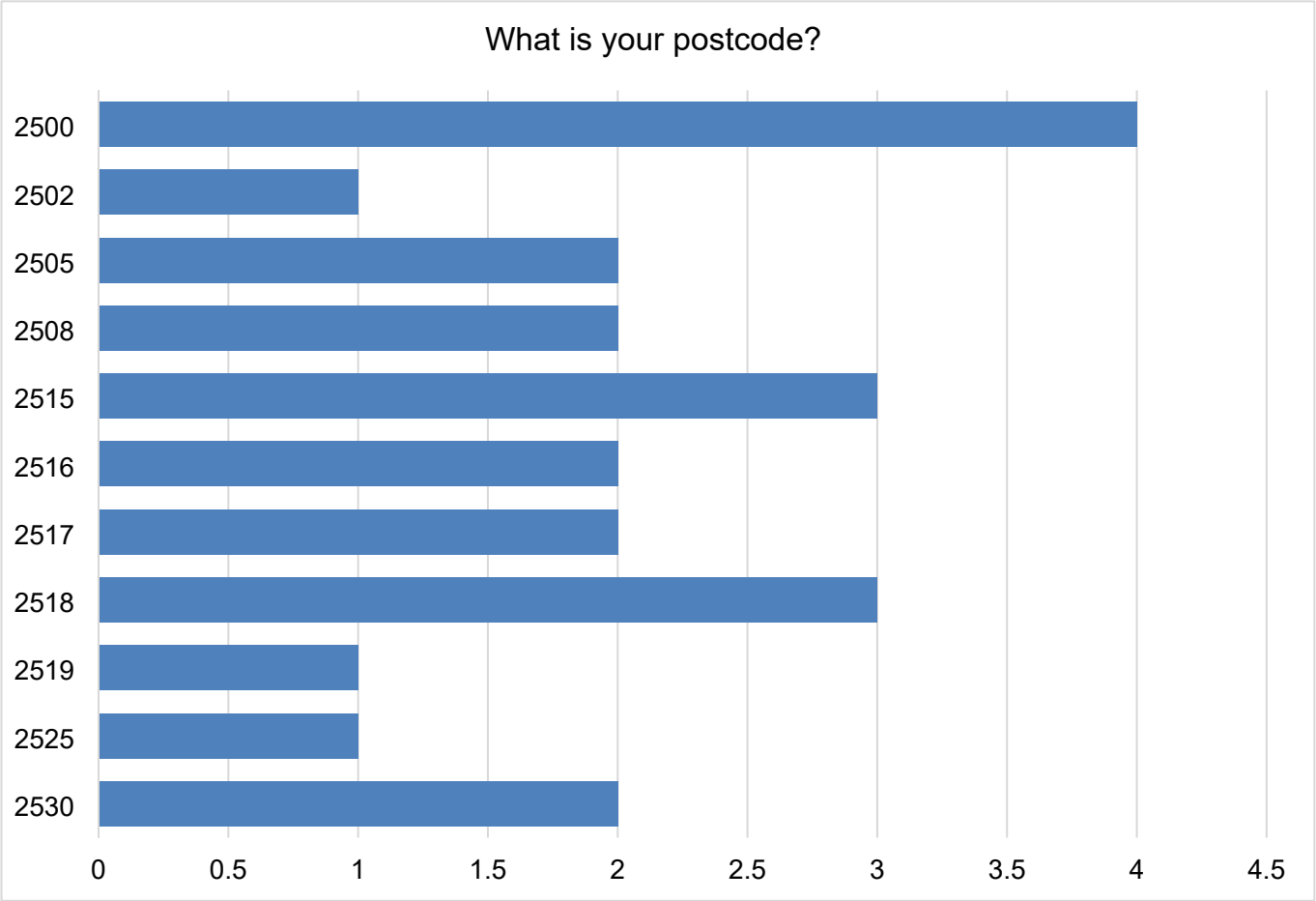


Gender

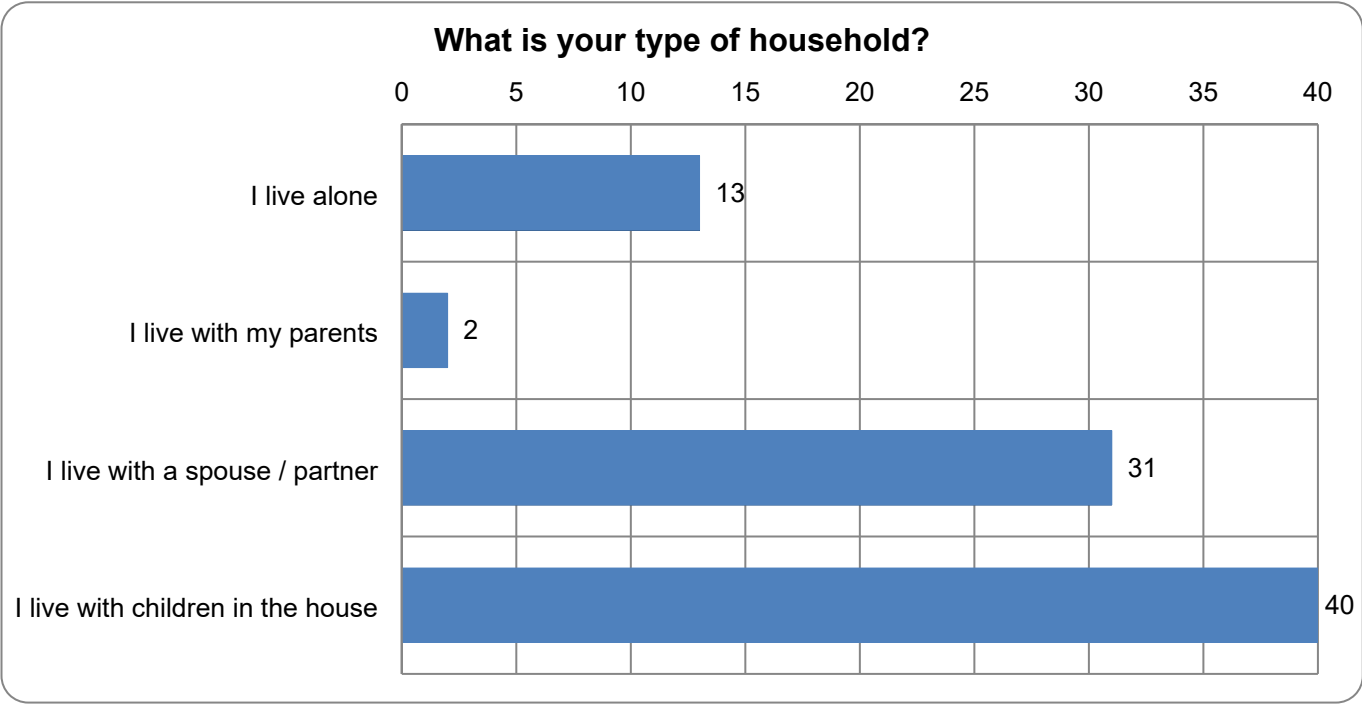


Location**What suburb do you live in?**

An error within the online survey did not collect suburb data, only postcode. Additionally, further information on a person’s location is included via postcode below:



Household type:



Results

Submission results

There were 87 submissions of the survey both online and via hard copy. There was also data that was collected through the workshops at Dapto Ribbonwood Centre on Thursday 2 May with 16 participants taking part in the workshop. The result analysis below is a summary of data that was collected via the survey and workshop.

Goal 1 – Reduce Waste to Landfill

To address the question "What opportunities are there for the Council to reduce waste to landfill?", several key themes emerge from the community suggestions:

Improving Recycling Programs:

- Expand and improve recycling facilities, including soft plastics, glass, polystyrene, textiles, and e-waste.
- Introduce additional recycling bins for specific materials like glass and soft plastics.
- Establish local recycling plants and drop-off centres for various recyclables.

Reducing Single-Use Plastics:

- Advocate for the reduction and eventual ban of single-use plastics, including packaging, Styrofoam, and plastic bags.
- Implement local regulations to minimise plastic waste, especially in coastal areas.

Enhanced Waste Collection and Segregation:

- Offer rebates for opting into less frequent (fortnightly) red bin collections and promote the use of FOGO (Food Organics and Garden Organics) bins for food scraps.
- Increase the number of recycling bins in public areas and improve the sorting of waste from household clean-up services.

Encouraging Reuse and Upcycling:

- Support for libraries of things eg. Tools, manuals etc., repair cafes, and swap events.
- Implement initiatives for the reuse of clothing, furniture, and electrical goods through quarterly collections and repair workshops.

Community Education and Engagement:

- Consistent and clear communication on recycling practices and waste reduction strategies.
- Educational campaigns to encourage composting, use of FOGO bins, and proper sorting of recyclables.
- Provide feedback to higher government levels on local waste trends to influence broader waste management policies.

Support for Circular Economy Initiatives:

- Facilitate repair and refurbishment services to extend the lifecycle of products.
- Create incentives for businesses to reduce waste and adopt sustainable packaging.
- Develop community-based initiatives that promote a circular economy, such as second-hand shops and community repair centres.

Policy and Advocacy:

- Work with state and national governments to implement stricter regulations on packaging and waste management.

- Advocate for extended producer responsibility to make manufacturers accountable for their packaging waste.

Incentives and Rewards:

- Provide financial incentives for households and businesses to reduce waste and recycle more effectively.
- Recognise and celebrate high achievers in waste reduction efforts within the community.

Goal 2 – Transition to a Circular Economy

Participants were asked how Council can encourage a transition to a circular economy at an Individual level, Business and Organisational level and at a Governing Body level. Key themes related to each level and what Council can be involved with encouraging included:

Individual Level

Mindful Shopping:

- Prioritise buying products that are made from recyclable materials or have minimal plastic packaging.
- Buy second-hand items from thrift stores, online marketplaces, or community exchanges.
- Borrow items instead of buying new ones, use libraries for tools, and participate in sharing platforms.

Reducing Waste:

- Refuse non-biodegradable packaging and opt for packaging-free stores.
- Plan meals and buy only necessary amounts to minimise food wastage.
- Reuse glass and plastic containers instead of discarding them.

Recycling, Repair and Repurposing:

- Ensure recyclables are correctly sorted and deposited in the right bins.
- Donate old clothes to textile recycling centres instead of throwing them away.
- Find new uses for unwanted items, such as using community free sites to give away items that still have life left.
- Repair broken appliances and mend clothes to extend their life.
- Utilise and promote local repair businesses for items like electronics and household appliances.

Community Involvement:

- Join online or local groups that facilitate the exchange of items (e.g., Freecycle groups, buy-swap-sell sites).
- Engage in community education about waste sorting, recycling, and the benefits of a circular economy.
- Support and participate in community gardens, food swaps, clothes swaps, and tool libraries.

Advocacy and Awareness:

- Advocate for regulations that reduce plastic use and support recycling infrastructure.
- Encourage friends and family to adopt sustainable habits and share information about the circular economy.
- Create incentives for individuals and businesses to recycle and reduce waste, such as rewards for using recycled materials.

Businesses and Organisations

Product Design and Manufacturing:

- Design products with recyclable materials and avoid non-recyclable components.
- Create products that are built to last and can be easily repaired to extend their lifecycle.
- Take responsibility for the entire lifecycle of products, including take-back programs and recycling options.

Waste Reduction and Management:

- Minimise the use of packaging, especially non-recoverable, non-reusable, and non-recyclable materials.
- Implement comprehensive recycling programs within workplaces, including bins for paper, cardboard, cans, and other materials.
- Establish and promote multiple waste streams to handle different types of materials effectively.

Customer Engagement and Incentives:

- Offer incentives for customers who bring their own containers, bags, and cups.
- Provide options for customers to return broken products for repair or recycling.
- Advertise the benefits of the circular economy and educate customers on recycling and sustainable practices.

Collaboration and Partnerships:

- Collaborate with local governments and Councils to enhance recycling programs and waste management.
- Preference local businesses and suppliers that adhere to sustainable practices.
- Participate in or support share economy initiatives like tool libraries and car shares.

Operational Changes:

- Integrate sustainability into business operations, from procurement to waste management.
- Choose and promote products made from recycled materials.
- Provide services like leasing or renting products to retain control over their lifecycle and facilitate recycling.

Policy and Advocacy:

- Establish and meet targets for waste reduction and recycling within the organisation.
- Advocate for policies that enforce circular supply chains and mandate the use of recyclable and biodegradable materials.
- Ensure compliance with environmental standards and take accountability for waste generated.

Innovation and Investment:

- Invest in research to find innovative solutions for recycling and repurposing materials, such as soft plastics.
- Find ways to make waste materials valuable through recycling and repurposing.
- Invest in and promote repair services to keep products in use for longer.

Governing Bodies Level

Legislation and Regulation:

- Implement laws requiring the use of recyclable plastics and other sustainable materials.
- Prohibit the use of PFAs and other non-recyclable, hazardous materials.
- Impose tariffs on non-recycled materials and excessive packaging and require corporate reduction of packaging and plastic usage.
- Enforce policies that make producers responsible for the entire lifecycle of their products, including take-back and recycling.

Incentives and Economic Measures:

- Provide financial support to businesses and organisations that promote recycling, repair, and reuse.
- Offer tax breaks for businesses that produce sustainable products or engage in recycling activities.
- Charge higher disposal fees for non-recyclable materials and incentivise proper waste management practices.
- Offer rewards or discounts for customers and businesses that adopt sustainable practices, such as using reusable containers or participating in recycling programs.

Public Procurement and Market Creation:

- Prioritise the purchase of products made from recycled materials in Government and Council procurement processes.
- Use public procurement to drive demand for recycled and sustainable products, fostering a market for circular economy goods.

Education and Awareness:

- Inform residents and businesses about the benefits and practices of a circular economy through marketing campaigns and educational programs.
- Organise events, workshops, and programs to encourage community involvement in recycling and waste reduction initiatives.
- Provide clear information about recycling processes, facilities, and the importance of waste separation and reduction.

Infrastructure and Services:

- Establish more accessible recycling centres and drop-off points for various materials, including textiles and electronics.
- Create facilities where items can be repaired and repurposed, such as men's sheds and community workshops.
- Develop local recycling and repurposing facilities to manage waste more efficiently and reduce the environmental impact of transportation.

Support for Innovation and Collaboration:

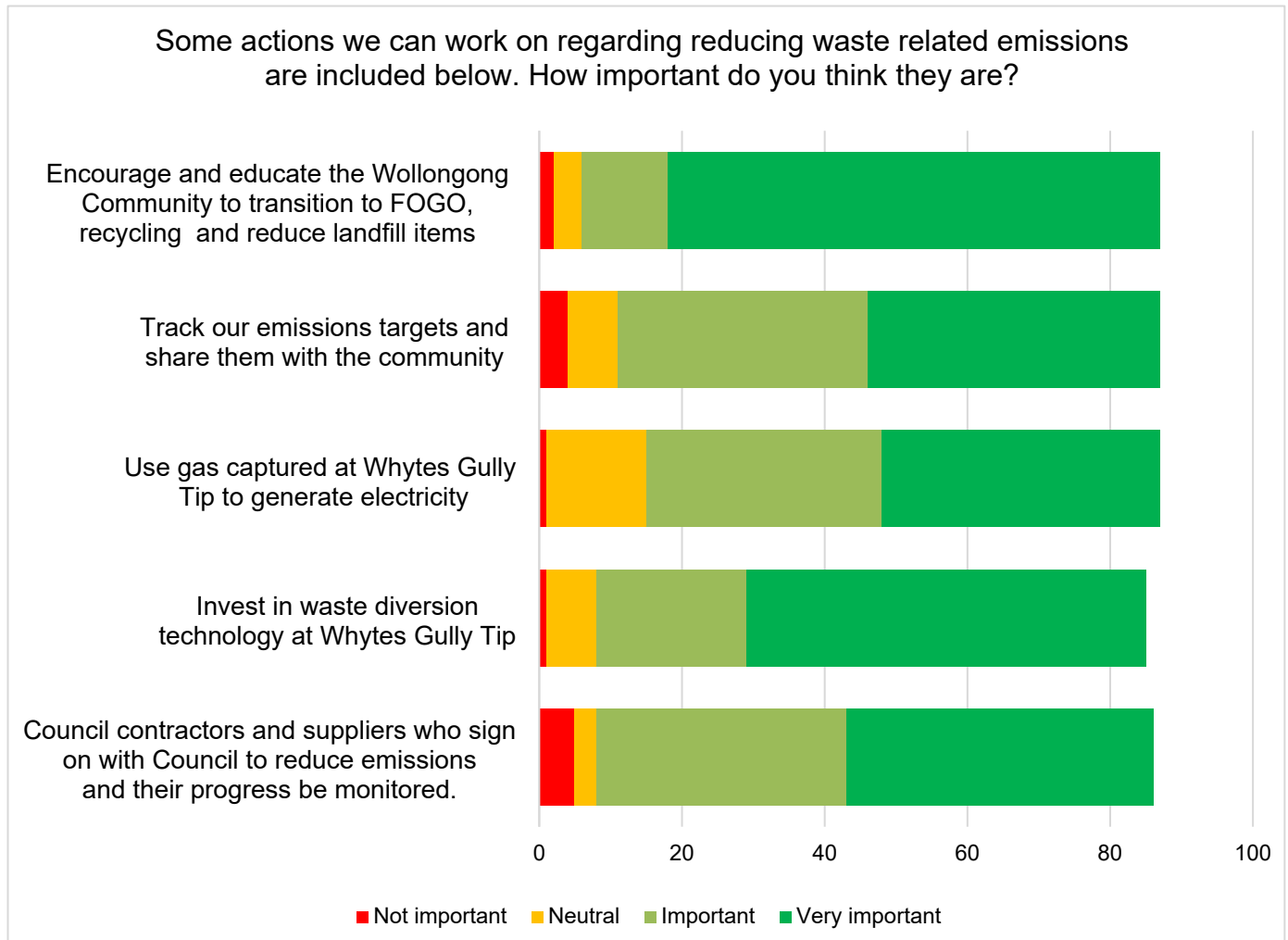
- Collaborate with local businesses to develop circular economy initiatives and provide support for transitioning to sustainable practices.
- Support startups and businesses focusing on circular economy practices through grants, subsidies, and technical assistance.
- Work with other Councils and Government levels to harmonise policies and practices, enhancing the overall impact of circular economy efforts.

Leadership and Example Setting:

- Implement circular economy practices within council operations and showcase successful initiatives to inspire the community.
- Adopt and enforce zero waste policies for Council-managed sites and events, promoting a culture of sustainability.

Goal 3 – Reduce our Waste Related Emissions

The online and hard copy survey was scripted differently to the in-person workshop. The data for the surveys is as follows:



Additionally, respondents could suggest any areas they believed Council is missing from their goal to reduce waste related emissions. The key themes to responses included:

Collaboration and Policy Development:

- Work with other Councils and State Governments to leverage existing solutions and build scale.
- Engage in Local Government grants for renewable energy initiatives, such as solar power for homes.

Education and Community Engagement:

- Increase education and encouragement to promote the use of FOGO (Food Organics and Garden Organics) bins.
- Conduct community outreach through schools, local cafes, and hairdressers to raise awareness about waste reduction.
- Run competitions and campaigns to educate the public on waste management and recycling benefits.

Infrastructure and Service Improvements:

- Enhance sorting and recycling facilities at sites like Whytes Gully to reduce landfill.

- Provide better recycling opportunities for materials such as soft plastics, polystyrene, and textiles.
- Introduce more accessible recycling bins for plastics, glass, and metals.

Waste Management Innovations:

- Transition waste collection vehicles to electric or hybrid engines to reduce emissions.
- Implement fortnightly landfill bin services to encourage better waste separation and reduce landfill waste.

Regulation and Enforcement:

- Strengthen compliance and enforcement of waste management regulations, especially for building waste.
- Monitor household waste practices and introduce fines for non-compliance with recycling rules.

Incentives and Economic Measures:

- Provide incentives to encourage the use of FOGO bins and the reduction of red bin sizes.
- Offer grants and financial support to businesses and communities engaged in recycling and waste reduction initiatives.

Technological and Process Improvements:

- Increase gas capture efforts at waste disposal sites like Whytes Gully.
- Explore low-tech and cost-effective pre-processing systems for waste to capture methane and reduce emissions.
- Promote the use of cockatoo-proof bins to prevent food waste spillage and reduce neighbourhood litter.

Waste Reduction at Source:

- Educate residents on cooking and food management to reduce food waste.
- Encourage businesses and multi-unit dwellings to participate in FOGO and other waste reduction programs.
- Focus on reducing waste at the source by promoting better consumption habits and product choices.

In-person workshop

The in-person workshop asked different questions of participants regarding Goal 3 that was different to the online and hard copy surveys. The data collected from the in-person workshop is as follows:

Question 1

The summarised data below was in response to the question: “An effective way to reduce waste related emissions is to encourage the use of FOGO. How can we encourage the use of FOGO in our community?”

Visibility and Marketing:

- REMONDIS trucks with FOGO visuals.
- Rates notices, news, social media, Bathurst Council Dirty ads.
- Catchy slogans, social media campaigns, Waste Warriors in different languages.

Education and Awareness:

- Teach about the environmental consequences.
- Show where FOGO ends up.
- Encourage community ownership, share ideas, link FOGO to things people care about.

Incentives and Recognition:

- Savings/incentives for commercial entities (hotels, cafes, restaurants).
- Reward behaviour change, point systems, free compost for residents.
- Encourage proper use through incentives and disincentives.

Addressing Practical Issues:

- Address frustrations with splitting and deteriorating bags.
- Clever solutions for smell, fruit flies, and maggots.
- Allow multiple FOGO bags in multi-unit dwellings.
- Promote community gardens and composting initiatives.

Policy and Regulation:

- Engage strata and real estate for multi-dwelling participation.
- Implement FOGO requirements in council building leases.
- Conduct audits to educate on proper waste sorting.
- Make it mandatory or optional with financial incentives.

Additional Suggestions:

- FOGO bins in public places and Council facilities.
- Compost return programs (e.g., Bega, Kiama).

Question 2

The summarised data below was in response to the question: “What other waste related emissions should council focus on to reduce waste related emissions?”

Emission Reduction and Energy:

- Switch to biodiesel
- Utilise hydrogen or battery-powered trucks.
- Capture and use methane for energy generation.
- Incentivise the shift to electric vehicles for waste collection and residents.
- Charge strata properties that refuse to implement FOGO.
- Implement measures like freezing odorous waste.

Waste Management Practices:

- Address waste separation and FOGO implementation.
- Provide support for residents in multi-unit dwellings on waste separation.
- Increase the number of recycling streams.
- Inspect and sort landfill drop-offs to divert more waste.

Climate Change Mitigation Strategies:

- Install more electric vehicle chargers.
- Increase the use of hydrogen-powered buses and trucks.
- Use smaller buses for low patronage routes.
- Encourage walking and cycling.
- Plant trees along paths to reduce heat and emissions.
- Require developers to retain as many trees as possible.
- Implement greening policies to minimise the urban heat island effect.

Goal 4 – Improve our Waste Management

Respondents in the survey and at the workshops outlined their top priorities they wished Wollongong City Council to focus on to improve waste management. The following themes emerged from the data collected:

Circular Economy and Reuse Initiatives:

- Establish a circular economy hub for reuse, repair, and recycling businesses. A central online hub listing businesses/places is favoured.
- Develop repair cafes, toy/tool libraries
- Encourage refitting buildings and restrict types of homes to be demolished.
- Incentivise reuse and repair initiatives, including fines for builders who don't recycle building waste.
- Increase community participation in reuse and repair through education and social outings.

Education and Community Engagement:

- Use catchy jingle ads on social media for key waste messages.
- Conduct quarterly tip tours and community surveys to understand and address community needs.
- Increase education about FOGO, with a focus on re-education and incentivising higher household uptake.
- Provide transparent feedback to the community on waste management performance and recycling efforts.
- Promote shopping at local charity shops and reducing unnecessary consumption.

Policy and Contracts:

- Develop contracts that incentivise waste diversion with traceability and accountability.
- Collaborate with Shoalhaven Council and other Councils on recycling initiatives.
- Advocate for right-to-repair legislation and alternative waste technologies.
- Implement policies to restrict the demolition of recyclable homes and fine non-compliant builders.

Technological Investments:

- Invest in renewable energy infrastructure to recycle materials from solar PV and wind turbines.
- Utilise waste methane for energy.
- Upgrade waste technology and infrastructure, including kerbside collections and the Wollongong tip shop.
- Explore alternative waste processing approaches, such as pyrolysis and advanced sorting technologies at Whytes Gully.

Plastic and Problematic Waste Management:

- Implement kerbside recycling for soft plastics.
- Establish local drop-off facilities for expanded polystyrene (EPS) recycling.
- Partner with local recyclers to manage and sort all plastics.
- Encourage the establishment of plastic recycling businesses in Wollongong.
- Collaborate with local businesses like Woolworths, Coles, and Bunnings to minimise waste.
- Develop ambitious targets for the Council to buy recycled products, including those made from soft plastics.

Incentives and Disincentives:

- Provide financial incentives for using FOGO and participating in recycling programs.
- Implement a waste levy to align pricing structures with landfill potential.
- Offer rewards for businesses and residents who excel in waste management (e.g., Waste Hero of the Year).
- Consider disincentives such as reducing the frequency of red bin collections to encourage proper waste sorting.

Infrastructure and Accessibility:

- Improve accessibility to recycling centres by establishing additional facilities in northern parts of Wollongong.
- Consider communal waste bins or underground bins to improve waste management in urban areas.
- Increase public recycling options, especially in high-traffic areas like streets and beaches.
- Enhance stormwater management to prevent litter and plastic debris from entering waterways.

Community and Environmental Initiatives:

- Promote active transport and urban greening to reduce emissions and improve waste management.
- Develop community gardens and permaculture projects.
- Enhance the visibility of waste management efforts through media and public communications.
- Push for minimising plastic packaging and support local initiatives like Circular Plastics Illawarra.

Data and Feedback:

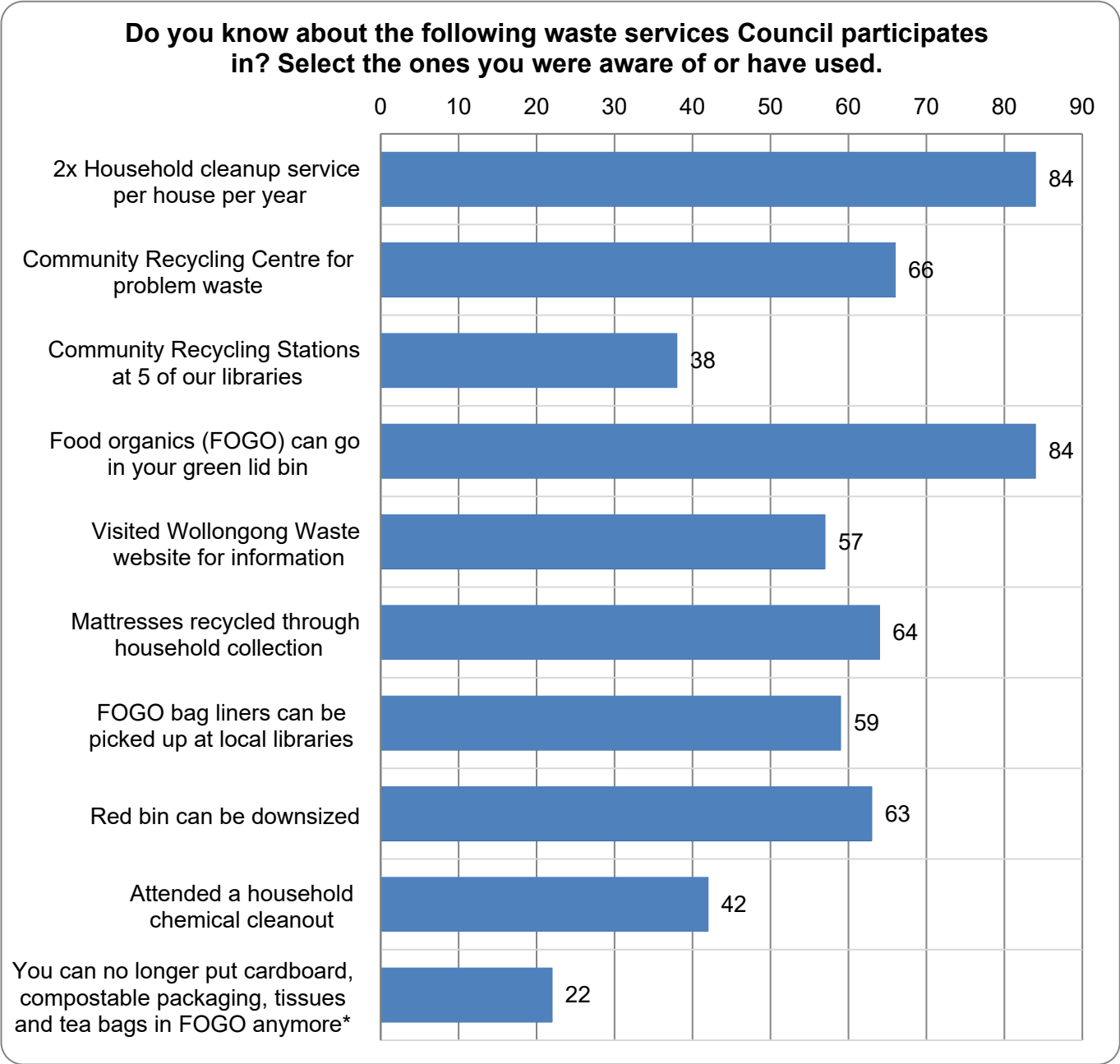
- Monitor and report on the effectiveness of waste management strategies.
- Use technology to provide online feedback to the community regarding waste tonnage and recycling efforts.
- Conduct regular surveys and focus groups to gather community insights and improve waste management practices.

Top Priorities to Improve Waste Management

The individual matters people identified as their number one priority for improving waste management were:

1. Commit to continuous education and community engagement regarding the topic of waste.
2. Target a reduction of soft plastics and explore soft plastics recycling options
3. Invest in Waste Reduction Initiatives including Circular Economy Hubs, FOGO Expansion, especially in multi-dwelling units and implement policies and incentives for effective waste management.
4. Improve infrastructure at Whytes Gully and services currently provided by Wollongong City Council's waste team eg. Waste education, recycling centres and hubs and collaborative relations with other Councils and Governing bodies.
5. Advocate for Plastic Reduction in local and federal legislation and ensure accountability in waste management practices.

Education



* The last question – “You can no longer put cardboard, compostable packaging, tissues and tea bags in FOGO anymore” was a response from 22 out of 37 as it added later in the engagement.

Enhanced Communication and Accessibility:

- Use real estate and strata to inform renters and students about cleanup services and waste management options. Implement systems to trigger communications when properties are sold or rented.
- Revamp the Wollongong Council Waste website for easier navigation, with quick links to waste services and a dedicated waste app.
- Provide resources in accessible formats such as Auslan videos, easy-to-understand guides, and printed materials for older residents.

Interactive and Community-Based Learning:

- Organise engagement activities like sustainability festivals, community garden open days, and free tip shop days, supplemented with educational flyers and QR codes.
- Offer regular tours of waste facilities and workshops on waste management, available both in-person and online.
- Set up informational stalls at community events and popular locations to reach a broader audience.

Educational Programs and School Involvement:

- Integrate waste management education into school curricula and provide the necessary infrastructure.
- Encourage student-led sustainability initiatives with teachers as mentors. Use social media workshops to engage young people in creating waste education content.
- Utilise tools like TV ads, social media campaigns, and durable stickers on bins to reinforce proper waste management practices.

Community Champions and Influencers:

- Mobilise community volunteers to act as waste champions, promoting best practices and educating peers.
- Position the Council as both an advocate and educator in waste management, consistently delivering influential messages.
- Collaborate with local organisations, schools, clubs, and multicultural groups to expand the reach of waste education.

Consistent Messaging and Impact Awareness:

- Simplify recycling rules and provide clear, consistent information on what can be recycled. Use brochures, magnets, newsletters, and regular community updates.
- Show the impact of waste mismanagement through bin audits, educational feedback, and success stories to foster a sense of responsibility.
- Implement measures like rebates, fines, and visible performance tracking to encourage proper waste management and compliance.

Aboriginal Engagement

Multiple conversations were had with members of the local Aboriginal Community on the topic of waste. The conversations were of an informal structure and involved a broader discussion on waste and what it means in relation to Aboriginal culture and values. Some of the topics discussed included:

- Caring for Country is the priority and should be held of upmost importance.
- Always consider impact – what is going to be in the impact on the environment?
- Education is important to have effective waste management.
- Can Council consider using assets that exist in the Illawara eg. Steelworks and use of the incinerator to burn rubbish? Or repurpose infrastructure at Steelworks?
- Do not want another tip to opened in the region.
- Many waste services that the Council offers are not known in the community eg. Mattress recycling, FOGO information on bin lids
- Creating artwork with waste – in Cambodia they used tyres to create art in street
- Partnership with other Councils

Next Steps

From this period of engagement, we will create the Waste Strategy 2024-2034 and put in on public exhibition likely around June. This will be another opportunity for you to have your say and also see where your feedback was considered in the strategy. We will keep you updated along the way.