



Our River Comprehensive Community Engagement Report

Report prepared by
People, Place and Partnership Pty Ltd
June to October 2013

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Stakeholder workshop

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this report

This community engagement report summarises the key communication and engagement activities that have taken place to inform the development of a long term masterplan for the Our River project.

To date more than 470 people have been directly consulted through these activities and this reports provides an indepth summary of these interactions.

1.2 Project objectives

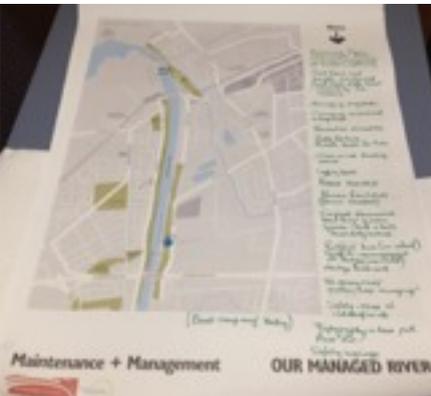
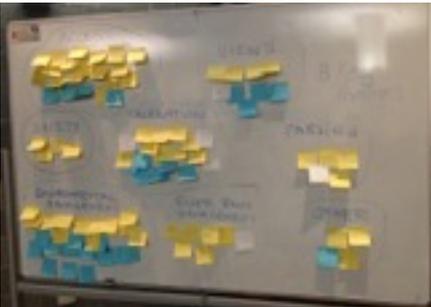
The key issues for consideration during the masterplan development and consultation activities have included:

- bank stability and the nature and reality of flooding
- sustainable river economy
- river health
- boating and other water sports
- access (to/from the water, visual, disability, commercial)
- rationalised parking and access (vehicles, cycles, pedestrians)
- placemaking/public art/events and programs
- consideration of asset management and resourcing

1.3 Engagement approach

In undertaking community engagement, the core principles which has governed the approach undertaken include:

- ensure that a diversity of stakeholders are engaged and local issues understood
- from the beginning, giving people the opportunity to shape the development of the masterplan and make it their own
- a continuous process and not just a one off engagement activity, further ensuring that we have a comprehensive program of engagement opportunities throughout the entire program
- clear and straightforward by using methods suitable to the local community being consulted
- planned as a central part of the masterplanning process



Community workshop

2. Overview of the community engagement activities

Community engagement and communications tools have been used throughout the Our River project.

2.1 Engagement activities

To date the following engagement activities have been undertaken by the project team to gain a broader understanding of the key issues and aspirations for the Our River project from people that use the river regularly as well as local residents, the wider community and key stakeholders.

The key activities have included:

Activity	Date	Participants
Intercept surveys:		
Our River project area - weekend	Sat 19 May Sun 20 May	35
Our River project area - mid week	Tues 28 June	37
Penrith Art Gallery, Forage and Forage Market	Sun 2 June	16
Online survey 1	1 - 26 June	102
Stakeholder workshop 1	Wed 12 June	35
Stakeholder workshop 2	Tues 23 June	18
Community workshop 1	Wed 12 June	32
Community workshop 2	Tues 23 June	28
Facebook	Friday 7 June	2 comments 1 like
One on one interviews	Various dates	14
Community Information Stall	Sun 8 Sept	100
Public Exhibition	2 - 30 Sept	n/a
Online survey 2 - during exhibition	2 - 30 Sept	38
Public submissions received	2 - 30 Sept	19
Total number of community interactions		477

OUR RIVER

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

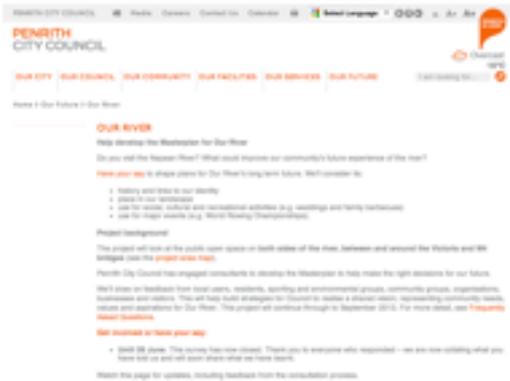
2. Overview of the community engagement activities

2.1 Communication activities

The following communication activities have assisted to inform and promote the project to local residents and key stakeholders.

The key activities have included:

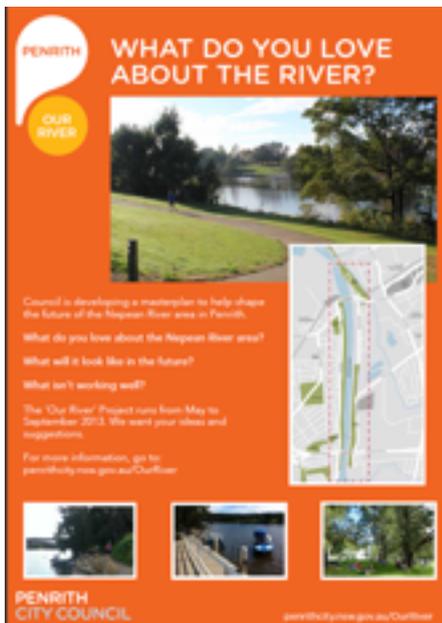
- **PCC Website:**
including information about the project, frequently asked questions, a project area map, and online survey
- **PCC Media Releases:**
to promote the project and the key consultation activities
- **Radio announcements:**
to promote the project and the key consultation activities
- **Posters and flyers:**
Were placed at key locations within the Our River project area
- **PCC Email Banners:**
to promote the online survey
- **PCC Corporate Newsletter:**
to promote the project and the key consultation activities



Penrith City Council Website



Penrith City Council Email Banner



Penrith City Council Project Poster

3. Survey stage 1 - key findings

3.1 Intercept surveys

Intercept surveys were undertaken on four occasions during May and June to actually stop people within the Our River project area to discuss the pre-determined questions on a survey form.

The purpose of the survey was to obtain information from visitors who use the Nepean River and its parks (for example; personal trainers, mothers groups, play groups, rowers, walking groups, people at the cafe etc.)

The survey was designed to obtain the following information from visitors to the Nepean River area:

- The nature of the visit
- The characteristics of visitors
- Visitor values about the Nepean River area
- The quality of the current visitor experience
- The extent of future desired change

3.2 Online surveys

A very similar survey was also made available online for the general public to provide their thoughts on the Our River project. See Appendix 4.

3.3 Full survey results

For a full account of all results from both the intercept and online surveys please see Appendix 1 to 4.

3.4 The key findings from all surveys undertaken

The key reasons to visit:

- To rest and relax
- To enjoy nature and the outdoors
- To get some exercise

How often are people visiting:

- For river users and online respondents several times a week and once a week represented 50% of responses
- For gallery users about 2-6 times a year and once a month represented 50% of responses

How long are people spending:

- For river users 70% are staying upto 2 hours
- For gallery users 60% are staying upto 3 hours
- For online respondents 40% are staying upto 2 hours and 30% upto an hour

When are people visiting

- An equal number of people are visiting on weekdays and weekends

Who are people coming with

- Generally when people visit they are not coming alone, they are coming with adult friends, adult family members and on weekends with family

What form of transport

- the car dominates with more than 80% of people traveling to the area by car

The top 3 activities people are coming for in all stakeholders groups were:

- Relaxing / fun / enjoyment
- Fitness / health
- Picnicking / barbecuing

How satisfied are people with the Our River experience?

- More than 80% of people were either satisfied or very satisfied

Changes people would like to see:

- More toilets
- Seating, benches and picnic tables
- Exercise and fitness equipment
- Wider footpaths and continuous paths around the river for walk's, runners, cyclers all to share
- More cafes and restaurants along and overlooking the river
- Better public transport to and from Nepean River
- More regular markets/festivals in summer
- More and updated lighting
- More playgrounds and parks - updated/natural like Sydney Park - different sections - music equipment, water play
- Better accessibility for prams

In relation to organised events

- More than 65% of people would like to see the more events

Other waterfronts people like:

- Sydney City Parks
- Sydney Harbour Foreshore

4. Workshop 1 - key findings

4.1 Workshops methodology

Two workshops were held on Wednesday 12th June with key stakeholders and the local community.

The workshops both followed the same broad agenda which included:

- An overview of the Our River project provided by CLOUSTON
- Individual feedback given on what people thought were the key issues facing the river, what their aspirations for change were and finally the most important priority
- Working in small groups to discuss in detail people's 'big ideas' they have for the future of the Our River area. These ideas were gathered across five predetermined theme areas:
 - access and circulation
 - recreation and leisure
 - social and cultural
 - environmental quality
 - maintenance and management
- Participants were given the opportunity to provide their 'big ideas' and detailed comments on a series of maps as well as key images based on the above five themes
- Participants were also given coloured sticky dots to place on the photos they felt represented their 'big ideas' the most effectively based on the five themes

For a full account of all comments and ideas from the two workshop see Appendix 6 and 7.

4.2 Individual input given

The information below reflects the key issues expressed during the stakeholder and community workshops.

Note that the following does not necessarily provide the view of all participants it is a grouping of the most consistent issues raised.

Key issues the Our River area is facing	
Stakeholder	Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not enough opportunities for food/ cafes • review of parking availability and management • quality of existing paths • recreation opportunities • overall river management • opportunities for owing and canoeing • shared access • limited views of the river • congestion of wharf/boat ramp • limited access to the waters edge • management of weeds • events and activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • environmental management • limited access to the waters edge • recreation opportunities • safety for pedestrians • review of parking availability and management • limited views of the river • river bank management

Key aspirations for the future of the Our River area	
Stakeholder	Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improvement to available facilities • more opportunities food / cafes • continuous paths • diverse recreation opportunities • river management • opportunities rowing and canoeing • shared access • upgraded wharf/boat ramp facilities • improved access to the waters edge • effective management of weeds • annual program of events/activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • environmental management • improved access to waters edge • diverse recreation opportunities • more views of and to the water

Most important priority for the future of the Our River area	
Stakeholder	Community
<p>The key and consistent priorities raised by stakeholders can be broadly categorised under the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and circulation • Social and cultural • Environmental quality 	<p>The key and consistent priorities raised by stakeholders can be broadly categorised under the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and circulation • Recreation and leisure • Social and cultural • Environmental quality • Maintenance and management

4. Workshop 1 - key findings

4.3 Small group work

From the initial information collected from the intercept surveys, key themes began to emerge. These themes were grouped into five common areas:

- access and circulation
- recreation and leisure
- social and cultural
- environmental quality
- maintenance and management

At the workshop participants were given the opportunity to provide detailed comments on a series of maps as well as key images based around those five common themes.

The information contained on this page represents the key and consistent issues discussed in each of the small groups at the two workshops.

For a full account of all comments and ideas from the two workshop see Appendix 6 and 7.

Access and circulation

- River Road – better coordination of upper and lower levels
- Nepean Ave – dedicated footpath/cyclepath
- Water access – better overall capacity and launch areas up and down the river for kayak's and smaller pleasure craft
- Pedestrian access – wharfs, boardwalks, opportunities to reach the river along both sides
- Jamison Ave – better open views to the water
- Future connections – a suspension bridge at Rocky Rd Island creating a 2nd Loop
- Signage - better signage to river from M4

Recreation and leisure

- Hard edge boardwalks
- Open areas for fitness stations and boot camps
- More covered facilities for picnics in various locations along and around the river

Social and cultural

- Activating and celebrating the river
- Large events and festivals throughout the river areas as well as at Regatta Park
- Educational opportunities at Tench Reserve
- Interpretation and education of the history of the river
- Artwork installations both permanent and temporary
- Making more of the beautiful natural resources that are already there
- Open areas for outdoor theatre

Environmental quality

- Managing water weeds by water harvesting
- Better management of bank erosion
- Management of rubbish from users and tributaries
- Balance of weeds in water and on shore
- Balance between access to water and bank stability vegetation
- Fishing in controlled areas

Maintenance and management

- A river keeper – employ a single entity to manage the river
- Managing weeds and vegetation
- Signage to direct people around the river and highlight safety issues
- Create opportunity to see the river

5. Workshop 1 - key outcomes

The community and stakeholder interactions that have taken place to date for the Our River project have been highly effective to assist in providing direct input into the development of the long term masterplan for the Our River area.

It is through the consultation undertaken as part of the intercept surveys that the five key masterplan themes have emerged. These themes were further tested at the community and stakeholder workshops that confirmed these were the key areas for detailed consideration for masterplan actions over the coming years.

Importantly key reoccurring ideas were consistent across all engagement activities and these include:

Access and circulation

- the need for continued focus to be on creating the continuous 'loop' around the river from bridge to bridge
- the need for quality pathways that allow for all users
- greater consideration given to the ability to access the river generally and the waters edge as a priority
- given increased popularity of the river the need for consideration to long term water craft access (motorised and non motorised) by way of jetties, wharfs and pontoons

Recreation and leisure

- more opportunities for picnic tables, seating and gazebos throughout the Our River area
- consideration of fitness stations in appropriate locations
- investigation into interpretative opportunities for education, history and biodiversity

Social and cultural

- calls for more activation of the river generally with events, activities, markets and food/cafe/restaurant opportunities
- a strong interest in cultural events by way of theater, art and large festivals with particular focus on a lighting show

Environmental quality

- a very clear priority for better management program for water weeds by water harvesting
- better management of bank erosion that balances access to the river and bank stability
- management of rubbish from users and tributaries

Maintenance and management

- a desire by key stakeholders for the introduction of a 'river keeper' as a one stop shop for the management of all aspects of the river
- integrated signage solution that creates a better wayfinding system
- more effective program of vegetation management along paths, within formal park setting and along the waters edge

These ideas have been further explored during the development of the draft masterplan options and that were presented for discussion to the community, key stakeholders and Council in July and August.

6.1 Workshops methodology

Two workshops were held on Tuesday 23rd July with key stakeholders and the local community.

The workshops both followed the same broad agenda which included:

- An overview of the Our River project provided by CLOUSTON
- Individual feedback given on what people thought of the draft masterplan principles for the project:
 - Our Accessible River
 - Our Welcoming River
 - Our Cultural River
 - Our Healthy River
 - Our Managed River
- Working in small groups to discuss in detail 3 things people loved about the proposed draft masterplan and ideas on what they wanted the design team to take another look at prior to the finalisation of the draft masterplan for community exhibition.

For a full account of all comments and ideas from the two workshop see Appendix 8 and 9.

6. Workshop 2 - key findings

6.2 Individual input given

At the workshop participants were asked to provide direct feedback on the draft masterplan principles.

The information below reflects the key issues expressed during the stakeholder and community workshops.

Note that the following does not necessarily provide the view of all participants it is a grouping of the most consistent issues raised.

Our Accessible River

- accessibility to and around the river is the most critical and should be reflected in the principle statement
- accessibility should consider cars, pedestrians and cyclists. It seems to focus more on pedestrian movements
- the masterplan should focus on connecting the entire river not just from bridge to bridge
- welcoming entrances - with good signage program

Our Welcoming River

- include safety - on river, on river banks, security of property
- inclusion of welcoming visitors to the river using signage from M4 and Penrith, it is about aesthetic and "welcoming" not accessibility

Our Cultural River

- need to tell the story and allow all sectors of the community to enjoy
- culture and education should be linked

Our Healthy River

- focus needs to be on the overall management of bank stability, weed management in and around the river
- involvement of residents in vegetation managing
- vegetation and weed management is critical in and out of the water

Our Managed River

- a single, small but powerful river management body should over see the entire river system for water quality
- very important to manage but shouldn't be a concept (sounds to bureaucratic)
- overall management of the river by one entity

6. Workshop 2 - key outcomes

The community and stakeholder interactions that have taken place throughout the project has influenced the design and development of the draft masterplan.

Feedback from the workshops has indicated the following ideas that the community and stakeholders have about the proposed draft masterplan:

6.3 What do we love about the draft masterplan

Our Accessible River

- increased accessibility to the water
- change in the road layouts and the accessibility opportunities this has created
- management of water based activities
- new entry and egress points for small water craft
- creation of view management approach (via vegetation removal)

Our Welcoming River

- recognition that the river could be used more and more effectively
- the acceptance that the river should be “seen”
- actually promoting the river as our asset

Our Cultural River

- that the area can be flexible to allow for lots of different activities
- encouragement of cultural activities
- improved facilities

Our Healthy River

- comprehensive approach to vegetation management
- recognition that a different approach to managing the bank stability may be possible

Our Managed River

- the fact that the river and it's banks need to be responsibly managed

6.4 What do we need to relook at?

The following are the key things that the community and stakeholders have indicated require further consideration by the design process:

- the new green bridge
- detailed traffic management plan that looks at options and implications of road alignment
- water based activity management to ensure minimal conflicts
- launch areas for kayaks
- car park locations and boat trailer parking
- finding a balance between parking and pedestrian accessibility
- height of viewing platforms over river to allow for rowing boats and kayaks
- possible walking/cycling bridge crossing at Jamison Road
- need for detailed vegetation management plan with community involvement

OUR RIVER

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7. Public Exhibition - key outcomes

During the month of September the draft masterplan was on public exhibition. The draft masterplan was made available at Penrith City Council's website, at Penrith City Council Library and at Tench Reserve. The information that was placed on public exhibition is provided in Appendix 10.

7.1 Feedback received during the exhibition

Library and Information Stall

- A total of 57 feedback forms were received either in the feedback box at the library or at the community information stall as part of the Sunday Siesta on 8th Sept at Tench Reserve.

Feedback undertaken online

- A total of 38 surveys were received online during the exhibition period.

A full report that collates the 95 feedback forms is provided in Appendix 11.

Submissions received

A total of 18 formal submissions were received by Council during the exhibition period. A full list of the submissions received are provided in Appendix 12.

7.2 Feedback form and online survey questions

The feedback forms and the online survey that accompanied the exhibition of the draft masterplan included the same six key questions:

1. The draft masterplan for the 'Our River' Project identifies Penrith City Council's long term plans for the Nepean River. Do you agree with the proposed plan?
2. Are there parts of the draft masterplan for the 'Our River' Project that you would like to see changed?
3. Do you think there are any aspects of the draft masterplan for the 'Our River' Project where more or less emphasis should be placed?
4. In relation to the draft masterplan for the 'Our River' Project, Council would like to know which features you consider most important to be delivered as a priority. Please rank from 1 to 6
 1. finalising the foreshore pathways to create a continuous loop
 2. a regional facility at Regatta Park with an expansion into a flexible, multifunctional events and festival space
 3. enhancing views of the river by a new vegetation management approach
 4. improving access to the water with viewing platforms and launch areas for smaller boats
 5. upgrading existing facilities at Tench Reserve including improved circulation and reorganisation as well as smaller things such as picnic areas, bbq's and park furniture
 6. boat ramp improvements
5. Are there any other comments you would like to share with us?
6. Finally, finding out what interest the individual had in the Our River project from the perspective of a neighbouring resident, a resident of Penrith LGA, a sporting group, a business with an interest in the river, a local business, a community organisation or a government agency.

PENRITH

WE ♥ OUR RIVER

ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION
FROM 2 TO 30 SEPTEMBER... GO TO
www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au/OurRiver

The Draft "Our River" Masterplan will be on PUBLIC EXHIBITION from Monday 2nd September to Monday 30th September 2013.

Council wants to hear your views.
You can view the Draft Masterplan at:
- www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au
- Visit Council's Penrith Library, 601 High Street, Penrith
- Visit Posters on display in Tench Reserve & Regatta Park

You can let us know your thoughts in a number of ways:
1. Fill in a feedback form online www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au/OurRiver
2. Talk with our consultants at the Sunday Sistas in Tench Reserve on Sunday 8 September from 12 noon
3. By email: vpatterson@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au
4. By letter: Penrith City Council, PO Box 60, Penrith NSW 2751 (Attention - Victoria Patterson)

PENRITH CITY COUNCIL penrithcity.nsw.gov.au/OurRiver



PENRITH

WE ♥ OUR RIVER

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PLACE YOUR FEEDBACK FORMS IN HERE!

PENRITH CITY COUNCIL penrithcity.nsw.gov.au/OurRiver

7. Public Exhibition - key outcomes

7.3 Key findings from the feedback forms and online survey

Overall satisfaction of the draft masterplan

Respondents were asked to consider their satisfaction with the draft masterplan and whether they agreed with the proposed plan. 74% of respondents agree with the overall proposed plan, whilst 19% are still undecided with only 7% of people disagreeing with the draft plan.

Overall views on what aspects of the draft masterplan should be changed

When asked to consider if there were aspects of the plan that people would like to see changed 40% would like some changes, 38% are happy with the proposed plans and 22% of people were undecided.

The key issues that people would like to see further considered includes:

- The design and location of the Green Bridge as well as its overall relevance
- The suggested changes to the local road network, traffic management and parking facilities
- More details given to specific aspects such as; lighting in Tench Ave, more boat sheds, boat and kayak access, amenities in Regatta Park, the quality of the proposed play equipment, more water based activities, more activities for families
- Concerns about what 'commercial use' meant

Overall views on what aspects of the draft masterplan should be more emphasised

Many respondents had specific ideas on aspects of the draft masterplan that they would like to see more emphasis on, in total 65% of people gave their own ideas and these included:

- **More facilities;** such as: picnic tables, high quality play equipment, fitness stations, toilets, waste disposal, bike rental, lighting all walkways, cafes, more events, a swimming beach, launch points for boats, canoes, kayaks,
- **Natural beauty;** creating views to the river, a key local asset and it should be promoted, cleaning water quality and and shore line
- **Traffic management;** parking, accessibility to the river, improving traffic flows, improved pedestrian access around the river, more walking and cycling paths

Overall views on what aspects of the draft masterplan should be less emphasised

The key features that people thought that there should be less emphasis considered in the draft masterplan included:

- **Management of the commercial aspects;** ensure that proposed activities are in keeping with the natural setting
- **Management of the waterbased activities;** appropriate locations of new jetties and ramps; management of boats with further restrictions
- **Maintain Natural Beauty;** ensure not everything is developed
- **Rowing Club;** as it is more isolated, further to get to and would not receive the same patronage

7. Public Exhibition - key outcomes

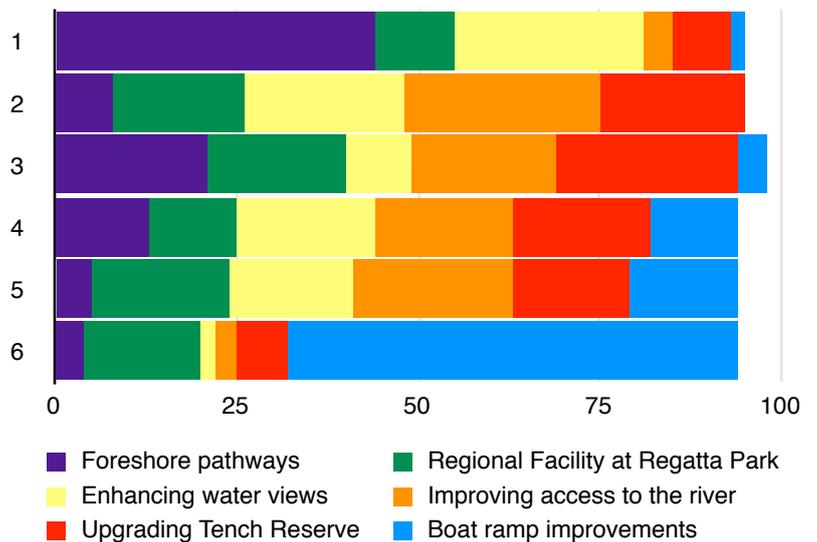
Priority projects

The exhibition feedback form asked people to consider some of the key larger projects proposed within the draft masterplan. Specifically people were asked by way of indicating their overall priority to a list of 6 key features of the draft masterplan.

The below graph indicates in overall priority the key features that people considered to be most important for Council to deliver. The overall highest priority with more 46% of all responses was the finalisation of the foreshore pathways to create a continuous loop; followed next by creating the regional facility at Regatta Park with an expansion into a flexible, multifunctional events and festival space and thirdly was enhancing views of the river by a new vegetation management approach.

The list identifying the projects from 1 to 6 as indicated by respondents completing the feedback form was:

1. Foreshore pathways
2. Regional facility at Regatta Park
3. Enhancing water views
4. Improving access to the river
5. Upgrading Tench Reserve
6. Boat ramp improvements

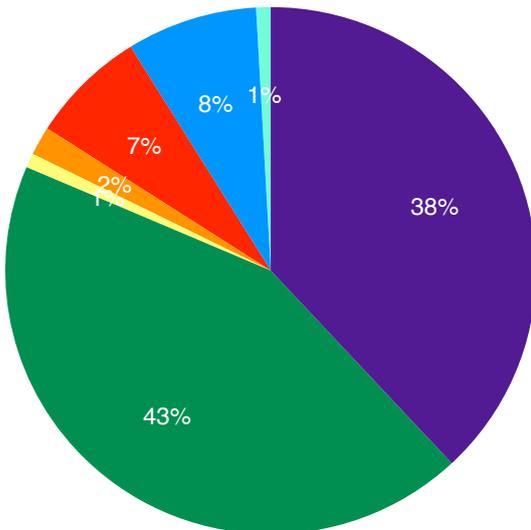


7. Public Exhibition - key outcomes

Summary of further comments

Overall comments received during the exhibition have included:

- **Positive about the overall plan;** a 'fantastic initiative', 'a great plan', 'hope we can get it underway soon', 'thank you for investing in the river' to ensure that proposed activities are in keeping with the natural setting and river health
- **Green Bridge;** concerns about the design and location of the new bridge
- **Vegetation management;** concerns about the ongoing bank stabilisation and vegetation management
- **Regatta Park;** concerns regarding traffic management solutions proposed, as well as noise from additional activity, concerns of regional status of proposed
- **New path along River Road;** criticism of the way this was designed and delivered
- **Native wildlife;** issues regarding the lack of consideration in the draft masterplan, particularly wombats, echidnas and platypus populations
- **Overall communication of the draft masterplan;** concerned that the level of awareness in the community is low
- **Lighting and safety;** would like lighting introduced along the river foreshore key areas, consideration of CCTV
- **Playground upgrade;** consideration given to water playground
- **Amenities;** more picnic and bbq facilities needed, as well as cafes and restaurants
- **Event activities;** allow theatre along the river
- **Weir reserve;** more emphasis on this area for passive water sports
- **Traffic management;** improve local roads, adequate parking,



- A neighbouring resident of the river
- A resident of Penrith LGA
- A business with an interest in the river
- A local business
- A sporting group
- A representative of a community group
- A government agency

Who responded to the feedback forms and online survey?

The graph opposite highlights that 81% of people that responded to the feedback forms or online survey were either a neighbouring resident (38%) or a resident of the Penrith Local Government Area (LGA).

7. Public Exhibition - key outcomes

7.4 Key findings from the submissions received

A total of 18 formal submissions were received by Penrith City Council during the month long exhibition period.

Submissions focused on detailed aspects of the overall draft masterplan area. With many comments relating to aspects of the implementation of the plan and these will be useful for the ongoing development of the delivery program for the Our River project.

The key issues highlighted in the submissions include:

- **Tench Reserve**; relating the encouragement of commercial activity in this area and highlighting the increasing conflicts between path users
- **Regatta Park**; comments raised regarding viability of commercial activities
- **Food outlets**; ensuring that temporary food stalls and pop up vans are carefully considered in terms of operational aspects
- **Water based activity**; concerns regarding amount of power boats and conflicts with other users
- **Flood signage**; introduction of historic postings of flood levels
- **River vegetation**; advice provided that approval will be needed under the Native Vegetation Act 2003
- **River health**
 - **Peachtree Creek**; issues with bank stabilisation works
 - **Waste management**; issues with the type and location of bins
- **Pathways** - cycleways/pedestrian links
 - **Glenmore Park**; consideration of southern link into Glenmore Park
- **Traffic management**
 - **Regatta Park**; concerns relating to the realignment of River Road, parking availability
 - **Tench Avenue Jamisontown**; consider using Wilson Lane instead of diverting traffic along Tench Avenue
 - **York Street**; concerns with traffic management and road realignment
 - **Nepean Avenue**; clarifications about the shared footpath/cycle path

The full summary of submissions is available in appendix 12.

8. Conclusions

8.1 Conclusions

A considerable amount of feedback has been received throughout the development of draft masterplan. During the exhibition comments have further influenced the final design as well as the recommendations for the next steps of the project including the initial delivery program.

8.2 The draft masterplan principles

Specifically how the draft masterplan is able to respond to feedback provided during this exhibition process is provided under the principles and themes that underpin its development.

Our Accessible River

Many detailed comments have been provided regarding; road approaches to the river, road alignments, car parking, walk and cycling connections, M4 pedestrian bridge, water edge access, water activity and emergency access. In most instances these specific comments will be subject to continuing development of the implementation plans that will be required to deliver key aspects of the draft masterplan. Particularly many aspects of the the accessibility features outlined in the draft masterplan will require more detailed traffic analysis and options.

Our Welcoming River

Many detailed comments have been provided regarding; overall users and visitors and what facilities will be provided, commercialisation (restaurants, cafes and other businesses), upgrades to Tench Reserve, introduction of a regional facility at Regatta Park, overall river foreshore amenities, picnic facilities, shade and shelter, quiet areas, safety at day/night and quality/availability of playgrounds. Much of the feedback that has been received regarding these issues relates to the finegrain implementation aspects that are not normally detailed at a conceptual masterplan process. However in nearly all instances the draft masterplan promotes the overall aspirations of the communities expectations of the future plans for the Our River project as they relate the principles of a welcoming river.

Our Cultural River

Comments received regarding the cultural river principles have related to; the general support of an increase in events and festivals, views to the water and waters edge, interpretation of the river area and the overall cultural heritage of the river. In all instances the draft masterplan promotes these concepts and specific locations are identified for events and festivals.

Our Healthy River

The concerns of the community regarding the overall health of the river has been a continual theme throughout the engagement process. During the exhibition detailed feedback has included; the urgent need to manage the river foreshore habitat, overall protection of river environment's natural systems, need to improve overall water quality and management of waste. In all instances the draft masterplan promotes these concepts and specific ongoing environmental management plans will need to further develop these concepts.

Our Managed River

The ongoing management of the river was also seen as a critical component of the overall draft masterplan by the community, particularly comments received during the exhibition related to; bank erosion, vegetation management, land acquisitions and the overall coordination of the management of the river. The draft masterplan proposes riparian corridor strategy to address holistically the issues of vegetation management. Other issues will be subject to further details in the implementation delivery plans.]

8.3 Refinement to the draft masterplan

The exhibition process has highlighted in general support for the draft masterplan for the Our River project. In most instances feedback has related to issues that will be important to the next stage of the delivery of the Our River project. With many of the detailed comments received being very useful for Penrith City Council in considering the ongoing implementation program.